

Student Success Stories



Helping Nevada adults improve basic skills and get jobs through GED, Career Pathways, Literacy, ESL, Civics, Citizenship, & Transition to Postsecondary programs. Nevada Adult Education services are federally funded through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act.

Tammy arms herself with GED



September 2008 began an especially stressful time for Tammy Morowski. By August 2009 both her parents had died and on the day of her Dad's funeral, her husband was arrested for another DUI and sentenced to five to ten years. She was left with no skills, no income, no job, and a lot of fear.

At a standstill, realizing she couldn't continue to live the way she had been but with nowhere to turn, she saw a flyer about Western Nevada College's GED Boot Camp and thought, "I need to do this, I need to get my GED."

Fully aware of the program's rigor (16 hours each week for four weeks), Tammy was afraid of the commitment. "I didn't know if I could dedicate the time and effort it would take to be successful," she said. But true to her gutsy character, she enrolled in the fall 2009 session. She not only passed the GED Test that December — she had the highest scores of anyone in her class and proudly spoke at her GED Graduation in August 2010.

Tammy became a full-time student in spring 2010 and by February 2011 had completed 30 college credits. She plans to eventually attend nursing school.

In the meantime, she works part-time as a student worker in WNC's Adult Literacy & Language office. She administers pre-tests to incoming GED Students, answers phones, does general office work and — most importantly of all — mentors GED students. GED Certificate in hand, she speaks at each GED Boot Camp on the first day of class, motivating the group to "Go for it! I am as proud of this Certificate today as I was on the day I got it — if I can do it, you guys can too!" Then she shows off her right "Arm of Education," duly tattooed!



Svetlana becomes U.S. Citizen



Svetlana Zavesoff recently passed the U.S. Citizenship Exam. The Kazakhstan native "graduated" from TMCC's Adult Education Program and is now taking two academic classes, on her way to becoming a dental hygienist.

Enanu becomes "somebody"

Enanu Abohoy is originally from Ethiopia. She had no schooling in her native country. She came to Community Multicultural Center as an ESL student, learned to speak and understand English, and then came back again several years later because she had such a strong need to learn to read and write. "Without education you're nobody," lamented Enanu.

The 49-year-old casino porter entered CMC's Adult Core Education program where she used the computer-based Reading Horizons program and received one-on-one instruction from her tutor, Mia Monahan. "The program helped me a lot to improve my reading and writing. I liked the voice and how it corrected me when I made mistakes," said Enanu.

"Reading Horizons recognizes the student's strengths and weaknesses and encouraged Enanu to go back and repeat lessons she didn't understand before she could move forward," said Mia.

Enanu gained two grade levels in three 10-week class sessions and credits the program with making her a better listener, as well. She has become more confident and willing to do more reading and writing on her own.

"She has brought many other students into our literacy and language programs," said CMC's Executive Director Lyn Pizor. "She's one of our strongest advocates and one of our most inspirational students — truly a "somebody" who can now pick up a book, read it, and understand it."

Adult Education students transition to college

In issue 2 of Student Success Stories we described Truckee Meadows Community College's innovative College Transition Class, CTC 101. Here are more students' stories about how their lives have changed because of their work at TMCC.



Rudy moves into "another world"

Two years ago I was taking ESL classes in Meadowood center, without thinking to attend to college and all. After that my teacher told me that a high school diploma, a GED, or just

speaking English is not enough to survive and to compete with others ... we need education.

But college, just to say the word it was like another world for me. It was like a day and a night, and I was over. I imagined angry teachers, or sometimes big steps that I wouldn't reach some day ... it seemed such a long and hard way to go. I thought that I couldn't do it ... I did know what to do or where to go ... I wasn't familiar with the system and with the place ... I

would be completely lost, don't know what to do or where to get some help. I was defeated. After that, my teacher told me that there was a class that helps students to know the system better before attending to college.

A year has passed since I took that College Transition Class, and it changed my life. I learned a lot of things in the class that I didn't know ... most important it taught me that we don't know how much we can do if we don't try. We all attend school to learn, no one is perfect.

It is such an amazing feeling I had when I finished the class. Now I am coursing my fourth semester and it's like I've been here for long time. Because I know the system very well and I'm feeling much comfortable attending to college. To have a more educated community is to have a better place to live and more opportunities. We cannot stop because for whatever reason, we need to find a way to go and this class well does it.

Editor's note: Rudy is working toward a General Education AA Degree and plans to transfer to UNR.

Miguel learns, with benefits

My success in CTC 101 began since the first day I took the class. At the beginning I did not know what the class was about. I thought it was a learn to speak English class.

Something of a surprise, the class was right for me because I did not have anything to study then. If it was not for the CTC 101 class, I would have been just wasting time. The class helped me to do something with my life.

We started the class and I began to understand more about college. Note-taking, reading, writing, the college tours — all were very helpful, interesting, and necessary to know. I think of this class as a class that prepares and gives you practice to the real college life ... it eased the fear of

starting in a new place that I did not know.

Our instructor, Tünde (Csepelyi), is the best ... She not only teaches us how to be a successful student but she strives and takes us by the hand to where we need to be. She is always ready to help if we need help or do not understand something. Something to notice, our class always started on time and always ended even later than it was supposed to end, although we did not feel like we were finishing half an hour later than we were supposed to.

I would have definitely been lost if I had not taken this class. Also, we have made even more very close friends in our CTC 101 meetings. We talk and learn and laugh and this is very great for anyone. These meetings connect us with beautiful people who want to spend some time in company.

Lalo, one of our friends, thought that it would be very nice if we lend new CTC 101 students our college books we have already used in our classes. Tünde will be our librarian. Do not discard this class, help preserve it because it helps and it is beautiful! Thank you!

Editor's note: Miguel is taking three academic classes this semester; he wants to be a writer.



Of the 37 students who completed CTC 101 in calendar year 2010, 27 have transitioned to college or GED preparation classes.



Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/NevadaAdultEd](https://www.facebook.com/NevadaAdultEd)

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/NevadaAdultEd

Web site: www.literacynet.org/nevada

For more information contact: Brad Deeds, Adult Education Director bdeeds@doe.nv.gov 775/687-7289