

Maura Bartok Williams
Illinois workNet Center - Harrisburg
Case Manager: Nona Rice

Maura came into the Mid-5 office in May of 2009 seeking assistance with her schooling to complete the Occupational Therapy Assistant program through Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg. Her case manager did an intake and assessment and found her eligible for the Title 1A(49%) program.

Maura had worked from the time she was 16 years old and was working part time as a cashier at Murphy's Do It Center. She was already enrolled at SIC and had completed two semesters and entering intercession classes. Her application was presented to the Selection Committee and she was chosen to participate in the training program. The OTA program was through SICCM, where she had to be accepted into the program through a pool of students and only so many are accepted. Maura was working part time, attending school full time and also did clinicals two days a week.

Shortly after enrolling her into training, Maura found out she was four months pregnant. She could not let her pregnancy stop her from receiving her degree. She was more determined then, because she had a baby on the way. October 19, 2009, she gave birth to her daughter Kendra. She missed October 16th, the Friday before her baby was born, the following week, and on Monday, October 26, she was back in class and doing her clinicals. She had a newborn baby and continued to study at home. She could not allow herself to get behind or to quit. Then in June 2010, she married the love of her life, who is a police officer for the City of Eldorado. This young lady worked part time, went to school full time, along with her clinicals, was pregnant, planned a wedding!

Maura received her Associate Degree in May 2011. She is now working for Parkway Manor in Marion, Illinois, making \$25.00 an hour. She also holds a second job working for Joyner Therapy in Harrisburg. This is what I call determination and dedication of having a dream and not letting anything get in the way of fulfilling it.

Authorization to Release Information

I, Maura Williams, hereby authorize any State of Illinois department or agency benefiting from or contributing to award nominee activities to use information regarding my organization's involvement with workforce/economic development. Information which may be used includes, but is not limited to, the written nomination summary; awards banquet videotape; and photographs. These materials may be used in publications, award nominations 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.

Maura Williams

Signature

9-26-11

Date