

Oregon TAA Program Success Stories of 2019



Our Vision:

An Oregon where meaningful work enables the state's diverse people and businesses to realize their full potential, creating prosperity in every community.

Our Mission:

- Support economic stability for Oregonians and communities during times of unemployment through the payment of unemployment benefits
- Serve businesses by recruiting and referring the best qualified applicants to jobs and provide resources to diverse job seekers in support of their employment needs.
- Develop and distribute quality workforce and economic information to promote informed decision-making

The Oregon Employment Department is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Language assistance is available to persons with limited English proficiency at no cost.

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon es un empleador/programa que respeta la igualdad de oportunidades. Disponemos de servicios o ayudas auxiliares, formatos alternos y asistencia de idiomas para personas con discapacidades o conocimiento limitado del inglés, a pedido y sin costo.



Congratulations to our most recent Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program champions. Their accomplishments give hope to others. We're featuring their stories on our website's "Success Stories" section and Annual Report to Congress. Here's a review of some of our 2018-2019 Oregon participant successes!

PATRICK SEAFIELD

*A*s technology advances in the world of work, competition for employment opportunities increase. Often minimum expectations become harder to meet, or minimum education levels become heightened. This is what occurred to Patrick Seafield.

Despite having almost ten years of web development experience finding the next great role was a struggle for Patrick, who did not have a Bachelor's degree. Web development was something he was good at it and loved doing. However, the industry had become more competitive. Standards and expectations had changed. His work experience did not hold the value it once had.

Patrick knew he needed to get his Bachelor's degree. After losing his job in 2017, the Trade Act program provided Patrick the opportunity to do just that. Pursuing a challenging and accelerated program at Oregon State University, Patrick was able to complete his BA in Computer Science in just over one year, graduating in December 2018.

Within two weeks of completing his degree, Patrick received and accepted an offer with a finance company as their Senior Web Developer. This position offered a salary package far superior to his previous earnings- what a win!

"I have been a self-taught web developer for several years. It can be hard to get a job as a developer without a degree. After my layoff from work, Trade Act offered me the opportunity to pursue a Computer Science degree. Everyone was both incredibly patient and helpful, especially my case manager. It has helped round out my education and helped get my foot in the door. Shortly after I graduated, I accepted a job with 20% higher compensation than my last job. The entire process has been fantastic." - Patrick



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I've been a self-taught web developer for several years. It can be hard to get a job as a developer without a degree. When I was laid off, Trade Act offered me the opportunity to pursue a Computer Science degree.

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PETER BEER

Peter Beer received his layoff notice 02/28/2018 from his job as a Senior IT Manager at a well-known tech company, that was closing down due to foreign trade. This came as a surprise to Peter, and opened up an opportunity for him to reconsider his entire career path. When he was determined eligible for Trade Act services, Peter quickly decided that he wanted to strengthen his resume by adding onto his previously earned Bachelor's degree. For him, this meant getting his Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification.

In March 2018, Peter started his training at Villanova University where he excelled in his online program while he worked as a Senior Engineer. Peter attended school online on a full-time basis while working full-time. He started working soon after his program at Villanova commenced and received great grades throughout his training. Peter states, "Getting my Black Belt Certification was a really good training opportunity afforded by Trade Act. Working with my case manager, we determined a course that would enhance my career qualifications and help to find a new job."

Peter has since scheduled his certification test and hopes to begin looking for even better opportunities once he obtains his Black Belt certification.

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”

THOMAS COFFELT

”**B**eing laid-off was neither expected, nor something did I think of as a beneficial thing at the time. I can personally say that it was a force for good in my case. Whether that was due to setting my mind to making the best of it, Trade Act gave me the push I needed to get back on track, turning this situation into something that ended with me being in a better place.

Working with advisors to figure out what path I would take, keeping on task with the help of the Trade Act staff, and having the freedom to choose where I wanted to go with my future career made this an incredibly positive experience. I would have never thought that going back to school at 36 would be something I would enjoy and excel doing. I was never a great student. However, I somehow managed to get a 4.0 GPA!

In interviewing for my new job, I specifically asked one of the interviewers what concerns they would have for someone like me attempting to step into this role. It was incredibly validating to hear her say, “If you only had your previous work experience I may have been concerned, but you’ve taken steps to take care of that.” Had I not made the same decisions, had the availability of a program like Trade Act, and worked hard to make it through, I would not be where I am at right now. I landed the exact job I wanted with better pay, good benefits, and many other benefits. I honestly thank everyone at Trade Act who has helped me through this. It’s been a great experience!” - Thomas



“

Trade Act gave me the push I needed in order to get on track with turning this situation into something that ended with me being in a better place.

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OKSANA MUSALL

In January of 2016, Oksana started working with her case manager after being determined eligible for Trade Act Services in December of 2015. Oksana had some very diverse career interests: accounting, massage therapist and dental assistant. She decided to pursue paralegal studies after talking to advisers at different colleges and thoroughly conducting her research to find her niche. Oksana chose to attend Portland Community College in their Paralegal Associates Degree program.

Oksana had some concerns in the beginning of her program about keeping up with the homework in the class. She spoke with her case manager and they decided to modify the training plan for the best opportunity of success. The modification helped to keep her focused and on track. Oksana received straight A's throughout her entire program! A quote from one of her teachers, "Wonderful questions, insights and reflections in class and written work. I wish I had more students like her!"

Oksana began working with the TAA Career Development Specialist, soon after graduation. With support in her reemployment goals; she was able to find work as a bilingual customer service representative within two months of completing her training program. Oksana plans to transition into their legal department once the opportunity presents itself.

Oksana's remarks regarding the Trade Act program:

"I really feel blessed to be able to participate in this program and truly thankful to all the people I met. I had never heard of this program before my eligibility and was not sure if I would be able to succeed. Now, I would encourage everybody who falls under this category to participate and definitely take this chance and go for it. Life does not have as many amazing opportunities as a Trade Act program. All of the people I worked with are great! I want to extend my sincere thank you to my case manager who is an exceptional human being, because not only she is a great manager, but she provided me support each step of the way. She constantly encouraged me, which gave me strength to go forward through the program. She is the one to look up for and I feel lucky to have worked with her."



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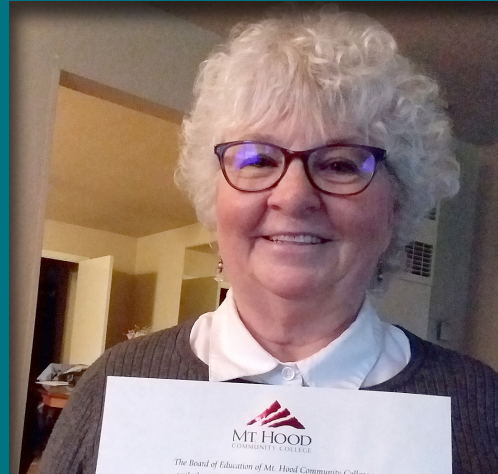
DARLA SOLIEN

From day one, Darla was a model student and showed remarkable perseverance throughout her training. She experienced many shifts and changes within the structure of her program, causing for last-minute additions of required courses and the need to extend out her training. However, this only made her more excited for her future career.

Darla summarizes her time with Trade Act:

“My story begins on September 23, 2016, five days after being married. Following the layoff from my job as a chain assembly operator I was determined eligible for the Trade Act program. I always wanted to go to college, but could not afford it. I started a program in the medical field and eventually earned a Medical Benefits Specialist Certificate. I am very thankful for the support from the Trade Act team, who helped me realize a life-long dream.”

Upon completion of her program, Darla has been busy helping and supporting her family. However, she plans to find her dream career once she is ready.



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DAPHNE URIU

Daphne was laid off from a company in Eastern Oregon where the worker group was certified to apply for Trade Act benefits. She was very decisive in what she wanted to pursue training in and started the process with Trade Act to seek training as a bookkeeper. Daphne began school in January 2017, at which time there were numerous snowstorms with which to contend. In one day alone, her area received around 15 inches of new snow! The school closed for several days intermittently due to all the snow. Daphne was determined to not fall behind in her studies.

Daphne stayed focus on receiving excellent grades throughout her program, and made her schoolwork her top priority. Daphne's accounting professor at Treasure Valley Community College recommended her for a position. Prior to graduating, at a local insurance company as a bookkeeper. Daphne finished her training program December 2018 she secured employment and started her new job three days after graduation! She is now working as a bookkeeper, a dream come true!

Daphne shared her thoughts on working with Trade Act:

“Working with Trade Act was a wonderful experience, my case manager made the process so simple and easy to understand. It was nice that anytime I had a question she was always there to help. I will always be grateful for the opportunity Trade Act gave me.”



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DON LANDRUM

Don chose a career in Transportation for two reasons: stable employment and he could take his dogs with him when driving locally. A partner grant funded 100% of his Commercial Driver License Training. Don was in the process of getting his Commercial Driver's License when the Department of Labor certified the TAA Petition for his previous worker group.

Upon completion of the CDL Training, he expressed some concerns regarding employers requiring three years or more experience as a Truck Driver. Don's case manager advised him to inform employers of the potential for a TAA On-the-Job Training (OJT) opportunity, which could reimburse the employer up to 50% of his wages.

Marketing the TAA OJT program to employers worked. Don contacted the Central Trade Act Unit to discuss a potential job offer as a Log Truck Driver. The local TAA Navigator and the employer worked together to create and sign the OJT Agreement. Don began working the following day! He was very successful in his training and offered a promotion before the OJT had completed, which he accepted.



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KURT LOOMIS

Kurt Loomis is an artisan who performs his best work and expression through his hands. He had prior experience welding for his trade-affected employer, but it was his on-the-job training and welding degree program supported by Trade Act that helped to back up his expertise and talent. His artistic expression shone brightly in his metal sculpture course masterpiece. Kurt worked very hard to achieve a well-rounded degree. He was on the Presidents Honor List for his accomplishments his last two terms. This led to obtaining a position with the railroad that had caught his interest back when he was a junior in high school!

“A few days later after the interview, I was dumbfounded that they called me back. I was sure I did not get it, but I guess hard work does pay off. I am here today to tell you I will start at \$20.04/hr. and my job title is Railcar Repairman. I weld 30% or more of the time and I get to work with my hands fixing railcars. So thank you for all the help and support that you gave me through the journey of mine. I could not have done this without this very amazing team and your continued support. Thank you so much!” stated Kurt.



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I will start Monday at \$20.04/hr and my job title is Railcar Repairman. I weld 30% or more of the time and I get to work with my hands fixing railcars. So thank you for all the help and support that you gave me through this journey of mine.

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ASHLEY SKAALE (PROCK)

*A*shley worked for company that made a decision to outsource the fraud department where she worked, resulting in a loss of jobs for her and her co-workers.

Ashley learned that her worker group was eligible for the Trade Act program. She began her educational pursuit at the University of New Haven to support her occupational goal, a criminal investigator.

Ashley maintained straight A's during her two years of training, receiving 100% in many of her courses. She graduated with a 4.0 in her Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Her hard work paid off and she received glowing recommendations from her professors.

Starting in her new role as an Assistant Fraud Manager at one of the nation's largest credit unions, she secured nearly double the salary she was previously earning. Ashley's educational pursuits were not over yet, as she studied for the ACFE exam to earn her Certified Fraud Examiner designation.

Ashley expressed her thanks in an email to her case manager, "Thank you for all of your support during the process, you are a blessing!"

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*Thank you! Thank you for all of your support
during the process, you are a blessing!*

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JAY PAYNE

Jay had been working as an operator when he was laid off from his trade-affected employer. It was then that he decided to take this opportunity through the Trade Act program to pursue his interest in the paramedic field. Jay had been volunteering for the City of McMinnville's Fire Department for several years while working, and saw this as a real chance to shoot for his long-awaited career goal.

Jay persevered through the challenges of starting over with both school and all the travel between two separate campuses to earn the degree. The mileage subsistence that TAA provided made it possible for Jay to continue to make trips from September 2016 through March 2019 to complete his required coursework and to attain his state licensures.

He completed his training plan with a Paramedic Associates Degree and earned licenses for Emergency Medical Services and Advanced Medical Services, making Jay more competitive in his labor market. He then became employed with the firehouse he had been volunteering at for all those years!

When asked about the Trade Act program and his experience, Jay had this to say, "I absolutely could not have finished my training without the support of my family, my case worker, and the Trade Act program."

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BRIAN PAUL

Brian Paul had worked for saw mills most of his career. When the last mill closed down in his rural Oregon town, he decided to use the training opportunity through the Trade Act program to hone a more versatile skill set.

Returning to college after quite a few years since his high school graduation was not without its challenges. Getting into the swing of academics and its demands requires hard work and tenacity. Brian earned an AAS degree in Electronics Technology, receiving a High Technology Studies and an Electronics Technician certificate along the way. Hired permanently as a service technician with a well-respected company where he completed an externship, Brian is now working in his chosen occupational field.

When asked about his training experience Brian remarked, “Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would continue my education. I am proof that hard work and perseverance will always succeed.”





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Many terms he was required to attend at two separate campuses on alternating days. The mileage subsistence that the TAA provided made it possible for Brian to continue to make that trip.

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BRUCE CHA

It can be hard for an individual to redirect the trajectory of their career path after a layoff, especially after being let go and a month later being asked, “What do you want to do in life?” The moment Bruce started working with Trade Act, he was positive that he wanted to enter the AAS Machine Tool Technology program at Mt. Hood Community College. It was even the baseline of his very first conversation with his TAA Case Manager. Bruce came from a similar working environment, so this program would become an extension of his interests, skillsets, and prior education, elevating him to higher employment platforms and ensuring his marketability within his dream career.

Bruce was eager to move quickly through Trade Act’s assessment process. It took him only one month to go from his first contact to signing his training plan! This type of charisma never faded as the months passed. All of his instructors raved of his work ethic and dedication to his studies.

Midway through his program, Bruce knew he needed to connect with an employer to fulfill the requirements of his Cooperative Work Experience. Bruce, with his go-getter style, had his eyes set on one of the most prestigious companies in the Northwest... Boeing. Sure enough, Bruce was able to land an internship with them in the summer of 2018!

As the weeks continued to roll by, Bruce continued to show his skills both inside the classroom and out. He landed a full time position with Boeing upon the completion of his internship as a Machinist Helper, and soon transitioned into a Machinist position! Upon completion of his training program, Bruce had received almost all straight As!

“I appreciate all the help you all have given me,” said Bruce. A true testament that if one is determined to succeed, they surely will. Trade Act is proud to have been able to help you along your journey into reemployment, Bruce!



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CAMERON ZITTENFIELD

December 2017, I logged into my computer as I would any other work day, and there it was, in my inbox: Notice of closure. First, I thought it was all over. I would have to get a job doing something outside the field I loved. This was the first time I had the opportunity to work in an IT position based on working experience, not certifications. Weeks passed and the site started shutting down, moving people out the door one group at a time.

We heard about a program that would help us. This ended up being the Trade Act program. I went to the meetings, and found out that this program would allow me to expand my knowledge. Why would I consider passing this up? The assistance would allow me to take classes and receive the certifications I needed to show future employers that I was a right match for the job towards a better future.

I worked with a few people within the Trade Act group, they tirelessly tried to make sure everything was set up and I could do the training needed to complete my goal. We figured out a plan and worked it out together. I did not want the pre-built package that the school was offering. We eventually finalized a specific, individualized plan that would help me achieve my goal.

I have made it, all the classes are completed, and exams taken! I now have a real chance to make my goals a reality. Without Trade Act, I might have overlooked for jobs I really wanted. Without the great support and assistance I got from my TAA Case Manager, I would have never made it through. If Trade Act was not there, I would have never had the opportunity to better my life, my family's life and reach my dream of working in the field I love."



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JEREMY ZIMMER

When Jeremy was laid off from his trade-affected work in June 2017, it was a double tragedy for the entire family, as the Zimmer's had moved from Idaho less than a year earlier.

"We came to Oregon because Jeremy was treated so poorly in his job in Idaho," mentioned Jeremy's wife, Bitsy. "We moved to Oregon hoping this would be a great new start, but then he lost his job. We at that point thought: how do we start again?"

Without the support structure they needed during this time of need, the pressure felt palpable. The Zimmer's understandably were uncertain which way or where to turn. Fortunately, Trade Act came in at the right time.

"At first, Jeremy and I thought Trade Act was too good to be true," Bitsy said. "But thankfully, we decided to go for it. But that brought other challenges."

To maximize Jeremy's training potential, the Zimmer's made the difficult decision to move a second time, this time so that Jeremy could pursue a Diesel Technology AAS degree, at Walla Walla CC.

"Jeremy had a comfort with the school which was important. But moving closer to the school meant we had to initially lean on Jeremy's family for support. Living under another person's roof is never easy," lamented Bitsy. "And we also have a special needs child. The pressure of the move took a toll on all of us."

However, the school results speak for themselves. Graduating with an almost perfect GPA, Jeremy completed his AAS in Diesel Technology June 2019. Jeremy showed his schooling was exactly what he needed to advance his career. He started a role with CAT as a Diesel Mechanic the Monday after graduation, at a salary far beyond his previous earnings. According to Bitsy, seeing this process through has allowed their family to move forward with their lives.



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None of this would have ever happened if Trade Act was not there. I am glad for it, and really am excited about my new career.

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KATIE SLIZEWSKI

“After 10 years of working in the accounting department of a design and engineering firm, my position was moved overseas. I found myself in a tough spot trying to find suitable employment. I learned about the Trade Act program through a coworker.

I really enjoyed my position as a project accountant but lacked formal education in accounting. Through the Trade Act program, I was able to obtain an MBA with an accounting focus. My case manager was incredible throughout the journey. She walked me through every step and made sure I had all the tools and support I needed.

As I face the job market with an advanced degree, I am more marketable and have gained knowledge and confidence that I lacked before going back to school. I am looking forward to getting back into the workforce, and I am so grateful for the role the Trade Act played in setting me up for long-term growth and success.”



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I am looking forward to getting back into the workforce after welcoming a third child this fall and I am so grateful for the role the Trade Act played in setting me up for long-term growth and success.

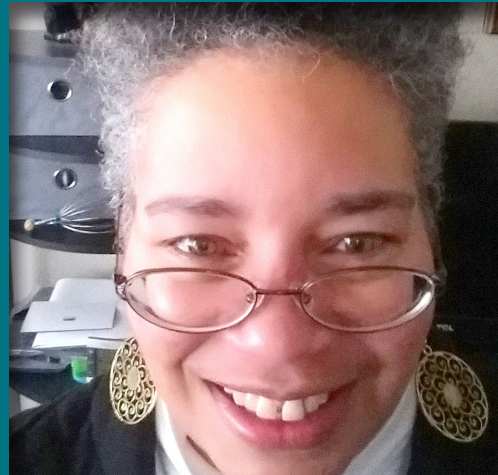
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KENDRA GRIFFIN

“**S**uccess is something that should be defined by each one of us before it is defined by someone else for us. I was laid off January 2018. I had only been in Portland, Oregon for a few years and knew it was difficult finding a job that affords me the comfort of my quality of life. This job was one that I could work and enjoy my life. I wasn’t satisfied with the work, but it gave me enough to enjoy my life outside of the office until I was laid off. I had difficulty getting a job in my community.

I had one interview from a health insurance company for a position I knew I could work because of my 15 years of experience. During my interview, the hiring manager asked me about my college education, I was a college senior but did not have a degree. I did not get the job. My next interview was with a hospital, looking for someone to work their cash register in the cafeteria. I began to question my ability to live in Portland, Oregon and my confidence to find work anywhere else.

I learned about Trade Act through a friend of mine who had discovered that I was laid off. She helped me to complete the process. I was contacted by a representative who gave me a new reason to smile. I could return to school and gain that needed degree. I wanted to live in my community, walk to work and enjoy the lifestyle I had grown accustomed. This is all I wanted my degree to give to me. My success story is that I graduated with a degree in English. I was hired to work at a nonprofit company in my neighborhood. I can continue to live in my community, walk to work and enjoy my quality of life. I cannot say what will happen tomorrow, but I appreciate what Trade Act has helped me accomplish today.”



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POUYA AHMADI

"I worked for a software company as a search engine content grader for about three years before I was laid off. I heard the company made a decision to outsource the work we did to Ireland. The Trade Act program reached out to me and I learned about the available benefits that could help me.

I moved to Washington DC to pursue my professional dreams. I was not entirely sure what I wanted to do with my life. I was eager to learn more about the world, and interested in serving others. This is why I decided to go to law school.

While in law school, I stayed in close contact with my Trade Act representative, who gave me wonderful advice about how to best utilize the benefits. The program provided me with immense financial and administrative support during the final year of my law degree, which I am thankful.

After law school, I will be joining a multinational law firm in Seattle Washington where I will be practicing Corporate and Commercial law. Thanks to the Trade Act program, I once again have found a career that I enjoy and can thrive in."



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RACHEL MILLER

“I always knew that I wanted to be a nurse, but it took me a little more time than most to go back to school and pursue my dream. I had started a family, a career in the technical field, and had normal adult responsibilities and bills. Prior to my approval for Trade Act benefits, I was working full-time as a technical support agent while also attending OHSU school of nursing full-time. I never dreamed that no longer having my technical support job would be such a blessing. Because of Trade Act I was able to complete the last half of nursing school without having to divide my focus between school and work. Being able to solely focus on my studies and not worrying about how I was going to continue to pay bills allowed me to complete my program with honors, a much higher GPA than I had expected, and quite a bit less student loan debt. I will be forever grateful to the Trade Act program and to my case manager, for helping me through the process of achieving my dreams. I will go into my new career as a Registered Nurse keeping in mind those who helped me get there. Thank you Trade Act for this opportunity.”



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Being able to solely focus on my studies and not worrying about how I was going to continue to pay bills allowed me to complete my program with honors.

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REILEY LIVINGSTON

Reiley came to the Trade Act program with a plan in hand, and an idea in the direction that she wanted to pursue. She had been slowly gathering credits towards an AAS degree while working full-time at her trade-affected job. Reiley focused on obtaining an education that would blend her love of serving customers, analyzing their needs, and resolving their problems with her interests in developing her own business expertise.

Laid off from her trade-affected employer, Reiley made a smooth transition to Portland State University using her TAA benefits to continue her education. She was an excellent student throughout her schooling. Graduating with honors Magna Cum Laude, Reiley earned a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration, with a focus in Human Resource Management. She obtained an HR position as a Safety Support Specialist.

Reiley mentioned, "I'll be performing workers comp, OSHA logs, safety analytics, and some other HR projects. I am so excited to start my new position. Thank you so much, especially to my case manager, for your help these past years."





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*I'm so excited to start my new position!
Thank you so much, especially to my
case manager, for your help these
past years.*

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TAMMY COPPOCK

Tammy had worked most of her career in the manufacturing industry as a seasoned and skilled worker, moving quickly through the production ranks within quality control and inspection. Though when her trade-affected company closed its doors, she saw this as an opportunity to reevaluate her job goals and consider a change in careers that would feel more fulfilling.

With this goal in mind, Tammy took advantage of the Oregon Career Information System to see where her current skills, interests and strengths put her while she explored career options. The Healthcare Support and Office/Administration fields appeared to strongly fit her skillsets, and Tammy found she could combine these two fields to transition to a career as a Medical Office Administrator. This career path afforded her the opportunity to develop her computer and clerical skills, an area that had not been fully developed during her employment in the manufacturing industry.

Her completion of her training as a Medical Office Administrator included the Certified Healthcare Access Associate (CHAA) certification. It worked out perfectly for Tammy as she ended up finding employment with the healthcare facility where she performed her externship! Her new work is also a convenient couple of miles from her home!

“Without the Trade act I would have never had the opportunity to learn a new trade. I am so thankful for what the Trade act has done for me!” remarked Tammy, “They helped me get into a school so that I could learn a new trade and transition into a new career of my choice. I am so thankful for all their funding and support they have given me.”

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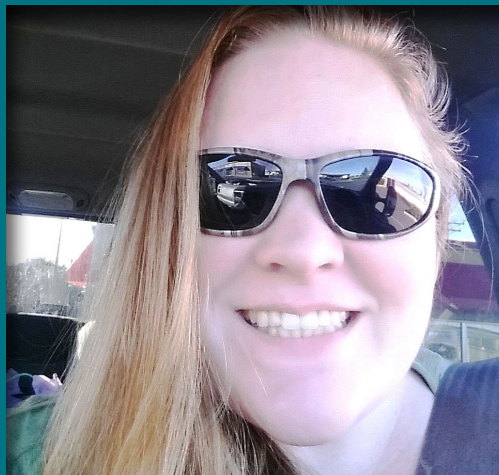
VIOLET HICKS

Laid-off in the manufacturing field, Violet stayed resilient with a can-do attitude and focused her efforts on learning new skills. With help from the Trade Act program, Violet enrolled in a Diesel Service Technology degree program.

The support the Trade Act program provided included mileage reimbursement, funding for required tuition, books & fees, required tools, safety clothing, and a laptop. This help eliminate funding barriers that would have existed without these benefits.

Violet rewardingly found employment as a diesel mechanic just before completing her program. She attributes her motivation to being a role model for her young kids and from the loving support of her husband.

“I have three kids”, explained Violet, “Trade Act has been a blessing. I would not have gone back to school and got my AAS degree in Diesel Technology on my own.”



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Trade Act has been a blessing. I would not have gone back to school and got my AAS degree in Diesel Technology on my own.

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ADAM KELLER

My name is Adam Keller, and I was admitted into the Trade Act program after my job was outsourced from a local tech/security company I had worked at for over seven years. I never had any interest in going to college because I never wanted to take that kind of a hit in debt, and my high school experience was less than pleasant. Initially I was worried about the same kind of troubles I had in high school, but that quickly was replaced with new concerns and stresses. I had never been out of work for so long, and school was hard work in and of itself. There were constant deadlines, homework, and the ever-present quizzes, midterms, and finals. However, I was fortunate to have a strong support network with my wife, family, friends, as well as my Trade Act Case Manager who made sure everything went smoothly and by the book. With such a great support network, I was able to do very well in school and I am grateful for the Trade Act funding that made it possible. Now, I eagerly await my associates in Computer Network Operations and Career Pathway certificate. I have completed school with a significantly better GPA this time around- all A's and two B's. I soon set out on my next test: finding a new tech job in a highly competitive job market!"



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LESTER WOOD

Notified that he would be losing his job after eight years working for a supplier of commercial vehicles, Lester was concerned about re-employment. One of his primary concerns was not being able to find a job in the same industry because he lacked certifications in CNC Machining.

The Department of Labor's Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance certified Lester's worker group for the Trade Act program. Lester explored different options for retraining. He decided that a degree or certification in the same field would be most beneficial for his career growth. Lester ended up pursuing an associate's degree in CAD/CAM at Chemeketa Community College with the goal of returning to work as a CNC Operator.

Lester thrived as a student and maintained exceptional grades all the way through. Since completing his training program through Trade Act, he accepted a full-time position as a CNC operator in his local area.

Lester stated that he is, "excited for what the future holds, given my new occupational training, and I am thankful to have had the opportunity to be part of the Trade Act program."

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MATT BEACHLY

“Trade Act gave me new hope in my future and an exciting new career in software development. The job I lost doing software technical support was expendable and I was under constant stress from layoffs. However, at that job I did enjoy working with scripts and databases and wished I could be a real programmer or database administrator. I searched and applied for these jobs, but unfortunately they all required a B.S. degree in Computer Science or years of experience so they were out of my reach. Trade Act unlocked these possibilities by allowing me to attend Oregon State University and allowed me to focus 100% on my studies. I found my classes to be so interesting and challenging that I have been studying 60-70 hours a week. After one year, I have learned a massive amount about programming, databases, networking, and software engineering. I am now very excited to be starting a paid, full-time internship where I will get to develop real software and work on databases. The training that Trade Act gave me is very competitive in the job market and I am confidently beginning the career I’ve desired.”



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RANDALL NEWNHAM

My name is Randall Newnham and I am employed. I have been waiting a long time to say that, and the Trade Act team has made this possible. I am so grateful that this type of assistance was there for my family and me during a difficult, but ultimately worthwhile, transition. The outsourcing of my job from the software company where I did tech support was both shocking and stressful. Though the experience was familiar, I was now in a position far more precarious than before. The company I worked for was one of the largest tech presences in the area. The displacement of my coworkers and my job meant that I would be competing with many with the same skill sets as I had for the same jobs.

After searching unsuccessfully for employment, a conversation with a Trade Act Navigator led me to look into training for a new job. That guidance encouraged me to look into different industries that had projected growth in the region, and to choose one that I could get into with a couple years of training. After some research, I decided that the communications industry was where I wanted to be.

Nearly 20 years of experience in the workforce had given me a different perspective on school then when I went through it before. Because the education aligned with the career field I wanted to get into, I treated it like a job I loved. I worked hard. I forged bonds with classmates and teachers, knowing that these would be valuable professional connections. Then I graduated.

I would like to say that there was a job waiting for me when I graduated, but that took some more work as well. Fortunately, my Trade Act Case Manager and the area Trade Act Navigator were there for assistance in addition to teachers with whom I had made connections. Now I am happy to report that I have found work as a program representative at a local university! My employer offers excellent benefits, and I feel that I have room to grow professionally. This is my success story, and this is why the Trade Act is so important to me.”



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I am so grateful that this type of assistance was there for me and my family during a difficult, but ultimately worthwhile, transition.

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TRACY SMITH

Tracy found success through persistence. He did not really want to go back to school, but understood that it might be a way for him to land the job that he needed. Using school as a plan-b option, he focused on job search with assistance by Trade Act staff. Connected to the Regional Business Services team he got the reemployment assistance he needed. Tracy's Trade Act Case Manager continued to work with him on plan-b retraining options.

A review of the requirements of the industry along with his skills and work experience was completed. It was determined that a Bachelor's degree would help Tracy in a competitive job market. Tracy agreed.

While Tracy was going to school for his bachelors in Supply Chain and Logistics, he continued to work with Trade Act staff to find employment. He found a great opportunity close to his home and accepted a position as a Quality Control Engineer.





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Tracy is a participant who found success through persistence and great teamwork among multiple divisions of our TAA staff.

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TREVOR BINKLEY

“There is something about experiencing a layoff from a field you have worked in for years which rattles you and makes you feel unsafe in that career. At least that certainly was my experience.” Trevor was formerly an operations manager in the Portland-Metro area, and found himself continually being let go. Job insecurity was constantly on the forefront of his mind.

“Even though I found another job fairly quickly it was as if that line of work had been tainted for me. In fact, after three years in that new role I was laid off once again.” Trevor then decided to pursue his Trade Act benefits, understanding the potential of finding a career to which he fully enjoyed and that would keep him employed. He long-dreamed of becoming a pastor and decided that the Western Seminary school would be his path to success.

“Thinking back on the first phone call I had with my Trade Act case worker, I remember feeling that it was probably going to require me to jump through endless hoops before realizing any tangible benefits. However, my case worker did an amazing job of walking me through the process and encouraging me along the way. The Gathering Church, officially affirmed Trevor, in April of 2019, as the Associate Pastor. He then completed his training in August 2019 and obtained his Masters of Arts Biblical and Theological Studies degree.

Trevor followed up by saying, “Once I completed the application process and my training program was approved I was so thankful for my case manager’s faithful follow-ups. Having completed my training I can’t tell you how easy the application process was considering the benefits I received. I cannot more highly recommend the Trade Act program and the wonderful case managers who made it such a smooth process. Thank you all for everything!”



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I cannot more highly recommend the Trade Act program and the wonderful case managers who made it such a smooth process.

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DARREL GREEN

” *A*ny job loss is traumatic. A succession of job losses in a field that was my chosen career path was devastating. The offshoring of technical support jobs destroyed any opportunity I had for continuing to work in my home state and in the field in which I was educated and trained.

I entered into the Trade Act program hoping for another direction. Something that was more stable and provided multiple opportunities instead of a single path. After much assistance from my program sponsors and mentors, I chose engineering. This tied in very well with my previous education, training and experience. It also offered another way to be more valuable to employers from many fields, and opened up the opportunity to advance out of support roles.

School was a huge boost to my skillset, offering me training in extremely complicated areas of design that would not have been available through an on-the-job training. I met several professors that allowed me to work with them on real world projects, and that introduced me to grants and funding opportunities only seen from the academic realm. I learned how to maneuver in the Patent Office by acquiring my own personal account. I had access to publish patents, and communicate directly with patent officers. I currently have a patent pending design for a unique generator and engine that uses low levels of ambient energy differences to produce rotary motion. The opportunities for implementation are many, and the market potential is nearly limitless.

I have obtained new employment already. I am excited to report that I am a part of the intellectual property security department. Throughout the Trade Act process, I have needed the guidance of my Trade Act Case Manager. No job loss is without serious levels of stress, but going through the career change experience with Trade Act and especially with the immense support from my case manager was a true life changer.”



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I entered into the Trade Act program hoping for another direction. Something that was more stable and something that provided multiple opportunities instead of a single path.

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DAVID DOTY

When the department David worked in for six years closed down, he got excited thinking about how he would use his Trade Act benefits. Being passionate about art for most of his life, David wanted to find a trade that allowed for his creative expression. David found an outlet when he decided to use his benefits to pursue training as a Tattoo Artist. David researched schools in his area and found a great fit for his training at Lifetime Tattoo School. He applied for the school and nervously provided samples of his artwork for consideration as a potential student. When David received his acceptance to the school he was thrilled he would be able to start working towards his dream goal.

David began training in Spring 2018. Part of his training was to complete 50 tattoos by his graduation date in January 2019. In his first term progress report, the instructor remarked how quickly David picked up concepts and applied them to his work. The instructor also expressed that David exceeded expectations in the classroom work and they were impressed with his work ethic. David worked hard to complete his required tattoos and by November David had completed 42 of the required 50 tattoos.

David completed his training on time, passing his licensing exam in mid-January. The final progress report from the school stated: "David has been doing extremely well in the program and we are very excited for him to finish up so he can go to work." He was hired by Lifetimes Tattoo shop starting work February 1, 2019. His wage is \$100/hr. David said he could not be happier with his new career!

He stated in an email to his case manager: "Tattooing is a challenging yet rewarding trade where there is always something new to learn. I'm happy to have had the opportunity to learn a craft I can be passionate about. I can't thank Trade Act enough for helping me make this dream come true. I'd also like to thank my case manager for working with me to help make this become a reality."



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Tattooing is a challenging yet rewarding trade where there is always something new to learn. I'm happy to have had the opportunity to learn a craft I can be passionate about.

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