Career Switcher Testimonials

“As I pondered what do to with the rest of my life when I retired from the Navy, I knew I wanted a job that made me feel valuable and one in which I felt I was making a difference. I know in my heart that as a teacher I do that every day.”

Beth Lambert ’10
Earth Science Teacher, Granby High School

“I entered Regent’s Career Switcher program knowing that it was exactly what I needed to do to gain some practical teacher preparation training and work toward a Virginia state teacher licensure, but initially it was unclear as to the timing of my retirement from the military. The stability and predictability of my job at Joint Forces Command provided an ideal circumstance to take on the Career Switcher program during after work hours and on the weekends.”

Joseph Sexton ’12
History & Science Teacher, Atlantic Shores Christian School

“The military, food services, medical sales, publishing and finance businesses will continue, and I am thankful for those who work in each, but in my humble opinion, there is no greater calling than to invest our time and energies in the next generation. And there is no profession that allows one to do so more completely than that of a teacher.”

Pat McCarty ’09
Head of School, Norfolk Christian Schools
Superintendent, Christian Unified Schools of San Diego

“My journey to becoming a middle school teacher was a relatively smooth process. I researched Career Switcher programs and finally settled on a program that a dear friend of mine had successfully completed at Regent. I learned that I could attain a provisional teaching license in as little as four months. My coursework began in January 2012 and by the June of that same year, I was hired!”

Dawn Florence ’12
Math Teacher, Norview Middle School

“The Career Switcher program was a major factor in my surviving that first year of teaching. My assigned Regent mentor was a ray of sunshine and support. Her vast experience in the field of
education is extraordinary … [providing] reassurance and validation that the experiences in my previous life really did give me the skills to survive and to thrive in this new adventure. “

Teresa Habib ’12
Music & Chorus Teacher, Glenwood Elementary School
“The Career Switcher classes were as close to perfection as I could imagine a Master’s and doctoral program class structure could be. The classes, instructors, guest lecturers, curriculum, classmates, school administrators, etc., were all wonderful in my humble opinion!”

Sandy Alberson ’09
Engineering Teacher, Landstown Governor’s STEM & Technology Academy

“Proper teacher preparation was imperative if I was to become a successful educator. I applied and was accepted to Regent’s Career Switcher program. I was able to build on what I had learned previously, and the courses I took immediately impacted my ability to teach my students … to implement positive classroom management practices, incorporate alternative assessments, and create action plans to engage my students and teach them more effectively.”

Cheryl Beauchamp ’11
STEM Teacher, Coronado High School
Engineering Lecturer, College of Arts & Science, Regent University

“The Career Switcher Program was my fast track to becoming a teacher. The joy of the Career Switcher Program for me was the short amount of time that it took to complete the courses, it led to licensure, and you could substitute teach while learning to become a teacher.”

LaTonia Bougouneau ’05
English Teacher, Cradock Middle School

“The courses were extremely informative and exciting and the teachers at Regent were knowledgeable and genuinely excited to meet and teach us. Because it was a small group we really had time to get to know our professors which is so important. Meeting fellow Career Switchers and hearing their reasons for switching fields was equally fascinating.”

Kevin Houck ’10
Math Teacher, Lake Taylor High School

“Transitioning into the world of education would not have been feasible without the Career Switcher program. … The program taught me how to teach children through targeted goals based on state-
mandated curriculum, how to assess informally and formally, how to create meaningful lesson plans, and most importantly, to appreciate how children think, act and feel.”

Matthew Koeppen ’09
Science Teacher, Northside Middle School

“Before I started teaching, I was a pastor, and I still am a pastor. The only change has been now I earn my money by educating young people instead of working in a church. … After I had completed the Career Switcher courses I quickly found an opening in Hampton and began teaching math to 7th graders.”

Chris Martinez ’09
Assistant Principal, Poplar Bluff High School

My mind was set and I began to research teacher preparation programs. There were many options available from a full-time four-year undergraduate program to a quick six-week course in the basics. … To my surprise, [Regents] program was offered for the exact same price as other universities. I learned that the program not only fit my budget, it suited my work schedule as well.”

Natalia Popko ’09
Math Teacher, Bayside Middle School

These testimonials were drawn from “We Switched Careers! Alternative Licensure Teachers’ Journeys to the Classroom” by Dr. Mervyn J. Wighting, Regent Career Switcher Program Chair. To read more, contact Dr. Wighting at mervwig@regent.edu.