

VR Success Story: Driving Down the Road to a New Future with Financial Independence



IDVR Mission is to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment and career opportunities while meeting the needs of the employers.



DUSTON'S SUCCESS STORY

Occupation: Commercial Truck Driver

Location: Filer, Idaho

Hourly Wage: \$19.00

Weekly Hours: 40

“Duston brought a great attitude and dedication to the training. He engulfed himself in and quickly gained an understanding of the material which allowed him to graduate the course about a week early.” – Katelyn, Top Gun Training Staff

“I feel like I now have the skills and career to be a positive role model for my son, and I can finally provide financial stability, through employment, to my family.”- Duston, VR Customer

- Duston applied for IDVR services in June 2021 with the goal to identify a career path that would allow him to have the financial stability where he would no longer be dependent on the Social Security Disability Benefits that had been his source of financial support for several years.
- Through Counseling and Guidance Duston and his VR Counselor worked to evaluate career paths that would align with his interests, abilities, and would meet the financial goals he had outlined.
- Through career exploration, Duston identified a career within the trucking industry as the occupation that would allow him to achieve his personal and employment goals.
- Duston's VR Counselor assisted him in connecting with the Idaho Department of Labor to explore additional support options available to assist him in reaching his goals. Through this partnership and access to Idaho LAUNCH Funding, Duston was able to obtain the financial support he needed to complete the Truck Driving Training Program with Top Gun Training.
- Upon completion of the Truck Driving Training Program, Duston earned his Commercial Driver's License (CDL).
- After completing his training, Duston completed job search and obtained an offer for full-time employment with an employer who values his contribution, Quality Truss and Lumber.
- Duston is currently participating in the Ticket to Work Social Security Income Program, which will assist Duston with his transition from disability benefits and public assistance to being financially independent.

“Duston's determination to succeed enabled him to put in the hard work needed to overcome his barriers to employment, which allowed him the ability to move forward in a positive direction with employment when he wanted to reenter the workforce and allowed him to achieve his goals.” - Jeremy Dumas, VR Specialist

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