

**Success Spotlight:** Jenny Kriger

Publish date: Nov. 2023

Program: TAA

Location: Madison County

Wage when lost job: \$18.23 per hour

Wage prior to completing training: \$19.23 per hour, working part-time

Wage after completing training: \$23.82 per hour, working full-time



**STORY**

Originally from Rochester, N.Y., Jenny had spent nearly two decades with a security company. She stayed with the company when she moved to the north side of the Indianapolis area. She eventually moved into payments and invoice disputes with commercial clients for the security company. However, after the company was acquired by another company, she lost her job in 2019.

As part of her job loss, Jenny was eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits, learned more about them by meeting with a TAA staff member at the Anderson WorkOne office, and decided to participate in the program. “I was assigned a case worker and once a month I would go to her office,” she said.

Jenny discovered TAA would pay for her to go back to school to earn her bachelor's degree. She worked with her case worker to decide what Jenny wanted to do, what degree she should earn and what college to attend.



In the fall of 2020, Jenny enrolled in Indiana Wesleyan University in an accelerated program. She graduated April of 2023 with a bachelor's degree in communications.

“[My case worker] was there with me the whole time, offering encouragement, sending monthly forms for me to sign and answering my questions,” Jenny said.

Jenny said earning her bachelor's degree would open new job opportunities.

“In the end, my 33-year dream of finishing school was finally fulfilled,” she said.”

Before completing her degree, Jenny landed a part-time job with the Vernon Township Trustee's office, just across county lines in Hancock County. At that time, she was responsible for township assistance. That job became a full-time opportunity after graduation, where she takes on dual roles. She is also now the office administrator assistant, where she serves the township trustee and the township's fire department. Jenny says she enjoys working with the different people she meets, and she can be an asset for township residents who come to the office needing assistance.



Jenny, who returned to school after the age of 50, said some people questioned if resuming her education was a good choice. She responded, "if it means I can do something better for myself and finish my career on a positive note, then the answer is yes."