

From Classroom to Homecare: Empowering Independence for regional elderly starts at Quincy College

Quincy College Home Health Aides Program Students Celebrated

Press Release Overview

- November 8, 2019 Event Details
- List of 2019 HHA Graduates including hometowns
- City of Quincy, Best of Care, Inc., and Quincy College Home Health Aide Partnership



Suggested Caption: Quincy College, the City of Quincy and Best of Care Inc. celebrated thirteen students from the Home Health Aide Non-Credit Certificate Program on November 8, 2019.

L to R: Kate Lopci, Associate Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Engagement, Best of Care, Inc., Roxie Battle, Samantha Landers, RN, BSN, Instructor, Quincy College, Graduates: Ashley J. Fournier, Alfrida D. Barr, Guylande Fedna, Samara M. Jette, Brittany M. Sheehan, Junette Charles, Janet S. Brown, Carrie Williams, Jazminey M. Wesley, Loretta R. Ballkishun, Valerie Donald, Natasha N. Allen, Latasha O. Jones, Kevin Smith, CEO, Best of Care Inc.

Quincy, MA (11/8/2019): On November 8th, the thirteen Quincy College Home Health Aide (HHA) Non-Credit Certificate Program students from Quincy College had a lot to celebrate: completing their Home Health Aide education in 8 weeks, many with a job offer in hand.

" We are grateful to the City of Quincy, that through its Community Development Block Grant, the College offered a second cohort of Home Health Aide, at no cost, to 13 students residing in South Shore and surrounding areas. The seamless collaboration among community partners, including City of Quincy, and Best of Care Inc. provided the HHA students, not only academic and job readiness skills, but a pathway to employment in the healthcare field, which is one of the occupation in high demand, " stated Kate Lopci, Associate Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Engagement.

The eight week, 200 class hour Quincy College Home Health Aide Non-Credit Certificate program is a collaborative effort between Quincy College, Best of Care Inc, and the City of Quincy funded under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the City of Quincy.

The thirteen students who completed the program are the sixth cohort of students to graduate from the HHA program from Quincy College. The graduates range in age from 22 years old to 58 years old and represent four countries: USA, Liberia, Jamaica, and Bahamas.

Carrie Williams - Dorchester, MA
Natasha Allen - Dorchester, MA
Jazminey Wesley- Dorchester, MA
Alfrida Barr - Monrovia, Liberia
Loretta Ballkishun - Roxbury, MA
Samara Jette - Boston, MA
Brittany Sheehan - Milton, MA
Ashley Fournier - Quincy, MA
Guylande Fedna - Medford, MA
Valerie Donald - Kingston, Jamaica
Junette Charles - Freeport, Bahamas
Latasha Jones - Back Bay/South End Boston
Janet Brown - Bronx, NY

In attendance at the November 8th Graduation Ceremony held at Quincy College's Quincy Campus were representatives from the City of Quincy, Best of Care Inc, and Quincy College. Quincy College Interim President Michael G. Bellotti along with Kate Lopci, Associate Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Engagement delivered greetings to the graduates and their families.

Quincy College Faculty and Instructor of the HHA Program, Samantha Landers, RN, BSN, spoke and awarded certificates of completion to program participants. Landers is an alumna of the Quincy College Nursing Program, Class of 2009.

Junette Charles, Carrie Williams, Natasha Allen, Jazminey Wesley, Guylande Fedna provided diverse student reflections as parents, students, and healthcare professionals to fellow classmates to conclude the ceremony

"I didn't take this opportunity for granted. Education is powerful. I'm trying hard to build a future for myself and my daughter with continued education."

Quincy College Home Health Aide Graduate
Alfrida Barr from Monrovia, Liberia



Upon successful completion of the Quincy College Home Health Aide program, graduates will be offered a path to employment through Best of Care, Inc.; prior to the November 8th graduation ceremony, 12 of the 13 graduates have had interviews with Best of Care Inc., 6 are hired with jobs at Best of Care Inc. and 7 are being interviewed at Best of Care Inc.

Kevin Smith, CEO of Best of Care, Inc welcomed graduates to the Home Health Aide Profession: " This program does not exist anywhere else. Quincy College continues to be among the most forward thinking institutions in the City of Quincy. I cannot overemphasize the importance of creating meaningful home care employment opportunities - especially as our industry is facing a workforce crisis. Kudos to the city for their participation in this training program and their acknowledgment of the critical role that home health aides play in keeping city residents safe, healthy and independent at home. Congratulations to the graduates and welcome to the profession."

What does the future hold for Quincy College Home Health Aide Graduates. According to Jennifer Labrie, a graduate of the Quincy College Home Health Aide program who employed with Best of Care, Inc. working in Plymouth and surrounding counties; a rewarding career.

" I applied to Quincy College's HHA program because I knew I wanted to pursue a career in the medical field but unsure of where I wanted to put my focus. This program has allowed me to experience a little bit of everything pertaining to home health care and the opportunity to confidently further my career. The material learned throughout Quincy College's HHA program is relevant - aging affects everyone. More likely than not, you or someone you know has experienced an affliction discussed in this course. The information you'll take learn is relatable, making it easier

to retain. I love working with people, that's why this career path is such a perfect fit for me. Providing support to clients and their families, helping people keep their independence, and overall improving someone's quality of life are some of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had," Labrie reflected.

To learn more about Quincy College's Workforce Development and Non-credit programs, visit: <https://quincycollege.edu/workforce-development/>.

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ABOUT QUINCY COLLEGE

Founded in 1958, Quincy College is a two-year, municipally affiliated community college serving approximately 4,000 students at campuses located in Quincy and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Quincy College is an open access institution that encourages academic achievement and excellence, diversity, economic opportunity, community involvement, and lifelong learning. The College facilitates valuable learning relationships that inspire students to realize their educational and professional futures. The college offers 37 associate degree programs and 27 certificate programs in a variety of disciplines, including those within Professional Programs, Liberal Arts, and Natural & Health Sciences. The college is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to grant the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science. The college draws a diversity of students from the greater Boston area as well as 121 countries around the world. For additional information, visit www.quincycollege.edu

Media Contact:

Taggart Boyle
Associate Vice President, Communications and Marketing
617-984-1617
tboyle@quincycollege.edu

Katy Spencer Johnson
Communications and Marketing Specialist
617-984-1759
kjohnson@quincycollege.edu