

## Van Tran, Kansas

Van Tran, a refugee from Vietnam, enrolled in English (ESL) classes at the Wichita Indochinese Center, Inc. After assessment and pre-testing, she was placed in the low-beginning class. At that time, she was middle-aged, but she had a strong desire to go to college. However, she did not know how to access the available opportunities. None of her family or friends knew what her options were. She was frustrated because she didn't have a high school diploma from a U.S. school.

The director of the Wichita Indochinese Center met with Van to help her ascertain the options available to her. He learned that she had a high school diploma from Vietnam. The director also discovered that Butler Community College (BCC) accepts high school graduates from other countries. Applicants are required to take math and English assessments. The director obtained sample assessments; Van prepared for and passed the assessments and then enrolled at BCC. The director also advised Van to attend Wichita State University (WSU) after getting her associate degree from BCC.

Van graduated from WSU with an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering. She was hired as an engineer at Cessna Aircraft Company and became a taxpayer. But Van wasn't finished. She continued her education and earned her master's degree in mechanical engineering. Van is thankful to the Wichita Indochinese Center for giving her the basic English skills she needed to cope with her English classes at BCC. She is also grateful to the director for guiding her toward achieving her goals. Her enrollment in an adult education ESL class gave her the knowledge and skills she needed to achieve a successful, rewarding career.