

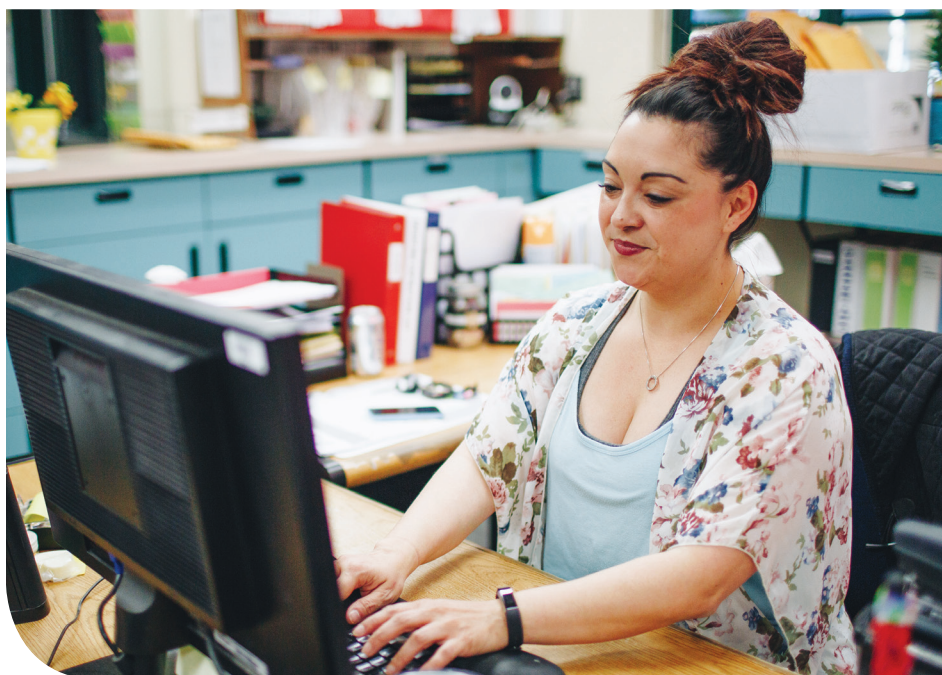


Go Further



A collaboration between adult schools and community colleges

Find out how it's easier than ever to get the skills you need to advance your education and career.



Where do **you** want to go?

Adult education offers a path to advancing your education and career. But your route will depend on what knowledge you need, the programs available in your area and where you want to go.

ADULT SCHOOLS

Exit here for:

CREDENTIALS

- High School Diploma/Equivalency
- Short-term Certificates
- Career Education

CURRICULUM

- Adult Basic Education
- Citizenship Classes
- English as a Second Language
- Pre-apprenticeships
- Apprenticeships

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Exit here for:

CREDENTIALS

- Associate Degrees
- Short-term Certificates
- Career Education

CURRICULUM

- English as a Second Language
- Pre-apprenticeships
- Apprenticeships

NAVIGATION TOOLS

- Financial Aid
- Training Programs
- Employment Services
- Career Exploration
- Immigrant Resources
- Disability Resources

Thanks to her experience in adult education, Jenice Gonzales now has a career she loves and skills she can share with others.
PHOTO BY KATE HOLTZEN

Single Mom Lands Her Dream Job

She enjoys working with students and using her Microsoft skills

BY MATT JOCKS



Jenice's Route



Financial aid through WIOA

Liberty Adult Education Center

Microsoft certificate

Secretary at school district



Jenice Gonzales was a single mother of two seeking a typing certificate to start her on the path to a secretarial job. Her dream position was to work in a school setting, but that seemed pretty distant.

Until it wasn't.

After contacting EASTBAYWorks, Gonzales quickly learned of the opportunities to expand her education and improve her job prospects. She also found out she could get financial assistance for tuition through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

"I had no clue they offered all of the things they did," she says.

With the aid, Gonzales began taking classes at Liberty Adult Education Center in Brentwood. She jumped into training on Advanced Microsoft Office programs, gaining mastery of Word, Excel and PowerPoint. It boosted her résumé with the skills she needed to get the job she wanted.

In October 2016, Gonzales landed a secretarial job at O'Hara Park Middle School in Oakley. The job is what she had always hoped for.

"I love the kids," she says. "I love being able to interact with them and still be able to use my skills."

As secretary of discipline and health, Gonzales says her job is rarely predictable or boring.

"I've got a 9-year-old and an 11-year-old at home," she says. "As soon as I get home, they ask: 'Anything interesting happen today?'"

Perhaps most satisfying for Gonzales is that she is now the person others come to for answers on how to use the computer software that makes her office run.

"Yeah, a lot of times, the office manager or someone else will come to me and say, 'How do I do this?' or 'How can I make this form?'" she says. "It really does make you feel good to be able to take what you have learned and put it to use like that."

"It really does make you feel good to be able to take what you have learned and put it to use like that."

JENICE GONZALES
Former adult school student

INCREASE YOUR EARNING POTENTIAL

Here is a look at some of the industries you can enter through adult school training and the estimated salaries in those careers:



Solar Energy

Solar assembler/
basic installer
\$28,640



Health care

Certified
nursing assistant
\$24,295



Office

Office
assistant
\$26,270

entry level

Solar service
technician
\$53,070

Medical
assistant
\$29,474

Office
administrator
\$32,698

mid-level

Solar installation
contractor
\$85,630

Surgical
technologist
\$65,000

Office
manager
\$44,461

advanced

Overcoming the Language Barrier

ESL classes gave him the confidence to pursue a career in law enforcement

BY ELIZABETH MORABITO

A language barrier and culture shock made traditional high school difficult for Abraham Acianoh.

"I was intimidated because of the language. It was a fast-paced environment," he says. "That's why I wasn't a fan of high school. I didn't want to go."

A native of Guinea, Acianoh immigrated to the U.S. at age 17 to be with his family in Concord. His mother, who moved to the United States when Acianoh was just 3 years old, had already learned English thanks to Mt. Diablo Adult Education.

But Acianoh needed to catch up. He started taking English as a second language (ESL) classes through a Mt. Diablo Adult Education program held at the Loma Vista Adult Center.

For a couple years, Acianoh worked on his English, taking classes at the center almost every day of the week. "Everything they had to offer, I took," he says.

"What really stood out to me is how compassionate and understanding the teachers were,"

he says. "They were willing to take the time to talk to you, to actually give you extra help."

Because he mastered the English language in a supportive environment, Acianoh had the confidence to attend Diablo Valley College. In 2013, he earned an A.A. in political science. He went on to earn a B.A. in political science and criminal justice from San Francisco State University in 2015.

Acianoh accomplished this while working full-time at Costco in Concord. He was promoted to front-end supervisor after getting his bachelor's degree. He still sees some of his teachers from Loma Vista shopping at the store, who are eager to learn about his progress.

The happily married father of two has an exciting future planned. He recently applied to multiple police academies throughout the Bay Area.

"Becoming a police officer is something I'm looking forward to," Acianoh says with confidence.

"What really stood out to me is how compassionate and understanding the teachers were."

ABRAHAM ACIAHOH
Former ESL student

Abraham's Route



Adult Ed ESL classes

Diablo Valley College

Degree in Political Science/Criminal Justice from San Francisco State

Applying to police academies



Abraham Acianoh immigrated to the U.S. as a 17-year-old. He learned English through Mt. Diablo Adult Education and started on his path to becoming a law enforcement officer.

PHOTO BY KATE HOLTZEN

FREE COMMUNITY ESL AND IMMIGRANT RESOURCES

Adult education helps non-English speakers become successful members of our community.

ESL Beginning - Advanced improves English skills through weekly access to a computer lab and highly qualified and trained instructors.

ESL Basic Skills helps intermediate students learn job skills, basic math and English.

Citizenship Preparation teaches intermediate-level students how to apply for American citizenship.

ESL Family Literacy improves parents' English skills so they can

help their children succeed in school. Preschool age children may attend classes at the same time.

Project ACCESS provides training, career and other support services for non-native speakers of English who want to enter and advance in the early childhood education (ECE) field.

Workforce Development programs offered through Monument Impact offer a pathway to self-sufficiency, economic advancement and overall stability.

Community Engagement programs develop leadership and advocacy skills for immigrant communities.

For more information on Monument Impact:
www.monumentimpact.org,
info@monumentimpact.org,
925-682-8248

To learn about other adult education partners, please see the Partners tab at www.cccaec.org.

Hamida's Route



**Mt. Diablo
Adult
Education**

**Diablo Valley
College**

**Plans to
earn Ph.D. in
Education**



Finding Her Place

Project ACCESS gave her hope and a purpose

BY ELIZABETH MORABITO

Hamida Hakimi Roshangar left Afghanistan in 2016 to reunite with her husband who had been in the U.S. for two years already.

She brought with her a bachelor's degree and 10 years of experience working within the Afghan Parliament. Eager to begin working in the United States, Hamida promptly submitted her résumé to many employers. Given her experience, she expected to find a job quickly. But she didn't. This left Hakimi struggling with an overwhelming feeling of uselessness.

"I was totally lost. I lost my identity I was really helpless, really scared," Hamida says. "There was nobody to help me. There was nobody to guide me. Where do I start from? I had no idea."

At that point, she realized she needed to become educated in the United States to work here. Her husband had taken ESL classes through Mt. Diablo Adult Education and recommended Project ACCESS to Hamida.

Project ACCESS provides training, career and other support services for non-native English speakers to work in early childhood education (ECE). Pregnant with their second child,

Hamida found the practical parenting information valuable personally as well as scholastically. And more importantly, Project ACCESS gave her a renewed purpose in life.

"I was a good student in the class. I found my identity somehow. I realized I'm intelligent. I can do something," she says. "This all helped me to get out of depression."

This transformation was in great part due to the support she received from the educators and students.

"I realized there are people who can show you the way, tell you where you should start from," she says. "I found really good friends — the teachers and the classmates — everybody was so friendly and so kind."

The experience has been so positive, Hamida has a newfound passion for working in the field of education. She recently earned her certificate of completion

for Project ACCESS and will attend Diablo Valley College in the fall for two years. But her plans don't stop

there. Hamida is committed to pursuing these studies for life, culminating in a Ph.D.

"It is my biggest dream in life," she says.

"I found really good friends - the teachers and the classmates."

HAMIDA HAKIMI ROSHANGAR
Project ACCESS student

Although well-educated in her native Afghanistan, Hamida Hakimi Roshangar struggled to find work. But through Project ACCESS, she found a new career goal: to work in education.

PHOTO BY KATE HOLTZEN

THREE ROUTES TO FINISHING HIGH SCHOOL

Route 1: Diploma

This is the best option for those who need relatively few units to meet their graduation requirement. A diploma avoids study in unnecessary subjects and there are no fees.

Route 2: GED Test

The GED is the industry standard and is split into four sections: Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science and Social Studies. It is a computer-based test. The fee depends on the site and generally runs about \$140.

Route 3: HiSet

A newer alternative to the GED, it mirrors the subject matter but adds a section for Language Arts-Writing. The HiSet is almost exclusively multiple-choice. It also offers an option for taking with pencil and paper as opposed to online. Fees for HiSet are comparable to the GED (around \$140).

Transition Specialist Janna Evans shares how she helps adult learners reach their goals

Janna Evans, Re-entry Transition Specialist, helps reduce barriers to education for at-risk populations.
PHOTO BY KATE HOLTZEN



Call this toll-free number to be directed to a Transition Specialist in your area: 1-800-949-0496

Your Navigation System

BY ELIZABETH MORABITO

Everyone needs directions when they're going someplace new. The same is true when your destination is career success. Transition Specialists like Janna Evans provide free supportive services to at-risk adult populations — inmates, immigrants, foster youth and those with disabilities — to help them achieve better education and employment outcomes.

Tell me about the Transition Specialists program.

This program was created less than 18 months ago. The team consists of seven Transition Specialists. I am the only one working with inmates in the county jail. The others work directly with the adult education schools and community colleges. We connect at-risk adults to employment services, vocational training, educational opportunities, social services, rehab programs, counseling and more.

How do you work with individual adult learners to identify goals and pathways?

We meet one-on-one with adult learners to discuss their interests, values and skills. Through career assessment tools and techniques, we help each student identify possible career options. The student can then learn what type of education is needed and have a clearer understanding of what it will take to obtain that goal. What they want is most important. We are here as a support and to offer guidance.

Are there Transition Specialists available to non-English speakers?

One of the Transition Specialists is bilingual in Spanish. If we need assistance with a non-English speaker, there is always another student or someone on staff at the jail, in the adult education centers or at the community colleges who can help.

What resources/options exist for adults with disabilities?

Mt. Diablo Adult Education's Adults with Disabilities department has three programs to assist 1)

"Their next chapter does not have to be a repeat of the last. Getting them into school, a job, vocational training or rehab is the first step in rewriting their story."

JANNA EVANS
Re-entry Transition Specialist

individuals with developmental disabilities, 2) those who have suffered a brain injury and 3) adults with Asperger's. The primary goal of these programs is to prepare students for self-sufficiency. The community colleges also have departments offering resources and support services to students with disabilities. The Transition Specialists work side-by-side with the staff in these programs.

What do you love about your job?

What I love about my job is that I get to help people transform their lives despite their incarceration. Their next chapter does not have to be a repeat of the last. Getting them into school, a job, vocational training or rehab is the first step in rewriting their story.

How can someone get in touch with a Transition Specialist?

An at-risk adult can get connected with a Transition Specialist through one of the community colleges or the local school districts' adult education programs. The individual does not need to be a student to receive services.

Catherine Fonseca, Nick Morgan and Trudie Giordano with the Contra Costa County Adult Education Consortium help adult students get where they want to go.
PHOTO BY KATE HOLTZEN

Paving the way for Your Career Success!

Contra Costa County Adult Education Consortium helps students prepare for college and career advancement

BY MATT JOCKS



There are those who take a highway straight from high school to college and career. For those who take a detour, finding the right onramp to get back on their way can require some guidance.

The Contra Costa County Adult Education Consortium plays a big role in helping students get where they want to go. Consortium members — seven school districts, a county office of education and three community colleges — work together to help students prepare for college or gain skills for career advancement.

Created by Assembly Bill 86, the consortium is tasked with developing a regional plan to improve the delivery of adult education and address existing gaps in programs and services. Consortium members work closely with employment organizations to make sure students receive appropriate training for in-demand careers, like solar energy.

“As we focus on answering the need for better wages, more fulfilling work and a skilled workforce, it’s important to acknowledge the collaborations that make this possible,” says Consortium Manager Trudie Giordano.

By providing a way for programs and schools to work together, the consortium seeks to make transitions more seamless for students. Registration can be simplified, student

records can travel more easily across campuses and students can avoid duplication of classes, saving time and money.

Transition Specialists like Nick Morgan help students navigate this complicated system by helping them apply for financial aid, hosting job search workshops and other tasks.

“One of the advantages of the consortium approach is you get schools talking to each other and they can then institute best practices,” he says. “One of the things we’re trying to do is create a culture of making students future-oriented.”

As far as the future of the consortium, Giordano hopes more students will find it easier to access an adult education thanks to the efforts of the consortium.

Some of the consortium’s goals include transitioning ESL students more seamlessly into career training and developing agreements with local colleges to convert adult education study into college credits.

Beyond that, the consortium’s mission is simply to attract more students.

Approximately 82,000 adults in Contra Costa County don’t have a high school diploma and 60,000 don’t speak fluent English. While 18,000 are enrolled in basic skills programs, and 9,000 in ESL programs, Giordano says there are many more to be served.

“It’s important to acknowledge the collaborations that make this possible.”

TRUDIE GIORDANO
Manager, Contra Costa County Adult Education Consortium

PARTNERS IN EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

The Contra Costa County Adult Education Consortium is working with the following partner organizations, among others, which play a key role in promoting literacy skills and employment in our community:

Workforce Development Board (WDB)

Contra Costa County Libraries (Project Second Chance)

SparkPoint

Monument Impact

Opportunity Junction

West Contra Costa County Libraries (Project Read)

First 5 Contra Costa

Employment and Human Services Department

Employment Development Department

Department of Rehabilitation

Helping You Get Where You Want to Go

Contra Costa County Adult Education Consortium



Start your path at an adult school or community college near you!

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- 1 **Contra Costa College**
2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo
- 2 **Diablo Valley College**
321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill
- 3 **Los Medanos College**
2700 E. Leland Road, Pittsburg

ADULT SCHOOLS

- 4 **Acalanes Adult Education Center**
1963 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek
- 5 **Antioch Adult Education**
820 W. 2nd St., Antioch
- 6 **Contra Costa County Office of Education**
77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill
- 7 **Liberty Adult Education Center**
929 2nd St., Brentwood
- 8 **Martinez Adult Education**
600 F St., Martinez
- 9 **Mt. Diablo Adult Education**
1266 San Carlos Ave., Concord
- 10 **Pittsburg Adult Education Center**
1151 Stoneman Ave., Pittsburg
- 11 **West Contra Costa Adult Education**
Serra Campus: 6028 Ralston Ave., Richmond
Alvarado Campus: 5625 Sutter St., Richmond



www.cccaec.org



1-800-949-0496



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Google función para obtener
información en español.



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