

WESTERN ILLINOIS WORKS

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CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

Information About You



Name:

Kaylee Fiss

Degree/Training Pursued:

Registered Nurse

Educational Institution(s) Attended:

Hannibal LaGrange University

Graduation Date/Expected

Graduation Date:

6/28/2024

Career Goals:

To continue to work at Quincy Medical Group in the Allergy Department.

Your Two Rivers/WIOA Experience

What led you to want to pursue your education? What was your motivation?

I have always wanted to be in the medical field for as long as I can remember. Of course, when I was in high school, I wanted to become an anesthesiologist. They make a lot of money, but then I found out how much schooling was involved and decided against that.

My mom went to nursing school and talked about how much she liked nursing, so I chose the same route.

I started off as a CNA and then found it wasn't challenging enough for me; I wanted to do more and help more. I then worked as a Medical Assistant, still wanting more but I loved the job. I got my LPN in July of last year and then started my RN in August.

My motivation to pursue my education was my children. I wanted them to see what hard work looked like after it was all said and done.

“It is easy to tell your kids what to do, but it is harder to show them what hard work is, how it pays off, and what it looks like.”

Were there barriers that stood in your way to attend school? How did you overcome these obstacles?

The biggest barrier was money, of course. And time - nursing school takes up A LOT of your time every single day. There was no way I could have worked full time, gone to school, and stayed sane.

It took me awhile to have the courage to go back to school. How was I going to pay for myself and my children?

Overcoming that obstacle was asking for help. I had to ask for help from my parents, sister, my boyfriend, and other family members. Both financially and mentally to make it through these last two years. Mentally I could not have done it without their support.





good to work with. They stayed in touch and were always there to answer any questions that they could for me.

Your WIOA (Two Rivers) Experience

How did you hear about WIOA?

My uncle had mentioned WIOA before I was even enrolled in school. He told me there was a program that could help pay for schooling.

Why did you feel like this was a good option for you?

I feel like when someone helps me through something financially, it motivates me to succeed. So, I would say that this was a motivator for me since they had helped me with my payment of school.

If you were to tell a friend about WIOA, what would you say?

I would tell a friend, "Do it! It is well worth it and so beyond helpful. They will be there for you every step of the way."

If WIOA had not been available, would you be on the same path you are on today?

I would still have been on the same path as I am today without assistance from WIOA, however; I would have been stressing a lot more right now about paying so much money back in school loans and how I could not afford to even take my nursing boards because that is \$200 alone to sit for the NCLEX. This program has lifted that stress off me.

Looking Forward

What are your hopes for the future?

I want to be able to focus on learning everything I can in allergy to be able to explain it to my patients and go to work and then go home. And maybe have the strength to eventually go back to school for an even higher degree, but we shall see.

"As of right now my hope is to be the best nurse I can be."

Please share any and all other thoughts here.

I would have to say this is one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. It was so stressful I literally at times thought I was going to crazy. Now that it is all said and done, I feel so much relief. I am glad that I stuck it out. All I am waiting for now is for the state to give me permission to go sit for my boards.

What was the most difficult thing about pursuing additional education?

Finding the time to study while still running a household and working was the most difficult thing about pursuing my education.

What was the turning point in your life that made your schooling a top priority?

Moving back home from Arizona was the smartest thing I could have done. My life had changed in many ways. I not only had myself and my kids to worry about, but I also now had a blended family that came with my boyfriend and two more kids. We were now a family of six and it was time that I put my head down and focus on making sure that I finished school and did it in the time that was required. I had to make sure that I could financially contribute to my family as well.

What would you tell other people about your experience? What motivation could you share?

It is not easy going back to school and I will not pretend it is. You will question why you are even putting yourself through this and is it even worth it. It is; it is worth it once you are done. You will feel like you have accomplished so much, because you have!

Not everyone can go to nursing school, nor does everyone want to go to nursing school, but stick with it and keep pushing because you will be so happy you did.

During my experience I questioned a lot of things as I was going through this program. I thought about giving up so many times but having people rooting for you and pushing you to make it through is the only way I did make it through.

What has been the most rewarding result of your time spent working with Kathryn/Two Rivers to make this happen?

It was very rewarding when Kathryn with Two Rivers and the WIOA program told me that yes, they will help me pay for school. It was a life saver.

I unfortunately didn't have many options on where to go to school, and the school I went to was expensive. Kathryn and Two Rivers saved me so much money and they were very