

Outstanding Character Creates Self Sufficiency



Eric Gonzalez earned his high school diploma from Laton High School in 2008 and continued his education at both Fresno City College and West Hills Community College until he had to quit to support his family. Then, after seven years working as a food processing sanitation technician at \$9.15/hour, Eric was laid off due to a lack of work.

Still responsible for two younger siblings of his girlfriend, one being a young adult with autism, Eric came to our Manchester Mall One-Stop Center in Fresno for assistance in June, 2015. He wanted to enroll in a Truck Driver Training program for

the stability and job security driving could provide, but did not meet the entry-level requirements for that training.

So, he began our FRWDB WinSolutions tutorial program to upgrade his WorkKey's reading score for Truck Driving training but found a learning disability made the required reading and writing very difficult. With the help of his Workforce team, Eric began using the "Audio Function" in the courses, improved his performance, and qualified for Truck Driver training in just 3 months.

Our Workforce team also assisted him with individual employment development, career exploration, résumé development and mock interview skills in preparation for interviews with a FRWDB Scholarship Panel. Eric successfully completed the following job readiness workshops: résumé writing, networking/internet use, and interviewing skills.

During this same period, the support and care of an ailing grandfather also fell to Eric, adding to his responsibilities and to the struggles he had to endure and overcome during his training. Even though he had earned his Class A Driver's License, Eric needed to return to his previous job to meet the immediate financial obligations placed on him by family responsibilities. Then, after losing his grandfather in the fall of 2016, Eric was able to earn a "Tankers Endorsement" to his license. He became full-time employed on January 3, 2017, as an Equipment Operator 1 with Cal Trans making \$3,250.00 per month, where he remains employed.

During his time with Workforce Connection, Eric showed outstanding character as demonstrated by a strong commitment to improve his future, great fortitude in loyalty to his family, and a deep desire to complete truck driver training.