Healthcare Spotlight: BERKSHIRE WORKFORCE BO

This 5-week spotlight series celebrates Berkshire County healthcare workers who are climbing the ladder in the healthcare field. Over the last two years, the featured individuals participated in nursing assistant trainings sponsored by MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board, in partnership with Integritus Healthcare and Berkshire Health Systems, and funded by CommCorp's WCTF Healthcare HUBs grants. Trainees recently completed 10 months of training at McCann Technical School to become Licensed Practical Nurses.

What brought you into the field of healthcare?

My inspiration to become a nurse stemmed from my experience and background in the healthcare field. I have worked as a medical office manager, a certified ophthalmic technician, a medical assistant, and most recently a Massachusetts licensed optician. Having all of that experience solidified my desire to further my career when I learned of the Nursing Assistant program through MassHire and Berkshire Health Systems. It was a no-brainer for me as a single parent with two kids in college. It was the only way that I would be able to go back to school myself, and be able to afford it.

How has MassHire helped you in achieving your career goals?

MassHire helped me achieve my goal of graduating from the McCann licensed practical nurse program. For many years, I've had the desire to return to school and get my nursing license. When I discovered this program I knew it was meant to be. I knew I had the drive to put in the hard work. I just didn't have the means to afford it otherwise. With the help of MassHire I'm proud to say I'm not only completed the program but graduated at the top of my class, (despite also being the oldest student!)

What words of wisdom can you share for those thinking about entering the healthcare field?

My words of wisdom would be: It's never too late to achieve a goal or to fulfill your dream. If you're willing to put in the time and hard work, anything is possible. We all have goadblocks and struggles, that's part of living. We can overcome all the obstacles with the right support and opportunities like the one given to me by MassHire. Don't sell yourself short, believe you can, and you will!

