**Eastern Maine Development Corporation**

**Participant Success Stories**

**WIOA Adult Program**

Kimberly M. came into the career center in February 2016 after being laid off from Hallmark.  She was also receiving public assistance so we enrolled her under the WIOA Adult program.  Kim had been a CNA previously, however was no longer certified.  The schedule of a CNA did not work for her while her children were younger which is why she did customer service with Hallmark.  Now that her kids are older she wanted to go back to school and train in a field where she can help others.  She was nervous because she had not attended school for years and she had fears of how well she would do. She decided that she wanted to pursue a career path beyond a C.N.A. and decided to enroll in the Medical Assistant program at Beal College.  Kim’s plan was to complete several mods at Beal and then try to get her C.N.A. certificate back and start working part time so she can get her foot in the door with an employer.  EMDC assisted Kim with her C.N.A. certificate test, which she successfully completed.   In December 2016 when she was close to losing her unemployment our workforce development specialist started to work with Kim in applying for per diem positions at local hospitals.  In April of 2017 Kim obtained a per diem position with Easter Maine Medical Center.  In August of 2017 when Kim needed a little more help to cover her educational costs she applied for CSSP and was able to obtain additional assistance. Kim successfully completed her externship with Eastern Maine Medical Center in February of 2018 and applied for a position with Cancer Care of Maine.  In spite of the challenges and her fear of going back to school later in life, Kim is currently on course to graduate in May 2018 with her Medical Assisting Degree and as of today she begins her first day as an employee of Cancer Care of Maine!

**WIOA Youth Program – Health Care Connections**

Alissa G. from Bucksport had worked at McDonalds for 5 years. She is a single mother and had started college. Being a single mother it overwhelmed here and she left college. She was interested in entering the medical field. She successfully completed her C.N.A. training and received her license in Jan. 2018. She obtained employment at Eastern Maine Medical Center (EMMC) as a C.N.A in March. She is working 36 hrs. @ 12.85. She is excited to be working at the hospital and told me there is tremendous opportunity for advancing her career pathway at the hospital.

Kenisha L. from Old Town worked several different jobs in the fast food industry. She bounced around a lot and wanted a job with a career pathway and stability. She also struggled with health issues. She successfully completed her C.N.A. training and received her license in Jan. 2018. She is now employed at UCP of Maine as a C.N.A. She is working 36 hours @ $12.19 an hour. Kenisha is already thinking about her future and her goal to become a CMA.

Brianne G. is a single mother from Bangor and was working at Brewer Rehab doing laundry. Child care was difficult for Brianne with her schedule. She had a goal of obtaining a stable job with good pay and family friendly hours. Brianne successfully completed her C.N.A. training and received her license in February 2018. She is now working at the Maine Veteran’s Home as a C.N.A. working 40 hours per week @$12.19 an hour and absolutely loves her job helping veterans.

**WIOA Dislocated Worker Program/Sector Partnership**

Laura F. from Bucksport was a laid off CRMA from Northern Bay Residential Center in Penobscot where she worked for 16 years. Prior to that she did housekeeping and worked in a convenience store. Laura wanted to stay in the medical field but did not have the finances to attend a 2 year training program. Laura was interested in advancing her career by becoming a certified medical assistant.  In the early fall Laura interviewed for a CMA position at Bucksport Regional Health Center (BRHC). It was Laura’s dream and goal to work there as she is from Bucksport and has two young children. We updated her resume and completed a mock interview. Although she was told she interviewed well she did not get the job due to lack of experience. Around this time CMA training was being offered by RSU 25 Adult Education in Bucksport which was ideal for Laura as it was close to home. Unfortunately, the program did not have adequate enrollment numbers and was canceled. As an alternative we enrolled Laura in the Maine Coast Memorial/RSU 24 Adult Education CMA training, and even though this meant driving to Sullivan and Ellsworth during the winter Laura was committed to becoming a CMA. Laura attended the CMA training through the long snowy winter. She successfully completed the training and passed the national exam. Because Laura’s goal was to work at BRHC we set up her clinical there. We were then able to augment her training and internship experience with a short-term OJT with BRHC. Laura is now happily employed as a CMA at BRHC working 40 hours a week at $16.50 an hour with full benefits.