

“Daniel of All Trades”

Daniel J. Suarez

When I was 16, I painted my neighbor’s house to get money for my little sister. There was no food in my house, my mother didn’t work, and we had no father, so I decided to watch over my little sister. I found that I loved the feeling of completing a job, and also the money was not bad. With what I earned on that job I was able to feed my sister and get her clothes for school.

I like to do different kinds of odd jobs. I am able to paint, install any kind of flooring, replace roofs, toilets, sinks, tubs, and counters, do general repair work and maintenance, and do auto/truck mechanics. My goal is to start a handyman business called “Daniel of All Trades.”

I will need to borrow money to finance my business. In order to do that I will need to estab-

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lish my credit by opening a bank account and paying my bills on time. I will research interest rates at different banks to get a

loan for my business. I will also consider looking for investors. Some of the teachers I had in high school really believed in me and would help me with anything that I needed. Maybe they would consider investing in my new business. I will need to hire an attorney to do the legal paperwork for

my business.

The most important pieces of equipment that I will need for my handyman business are a phone, tools, and a truck to carry heavy equipment to the job sites. Once I am financially secure, I can buy more equipment such as a lift and jacks. I will need to buy computer software to use for billing and keeping records of clients, expenses, insurances, licenses, and taxes.

Right now I am 21 years old and working at odd jobs most of the time, as well as going to Read to Succeed to improve my reading, spelling, and writing. Then I plan to study mechanics in community college. While I am going to school, I will continue working at odd jobs. I hope to establish “Daniel of All Trades” before I am 30. With this business I will be able to ensure my sister’s future by providing for her and helping out my family whenever they are in need.



Daniel J. Suarez is a student at Read to Succeed in Hartford, CT. He describes himself as “always tired, always working.” His plan is to return to Capital Community College in Hartford and earn a degree in general studies and mechanics.

Name Your Business!

Brainstorm a list of your skills. Use the chart on p. 35 to help you create an inventory of the things you can do. What name would you give your business?

Want to be your own boss? Read the articles on pp. 26-27 to learn about other adult learners who started their own business and run it cooperatively.

Thinking about starting a small business? Look here for more info.: <www.sba.gov>.