

JAMES HARMON
Illinois workNet Satellite - Cairo
Case Manager: Sharon Voelz



When James Harmon came to Shawnee Development Council in May 2009, he was unemployed and looking for a new career. James had worked for 17 years, first as a technician and in his last few years, as an evening shift supervisor at a substance abuse residence.

James had applied for and was accepted into the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Shawnee Community College. He completed his WIA application and was determined eligible as a dislocated worker. WIA helped James with his tuition, books, and provided supportive services necessary to help him stay in school.

James stopped by the WIA office quite frequently and made sure all his paper work was completed and turned in on time. He worked with fellow students in a study group besides studying many hours on his own. His perseverance paid off and he graduated in May 2012 with a 3.6 GPA. James passed his state board certification exams and became a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant in July.

James wanted to remain in Southernmost Illinois and he would regularly check websites and local newspapers looking for work. He called his case manager to report that he had put in an application at Herrin Hospital, had an interview, and was waiting on his background check to clear. He was hired as a PRN Occupational Therapy Assistant on September 17, 2012. James is excited that he has completed school and found employment and he is looking toward a brighter future.

Authorization to Release Information

I, James Harmon, hereby authorize any State of Illinois department 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.

James Harmon
Signature

10/7/12
Date