
MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: MARITA

WSA 12 – ANOKA COUNTY JOB TRAINING CENTER

MARITA



Marita enrolled in the Youth Program Spring of 2009. At the time she was enrolled in our Summer Youth Program funded by the Youth Recovery Act and later co-enrolled in the WIA Younger Youth Program. Upon enrollment, Marita was 18 years old, a foster child, and had never held a job before. Youth Program staff worked with Marita to identify her career goals, placing her at Jefferson Elementary as a custodian assistant. Marita was uncertain about working as a custodian assistant but was excited for the job opportunity. Staff identified there was something special about Marita when, on her first performance evaluation, she was rated “Excellent” in every category.

It became clear very quickly that Marita was going to excel in Building Maintenance. Marita worked part-time while completing the requirements for her high school diploma. During her final year in her high school at Transition Plus, Marita applied for a part-time building maintenance position with Anoka-Hennepin School District (the largest school district in the state). Marita was soon hired working as a substitute at many of the area schools in the District.

This past May, Marita was hired as a full-time staff person in the District’s Building Maintenance Department. Marita has loved working in Building Maintenance and plans to take the boilers license test this Fall. In a recent letter of recommendation her supervisor stated, “Marita possesses the ultimate “can do” attitude while taking on tasks with a positive energy and a smile. Her upbeat personality and engaging personal style enables her to interact effectively with staff, students and the public. She takes initiative to go beyond the expected job duties. I am very confident that she has the work ethic and skills to add value to wherever she works.”

Also this past May, Marita received a High School Diploma from Transition Plus. In addition, she was also presented with the MnACTE/SNP Student of the Year Award (Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Education Special Needs Personnel). This award recognizes students each year who have overcome barriers to achieve his/her highest potential for success. The special award acknowledges Marita’s success at overcoming challenges, identifying a career plan, and establishing a work history. The award includes a \$250 scholarship Marita can use for post-secondary education purposes.

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