

WESTERN ILLINOIS WORKS

Serving Adams, Brown, Hancock, Henderson, Knox,
McDonough, Pike, Schuyler, and Warren Counties

Mawule's Career Journey – Finding a Calling in Healthcare

It was a good day when one of Mawule's fellow students told her about WIOA and referred her to Western Illinois Works.

Mawule had recently started an associate degree in Nursing (R.N.) program at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg.

Early Struggles

A single mom with three children, working as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) on the weekends while in school, Mawule was having a difficult time making ends meet.

The financial stress of worrying about paying her bills was impacting her ability to do her best in school.

Focusing on Education

Since Mawule received SNAP benefits, she was eligible to enroll in WIOA starting the following semester. She credits WIOA assistance with the jump in her fall semester GPA of 2.36 to her spring semester GPA of 3.20. She was able to concentrate on her studies without the constant worry of not having enough money.

Mawule moved to the United States from Togo, West Africa. She has no family in this country but said that a "kind neighbor" sometimes helped her with the children.

Her native language is French. She speaks English perfectly but found reading and writing English to be more of a challenge.

Added Pressures

It is in no way an exaggeration to say that the ADN program is extremely demanding. The language barrier made Mawule's dedication and accomplishments even more impressive.

Sadly, Mawule also dealt with the passing of her beloved mother in Togo during this time. It was even more difficult because she couldn't be there.

Finding Success

Mawule passed her NCLEX Board Exam and received her Professional Registered Nurse license. She was immediately promoted to R.N. at the nursing home where she worked.

Mawule is very grateful for the boost WIOA provided to help her accomplish her dream.



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“Mawule credits WIOA assistance as being instrumental in allowing her to focus on her studies and to improve her GPA from 2.36 to 3.20.”

Learn More:
www.WorkforceCanHelp.com

