

MONTY — WIOA Out-of-School Youth

Monty had something rare for a young man relatively fresh out of high school: Clarity.

He knew where he was going, and, more importantly, why. His “going” was easy. All he had to do was look around his house at the role model who had the license he wanted – his mother. Monty saw the work and dedication to a job his mom possessed while using her own CDL.

The “why” was the change he craved. Monty liked being outdoors, using his hands, solving real problems and seeing the direct results of his effort. That’s when he discovered a path that felt right: Becoming a lineman. The idea of maintaining power lines, restoring electricity during storms and keeping communities running sparked something in him.

But lineman school required money, discipline and a plan. Instead of rushing straight to school, Monty enrolled with the help of Michigan Works West Central in a CDL (Commercial Driver’s License) training program with Pinnacle Truck Driver Training.

It wasn’t easy. Long days, early mornings and the pressure of mastering a massive vehicle tested his patience and focus. Tight turns, backing drills and the weight of responsibility that came with sitting behind the wheel of a commercial truck may have tested other young men. But not Monty. He stayed locked in on his goal. Every mile he practiced was a step closer to something bigger.



When he passed his CDL exam, it wasn’t just a license, it was a turning point and the foundation of his journey.

While still working for Wilbur Ellis (Hart, MI) as a warehouse worker, Monty plans to attend a community college for lineman school.

“I’m grateful for the Michigan Works! program and the support they provided. The training and guidance

I received helped me earn my CDL and gave me confidence on the road and in my skills,” he said. “Working with them made the process much smoother and showed me how to prepare for my next steps.”

Monty’s story is proof that success doesn’t always follow a straight line. Sometimes, the smartest path forward is the one you build yourself, one deliberate step at a time.