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From Goodwill Training and Promotions <community@goodwillsp.org>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
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See how Braille is working in engineering again after getting certifications through Goodwill.

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“Don’t let your foreign accent stop you from pursuing your goals. Don’t underestimate yourself; you’re capable enough.”



Goodwill's Construction & Trade Skills Training Program

Goodwill Success Story

Goodwill exists to help people see possibilities, seize opportunities and prosper. Here, it's not about finding a job—it's about starting down the path to something greater.

Meet Braille: May's Success Story

Braille Ntouloulou has something to say – *"I'd like to address this message especially to those who (sic) English is not their first language. Don't let your foreign accent stop you from pursuing your goals. Don't underestimate yourself; you're capable enough."*

Braille's Background in Engineering

Since immigrating to the United States three years ago, Braille has studied English at Central Piedmont Community College and completed two courses with [Goodwill University](#). However, he's not done yet.

Braille worked as a civil engineer in his home country, Congo-Brazzaville, and wanted to do similar work in the U.S. He knew a little English upon his arrival but sought to learn more.

Enrolling in the Construction and Trade Skills Program

After taking English classes for a year and a half, he found Goodwill through the recommendation of his advisor and enrolled in its [construction and trade skills training program](#).

The road he traveled to get where he is now wasn't always smooth. *"Because I had to take Goodwill evening classes, I had to quit my job for about five months just to complete my training. I was working from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., and it was tough to attend the classes. In fact, I switched from a full-time job to a part-time job. It wasn't easy, and I struggled to pay my bills."*

Braille successfully completed Goodwill's FREE Construction Basics and Blueprint Reading and Estimating courses, and despite the challenges, is not looking back. *"Today, I cannot regret the decision that I made because I like my job and it fits best my need (sic)."*

Funding from the CARES Act

Braille was one of a few Goodwill students to receive funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act from the city of Charlotte. This funding paid for his OSHA certification.

Has the Experience But Needed U.S. Certifications

His work in Congo-Brazzaville overlaps with the work he wants to do in the U.S. The principles are similar, but regulations and standard operating procedures vary country to country. *"I just needed a little training and a certificate to get back into the field."*

Believe it or not, Braille says his favorite part of taking courses was being tested. *"I like to be examined. I was waiting for that moment!"*

Resume and Interview Help from a Career Navigator

Goodwill not only offers industry-focused training free of charge, but it also provides its participants with the social capital needed to break into a new field. *"My [career navigator](#) helped me a lot with my resume and mock interviews. I remember we had three mock interviews with her. That was very interesting and helped me a lot to get ready. I'm so grateful for her."*

Working as an Electrical Estimator

Braille started work as an electrical estimator in December 2020 and now earns a sustainable living wage. In this role, he is responsible for calculating the quantity and cost of all of the equipment, wiring, and cables needed for a project, in order to win bids for the company.

"So far, I like the job very much. I am very grateful for Goodwill because Goodwill has done so many things for me. If I didn't study construction basics and blueprint reading at Goodwill, I wouldn't get this job," he said.

In the Direction Towards Being a Civil Engineer

Braille's dream job is to be a civil engineer again. His current job is a major stepping stone in reaching that goal.

He's taken this advice, and wants to pass it along to anyone considering making a big change – *"I'd like to encourage people to make an effort, even a little, to invest in themselves in studying because the outcome will always be greater. More importantly, individuals don't have to let their shortcomings prevent them from pursuing their goals."*

Follow Braille's advice and sign up for [construction courses](#) today.
You're worth it.



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