



# Student Success Story

Julian Rivera  
Fresno Adult School

Fighting had been part of Julian's life since childhood, growing up without parents and living with his grandmother. Despite the obstacles, he always felt fortunate to be alive and determined to show that success was possible.

Raised in a poor family in El Salvador, Julian excelled in mathematics, academics, and sports from a young age. His love for learning and curiosity about how things worked drove him to overcome the lack of parental support. With hard work and sacrifice, he graduated high school and attended university, often borrowing books from classmates and photocopying study materials.

Julian became a Civil Engineer, married, and started a family. He enjoyed practicing his profession for five years until violence in El Salvador forced a move to the United States. He worked in the fields and struggled to pursue his career due to the language barrier and new responsibilities.

He enrolled at Fresno Adult School to break the language barrier, meeting inspiring teachers and supportive people, and feeling a sense of family he had always wanted. Despite being told by others that it was almost impossible to learn English at his age, he studied diligently and improved significantly. He then earned his HiSET diploma and had the honor of giving the graduation speech in English, a moment he will always cherish.

Julian says, "I sought guidance from Transition Specialist Oscar Hinojosa, who encouraged me to validate my degree or pursue a new career. Now, I am motivated to take classes related to what I dream of becoming and am in college full-time while continuing to improve my English. Thank you to everyone who has supported me directly or indirectly. Your encouragement has been invaluable. Dreams and family are the dose of motivation we need every day."

