



EMPLOYMENT UPDATE FOR PS-S PARTICIPANTS AND GRADS *Single Parents Moving toward Financial Independence*

Rebekah Begins Career at Eye Center

Rebekah graduated from Front Range Community College with her nursing degree in May 2013. She immediately obtained full-time employment with the Eye Center of Northern Colorado - including benefits - and is now free of all government assistance. When Rebekah enrolled in PS-S, she was working part-time while attending school part-time. However, once accepted in the full-time nursing program Rebekah had to give up her job and focus on school. PS-S came into her life “just in time” and provided timely assistance and support from her PS-S advisor. She was able to secure a number of scholarships including PEO, WISP and Rotary scholarships to help offset academic expenses.

Deb is First PS-S Participant to Work in Construction Management

When Deb came to PS-S she was hoping to earn a degree in Construction Management and gain further experience through internships. Deb did not have enough income to support her family and came to PS-S for help in developing her new career. After finishing an Associate’s degree Deb was accepted into the Construction Management Program at Colorado State University. She became known as a capable intern in her field work and secured a coveted position on campus. Some of her academic classes were challenging and Deb utilized tutors to help her through those courses. Recently Deb graduated from that program and has been hired by Tharp Cabinets in Loveland. The hiring manager knew at the beginning of the interview that Deb was the right person for the job and she loves the position! She was assigned a 300 home cabinet installation and now says that was her small job.

Heather Secures Position as Resource Development Director for Loveland Habitat

In August 2012 Heather began her new position as Resource Development and Faith Relations Director at Loveland Habitat for Humanity. She has successfully completed her first year in the job. This is a full time job that pays a living wage with benefits. Heather completed her Bachelor of Arts in Business and has been eager to work in an organization where she can give back and help others. She built her resume by doing related volunteer work in the community during her time in school and since graduation. She has also networked extensively in the community.

Joann is Pleased with Position as an Accounting Specialist

After enrolling in PS-S Joann secured an internship at United Way and began taking classes at Front Range Community College. Her early job duties at United Way have varied greatly and Joann has made it a goal to learn as many job functions there as possible. She worked with donors to secure contributions needed by 211 volunteers during the High Park Fire disaster. Later her assignments relocated her to the accounting department where she gained great hands on experience. When an Accounting Specialist position became available Joann was the perfect candidate. She is thrilled with

her new job and well on her way to earning living wages. Joann continues classes at Front Range Community College with the goal of completing her Associates degree.

Freyja Helping Flood Victims

Freyja gained some experience as a Child Protection Social Worker after earning first her Bachelor's in Social Work while in PS-S and then later her Master of Social Work degree. More recently she has accepted a new position providing mental health counseling to flood victims. This is a one year position and a great career builder for Freyja.

Darlene Hired by Local Government

Darlene completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with an emphasis in Human Resource Management and Finance. She is now working in an administrative role with a local government.

Katherine Accepts Position with Poison Control

Katherine completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in August 2013 and recently began a position with a public health organization. The job is a perfect fit for her career goals and she is thrilled to be earning a living wage.

Amanda Begins her Career as a Dental Assistant

Amanda graduated with a 3.5 GPA from Front Range Community College in May 2013 with her Dental Assisting Certificate and has been working part-time at All About Braces. She also completed an internship there while simultaneously waitressing part-time to make ends meet. Amanda's dental assisting pay scale will increase substantially after she works in the field for one year and at that point she is expected to be self-sufficient.

Caddie Secures Employment in Hospital Laboratory

Caddie completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology at the University of Northern Colorado and then finished an internship at the Poudre Valley Health System lab. She was then hired by the hospital as a Phlebotomist with a goal to move up to a more advanced position. Caddie is cross-training in the specimen processing center, as well as job-shadowing with the technicians. She enrolled in the Medical Lab Tech program at Arapahoe Community College and has been doing clinicals for that program. When she completes the program she will qualify for a more advanced position as a Medical Laboratory Technician. She continues at the hospital while completing this training.

Rebecca Selected for Position in Private Laboratory

Rebecca earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Colorado State University in May 2012. PS-S arranged for an internship at a CSU lab to build Rebecca's resume. After gaining some experience in the internship, PS-S referred Rebecca to the owner of a private laboratory for a job interview. The owner of the lab is a strong supporter of PS-S and was very impressed by Rebecca. She was selected for a laboratory position and began the job in July, 2012. A year later Rebecca has full benefits and the employer is very pleased with Rebecca's excellent work.

Tanya Employed as EMT at Poudre Valley Health System

When Tanya came to PS-S she was studying for the EMT exams and preparing for a career in emergency medicine. With guidance from her PS-S advisor she began volunteering with Poudre Valley Ambulance Service to gain experience. She also completed a Certificate in Phlebotomy at the suggestion of her advisor. While working on these goals, Tanya continued her work as a home health aid to round out her experience and bring in earned income. Today Tanya is employed by PVH and excited about her work in the Emergency Room. Tanya has a goal to move into ambulance work and a longer term goal to launch a career as a paramedic. She is a recent graduate of the PS-S program.

Neva Begins Her Career in Business

Neva graduated from CSU in May 2012 with a B.S. in Business Administration. While in school she worked part-time for the City of Fort Collins Recreation Department, and she continued at the City full-time after graduation. Neva recently took a significant step toward fulfilling her dream of someday owning a business by securing a position as an account manager at a local apparel manufacturing business where she can learn more about the small business environment.

Tonya Hired as a Dialysis Nurse

Tonya became a Registered Nurse in January 2013 and began her job search. She was selected for a temporary position in a prison in Eastern Colorado and commuted three days a week to that job. She worked long days but received good pay. With the closing of the prison, Tonya began a second job search and recently announced that she will be working at a dialysis clinic soon!

Val Hired by Clinic in Estes Park

Val worked very hard to complete her training as a Radiology Tech. She had high hopes for securing a position that would support her and her daughter. Upon graduation from Aims Community College and after passing certification exams, Val began an extensive job search. She found that the market for Radiology Techs has slowed, particularly for new graduates. Val built a strong relationship with a Human Resource Manager at an Estes Park clinic. She arranged for her to start working there as a Medical Assistant with a goal of moving her up to a Radiology Tech position in about a year. Val made the move to Estes right before the 2013 flood but is getting along fine and gaining experience.

Nikki Secures Web Marketing Position

Nikki completed a Bachelor's Degree at CSU in Communications with a minor in Spanish. While enrolled in PS-S she did an internship with the Northern Colorado Business Report to gain marketing experience. After completing her education, Nikki began an extensive job search and secured a position as a Web Marketing Specialist for a distance learning company managing PPC (pay-per-click) advertising in the field of higher education. She later moved on to a local, rapidly expanding communication and technology company where she is earning high honors for her strong work performance.

Lilly Gives Back by Helping Others

Lilly completed a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice while enrolled in PS-S. After graduating from CSU she sought any employment she could find in a helping position. Lilly had become known to the staff at the CSU / Larimer County Extension Service through an internship position she had held there. When a paid education - outreach position came open they immediately thought of Lilly for the job. They contacted PS-S for a reference. Currently Lilly is an "Educator" for a program that reaches out to

potential and current beneficiaries of public assistance programs and teaches them about the benefit programs. She is very involved in the community and has contacted PS-S about meeting with our program participants. She has been in her job over a year.

Sarah Builds Successful Accounting Career

Sarah completed her Associate's degree in accounting in December 2011 and began part-time work with a small company prior to graduation. Within a year she was moved to full-time and promoted to the position of VP of Operations. She is now earning a living wage and able to fully support her family. She is purchasing her first home.

Sherice Moving Forward with Career in Technology

When Sherice enrolled in PS-S she had a strong interest in a technology related career. She consulted with her PS-S advisor who emphasized the importance of an internship while she completed tech classes. Sherice was able to secure an internship at a large tech company that eventually evolved into a temporary position and then later a permanent paid position. During this time she enhanced her skills by completing a Comp Tia A+ Certification. Sherice continues to work full time in a position with benefits and hopes to take additional classes. She is graduating from PS-S.

Bree Progresses with her Nursing Career

When Bri came to PS-S she was in her second year of nursing school. She completed her RN while enrolled in PS-S and secured a full-time nursing position in a hospital. Bri is now earning a living wage and is able to support her family on her own. She will begin taking additional classes toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Northern Colorado to further advance her career.

Tammy Gaining Ground in her Teaching Career

When Tammy graduated from PS-S she had a temporary teaching position. After doing a good deal of substitute teaching for the local school district she was hired to fill in for a teacher on maternity leave. There was concern about her ability to continue employment after this position ended. The really good news is that the district has hired Tammy on to a second more permanent teaching position. She is less than full time but gaining experience, income, and recognition within the district.

Becki Hired to Parent Liaison Position

Becki completed her Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and Family Studies in May, 2012. She has applied for and been selected by the Poudre School District as the Parent Liaison for Integrated Services. The position entails helping families and parents who have special needs students. Becki will attend interdisciplinary professional meetings, advocate for parents, conduct parent trainings and build relationships with school staff and teachers. This is a full-time contracted position with benefits.

Ceceli Advances Teaching Career

Ceceli graduated from CSU with her teaching credentials and secured a position as an aid in a classroom. She has just advanced to the position of Kindergarten teacher and is thrilled to have her own classroom for the first time.

Dean Succeeds in Technology Career

When Dean entered the program, he had an average monthly income of \$1950/month doing remote consulting work for clients in Wyoming. This was not enough to support his three children as a single parent. Dean worked closely with his PS-S advisor to search for more profitable employment. She helped him improve his resume and his interviewing skills. She also provided support and encouragement throughout the job search process. We are so pleased that when Dean left PS-S, he was averaging \$8400/month in spite of the fact that he had only a high school diploma and some on the job training. He began a new position as a temporary employee with a corporation and after three months was upgraded to permanent with benefits. He also continues some of his contract work. His new company is offering tuition assistance and some in-house training.

Bethanie Begins Her Career in Nursing

Bethanie graduated in May 2011 from the Front Range Community College Nursing Program. She has secured employment at a long term care facility where she works full time as a registered nurse and earns close to a living wage.

Rachel Employed as a Certified Nursing Assistant

Since enrollment in PS-S, Rachel has completed her training to become a CNA and has secured employment. She is working nights to increase her hourly rate and is also applying for special positions that pay more. She is sustaining steady employment and is now better able to support her children.

Elizabeth is Working as a Corporate Fitness Specialist

Elizabeth came to PS-S with a Bachelor's in Exercise Science. She was employed in a retail position at that time. Elizabeth and her PS-S advisor spent a year searching for more profitable and relevant employment. We are excited to report that Elizabeth is now employed as a Health Fitness Specialist working 15 hours a week at \$20 per hour. She gained a second position as a Personal Trainer for Denver Public Schools working another 20 hours per week at \$22.50 per hour. Because her daughter was only two, the cost of child care and health insurance are barriers to total self-sufficiency for Liz. However, Liz has greatly increased her self-sufficiency and is employed in her career field.

Jessica Begins Career as Optical Technician

Jessica has been working with her PS-S advisor to make career decisions and review options. She works for a large retailer and is moving into more specialized employment within the company. Jessica has secured a position within the optical department and is working on certification and advanced training. PS-S is helping her through this process and her advisor is optimistic that this will lead to living wages for Jessica.