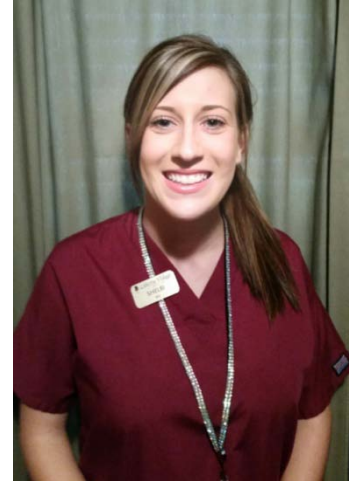


SHELBI SMITH

Nominated by: Shawnee Development Council, Inc
Case Manager: Victor Duckworth

Shelbi Smith was 21 years old when she came to the WIA office at Shawnee Development Council in July of 2012. She and her 23 year old husband were surviving on a modest income and food stamps and were expecting their first child who would be born during her first semester of training.



Shelbi had been attending Shawnee Community College and had applied for and been accepted into the part-time Associate Degree Nursing program and started her training on August 14, 2012. Her previous work experience had consisted of a part-time job as a receptionist in a doctor's office. Shelbi knew she needed to obtain skills to become self-sufficient and the knowledge she had obtained in her previous job helped to make the transition a logical fit.

The A.D.N. program consists of a demanding curriculum that requires strict attendance and long drive from her Cobden home. In January of 2014, during her final semester, she also was hired by Parkway Manor in Marion where she worked part-time. Shelbi successfully juggled her nursing classes, clinicals, an infant, and a part-time job all at the same time and graduated on May 16, 2014.

Shelbi had a heavy load to carry and she carried it well. Today this young mother is a registered nurse with a bright future ahead of her. She remains employed at Parkway Manor, now as a registered nurse, at a rate of \$24.00 per hour.

Shelbi states she would like to thank her case manager, Victor Duckworth, and the staff at Shawnee Development Council. She states she couldn't have done without their help.

Congratulations Shelbi on your hard work, initiative and success!

Authorization to Release Information

I, Shelbi Smith, hereby authorize any State of Illinois department, Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, any contracted service provider or agency benefiting from or contributing to my activities to use information regarding my involvement with programs delivered through the workforce/economic development system. Information which may be used includes, but is not limited to, the written summary of achievements; awards banquet videotape; and photographs. These materials may be used in publications, award nominations and/or on the Internet. I hereby waive any claim arising out of such release, dissemination or use. Information, videotape, and photographs shall not be used for any for-profit commercial purposes.

Shelbi Smith
Signature

11-6-14
Date