



## **NWCCF 2016 GRADUATE OF THE YEAR**

Y'Eli Buonya, a graduate of TLG Learning Center, Bellevue, Washington, has been awarded the NWCCF 2016 Graduate of the Year.

Shown here with Gena Wikstrom, Executive Director of the NWCCF, Y'Eli Buonya graduated from the Veterans Administration Accelerated Learning Program – IT Help Desk Job Training Program – a VA / TLG partnership endeavor that is hugely successful and of which TLG can be very proud. Y'Eli is currently an Enterprise Help Desk Analyst II, Information Technology at Starbuck's in Seattle.

TLG said that Y'Eli demonstrated an excellent work ethic and worked diligently to complete the course materials and pass his certification exams - a result that required tons of hours of study outside formal classroom learning. And he did this while dealing with many life issues.

Y-ElI spent seven years in the United States Army, as a Weapons Crew Member and then as an Infantry Team Lead. Upon separation from the military, he didn't know what direction to take but knew he always had a passion for Information Technology. Since watching the movie "Hackers" as a kid, he has been fascinated with the trends – and opportunities – in technology. In fact, he says he would still like someday to be an "ethical hacker" as he progresses down the IT path.

Y'eli says that the training at TLG helped him get his foot in the door and give him hope of success. He said he had become quite proficient at failing college and the program was the last ditch effort to determine whether or not he could actually succeed and achieve something. He has proven that he can.

While working fulltime at Starbuck's he continues to study for additional certifications to advance his career in IT. He is a terrific example of when someone is given the opportunity, resources, and support to succeed, AND they apply themselves wholeheartedly, they can accomplish the steps that put them on a path to a new career and gain confidence in their own abilities.