

# ESCONDIDO ADULT SCHOOL

## The Path to a Promising Future

By Nicole Carr

**A**ndres Arias's journey from Guadalajara, Mexico, to San Diego was a change of scenery and a pivotal moment in his life. Departing from his hometown at age 10 meant more than just seeking better economic prospects; it meant traveling to the United States to rewrite his story and redefine his future.

The bustling streets of Guadalajara noted Arias's early struggles and sacrifices. Despite his community's rich culture and warmth, economic hardship cast a shadow over his aspirations. The weight of financially supporting his family responsibilities forced Arias to delay his academic goals prematurely, but he never lost sight of his hope to complete his high school education.

Upon his arrival in San Diego, Arias faced a whirlwind of challenges. His hope to find improved employment opportunities clashed with the harsh reality of his limited language skills and lack of formal education. Despite the uncertainty, he embraced every odd job as a chance for growth and every setback as a lesson in resilience.

Following a heart-to-heart conversation with his mother, Arias decided to attend Escondido Adult School. With neither his mother nor his family members having received a formal education, completing his high school education held particular significance for him.

"I want to be a good example for my kids so they can follow in my footsteps and get their high school diplomas," Arias says.



**Andres Arias was able to find economic security thanks to gaining his GED through Escondido Adult School.**  
*Photo by Charlie Neuman*

Arias' enrollment at Escondido Adult School was a defining moment. He found guidance from Escondido teacher Tanya Ruhe, whose unwavering support breathed new life into his aspirations. With Ruhe's mentorship, Arias embarked on the GED Program.

The GED Program became more than just a curriculum for Arias; it was a bridge from a challenging past to a promising future. Arias learned English, math and other high school subjects. Each lesson learned and milestone achieved served as an indicator of Ruhe's unyielding spirit and determination.

Arias says, "I was so lucky to have found Ms. Ruhe because the GE classes and my personal counseling helped me identify and reach my goals."

As Arias stood on the threshold of his graduation, he reflected on the path that had led him to this moment. His diploma was not only a symbol of personal achievement but a symbol of hope for his children to also pursue their educations.

Upon earning his diploma, Arias set his sights on advancing his career as a manager. He began his career in food service as a cook in various restaurants and entered a management training program to learn restaurant operations. Through his efforts, Arias secured an assistant management position at a local pizza restaurant, with aspirations to become a general manager.

"Hard work and the education that Escondido Adult School provided me gave me a new lease on life," says Arias..



To learn more about Escondido Adult School's programs, visit [escondidoadultschool.org](http://escondidoadultschool.org)