

JAZLYN — WIOA Out-of-School Youth

Jazlyn had long been interested in the healthcare field and knew she wanted to earn a medical credential that would lead to stable employment and future opportunities. When she enrolled in services at Michigan Works! West Central in 2025, she began exploring training options and working with staff to identify a pathway that matched her interests and local job opportunities.

Initially interested in Medical Assistant training, she later shifted her focus to becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) after researching demand for healthcare workers in the region.

The path to that goal was not always easy. Throughout her participation, Jazlyn worked through transportation challenges, housing concerns, financial barriers, and the complexities of balancing employment and training. Despite these obstacles, she stayed focused on her future and continued taking steps forward. She consistently communicated with staff, attended meetings, participated in workshops and sought opportunities to build skills and prepare for training.

As part of her career preparation, Jazlyn participated in career exploration and workforce readiness activities. She completed multiple Pathful Explorer lessons covering topics such as job exploration, goal setting, self-advocacy, budgeting, postsecondary planning, and education funding. She also attended Talent Tours, including healthcare-focused opportunities and a visit to Pioneer Group, where she learned about careers in marketing, design, journalism and printing operations. These experiences helped broaden her understanding of career opportunities while strengthening the skills needed for employment.

Jazlyn was equally committed to find-



ing employment. She worked on her resume, sought assistance with cover letters, attended interviews and actively pursued job opportunities. In October 2025, she secured employment with Taco Bell and later pursued additional opportunities that aligned with her long-term goals. By spring 2026, she had successfully navigated multiple interviews and continued building her work experience while preparing for a healthcare career.

A major milestone came when Jazlyn enrolled in CNA training through Flat River Medical. After completing orientation and pre-training requirements, she began the program in February 2026. Through hard work and dedication, she successfully completed the training program on Feb. 27, 2026. She then continued preparing for state testing, including scheduling fingerprinting, practicing clinical skills, completing registration requirements and taking her CNA skills exam.

While reviewing Jazlyn's participation, staff also realized she had completed nearly every component of Michigan Works! West Central's Career Readiness Certification checklist. Over the course of her involvement, she had completed requirements in career exploration, soft skills development, job search preparation, education planning, gaining experience and certifications. After submitting her resume and completing the final requirements, Jazlyn earned her Pre-Apprenticeship Career Readiness Certificate from Michigan Works! West Central, recognizing the significant amount of work she had invested in preparing for employment.

By May 2026, Jazlyn had achieved several major accomplishments. She completed CNA training, earned her Career Readiness Certificate, participated in extensive workforce preparation activities and secured employment. During follow-up conversations, she shared she had completed orientation with Intersect and was preparing to begin work. Rather than stopping there, she also began exploring future education opportunities, including Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) training and college enrollment, demonstrating her ongoing commitment to career advancement.

Jazlyn's journey wasn't always easy. There were challenges to overcome, setbacks to work through and moments when reaching her goals may have seemed out of reach. Yet she continued showing up, putting in the work and taking the next step forward. What started as a dream of working in healthcare has become a reality, and her story serves as a reminder that perseverance can open doors to opportunities that once seemed distant.