

Jared Hatch  
Testimony to Vermont Legislature  
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My name is Jared Hatch and I currently live in Montpelier VT. Thank you for allowing me to speak about my time at CVAE.

I initially came to CVAE almost 2 years ago after being injured. I lost employment and financial livelihood; after working in construction for 15 years. I experienced financial loss and general loss of resources and stability including housing stability. I could no longer perform my previous duties at the in the capacity to continue to maintain success. It is clear that I need to explore other career options due to my limitations.

I was made aware of CVAE through Hireability. I did not have skills outside of the specific skills I acquired through my experience in construction, and felt unprepared and underequipped to become gainfully employed. The physical and psychological weight was immense, and I found incredible support through the staff and qualified teaching volunteers at CVAE. I found a level of patience and support interpersonally and educationally that is fundamentally important in my situation.

The volunteer teachers have been exceptionally helpful in instruction, knowledge and on an interpersonal level; they genuinely care about their students. The atmosphere and the community of students and teachers is so conducive to learning and growing and becoming more confident and proficient in pursuit of employment and career. I have met and interacted with a diverse population of different ages and backgrounds.

The staff is incredibly friendly, nice and helpful. Liza Earle-Centers is fluent in Spanish beyond her standard duties and has been helping the many Spanish speaking people that have migrated to Vermont for various different reasons. She shows a level of care, patience and understanding that really makes anyone struggling with a new language comfortable and able to progress and grow and succeed. Charlie Watson has showed an incredible ability to understand and help me in any way he can, again offering resources outside of his standard duties and teaching at CVAE. He helped connect me with resources outside of CVAE, in particular helped connect me to a volunteer opportunity. The team of teaching volunteers has been incredible and shares the quality of education, care and support for the students that the dedicated staff does. They really make a difference in people's lives, I know they have in mine.

I have witnessed people struggling with high- school proficiency and graduation, GED, to help find gainful and fulfilling employment, to becoming citizens, people wanting to seek higher education, or people like me who went through some kind of transitionj to retired age people who want to learn new skills or get back into the job market.

CVAE is a community of people who have families and jobs, many who do not have the ability in time and finances to get the experience and resources any other way. Currently I am working on computer competency, certification and general overall computer skills and literacy, including improving my typing skills. I do not have access to a computer at home and some school materials and having a place that I can go and access the internet work on the computer and reading and writing materials or do homework is essential. I am rehabilitating and learning new skills in math, specifically geometry and algebra and taking an English class to improve my reading and writing proficiency and skills, all in an effort to prep for college and to find meaningful employment in the interim.

CVAE has been and continues to be a fundamental and instrumental importance in my progress and growth. Thank you again for allowing me to speak about CVAE and thank you for your support of adult education and literacy. It really is a fundamental and incredibly helpful resource to me and many other people who live in this community and Vermont.