



Education and Workforce Training to Build a Stronger Wisconsin

Dane County CDBG Presentation

[VIDEO: Growth and transformation
of the Latino Academy](#)



MISSION

The Latino Academy of Workforce Development strengthens our diverse communities by providing linguistically and culturally competent adult education programming that advances opportunities to ensure that individuals and families thrive socially, economically, and civically.

VISION

We envision a world where social and economic equity guarantees everyone will reach their full potential.

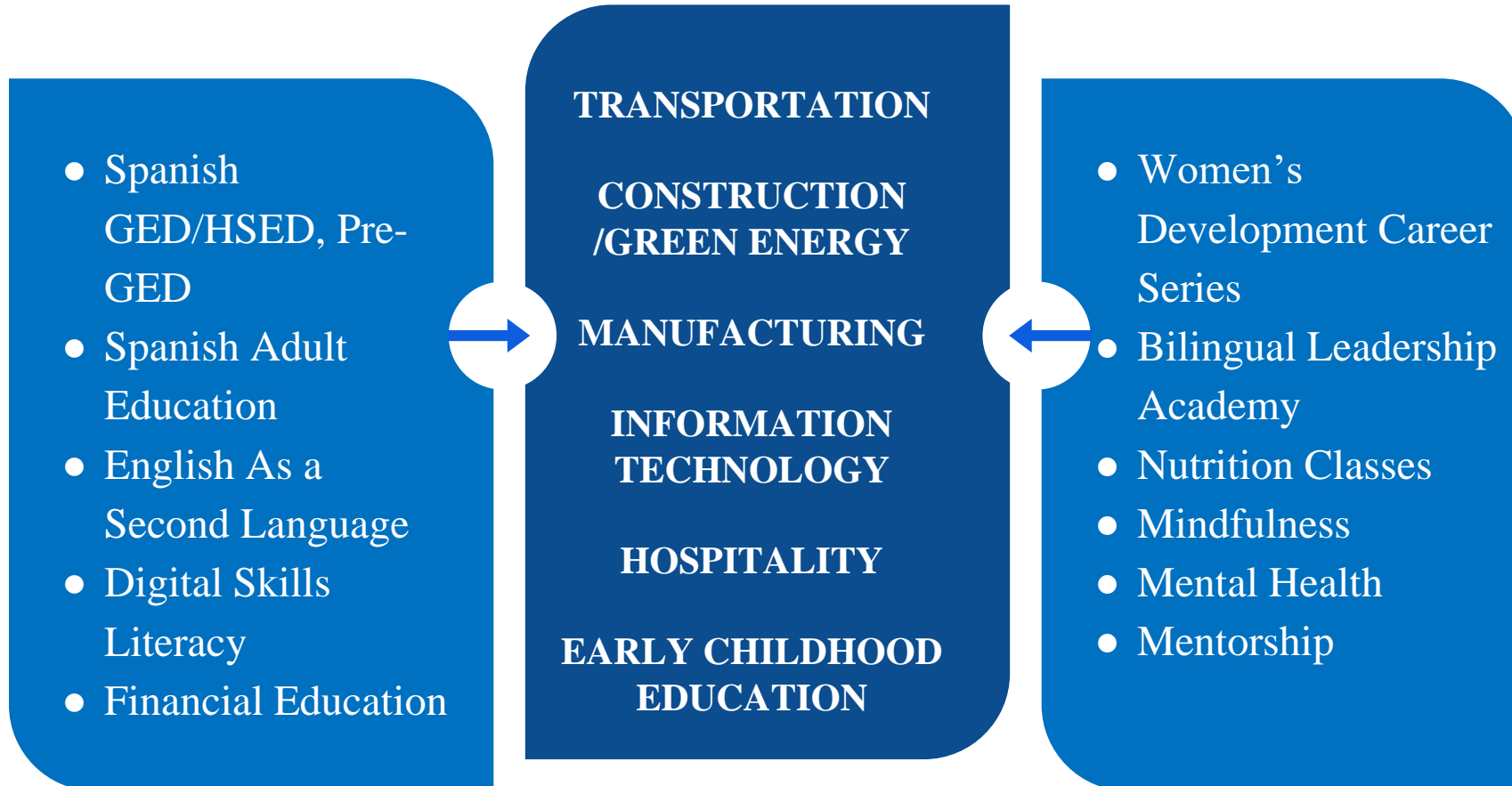
VALUES

- We **RESPECT** the intrinsic dignity, autonomy, and worth of each person.
- We act with **INTEGRITY**, and we demonstrate this by operating with honesty and transparency, behaving ethically, and being respectful to one another, our students, and partners.
- We create **COMMUNITY** by valuing relationships, welcoming, and honoring diverse backgrounds, and acknowledging everyone's contributions.
- We advance **EQUITY** by acknowledging the unique circumstances of every individual. We support change that creates conditions for everyone to participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.
- Our **GROWTH** depends on robust assessment of our impact, so that we may build on past success, seek ways to improve, and identify new opportunities.
- We are committed to **INNOVATION**. We take measured risks, set high standards, encourage curiosity, anticipate change, and generate new ideas.

These values operate harmoniously with the work we do.

Latino Academy Workforce Programming

GENERAL EDUCATION WORKFORCE TRACKS LEADERSHIP & WELLNESS



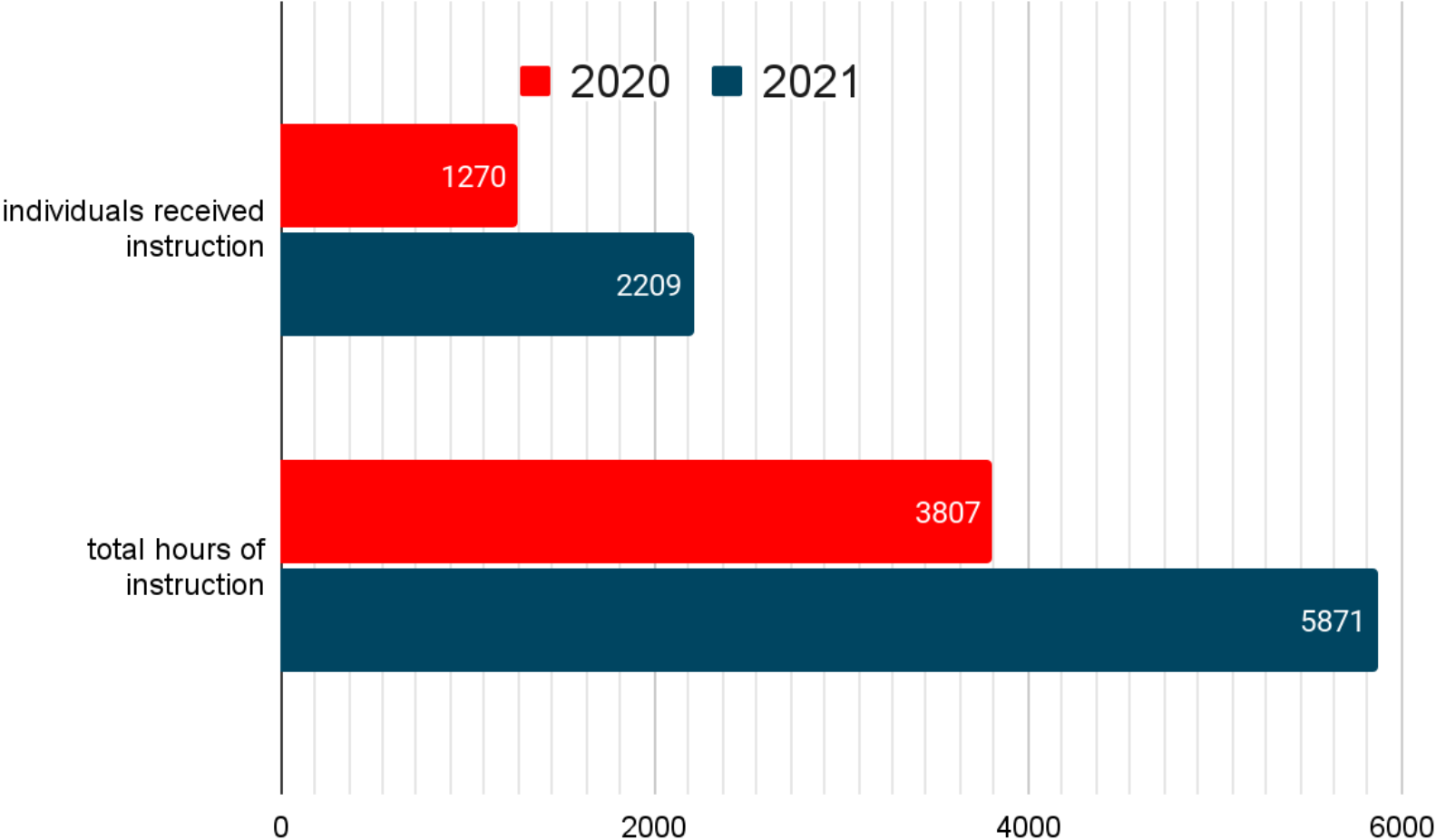
How the Latino Academy has Contributed to Wisconsin's Workforce

- We offer the region's only bilingual and culturally competent workforce training;
- Our training provides industry-certified credentials;
- Flexible training schedules lead to 80% average graduation rates;
- Students stay connected and continually upskill and reskill year after year.
- Strong employer, education, and community partnerships
- Strong partnerships with local Workforce Development Boards and local Department of Workforce Development.

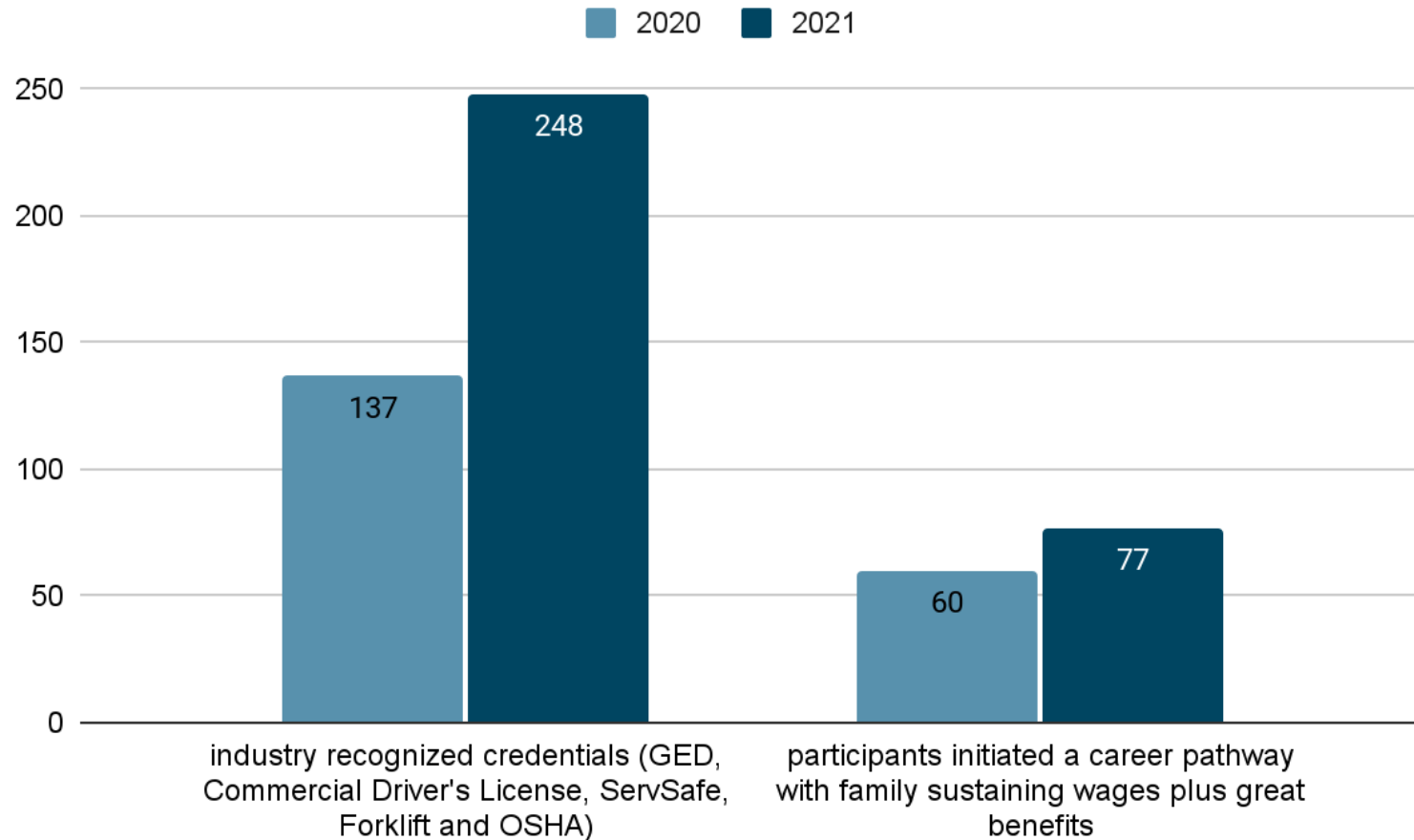
Latinos are Wisconsin's Fastest Growing Population

- 447,290 Latinos in Wisconsin.
- Average age is younger than the general population.
- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate is declining; in July '22 was 66.2%, down from a peak in 2000 of 73.2%.
- In Dane County, Wisconsin, Latinos represent 6.5% of the population, but 12% of the workforce.

Our Impact: Strong Enrollment Growth



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[2022 Impact Report](#)

CDBG Program Achievements

- The Latino Academy has been funded by the Dane County CDBG program since 2016
- Established the GED on the GED-on-the-GO program in 2018
- Acquired a Commercial Driver License class A Truck in 2019 with the support of Dance County

Year	Commercial Driver License Graduates by the Numbers	GED Graduates by the Numbers
2021	<u>20</u> CDL Graduates	<u>20</u> GED Graduates
2022	<u>24</u> CDL Graduates	<u>22</u> GED Graduates
2023	<u>17</u> CDL Graduates (13 students currently in class)	<u>49</u> GED/HSED graduates

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

We Help Participants
Develop a Career
Pathway, not Just
Find a Job



*Resume
Development
Support*



Job Leads



*Complete and
Submit Online
Job Applications*



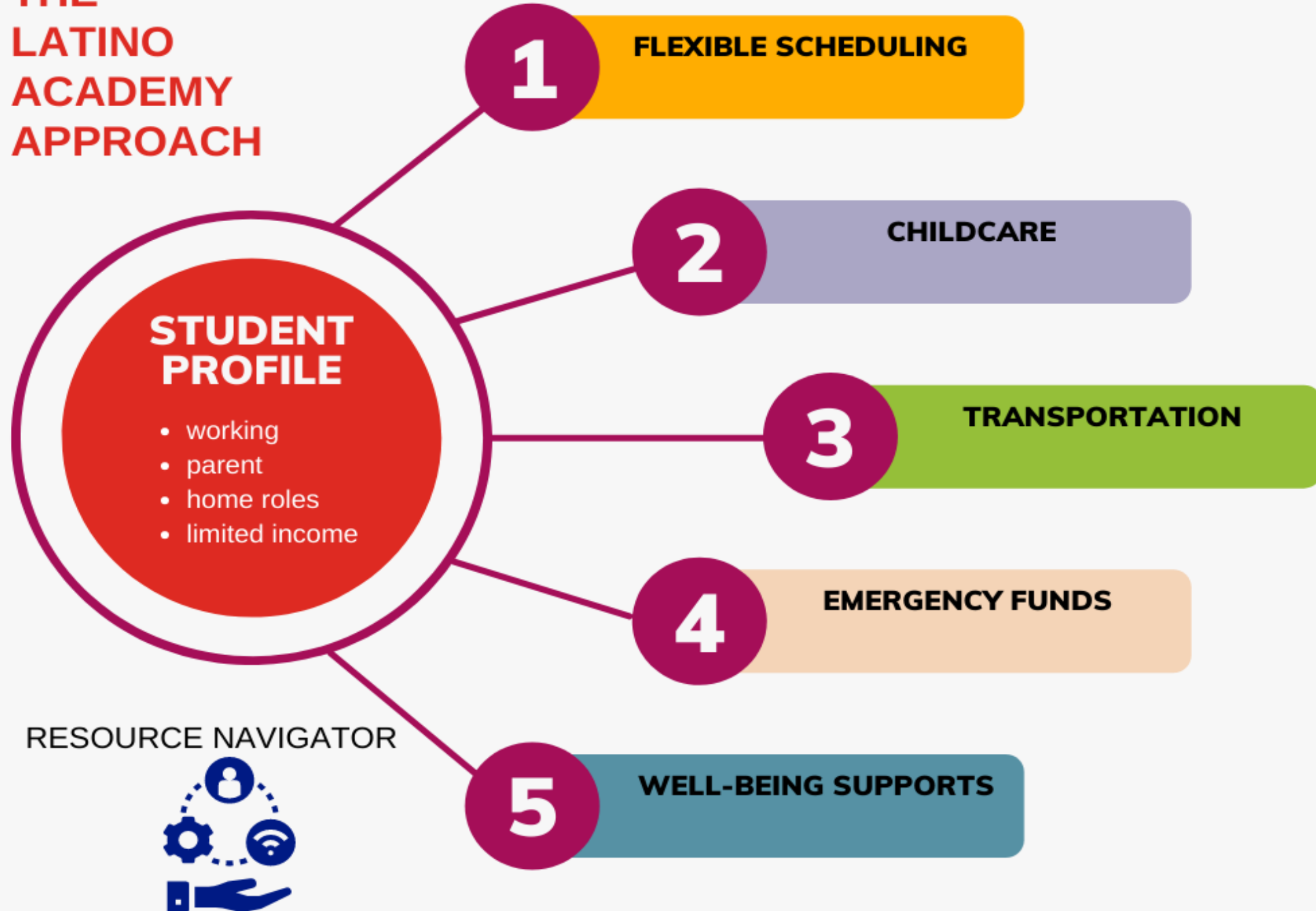
*Practice Job
Interviews*



*Connect with
Employers*



THE LATINO ACADEMY APPROACH



Latino Academy Work-Based Learning





CDL Student: Allan Tejada

The Latino Academy has recently celebrated its 22-23 CDL and GED graduation. It was our biggest graduating class in the history of the agency. Allan Tejada shared some inspiring words with all the graduates. As an immigrant from Honduras and father of four he talked about his journey to provide for his family and secure a future for all of them. He had been working at KS Energy long enough to have the skills to be able to fulfill every position at the company. However, his desire and requests to become a foreman always ended with the same words: “you need to have a CDL license for that.” The \$6,000 tag on the driving schools and the need to be on unpaid leave to prepare for the tests made it unreachable for him. He came to the Latino Academy for an unrelated matter the same day we were having our first CDL class. After learning about it, he travelled to the class site and he never looked back. With our free class and the paid training provided in partnership with the Wisconsin Development Board of SCW he was able to join our classes from 8 to noon and then work at night to complete the modules for the test. **He didn’t miss a single day of class and all this effort paid off by obtaining his CDL Class-B license and his longed-for position as a foreman that allows him to now oversee all his company’s business in Dane County. He mentioned that this time it was he who set the conditions of his employment and he is now making \$33 per hour.** He was grateful for every staff person that played a role in joining and completing his CDL, which shows the significance the tiniest of actions has in our students. Allan’s success story is a testament of hard work, dedication, persistence, and making the best of opportunities.



“I gave up a domestic violence life, I took a trailer and gave my life and family a different direction”

~Miriam Morales



CDL student: Miriam Morales

I have been a student with Latino Academy since 2019. At the time I was a Dental assistant. Looking for a way to secure a better future for my son and I, the timing couldn't have been better. I saw an ad from Latino Academy offering a CDL class A & B License. Obtaining the class A I knew I would be able to achieve my goal. Taking evening classes and providing daycare for my son while attending class was so helpful and motivating. I realized what else can I ask for? Free education that provides support with my son so I can further my education. At many times the emotions would get to me and they still do when I stop to think about it. Being grateful for this opportunity with all the emotions it was more encouraging to me having Latino Academy as my support system. I knew it was up to me to take advantage of this opportunity and do my part and of course I was willing to put in all my efforts. In 2020 Latino Academy introduced and prepared me with mocking interview and education skills I needed to land an opportunity for my family. I also obtained my class A CDL License. **I am now the 1st Latina woman to finish and graduate a Dane County Internship with the Dane County Highway Transportation Department as a skilled Labor.**



GED student: Arbey Castillo

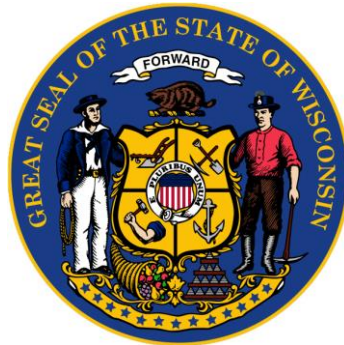
I started my journey with Latino Academy in 2021 taking ESL classes. Then I decided to start the GED program so I would have access to post-secondary education here in the US. I already have a college degree from my native Colombia, but I wanted to go through the process of obtaining the diploma in the US. During this process, I was able to connect with my peers in the class and create a collaborative learning environment that ended up creating review sessions among peers in which we all supported each other. I have also attended all the Latino Academy Career Fairs, and that's where I found my current employment. I have been talking to my employers to assume more responsibilities once my English skills improve, even with the possibility of moving abroad to direct a branch of the company in Mexico.

I am currently a computer instructor with the Latino Academy, which allows me to use the skills I brought to this country. I have also become the Pre-GED Math instructor, so I can guide the prospective GED/HSED students to show them what's to come for them.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FUNDING PARTNERS!



hispanic**federation**



UWHealth



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS!



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