

SPOTLIGHT ON ZACKERY MATNEY

Gateway Career Center and EKCEP Help Turn Setback Into Success

Matney had always been intrigued by the trucking industry and the possibility of obtaining his Commercial Driver's License (CDL). When faced with a layoff, he saw an opportunity to pursue his interest.

"I was told Gateway could help assist me in getting my CDL, and that is something I've been interested in for a while now," Matney explained.

Zackery Matney's journey is a powerful example of how a layoff can become the motivation for a positive change, especially with the right support. After losing his job, Matney faced an uncertain future and discovered a pathway to a new career through Gateway Community Action Agency. His story highlights the transformative power of community support and the growing demand for skilled commercial drivers.

He contacted Gateway Community Action Agency, recognizing the potential for a stable career and a better future for his family.

From the beginning, Matney found the Gateway staff to be incredibly helpful and supportive. Navigating the process of obtaining a CDL can be hard, involving various requirements, classes, and tests. Matney credits the Gateway staff for making the journey manageable and even enjoyable.

"The staff was very helpful and kind during the process of getting my CDL," he said. "They kept me informed and made everything possible, which encouraged me and helped the process go a lot smoother." This personalized support was crucial in keeping Matney motivated and on track.

Gateway Community Action's assistance extended beyond simply providing information. They played an active role in Matney's success, helping him with the necessary classes and providing guidance every step of the way.

"They were able to aid in my success of getting my CDL license by assisting with the classes I had to take and guiding me through the whole process," he explained.

Matney described the process as surprisingly straightforward, thanks to their expertise. After completing a few initial steps, he was enrolled in CDL classes, setting him on the path to a new career.

The peak of Matney's hard work and Gateway Community Action's support was remarkable. He received a job offer from TMC Trucking before finishing his CDL program. This speaks volumes about the demand for qualified truck drivers and the effectiveness of Matney's training. His swift transition from unemployed to in-demand professional is a testament to the power of opportunity combined with dedicated support.

"I was laid off by the company I was working for which led me to this opportunity, and I am very grateful for it," Matney shared.

He is now employed as a Driver for TMC Trucking, a fulfilling career he might not have discovered without the support of the Gateway Community Action Agency.

Matney's story emphasizes the vital role the Kentucky Career Centers play in workforce development. By providing resources, guidance, and encouragement, they empower individuals like Matney to acquire valuable skills and build successful careers. His journey inspires and reminds us that with the right support, a layoff can be a stepping stone to a brighter future.

If you live in Eastern Kentucky and you're looking for a new job, contact your local Kentucky Career Center. Locations within EKCEP's service area can be found online at <https://ekcep.org/find-a-career/>.

EKCEP, a nonprofit workforce development agency headquartered in Hazard, Ky., serves the citizens of 23 Appalachian coalfield counties. The agency provides an array of workforce development services and operates a network of Kentucky Career Centers, which provide access to more than a dozen state and federal programs that offer employment and training assistance for jobseekers and employers all under one roof. Learn more about us at ekcep.org.