

Henrigaud Bellevue
Testimony to House Education
April 25, 2025
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Good morning, my name is Henrigaud Bellevue and I'm a resident of Barre. I'm here to speak about my experience with Central Vermont Adult Education. Thank you for having me.

I left Haiti in 2019. I wanted to come to the US for more opportunities. I first moved to Florida, where I have family. I was only there for a few months. I came to Vermont to visit other family members, and I really liked it, so I ended up staying.

My goal was to go to college and get a better job. Because of the language barrier that couldn't happen. CVAE made it possible.

I joined the Vermont Army National Guard, which gave me college benefits and allowed me to become a citizen in 2023.

When I first got to Vermont I didn't know any English. I couldn't get a job. I couldn't talk to people in my community, and I couldn't continue my schooling. My brother already lived here and had been going to CVAE, and only a few days after I arrived I also started going to school there.

I started learning how to speak English. That allowed me to get a job in retail and to pass the ASVAB so I could join the National Guard. I then started learning how to read and write in English. That gave me a lot of confidence, and I stopped having fear of not being understood. I started at CVAE with no English skills, and now I'm doing well in college.

I still work in retail, and I'm also taking classes at CCV. My goal is to do 2 years in the Allied Health program there, and then transfer to the X-ray Tech program at Vermont State University or enter the ROTC program at Norwich University or University of Vermont.

I wouldn't be where I am now and have the opportunities I have without CVAE. I wouldn't be able to speak with confidence. Coming to classes every week motivates me, and I feel like I can do it. It has also helped me to see where I can go in life. They have given me a lot

of advice. There's no way I could be successful in college without what I've learned at CVAE. I definitely couldn't have joined the military and become a citizen.

In Haiti it would cost hundreds of dollars to learn English. CVAE has been free, and I couldn't have done it if it cost me money here. It has changed my life.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience at CVAE. They do great work. Please continue to support CVAE and all the adult education providers.