

Success Spotlight: Harold Johnson

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Program: Adult Education, HVAC technician certification

Location: Indianapolis

Wage prior to adult ed: \$15-\$16 per hour

Wage after earning certification: \$20-\$25 per hour



STORY

Before enrolling in adult education classes, Harold worked various side jobs as a handyman and on cleaning crews. Unfortunately, he believed those positions weren't providing him with opportunities for professional advancement, so he decided to pursue an education.

However, after being away from a classroom environment for many years, Harold was worried that he might struggle to pass classes. "My instructors took it step by step," he said. "They worked with me."

After earning his HVAC technician certification at the age of 51, Harold was offered a job keeping inventory in the warehouse of a HVAC supplier. This job gave him the opportunity to learn more about an industry that was new to him while also providing Harold with additional income and ultimately, more financial security for his family.

Harold says if he can go back to school, anyone can. "You can do whatever you set your heart and your mind to," he said. "It's up to you. If you want it, you can get it. There are plenty of opportunities out here."

Harold continues to be employed in the warehouse while working with inventory but is hopeful of potentially moving out into the field as an HVAC technician. Nevertheless, he is very thankful for his current role because it has helped him become more comfortable with parts and supplies which will most certainly prove beneficial if he transitions to air conditioning and furnace installation and repair.