



## **2011-12 EMPLOYMENT UPDATE FOR PS-S PARTICIPANTS AND GRADS**

### ***Single Parents Moving toward Financial Independence***

#### **Caddie Secures Employment in Hospital Laboratory**

Caddie completed her degree in Microbiology at the University of Northern Colorado and then finished an internship at the Poudre Valley Health System lab. She has since been hired by the hospital as a Phlebotomist with a goal to move up to Laboratory Technician. Caddie is cross-training in the specimen processing center, as well as job-shadowing with the technicians. She has been accepted into the Medical Lab Tech program at Arapahoe Community College in the fall which will make it possible for her to qualify as a Medical Laboratory Technician.

#### **Rebecca Selected for Position in Private Laboratory**

Rebecca earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Colorado State University and then 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. The employer is very pleased with this decision three months later.

#### **Tina New Teacher at Charter School**

Tina began her position teaching math and science to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in August, 2012. She is thrilled to set up her classroom and begin classes. Tina completed her Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University in May and had been active in a science based internship when hired into the teaching position. Her daughter attends the same school where Tina is now a teacher.

#### **Nikki Secures Web Marketing Position**

Nikki graduated from PS-S this past spring after completing 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.

#### **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.

### **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 that would lead to viable employment. 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.

### **Sarah Builds Successful Accounting Career**

Sarah completed her Associate's degree in accounting in December 2011 and began part-time work prior to graduation. She has since been moved to full-time and is now earning a living wage and able to fully support her family.

### **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.

### **Amy Secures Employment with Larimer County Workforce Center**

Amy came to PS-S with a felony record and concerns about her ability to secure employment. With guidance from her PS-S advisor she has been able to convince the Workforce Center to take a chance and hire her as a receptionist. Amy has received high praise from the staff there and many positive comments from clients about her excellent customer service. Amy will be continuing her career planning with her PS-S advisor and with further education she will have the potential to earn living wage employment. In the meantime she is building her resume and may move up the career ladder.

### **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.

### **Carrie Gaining Career Experience**

Carrie recently completed her Bachelor's degree with an emphasis in Criminal Justice. She has been hired by a local human service organization that serves at-risk youth and is providing direct case management services. Carrie is also working on her Master's degree in Social Work.

### **Ginny is Building Resume in Sales Position**

Ginny worked with her PS-S advisor to create a career plan. She identified sales and business as a good match for her abilities and career interests. Ginny did a job shadow with a PS-S mentor, accompanying her on sales calls. Once Ginny completed a Bachelor's Degree at Colorado State University, she was ready to job search. She has secured a sales position with a local company and is gaining experience on the job. She is expected to become fully self-sufficient as she builds her skills and customer base. She is now a graduate of the PS-S program.

### **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.

### **Joanna is Employed as an Accounting Specialist**

While in PS-S, Joann completed an internship at United Way. Her job entailed soliciting donations for 211 volunteers during the High Park Fire disaster. This "pay it forward" attitude reaped an unexpected benefit for Joann: she's been hired by the United Way as an Accounting Specialist, with benefits, and is earning a self-sufficient wage! Joann will soon graduate from FRCC with her Associates degree and is already on her way to a fulfilling career.