

Agustin Castro

Profile of Success



In June, 2005, Agustin Castro was displaced from a job in agriculture that he had held since 1999. As a father of four sons, ages 18, 12, 9 and 1, Agustin was devastated by the loss of his livelihood. At the age of 40, Agustin, who is limited English proficient and basic skills deficient, became desperate as his unemployment benefits neared exhaustion. His sister, who was already enrolled in a computer class at CET, suggested that he enroll in training. Apprehensive that he was too old to learn a new occupation, Agustin also recognized that he had few options. In September, 2005, he attended a program orientation and two weeks later enrolled into the Custodial Services course in Salinas, California.

Throughout his enrollment, Agustin remained an active participant in class and in extra-curricular activities. He served as class president and represented his class in the Student Council. His leadership skills served him well as a team leader. By providing mentorship to his classmates, he gained their respect. On April 28, 2006, Agustin graduated and delivered one of the student speeches at his graduation ceremony. It was a proud moment for him and his family, in cap and gown, addressing the graduating class, an audience of family and friends and local dignitaries.

On May 8, 2006, Agustin was hired by the world renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium on historical Cannery Row in Monterey, California as a Maintenance Janitor. His job is full-time with full benefits at a wage of \$10.15 an hour. Agustin refers to his job as a dream job. He never imagined himself working in such a fabulous environment, working with a great team of people and meeting people from around the world on a daily basis.

Agustin has not forgotten the helping hand he got from CET when his world collapsed. He continues to come to CET on his days off to encourage students not to give up in the fight to improve their lives. He is also in the midst of starting a janitorial business as a side job.

Agustine Castro In His Own Words:

I am very grateful to CET. I was displaced from my job in 2005. I had worked as a farm worker most of my life and losing my job felt like the whole world had collapsed on me. Then I learned about CET. CET gave me the opportunity to get some training and a better job. This was like a new beginning for me. I was starting new. Thank you CET. I enrolled in the Custodial Services class to learn how to become a commercial and industrial cleaner. I graduated from the course and got a job at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, California. I owe thanks to my instructor, Mr. Cooper, and to everyone else at CET who supported me during my training. I have returned to CET on several occasions to share with students my success story and to encourage them to study hard and learn with their full commitment. I tell them that CET made my job possible. Without my training diploma, I would not have qualified to apply for this position. I give thanks to CET and to God for this wonderful opportunity.