

A PASS Success Story

Talented CWIC, Denise Norris, from Indiana, was kind enough to share the following PASS success story with us:

I began working with Shirley in December, 2007. She is 46 years old and has multiple medically disabling conditions that have made it difficult for her to work in the past. Prior to starting the PASS, she had certificates in Keyboarding, Basic computer skills, basic coding and billing, CPT Coding. She was approved for her PASS in November, 2008. Her vocational goal is for Medical coding and billing specialist. Her Ticket to Work is assigned to Vocational Rehabilitation, and she is receiving some financial assistance from them to help with the cost of education and related expenses. She also has used Pell grants. She is saving all of her SSDI (\$753 each month) to be eligible for \$674 in SSI. She is using her PASS funds to pay for a used van, insurance, and registration/plates. She uses a wheel chair and requires a modified vehicle to get to and from work. VR is also assisting with the vehicle modifications. The total expenses in the PASS are approximately \$18,000.00. She just finished her coursework this year and this month started working for a doctor's office as a Medical Coding and Billing Specialist. She completed her TWP back in 2004 but she still has a grace period available. She will start out earning \$900 per month and hopes to be able to increase her hours and pay as time goes on.

We communicate through Facebook sometimes and the day she found out she was going to start her job she made a post that thanked me for helping her with all her needs and creating a path for her! Almost 3 years she has been working towards her goals and she is finally seeing the fruits of her labor, she is definitely an inspiration to me.

Congratulations to Shirley and kudos to Denise on her great work!

If you have a success story you would like to share, we would love to hear from you! Please feel free to send your story to gafalk@vcu.edu, or contact me at 319.341.4243.

Thanks!

Gail

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