

Transforming Lives By Building Futures



“I never finished high school. I got in trouble a lot and was in and out of jail and only made it through 11th grade. I knew that I needed to make a change in my life.” Since those troubled days, White-river resident and Native American **Vaughn Willetto**, now age 27, has transformed his life through NPC’s **Integrated Education and Training (IET)** program. IET fast-tracks disadvantaged youth and adults in Navajo and Apache counties to career success through GED® (*General Education Diploma*) preparation and training in construction skills.

IET is providing a fresh start in life for Willetto and his fellow students. Working together since last August, they built a tiny home that will be used to house NPC police academy cadets in Taylor. They’ve learned all the valuable skills that go into

home construction, solid skills they can now apply in their careers.

The class instructor, **Steve Mills**, calls Willetto a model student and role model who just needed a “re-start” to prepare himself for a promising career. In fact, that career is already getting underway. An employer in Phoenix learned about Willetto’s newly learned skills, his dedication and industry certifications and held a job for him while he finished the IET program!



“I would encourage others to get involved in the IET program, get their GED® and turn their lives around,” Willetto says. “NPC is really a great school, and I highly recommend this program to others. Take this program and learn a trade. If I can do it, everybody can do it. A lot of Natives can benefit from this program because it provides a really good opportunity and they should jump on it. There is no cost to the



student, it’s all paid for. It’s a great way to prepare for an actual career and earn better pay.”

This spring Willetto also became one of the first recipients of the new Jon Graff, Ph.D., Fund Scholarship at NPC. Willetto put the scholarship to good use as he earned the OSHA-10 safety certificate, Arizona Career Readiness Certification credentials and National Center for Con-



struction Education and Research credentials in Core Curriculum and Construction Technology. All highly valued by employers!

Instructor Mills is highly impressed with how hard Willetto has worked in the IET program. “Vaughn has the one thing that will make him successful with whatever he does: work ethic. He attended NPC full-time, worked full-time and still managed to be a family man with the remaining time. He used this educational opportunity to attract an outstanding work placement and transform not only his future but his family’s,” Mills says.

Who will be the next “Vaughn Willetto,” the next disadvantaged person in Northeastern Arizona who needs a fresh start in life? It could be you! This great opportunity can serve as a springboard to transforming your life and finding career success! If you want to learn more about NPC’s IET program, contact Gail Campbell at (928) 524-7346. She’s accepting applications for the fall 2019 semester.

► www.npc.edu/construction