



“It is never too late to succeed.”

Eugenia L. Baker

2013, Associate of Applied Science,
Medical Office Management

Eugenia L. Baker enlisted in the U.S. Navy after high school, and stayed for eight heavy-deployment years. Between 1999 and 2007, she learned the ins and outs of gas turbine systems, serving as a mechanic.

“As a gas turbine systems mechanic, I was responsible for operating, repairing, and performing organizational and intermediate maintenance on electrical components of gas turbine engines,” she says. “I learned to work with blueprints and schematics to replace and adjust the operating tolerance of contacts, micro-switches, relay switches, pressure and temperature switches.”

She returned to civilian life as an E-4 Specialist, Petty Officer 3rd Class. She returned also with a case of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). “I kept saying I wanted to go to school and get a degree,” she says. “Fear of not succeeding was definitely a challenge I had to overcome.” A reading disability made high school less than enjoyable for Eugenia; additionally, she struggled with anxiety over being in large crowds and speaking in front of groups.

Brown Mackie College — Hopkinsville turned out to be just the place she needed. “I wasn’t sure what field of study to choose, and the staff helped me to define my strengths,” Eugenia says. The one-class-a-month schedule definitely intrigued her. “I wasn’t sure I could handle any more with my PTSD. I liked the small class sizes, too, that allowed for one-on-one time with the instructors,” she continues.

This 2013 graduate of Brown Mackie College — Hopkinsville now holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Medical Office

Management. She found employment as a medical administrator with Dr. Shah, Internal Medicine in Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

On the job, she answers patient inquiries, processes insurance claims, and schedules patients. “I enjoy helping our diverse group of patients receive the medical attention they need. I love helping people, bringing a smile, and always lending a hand when needed,” she says.

Eugenia loved the caring, nurturing environment that has been established at Brown Mackie College — Hopkinsville. She received support during her academic studies and beyond. Help was there in everything from writing her resume to interviewing, and throughout her job search. “Whenever I felt overwhelmed, an instructor or student ambassador was available to help,” she says. “For Thanksgiving last year, I didn’t know how I would provide for my family. Brown Mackie College — Hopkinsville gave us a full Thanksgiving meal! They are committed to each student’s success as a person and as a professional.”

“I am proud of setting college as a goal and graduating. It shows my daughter that no matter how old you are, or how long you’ve put off a goal, it is never too late to try,” she says. “If you work hard and organize your time, money, and family, you can succeed.”

Eugenia has returned to Brown Mackie College — Hopkinsville for a degree in Business Management. “I would like to open a construction company with my brother,” she says. “The classes are helping me to create a business plan and portfolio.”

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