



Positive Happenings Forest Lake Area Schools Community Education Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Mission GED... Accomplished!

Hard work, tenacity, perseverance... If you've heard any of the most recent research on what makes students successful in life, it's safe to say that this recent graduate embodies all of them! Though his path to graduation may have taken longer than some, Victor Estrada has pursued opportunities as they've been available to him. His enthusiastic smile might be from seeing ten years of hard work pay off!

As a young man in El Salvador, Victor was only able to attend school until the age of 12. After that, he was expected to work and help provide for his family. At the age of 21, after struggling for many years, Victor decided that moving to the United States would allow him the opportunity to improve his life. His first stop in the United States was Forest Lake and he has called the district home for the last 13 years.

Victor became involved with ABE in 2004 as a participant in Family Learning which is a joint effort with the district's Early Childhood Programs. Victor was able to take English classes while his daughter was enrolled in preschool. Victor and his family experienced success in the program and he went on to see both of his daughters prepare to enter kindergarten during their time with Family Learning. For Victor, those years meant completing ESL classes and securing a job at St. Croix Forge as a line worker. Because Victor has always envisioned better things in his life, he continued to work full-time and also kept focusing on GED prep classes in ABE. Though it took longer than he originally planned, Victor knew he'd get there. On October 22, 2013, Victor passed his last GED exam. He is now a graduate and a supervisor at St. Croix Forge. Most could look at Victor's ten year journey and call it a success story. However, he isn't done. He has realized that the GED is only a beginning, and he has now set his sights on college. Victor is continuing to work with ABE to take that next step and move even closer to the true American Dream!



"I am so grateful for all of the help I received from the Adult Learning Center. If it wasn't for the teachers and volunteers, I wouldn't have been able to improve my English or get my GED."

- Victor Estrada lives in the district and has two school-aged children enrolled in FLAS.

If you have questions, would like to refer a student, or are interested in volunteering, please contact Kara Rotramel at 651-982-8302 or krotramel@flaschools.org

Browse all Community Education events and opportunities at the Community Education website: www.flaschools.org - click on the Community Education tab.

Community Education - Adult Basic Education

ABE is a Global Adventure!

English as a Second Language student hours accounted for 24% of the yearly contact hours. The following countries were represented in our classroom:

Bosnia - 1	Laos - 1
Brazil - 1	Liberia - 1
Bulgaria - 1	Mexico - 20
Cambodia - 4	Nigeria - 1
China - 6	Portugal - 1
Columbia - 2	Romania - 1
Dominican Republic - 3	Russia - 2
Ecuador - 1	Slovakia - 1
El Salvador - 4	Somalia - 1
Eritrea - 1	Spain - 2
Germany - 1	Taiwan - 1
Guatemala - 1	Thailand - 2
Honduras - 2	Vietnam - 2
India - 1	



A Giving Community

The students and teaching staff at Forest Lake ABE feel very fortunate to benefit from the time, talent and leadership of so many volunteers from our community. Last school year, the site received over 3,200 instructional hours from its dedicated staff of 27 volunteer tutors. The varied life and work experiences from this skilled crew creates an environment where students receive guidance and attention that wouldn't otherwise be possible in a typical classroom!

A New GED for a New Generation

Beginning in January of 2014, GED testers are getting a different test than in years past. Starting this year, the test has become computer based and is said to align more closely to the new standards that are being taught in schools to better prepare graduates for college or the workforce. This means that programs across the country have had to update their GED test centers and update what is being taught in the classroom. Forest Lake is proud to be able to continue to offer GED testing and the ABE program has started the process of enhancing what is being taught in the classroom.