

## Arturo Chavarria

Nominated by: Shawnee Development Council, Inc.

Case Manager: Sharon Voelz

Art Chavarria of Pulaski County first came to Shawnee Development Council in May 2009. He was a married father of 3 children under the age of 16 and had been laid-off from his job as a machinist. Since moving to Southern Illinois the previous year, Art had also worked as a part-time landscaper. Art lived in a county with 12% unemployment and knew if he were to be successful in his job hunt he would need additional training.



Art enrolled in the Automotive Technology program at Shawnee Community College and also took some welding classes with his Pell Grant to enhance his employability. He worked very hard, often taking in excess of 12 hours each semester. He did well in his classes and he even traveled to Chicago to complete an internship.

At the end of the spring semester of 2012, Art became employed thru the National Emergency Grant assisting in clean-up activities from the flooding of 2011. He was assigned to a crew at Mermet Lake Conservation Area. Art was a hard worker and was well liked and respected by both his coworkers and the site supervisor. He also attended classes necessary to complete his degree while he worked.

Art graduated from Shawnee Community College in December 2012, with a respectable 3.378 accumulative grade point average. He has earned a one year certificate in Combination Welding and has completed a majority of classes in the Automotive Technology program.

Art was hired by Southern Most Area Rural Transportation (SMART) in early December 2012 while he was still employed through the NEG program.

Art is an extremely hard worker who met many challenges and strived diligently to meet his goals and support his family. His dedication to his family also translated to assistance with his ailing parents in Chicago. He worked with his local case manager to access services for his parents. His perseverance won the respect of classmates, coworkers, his instructors, case manager and other WIA staff who all witnessed his dedication.

Art is a very conscientious individual and always met his responsibilities to the WIA program by submitting all paperwork in a timely manner and sharing in his employment success. Art is always cheerful and maintains a keen wit and sense of humor even during adversities. Art is an inspiration to those who know him.

# ILLINOIS WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

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## Authorization to Release Information

I, Arturo Chavarria, hereby authorize the Illinois Workforce Partnership to use information regarding my involvement with programs delivered through the workforce/economic development system. Information that may be used includes written information, program information, photographs, Success Stories and videotapes. These materials may be used in publications, press releases, and/or on the Internet. I hereby waive any claim arising out of such release, dissemination, or use. Information, photographs, Success Stories and videotape shall not be used for any for-profit commercial uses.

Signature

Arturo Chavarria

Date

11-13-13