



# NEWSLETTER

*"TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A FUTURE"*

JULY 2025

## Cumi Manibusan: Fueled by Opportunity, Ready for More

From the classroom to the control room, Cumi Manibusan has carved a path of growth, determination, and hands-on success—with the support of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) guiding him along the way.

*"Right after high school, I felt like I wanted to try going to school at NMC," Cumi shared. "At the time, it was Ms. Rose who was my counselor. She helped me fly to Saipan, find an apartment, and even provided a stipend so I could go to school. That was very helpful."*

With time, Cumi realized that he was drawn to a more hands-on career path. OVR supported his decision to explore trades work, and he began training as a stocker at Tian Hong Market (formerly Long Feng). From there, he trained under his uncle at Telesource—a move that would eventually lead him to a permanent role at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC).

Today, Cumi works as an Assistant Operator in CUC's Power Generation Division. His responsibilities include monitoring power engines to ensure they run efficiently and answering calls during outages to keep the community informed and supported.

*"After a couple of years, everything has been going great," he said. "But I want to broaden my experience, so I'll be moving next month to Texas to gain more experience in the states."*

Cumi's journey reflects not just career growth, but personal development as well. His mother shared her appreciation for the support OVR provided during those early transitions:

***"I remember before, he would be very shy and wouldn't really talk to anyone. Now, he's more open and doesn't really feel nervous to talk to people. OVR was very helpful and I really appreciate you guys helping my son," she said.***



**Wishing Cumi Manibusan continued success in all that he sets out to achieve — your journey inspires us all.**

When asked if he had any words of inspiration for others, Cumi offered thoughtful advice:

***"Always jump at any opportunity—not just with work, but also with life. No matter how many times you fail, just keep going. Keep on succeeding in your own ways."***

As Cumi prepares to take the next step in his journey, we at OVR are proud to have been part of his story—and we look forward to seeing how far his drive and determination will take him next.

## Staff Spotlight: Raine - A Heart for Helping Others Thrive



Meet Sherraine Flores, our dedicated VR Counselor Aide (VRCA), whose compassion and steady support have made a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Since joining our team in May 2021, “Raine” has played an important role in assisting VR Counselors, helping clients navigate services, preparing documents, conducting intakes, and ensuring every individual receives the care and attention they deserve.

What Raine enjoys most about her work is connecting directly with clients and participating in outreach events. *“It’s rewarding to build relationships and help individuals discover resources that change their lives,” she shares.* Although her background was in a senior living rehabilitation center, Raine quickly discovered that vocational rehabilitation was a new and meaningful challenge — one that sparked a deep interest and a lasting commitment to the field.

Guided by values of kindness, patience, and understanding, Raine stays motivated by leaning on the support of her team. ***“Collaborating with my colleagues reminds me that I’m not alone and helps me stay grounded in our shared mission.”***

Looking ahead, Raine hopes to return to college to pursue a degree in social work and one day become a VR counselor. Outside of work, she loves spending time with her children, going to the beach, hiking, and exploring nature.

Her advice to anyone considering a career in VR services? *“Be open to learning and share what you know — together, we can uplift our community.”*

We’re grateful for Raine’s warmth, heart, and dedication to those we serve.

## Now Accepting Applications - State Rehabilitation Council

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is a Governor-appointed advisory group that works with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to improve employment services for people with disabilities.

**We’re seeking new volunteer members to fill the following seats:**

- Community rehabilitation program (1)
- Business, industry, and labor (3)
- Individuals’ representatives of individuals with disabilities who have difficulty representing themselves or are unable due to their disabilities to represent themselves (2)
- Current/former applicant for, or recipients of, vocational rehabilitation services (1)



**Term:** 3 years



**Meetings:** 4 times a year (in person with virtual participation option available)



**Interested?** Email [nmidir@ovrgov.net](mailto:nmidir@ovrgov.net) to introduce yourself, state the category you're applying for, and share why you'd like to be considered.



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