

Pathway Student Profile:

Eloy Sepulveda

Laney College

When Eloy Sepulveda lost his CNC machinist position with a Bay Area manufacturer, his skills were out of date. For 25 years, he learned on the job; now he was uncertain how to compete in a technically updated labor market. "I need the skills," he realized, "but the only place to get them is on the job, and I can't get the job without them."

Then Eloy learned about Laney College's certificate programs in Machine Technology. A conversation with the department Chair convinced Eloy to work toward a certificate in Industrial Maintenance, a point of entry into local careers.

As Eloy advanced through two semesters of welding, electricity, machining and math courses, he began to see how the courses reinforced each other and built upon his many years of past experience. "As you're learning in one class," he describes, "you're using what you just learned in another class and applying it."

Work opportunities came to him sooner than he expected. With the recommendations of his Laney instructors, Eloy secured a paid internship with the Oro Loma Sanitary District. Not long after, Eloy was selected from a pool of 175 applicants for a permanent position with one of the College's employer partners, Union Sanitary District. "It was very beneficial for me to have that internship in order to get the job I got," he says.

Today, Eloy continues attending Laney College nights and weekends to complete the Industrial Maintenance certificate program. He plans to achieve a Machine Technology certificate next, further expanding his skills and likelihood of advancement on the job. "Being in a school environment, and with my background in machining, came together and allowed me to express myself a lot clearer," Eloy reflects. "Now I could probably just grow on the job, but I like what I'm doing here. I like what I'm learning here."

Laney College's Machine Technology program enabled Eloy to return to the workforce with technical skills highly valued by local employers. Today, he balances his public utility job and challenging coursework with a newfound confidence in his future.



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