

## CAREER SWITCHER TESTIMONIALS

"I've always been a teacher at heart and decided to take the Career Switcher's route to licensure. The staff and administration were wonderful. I felt properly prepared and gained sufficient confidence through the program to attempt a long-term substitute teaching position after just 10 weeks of class!"

Sandy Alberson, High School Technical & Career Education Teacher  
Landstown High School Governor's STEM & Technology Academy, Virginia Beach, VA

"From a career in hospitality, I enrolled in Regent's Career Switcher program and began subbing. I quickly learned that middle school students needed me the most. This program taught me to address every student's strengths with an understanding and empathetic mindset. I'm grateful that Regent prepared me to be a leader in my school."

Kevin Alfieri, Earth Science & Physical Science Teacher  
Plaza Middle School, Virginia Beach, VA

"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."

Cheryl Beauchamp, Engineering & Computer Science Lecturer; Department Chair  
Regent University's College of Arts & Science, Virginia Beach, VA

"The Career Switcher Program gave me the tools to become an effective instructor. I discovered how to design lesson plans that involve all of my students in the learning process, and then to accurately assess how much they're learning. They love learning and I love teaching."

Blair Ellson, U.S. History & Math Teacher  
The Williams School, Norfolk, VA

"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 completed at Regent. I learned that I could attain a provisional teaching license in as little as four months. My coursework began in January and by the June of that same year, I was hired!"

Dawn Florence, Math Teacher  
Norview Middle School, Norfolk, VA

"Regent's Career Switcher program made the switch from stay-at-home mom to high school Spanish teacher very easy. After being a substitute teacher for four years, I was ready to go full time. Regent prepared me to be a 21st century teacher."

Nancy Friesen, Spanish Teacher  
Tucker High School, Henrico County, VA

"The Career Switcher program was a major factor in my surviving that first year of teaching. My assigned Regent mentor was very supportive. Her vast experience in the field of education is extraordinary. She helped me see how the experiences in my previous life gave me the skills to survive and to thrive in this new adventure."

Teresa Habib, Educator & Music Teacher  
Glenwood Elementary School, Virginia Beach, VA

"I worked in youth ministry — primarily with high school students — for over a dozen years. Now, I'm still working with the same age group, but instead of a church environment, I see them in the classroom. The Career Switcher program at Regent provided me with the foundation I needed to make that transition from youth ministry to education."

Angela Hamrick, High School English Teacher  
Princess Anne High School, Virginia Beach, VA

"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 had time to get to know our professors. Meeting fellow Career Switchers and hearing their reasons for switching fields was equally fascinating."

Kevin Houck, Math Teacher  
Lake Taylor High School, Norfolk, VA

"Transitioning into the world of education would not have been feasible without the Career Switcher program at Regent. The program taught me how to teach children through innovative curriculum, assess their progress, create meaningful lesson plans, and most importantly, to appreciate how children think, act and feel."

Matthew Koeppen, Science Teacher  
Northside Middle School, Norfolk, VA

"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, Earth Science Teacher  
Granby High School, Norfolk, VA

"When my family moved to Virginia due to my husband's career change, I thought it would be a perfect time to fulfill a childhood dream of becoming a teacher. Regent's Career Switcher program was the perfect choice for me. Not only was I prepared to enter a classroom upon graduation, but I also had more than half the credits hours under my belt towards my master's degree!"

Catherine Maniaci, Math Teacher  
Lake Ridge Middle School, Prince William County

"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, Regent's Career Switcher program not only fit my budget, but it also suited my work schedule."

Natalia Popko, Math Teacher  
Bayside Middle School, Virginia Beach

"After graduating from college with a music degree, I started working as a meeting planner for nonprofits and government contractors. I later felt called to teach. That's when I discovered Regent. I value the instruction I received during my time in the Career Switcher program. I love teaching and I'm grateful this program equipped me to build a new career on a strong foundation."

Willis Rosenfeld, Choir Director  
Loudon County High School, Leesburg, VA

“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, History & Science Teacher  
Atlantic Shores Christian School, Virginia Beach, VA

**You’ll find these stories and more in the book *We Switched Careers! Alternative Licensure Teachers’ Journeys to the Classroom* by Dr. Mervyn J. Wighting, Regent’s Career Switcher program chair. Contact Dr. Wighting at [mervwig@regent.edu](mailto:mervwig@regent.edu) for more information.**