

GISELLE MAKING A CAREER MOVE AT THE PORT



When Albany Housing Authority resident Giselle needed a career change, she came to the WAGE Center to begin looking for stable employment. After demonstrating a commitment to working and consistently job searching using WAGE Center computers on a regular basis, an opportunity came up with the Port of Albany.

With a recommendation from WAGE Center staff, Giselle was interviewed and hired at the Port on a full-time basis with benefits. The retirement program even connected to a previous New York State job Giselle had, so that her vesting in the retirement program would pick up where she left off with the state system.

According to Port of Albany General Manager Richard Hendrick, “Giselle is a great addition to our team and exhibits a wonderful work ethic. She has impressed so many people at the Port of Albany with her work performance. And we are happy to have her as part of our team .”

Giselle feels similarly about her port employment. She says, “The people are cool. It’s a laid back environment. As long as the work gets done, everybody’s happy.”

Giselle also recently joined the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program just as she was transitioning between a less predictable income and her current Port of Albany income. About her current situation, she says, “It’s been a financial relief being paid every week rather than every two weeks.” In that way, the job made an immediate difference.

However, she will also reap the benefits of escrowing money in the long term. She will eventually be able to decide, with the help of her FSS Case Manager, what goals she would like to put that money toward, as long as she continues work full-time and escrow wage increases as part of her five year savings plan through the program.

Regarding her future financial goals, Giselle states that she wants “to begin saving money as well as investing, to make sure when I finish the FSS program, I’ll be comfortable financially.” Empowering working families to be able to save toward a down payment on a home, or other goals that will allow them to be totally financially independent is the true goal of the Family Self Sufficiency program. Participants like Giselle have the opportunity to make significant life changes with the help of FSS.

