

MICHELLE — Dislocated Worker

In summer 2024, Michelle visited Michigan Works! West Central after being laid off from her job as a non-certified personal care aide.

What began as a routine registration for work quickly turned into a turning point in her career. During her visit, Michelle engaged in meaningful conversations with staff about the benefits of training, the importance of certification and the various resources available to help job seekers succeed. These discussions sparked a desire in Michelle to grow within the caregiving field and take her career to the next level.

By November, she attended a WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) orientation session, where she shared her goal of becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). She understood earning this certification would expand her job opportunities, increase her earning potential and allow her to make an even greater impact in the lives of those she cares for.

Michigan Works! West Central stepped in to support Michelle's goal by covering the full cost of her CNA training at Flat River Medical in Paris, MI. They also provided mileage reimbursement to help her manage travel expenses throughout the two-week course. With these supports in place, Michelle successfully completed the program and earned her Nursing Assistant Program certification on Dec. 13, 2024. With her new certification in hand, Michelle set her sights on a position at The Oaks at Belmont.

In early 2025, she contacted Michigan Works! with excitement: "Hello there! I'm all certified, ready to go! I have applied a few places. I would



like to get into Oaks of Belmont."

On Feb. 7, 2025, she shared more good news: "I'm starting at Oaks of Belmont! I have already started the hiring process!" she said. "I finished all my onboarding for Oaks of Belmont. My official start date is the 17th."

Michelle is thriving in her full-time

role as a Certified Nursing Assistant at The Oaks at Belmont, working 40 hours per week and earning \$17.57 per hour. Thanks to her determination and the support from Michigan Works! West Central, she has transformed her career path and secured a stable, fulfilling future in the health-care industry.