



Degrees@Work
POWERED BY STRAYER UNIVERSITY

Video transcript

Eliu Frias Testimonial

My name is Eliu Frias. I started off as a service technician at Greenway Chrysler. That's when I first started the program with FCA and Strayer and I'm now I would have received my degree, but now I'm shop foreman for Fiat instead of Chrysler; a little bit higher than when I was before but I still plan on moving forward and finishing actually with my bachelor's.

My wife started through our dealership as well because it opened up to immediate family. She saw that I was doing it so it was possible for her to do it as well. It was more like she didn't think it was possible either. She had doubts and speculations thinking it was going to be too hard. She wouldn't be able to juggle everything that she had going. But once she saw me doing it and she's like if he can do it then it is possible. So she went ahead. I think she's doing for criminal justice. She's only taking like three or four classes, but she is moving along and she hasn't given up either. It's going good for her, too.

I first heard about Degrees@Work through a co-worker and through my boss. That's how I heard about it and I just looked into it and it made too much sense not to do it. It was a little scary at the beginning because you're going back into school. I've been out of it for so long. I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know how hard it was going to be, it was a lot of fears, but they were easily overcome as long as you have the right people with you and you can figure it out.

The degree I chose was business management. And the reason I chose this is because it would help me in my career moving forward. It would help me to manage others or become a dealer principal. It helped me more in my life in the path that I chose to have the degree in business. I'm still going for my bachelor's, so that's what's going to help me even more down the road. So the help I received from FCA and Degrees@Work program and getting my degree is going to help my family because I can seek a better paying job now with the degree. I can apply the skills that I've learned to better my job. I could actually move up in the company. I can actually work for FCA if I wanted to in the future. It just opens up a lot more doors than what was previously open without a degree.

Well, there was a lot of coaching through the Degrees@Work program. You have the success coach who was always in contact with us—always helping us through everything—if we had any questions. There's always someone available to talk to. It was never—you never felt alone through the process. It was always if you had to reach out and find an answer. The answer was there, you just had to ask.

They're—they're like the architects of it which helps out greatly. The back and forth is very easy. You either write them an email or my Success Coach – I actually have her direct phone number. So we are in contact via text messages, which is instant, or I could even email her she emails me. But yes, it's very easy to get a hold of them.

Here at Greenway, I have a great mentor. His name is Georgie Valley and he's actually the one who showed me about the program. He helps. He's our director in Service and Parts. So he's my direct boss, but he understands everything. Like, if I told him, "Look I need some time. I'm doing this big project at school. Can leave early or can I spend 'X' time on this? They totally understand and want you to succeed in the program because it's better for everyone and the support has been remarkable, especially here at work.

No, Degrees@Work provides 100% of everything. Everything is paid for - nothing is out of pocket. Your books are paid for. Your materials are all paid for. I mean, the only thing you need is the computer in order to access everything. I have a laptop at home that I use for the remainder of the stuff to do papers and projects. But everything is paid for - everything. Everything's handled for you. I mean, it's, the easiest way to do anything.

Degrees@Work program is one of the best things that's ever happened to me. They allow you to go a hundred percent - no money. It's just a no-brainer; I had to do it. It's a degree that you can do at your own pace and everything is paid for and help you in your future and thank you for providing it.

It's definitely something that is doable juggling school and your life is a bit harder, but it is doable. Why not try? I mean, it's just a no brainer. I don't know how more people don't do it. But I've had the same conversation with people here at work and we actually got three or four guys started up on into that; they were a little skeptical about it in the beginning but it is a way to move forward in life. So why not take full advantage?