

REBEKAH — RESEA

Rebekah entered the program with limited experience operating manual transmission vehicles, including cars, trucks, and tractors. While she had some prior experience driving a truck and trailer, she recognized additional training was necessary to safely and confidently operate large commercial vehicles. Earning a Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL-A) was a critical step toward advancing her career and qualifying for entry into a lineman apprenticeship or substation and traffic signal technician programs, which are key milestones on her path to becoming a journeyman.

With guidance from Michigan Works! West Central, Rebekah completed the required steps to begin her journey, including opening an Unemployment Insurance claim, attending WIOA orientation, and meeting RESEA requirements. She then enrolled at Pinnacle Truck Driver Training to gain hands-on experience and formal instruction focused on operating large-scale vehicles and trailers.

Throughout her training, Rebekah participated in comprehensive classroom instruction that built a strong foundation for her behind-the-wheel learning. She developed skills in properly upshifting and downshifting a large manual transmission, conducting thorough pre-trip inspections, and completing required industry documentation, such as driver logs.

One early challenge was learning how a trailer reacts when backing with a fifth-wheel hitch.

Although Rebekah had years of



experience backing bumper-pull trailers, the fifth-wheel configuration required a different approach and greater spatial awareness. With patience, practice, and consistent encouragement from Pinnacle's instructors, she steadily built the confidence and control she needed to be successful.

Rebekah credits Pinnacle's support-

ive training environment for helping her overcome the learning curve. The instructors took time to explain techniques clearly and provided reassurance as she progressed. Her experience reflects how targeted training, persistence, and encouragement can help individuals successfully build new skills and move closer to long-term career goals.