

WIOA Youth Program Helps Milford Youth Install a Better Future

During my time and experience attending the YOU, Inc. [WIOA Youth] program I've realized most of the students attending do not have a diploma, or haven't gotten it yet. I on the other hand, already had my diploma before coming here early 2017. I graduated from Nashoba Valley Technical High School in 2015, but never pursued school, and never had the motivation to find the career I wanted. Days passed, then weeks, then months, and as soon as I realized it, it was almost 2017, and at the time my family and I were in rough shape, living in a family shelter while trying to find housing. I was also going through a lot of personal issues and wasn't working at the time.

Our case worker recommended that I go to YOU, Inc., which surprisingly was just 5 minutes down the street from me. I ended up setting up an appointment, finishing all the tests and paperwork they needed from me, and was finally introduced to the Green Jobs Academy at the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC), [a YOU, Inc. training partner] where I spent a week learning about the Weatherization Installer trade and achieved my OSHA 10 and Lead Renovator certifications. Almost as soon as the training was finished they got me an interview with an insulation company in Milford, MA, which is also about 8 minutes down the street from me. I'm currently a fulltime installer with the company and interested in going to school for HVAC soon.



Joseph Collette (middle) with SMOC staff

The YOU, Inc. and SMOC teachers helped me a lot by giving me advice, giving me rides, and still to this day keep in touch to make sure everything is going ok. This program has not only helped me get a job to help my family, but has also made me motivated to achieve more and more in the near future. Procrastination is our biggest downfall in my opinion, and if I did not pursue this any further than I did, I don't know where I'd be today, and for that I'm very thankful to YOU, Inc. and the teachers that helped me.

-- Joseph Collette, Milford, MA

Great job Joseph!

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