

BridgeValley

# SUCCESS STORIES



I was active duty in the Air Force for nine years and have been part of the West Virginia Air National Guard for the last five years.



My first duty station was at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska where I worked on F-15 aircraft then made the transition to F-22s. I was sent to Langley where I continued to work on F-22s as a mechanic. I was deployed twice, but not into war zones. When my active duty ended, I started searching for a career that would allow me to provide for my family, and I decided to attend BridgeValley because I was interested in a more hands-on approach to learning.

After the Air Force, my grandfather was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and grandmother was diagnosed with dementia. I moved back to help with their care. Over the next four years, I attempted to attend school full-time while being their caretaker.

---

**Thankfully, the instructors I had worked with me in a way that allowed me to complete my schoolwork and still be home with my grandparents when I needed to be.**

While at BridgeValley, I've used Veterans Office and Misi Liar has been an important part of my experience. Professor Andy Ferrell has also been great. He loves his job and you can tell when you have him for a class that he wants his students to succeed. Both Misi and Andy were vital to helping me apply for and receive an internship with AEP this summer.

I couldn't be happier with my decision to attend BridgeValley. The caring staff and involved faculty have made a huge difference and helped me succeed when life made it difficult for me to push forward.

**- Luke Workman, 36,  
Electrical Engineering Technology, 2019**