## BridgeValley SUCCESS STORIES



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I am from Iran and came to the U.S.in 2014. I started working at a hospital, and attending BridgeValley soon after that because it was the nearest college. A few months later I was laid off from my job. I was so anxious about paying the bills, but everyone at BridgeValley made me feel like a part of the family! They helped me fill out the applications to get loans, grants and a part-time job on campus working for the nursing program.

It's comforting to know that I will always be able to find someone here who will make sure I understand something. They don't fish for you, but they teach you to fish! For example, my English was really bad and I needed help writing. I found out there were writing workshops I could attend! Also there is a center here called Brainfuse where you can get help with resumes and cover letters. They not only show you how to make one, but they also help you improve it so you can send out the best one! I am the Vice President of the BridgeValley Student Government, and was on the senate before that. Each program has a club and all of these clubs help students succeed! For example, I am also in the Dental Club, and this group connects us to internships. A donor gave our group \$600 to help us pay for whatever we needed. Everyone in our group got \$40-50. BridgeValley is just special!

As an international student, it has been hard to be myself in a new place. But after a few months here, I started feeling more like myself!

As I meet many who just came into the country, I always recommend BridgeValley to them. It's perfect if you want a college that is affordable with a good ranking, and if you are looking for a school where you can make connections. If your future feels like a puzzle, they will help you solve it! In Iran, I had a bachelor's degree, so I want to get one here too. I plan to continue my education after BridgeValley. I feel very motivated, because I am finding myself interested in microbiology! I took microbiology in Iran and hated it, but my teacher at BridgeValley makes it interesting! I want to learn more so I can do something that helps others.

- Aida Rahin, Dental Hygiene, 2020