

Inclusive Education



Dreams Really Can Come True - Sharing our Stories

As students go through their high school years, they and their families begin to think and dream about life after graduation. Read on to discover a range of personal stories from four young adults stepping into their adult life with passion and purpose. These stories represent some options for young adults to consider when approaching this time in their life.

Please see [here to read more stories of dreams that can come true.](#)



Kyle's Story

Since graduating in 2023, what have you been doing with your life?

Last year I went to Kwantlen Polytechnic University to study Employment and community Studies. While there I participated in a work experience placement for a company that produces gummies. My job was to do the mixing of gummies at the packaging area. I liked

working there, the staff are very kind and friendly. Soon after my work experience was over, I got paid employment there! I work three days a week for eight hours a day.

In May I started KPU's Career Exploration course; I look forward to getting work experience as a cook and to starting at Vancouver Community College's Food Services Program in September 2025.

During the summer, I enjoy some of the activities at Richmond Centre for Disability. I also belong to a youth group that meets on Friday evenings. I am getting help from my facilitator to hopefully start Outreach at Aspire Richmond sometime in the next few months. I enjoy making friends; with the help of Sam, my mentor, I will work on getting together with friends on my own.

How did you get your job?

With the help of Aspire's Employment services, I got paid employment; I am happy with the support I received from Aspire.

How are you feeling about this phase of your young adult life?

I am feeling good about my life. I am proud of the job that I got; I like chatting with my friends and coworkers and goofing around.

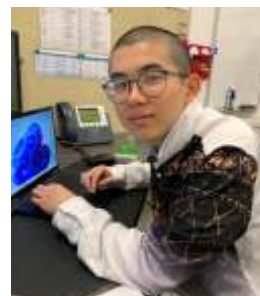
What would you like to tell other young people getting ready to graduate from high school?

There are many job and college opportunities for you out there after high school so decide what you want to do and do it! If you need support, ask for it, you are not alone!

Joshua's Story

What are you going to do after secondary school?

I am going to take some computer courses and reading and writing courses at VCC right after high school. I want to learn more about my heritage and culture by going to community centres and libraries to get books and join language classes. I'm also going to join Special Olympics golf and go out to different places with my recreation worker.



Why did you decide this for yourself?

Taking computer classes is good for me because it is my interest and I want to be better at computers so I can work in an office one day. I also think learning about my heritage and culture is a good idea for me because I want to work towards my long-term goal, which is moving back to China. Being part of recreational activities and going out lets me be part of my community. Staying home is not good. I want to be active.

How are you feeling as you are in this next phase of your young adult life?

I am not feeling nervous and I'm looking forward to this next part of my life. Now that I know what I'm going to do, I feel better about my future.

What message do you have for other young people getting ready to graduate from secondary school?

I think young people should follow their passion and interest, like me. They can do things they enjoy. They can think about their short-term and long-term goals and plan specific steps so you can get there faster.