

Success Stories: Vocational Rehabilitation



Abraham Lopez



OCCUPATION:

Automotive Service Technician

VR COUNSELOR: Kate Hinchee
(Northern Utah District)

VR PROVIDED ASSISTANCE:

- Vocational Counseling and Guidance
- Individualized Plan for Employment
- UWIPS Benefits Planning
- High School Transition Services
- On the Job Training
- Job Placement

Abraham applied for Vocational Rehabilitation services in March 2015, when he was a high school student. Abraham attended post-secondary school at the Lincoln Center until he graduated in May 2017. During the school day, he participated in two different work sites. His instructors noted he was a hard worker and cared about the people he worked with. Like so many teenagers, he needed to improve his soft skills, such as focusing on his work and staying off his cell phone. Abraham's peers and teachers spoke of him as a pleasant person with an easygoing nature and great manners.

Abraham enjoyed his work site placement at Hansen Motor Company, where he helped clean the customer vehicles. Due to his interest in mechanics, he learned to service his own vehicle, as well as the vehicles of his family. Abraham's goal was to become a mechanic.

After graduation, he began working at Hansen Motor Company, primarily assigned to maintaining the shop,

cleaning vehicles and sometimes working on routine maintenance of customer vehicles.

Through the development of his Individual Plan for Employment with his counselor, Kate Hinchee, he began working with Dan Kroc, the Choose to Work specialist. Dan set up an On-the-Job Training agreement with Hansen Motors for Abraham to train in basic mechanics. Abraham was referred to Utah Work Incentive Planning Services and met with Farrah Edwards to understand his earning capacity and how Social Security benefits are affected by earned income.

After six months, Abraham successfully completed his training and was offered a permanent position with Hansen Motors — along with a raise! Abraham is grateful for the support and assistance he received through USOR. Through hard work and determination, Abraham is off to a great start in his career pathway.