

## Opening One Door Opens Many More



*Nathaniel stands ready for work in the kitchen*

### ***From Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Youth Program participant Nathaniel L.:***

My entire life I was homeschooled by my mother. I always felt like I was missing something and wanted to learn more and become a well-rounded person. At 19, I worked odd jobs but nothing close to a career. Often, I walked by the YOU Inc. office but never gave it a second thought until one day I decided to go inside and take the step to get my HiSET. When I walked in the door, Chris made me feel comfortable. I knew it would be a good fit for me. Although I was home-schooled, I never really worked on math, and I knew it was going to take some time to be ready for the test. Chris made class fun; we talked about music and current issues while working on my math skills.

After taking the test -- a huge relief, I passed! I will always be grateful to Chris for helping me to graduate!

At this point, I was working at the local Dollar General store making minimum wage. Meghan mentioned a Culinary training at YOU Inc., but to be honest, I had never really thought this would be something I would be interested in, but maybe this could lead to something. Happily, at the end of the training Meghan placed me at BT's Smokehouse and it has been the best thing. I now have a full time job with them and my own apartment.

Walking into the door at YOU Inc. changed my life and I will always be grateful. I feel like I am now on a real path in life that will lead to success.

*For more information regarding WIOA youth programming or the CMWIB's Youth Workforce Investment Council, please contact Ed Gagne at 508.373.7657*

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