

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. www.NevadaAdultEducation.org

Nick stars at CALL's EASE program

Right from the beginning, in September 2010 when Nicholas Winder joined the CALL Program's Project EASE (Educational Assistance to Support Employability), Nick showed exceptional promise.

He was a perfect fit for EASE's target market — native English speakers, particularly young African American adults who may be experiencing underachievement due to low literacy, reading, and writing skills. "I had just finished my senior year of high school in Texas, but I didn't have enough credits to graduate, so I was hoping to get my GED®," said Nick, "but the teachers at CALL saw something more for me."

"After speaking with Nick about his goals, we suggested Nick work on getting his High School Diploma from Desert Rose Adult High School," said Literacy Trainer Rhea Watson. "Nick was bright, motivated, and had a good support system. It was apparent that with a little boost in confidence, a tutor, and support from our program, he would be able to earn his missing high school credits and his High School Diploma."

Armed with the support of his family, CALL coordinators and teachers, and a clear goal, Nick enrolled simultaneously in Project EASE and Desert Rose Adult High School. "I really wanted to learn. I liked Project EASE and my classes at Desert Rose, so I registered for both programs."

Additionally, he took advantage of tutoring sessions with CALL volunteers and his mentors, Erin Barker and Rashaun Greer. "Erin and Rashaun were great! They both met with me regularly after class while I was a student with EASE. Actually, Erin still helps me out with my studies. I could not have gotten through school or the proficiency tests without them and with Erin's help I know I can pass this final test."

Nick never missed a day of class with Project EASE, logging more than 100 hours of instruction. He made educational gains in that program, got all A's in

his Adult High School classes, and passed all of his proficiency exams except for one. "I'm not worried about it. I have come so far, this last test will be a cinch. Erin meets with me regularly and I can come to the library anytime for a place to study or to prepare for my essay. I will not quit until I get my diploma!"

Nick recently landed a job at the Ethel M Chocolates Factory. He is truly a shining star — a beaming example of how knowledgeable staff, committed volunteers, and strong partnerships can help students meet and exceed their personal and educational goals.

The CALL (Clark County Library's Computer Assisted Literacy in Libraries) program is run by the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. See the January 2011 issue of Nevada Connections (<http://nvedu.org/nc>) for a full description of Project EASE.



Angel on fast track to detective work



Weary of war, crime, and aggressive communities in his country, Angel Bismarck Mendoza migrated to the U.S. from Nicaragua in 2005 and immediately came to Western Nevada College to study English. He tested into the beginning literacy level and progressed through the intermediate low, intermediate high, and advanced ESL levels within three years. He then completed an English Language Transition class designed to improve writing skills, introduce students to college academic rigor, and support them in becoming independent learners.

In 2006 he got a job as a framer in the construction field and worked with primarily native English speakers. He attributes his rapid progression in English to his immersion in his workplace. But his instructors cite his dedication and focus: "He has been determined to learn English and puts his energy into learning," said Transitional Learning Specialist Angela Andrade Holt.

(Continued on page 2)

Nevada programs help Juan get ready to fly

Juan Roche migrated from Cuba to Las Vegas in September 2008 with a dream: to join the United States Air Force. He knew he had to pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) and to do this he needed to improve his English. He had less than four years before he would turn 24, and thus be too old to enlist in the Armed Services.

He quickly enrolled in Catholic Charities' English as a Second Language Program. He came to school every day and soon earned himself the nickname "Air Force." When Joann Lindsay, his teacher, spoke about the Job Corps program, Juan thought it was a perfect opportunity to continue his English learning and gain a skill that would move him toward his goal. In June 2009, he began working with the [Sierra Nevada Job Corps program](#) in Reno and one year later had completed the auto mechanic course. He then enrolled in paramedic training at TMCC and UNR, again hoping to increase his eligibility for the Air Force. At that time he also joined ROTC, which intensified his desire to be a member of the Air Force.

In October, 2011, after completing 33 hours of paramedic training, Juan returned to Las Vegas. He contacted his recruiter and is planning to take the ASVAB early in 2012. Juan plans to use his G.I. benefits to finish his paramedic training and then become a medical doctor. Juan hopes to make the Air Force his career, and is well on his way to achieving his goal. As the Air Force might say, "Aim high, Juan!"

Job Corps is a no-cost education and career technical training program administered by the [U.S. Department of Labor](#) that helps young people ages 16 through 24 improve the quality of their lives through career technical and academic training. The Job Corps program is authorized by Title I-C of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. For more information about the Job Corps program at a national level, visit <http://www.jobcorps.gov/home.aspx>.



Celia finds success at CSN

She had a job in housekeeping at a rehabilitation center for seniors in Arizona, but Celia Chicas knew she wanted something more: "I wanted to be a Certified Nursing Assistant, but I couldn't pass the CNA test."

Celia moved to Las Vegas and tried to get a job. Every job she explored required a GED®. While making inquiries for another family member, Celia's older sister received information about CSN's GED program. "The idea of the GED Test was overwhelming," she said, but she took the information and enrolled.

"The classes helped a lot, especially with math, which was a problem for me. I came to school early each day so I could get help from the tutoring sessions. I can't say enough about Noreen Tabb-Martin, my tutor. With her help, I could understand the problems I couldn't get in high school!"

After attending GED preparation classes for just two months at the College of Southern Nevada, Celia passed the GED Test. Two weeks after receiving her GED, Celia got a job at Pier One Imports. She also enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant program offered by the Division of Workforce and Economic Development at CSN.

"I'm very thankful for the GED program and the opportunity CSN gave us. It is a very good opportunity... and it is free!" said Celia.

Note: Adult GED, literacy, and ESL classes at [eight programs throughout Nevada](http://nvedu.org/abepgrams) (<http://nvedu.org/abepgrams>) are federally funded through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

Angel (continued from page 1)

He passed the GED® examination in November 2011 after completing a six-week GED Boot Camp while concurrently enrolled in 12 units, including English 095, at the college. His goal is to be a detective — it has been his dream since he was a kid — and he's already on his way, with two college-level courses on Criminal Justice under his belt. At the end of 2012 he will be eligible to make application for citizenship and looks forward to doing so.

Now a full-time college student, Angel is paying it forward, working part-time in the Adult Literacy & Language program, where he assists with orientation and registration, provides tutoring support to ELL students, and does clerical office work.

"He is a shining example of hard work and persistence," said Angela. "All of us at WNC look forward to attending his graduation from Western Nevada College!"