



Graduate Success Story

Teresa Goodman

2014, Associate of Applied Science, Medical Assisting

Teresa Goodman, certified clinical medical assistant (CCMA), always offers pleasant words to her patients. “I enjoy working with people and knowing that I can make a difference in their lives,” she says. “I consider it part of my job to make them laugh or smile.” Teresa went back to school at age 40 for the opportunity to help others in meaningful ways.

She has pursued her goal of helping people throughout her life. She helped Americans by serving her country, enlisting in the U.S. Marines in 1990. Teresa held the rank of corporal when she returned to civilian life four years later. Volunteer work satisfied Teresa while her was daughter growing up.

Teresa later found herself in an abusive relationship, and after beginning a program at Brown Mackie College—Louisville, her daughter died. This devastating situation, coupled with a difficult home life, nearly caused her to drop out of the program. “The staff at Brown Mackie College—Louisville changed and saved my life,” says Teresa. “They never gave up on me, even when I wanted to give up on myself. They stood by me and helped me work through everything,” says Teresa.

She persevered through the program and graduated in 2014, earning an Associate of Applied Science degree in Medical Assisting. She then passed the certification exam, strengthening her new credentials. With help from staff at Career Services, Teresa found employment as a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant with Bluegrass Kidney Consultants in Louisville, Kentucky. “My Career Services Advisor, Matt Payne, worked daily to help me get interviews and ultimately the job I am in now. He still checks in on me to see how I am doing,” says Teresa.

Teresa enjoys her work. From preparing charts and obtaining hospital records to checking in patients, logging medical histories, and making appointments, she finds satisfaction in doing her part to make life better for others. During her time off, she volunteers at a monthly Community Clinic that serves people without health insurance.

“Staff and instructors take the time to get to know you as a person, and care about your success,” she says. “I am very proud of the fact that I am a 42-year-old college graduate, and get to live my dream!” Teresa’s next educational goal is to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing and work with Doctors Without Borders.

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