

Jefferson Union High School District  
STUDENT of the MONTH, May 2024  
2023-2024 School Year

*Angelina Cruz*

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## Angelina Cruz, Adult School Program

Angelina Cruz is a student in the District's Adult School Program. She is the embodiment of what it means to be resilient, focused on her goals no matter what life throws her way. Angelina is currently enrolled in English studies and our computer basics class. She has remained dedicated to her studies even while dealing with recent health issues. Because of this, she has become a rallying point for her fellow students who are inspired by her perseverance.

Angelina's ESL teacher, Audrey Wittig, had this to say about her: "I would like to nominate my student Angelina Cruz. She is an amazing person. She is taking my class and Mike's computer class. She has cancer and is undergoing treatment (she takes chemo pills daily). She is disabled now because of the treatments and uses a walker. She also has some memory issues because of the treatment, which is hard for her since she used to own her own company and be a computer programmer and was involved with electronics. She is very positive and determined.

"She is here alone in this country (her two sons call everyday but live in different countries) so we have been helping her get supportive services and my students are cooking meals for her. I feel she has brought the community together, as many people here (staff and students) have been helping her and reaffirming that the adult school is like a family and a wonderful resource for students who need help of any kind."

Angelina's Computer Basics teacher, Mike Brust, had this to say about her: "Angelina has a heart of gold and is one of the hardest working students that has ever come to my class. Through all of her hardships, she manages to attend class and try her best to learn and grow...everyday. I don't think that anything can stand in her way, when she puts her mind to it. Looking at Angelina's work ethic, is something we can all take note from. She is truly inspiring and a blessing to have gotten to know this semester. I know I can take a note from her book, as she has taught me what it takes to be the best that I can be."

Angelina's story is emblematic of the student stories here at the Jefferson Adult School, pursuing opportunities with little regard to the obstacles in the way. As such, she is the perfect representative of the Jefferson Adult School and we are proud that she is being recognized as the Student of the Month for May.