

Harnett County Veteran earns IT Degree after 16 Years of Service

(Winter 2014)

Joseph Dwyer served in the U.S. Air Force from 1996 until 2012. He completed three tours of duty to Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Germany following the 9-11 attacks in 2001 on the United States. After being honorably discharged, Joseph was unable to obtain employment and decided to seek assistance through the Dislocated Worker Program under the Workforce Investment Act. Joseph understood that his skills were dated and recognized that he needed to be re-trained in Computer Information Technology to be able to successfully compete in today's workforce and provide for his family.

Joseph earned his Associate's degree in Computer Information Technology on May 22nd, 2014. He graduated with a 4.0 GPA, and remained on the "President's List" throughout his entire enrollment at Central Carolina Community College. Joseph was named the 2013 Outstanding Student in the Computer Information Technology Program and was appointed as a Student Ambassador for CCCC. As an ambassador, Joseph spent 160 hours volunteering in the local community and spent time assisting with fund raisers, new student orientations, college tours, and community projects. He also volunteered his time at the local bread basket and for a highway cleanup project.

One of the biggest challenges Joseph faced during his WIA Enrollment was finding enough time for his family. He maintained an A average, upheld all of his commitments made to the student ambassador program, and worked as a tutor and software developer part time; thus, it was often difficult to spend quality time with his family. Nevertheless, Joseph stayed the course and was able to handle each task that life had given him. The time he spent in the military helped develop his ability to multitask and prioritize, making the time spent advancing his education and skill set extremely valuable.

Joseph was hired by Mobile311, LLC on December 26, 2013 as a Software Developer part time. He has since been promoted to full time, and is currently earning \$15 an hour. His work responsibilities include the development of mobile software for use on the Android platform, and providing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) support to local businesses and government.

