

## **Success Spotlight: Ramiza Rizvic**

Ramiza Rizvic left war-torn Bosnia for the United States with her husband and two young daughters in 1999, unable to speak much English. They settled in Fort Wayne, where her husband's two brothers had come before them to escape the carnage.

Rizvic landed a job at National Plastics Corp. in Fort Wayne and was there for seven years before being laid off in 2014.

Rizvic started English Language Learner classes in 2005 at the Anthis Career Center, which houses the Fort Wayne Community Schools Adult and Continuing Education Program.

The program is part of DWD's Adult Education network, where Hoosiers can earn their high school equivalency (HSE). Roughly 475,000 working-age adults in Indiana lack a diploma or HSE.

For Rizvic, every year her English skills improved and, in 2016, she started HSE classes. While the classes proved to be a daunting challenge, Rizvic refused to give up and even sought help.

"The teachers helped me a lot," said Rizvic, still sporting a thick Eastern European accent but with an impressive use of the English language. "I'm very thankful for that."

Rizvic graduated in 2017 but continued her education beyond the HSE. She completed classes to become certified as a clinical medical assistant. What Rizvic has accomplished makes her both proud and happy. "I felt amazing when they told me I did it."

Rizvic pursued the classes to become a clinical medical assistant because she said she "loves helping people."

Regarding the Adult Education program, Rizvic highly recommends it to anyone seeking to earn a high school diploma. "You can do it," she said. "You will finish and you will be so proud."