

## RYAN — Dislocated Worker

For the past four years, Ryan has worked seasonally as a cook at a local golf course. While the job may have appeared straightforward, it helped shape many of the qualities that would later contribute to his success. Early mornings, busy shifts and the fast-paced demands of a commercial kitchen taught Ryan discipline, reliability, and the ability to perform under pressure. While many young adults were still exploring their options, Ryan was gaining valuable work experience and learning the importance of consistency, responsibility and hard work.

Living at home with his family allowed Ryan to focus on building a strong foundation for his future. Rather than becoming comfortable with the status quo, he took a thoughtful approach to planning his next steps. He saved money, evaluated career opportunities, and asked himself an important question: What's next?

That question led Ryan to pursue a long-term goal—earning his commercial driver's license (CDL). With support from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) through Michigan Works! West Central, Ryan enrolled in training at Pinnacle Truck Driver Training. The process required dedication, studying and a willingness to step outside of his comfort zone, but Ryan remained focused on the opportunities that the credential could create.

His hard work paid off. Ryan successfully earned his CDL, opening the door to new career possibilities and greater financial independence. For Ryan, the license represents much more than the ability to operate a commercial vehicle—it symbolizes growth, opportunity and a clear path toward a rewarding career.



Today, Ryan has ambitious goals for the future. He hopes to become an independent contractor in the trucking industry, creating additional business opportunities and building long-term financial stability. He also dreams of one day working for the railroad, following in the footsteps of his father and pursuing a career known for its stability, advancement opportunities and strong sense of purpose. Beyond that, Ryan envisions starting his own excavating and forestry business, combining his entrepreneurial spirit with the skills and experience he continues to develop.

"I am a recipient of the WIOA grant that paid for my CDL school. The grant meant a lot to me because it helped me grow as a person, gain new experiences

and skills and move toward the career and livelihood I desire," Ryan said. "The Michigan Works! program made my goals more

obtainable. I'm grateful to everyone at Michigan Works! who helped make this opportunity possible."

Ryan's journey is a powerful reminder that success is often built through steady effort, persistence, and a willingness to invest in oneself. By taking advantage of available resources and remaining committed to his goals, he has transformed a question about the future into a clear roadmap for success. His story demonstrates how determination, combined with the right support, can open doors to new opportunities and a brighter future.