
MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: NICHOLE

WSA 05 – Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services

Kandiyohi County – WIA Youth/Youthbuild

NICHOLE

Youthbuild Program provides teen parent experience and confidence to meet her career goals

Nichole was attending the Willmar Alternative Learning Center (ALC) when the ALC Coordinator and social worker referred her to the Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS)'s Youthbuild Program in Kandiyohi County.

Nichole, a teen parent with a two-year old child, struggled with life direction and career goals. The ALC coordinator and the social worker thought the Youthbuild program might help Nichole gain structure, direction, income, academic credit, and a sense of purpose in her life.



The CMJTS youth employment specialist and Youthbuild coordinator enrolled Nichole in the WIA Youth Program/Youthbuild. Youthbuild combines earning a high school diploma, learning construction skills while working on a community project, and participating in leadership development activities. Youth also explore career options and set goals for future academic or job success. Some activities qualify a student to receive a stipend.

Nichole agreed to participate in Youthbuild. She completed career assessment, college and industry tours, and goal-setting. As a senior at the ALC, Nichole discovered that her ultimate goal was to become a nurse. With determination, she graduated from Willmar Public School in January 2012. She enrolled in the Certified Nursing Program at Ridgewater College. Her ultimate goal is to work in the health care industry as a registered nurse.

On May 3rd, 2012, Nichole was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by Governor Mark Dayton for her outstanding leadership and commitment and for assisting peers and improving her community.

Nichole stated, "I enjoyed Youthbuild very much - being able to work with others as a team. I really enjoyed the field trips to the colleges and seeing what possible careers are out there. Overall, I learned from this experience that working as a team helps get projects and work done a lot faster!"