



NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Amy

Amy was a student in Mid-State's Respiratory Therapy program. She was struggling financially and emotionally. She had recently separated from her husband of 14 years, and was now a single mom trying to provide for her three daughters. Working part-time while attending school was not enough to make ends meet. In addition, she lost her mom in October of 2014, and her father-in-law in June of 2015. Amy was devastated. She was very close to her mom, and her father-in-law was very supportive of her education. He watched her girls while she attended school and he helped her financially whenever possible. Amy felt even more emotionally and financially drained. In July of 2015, a classmate and Mid-State Counselor, who were both familiar with WIOA, suggested that Amy contact someone at the job center. Amy called Jamie Arndt, WIOA Career Planner, for more information. At the first appointment, Amy disclosed her personal situation and her dedication to completing the Respiratory Therapy Program. Amy wanted to make her mom, her father-in-law and three daughters proud. Jamie could see her determination and knew she would be successful. Jamie and Amy worked on the WIOA enrollment process, and together developed short and long-term goals.

WIOA funds were used to assist with Amy's tuition and books. WIOA was also able to assist Amy with mileage as she was required to travel to Marshfield and Wausau for the clinical portion of her education. This support was essential in preventing Amy from dropping out of school. Despite the setbacks, Jamie continued to provide Amy with the needed support and coaching to make it through the tough program. There were times when Amy felt like giving up, but Jamie encouraged her to keep going. And she did! Amy graduated from the Respiratory Therapy Program in August 2016. She passed her Certified Respiratory Therapist exam shortly thereafter and was soon hired full-time at a local clinic.

Amy reports that her life is so much better after finishing school and obtaining full-time employment. Amy can pay her bills on time each and every week. She no longer needs to rely on FoodShare to feed her children. Amy is once again content watching her daughters grow into successful young women. In Amy's own words, "I know in the bottom of my heart that I would have never finished school without the WIOA Program."

Amy, your mom and father-in-law would be proud of your accomplishments! Amy, you are a positive influence for your three daughters! Congratulations!