



Andrea Flores

Clovis Adult Education

Well the time has come for me to exit CMA 51. The journey to get to my certification has been intense to say the least. I overcame a lot of obstacles as well as made friends in this long, 8 months of school. I have had an incredible amount of help from my peers, family, teacher, and several of the Clovis unified staff. It is hard to express how much gratitude I have for every single person that helped me through this program.

First and foremost, going back to school was never something I thought I would do. Especially being a single mother of three beautiful angels. My son, Roman was a big help to me for only being 8 years old. He would help me get snacks for his two younger siblings and ask if I needed water or if I was hungry or if I should take a break. He was definitely a big help to me because it is the little things that help that go a long way. My daughter Cecilia age 7 would sit next to me several times getting rejected by me when she asked me to color, paint her nails or play with her when we would come home from school while I focused on homework and the test for the next day. She is so little, yet she took my rejection and simply said "its ok mommy your doing good on your homework". To anyone who has ever had a two-year-old understands that my youngest Zoey was a very big obstacle. Her constant requests of "mommy can I have" or "Zoey don't mess with your siblings" "Zoey sits down" "Zoey don't lick the walls". That little girl is a job, all on her own. To maintain the same routine with all three kiddos, was stressful to say the least. Making sure their homework got done, bath time, dinner, and bedtime was number one, at all times. Even if that meant staying up past 1 AM and waking up at 6 AM was a very big struggle because anyone who knows me knows that I love my sleep. Getting the 3 kids ready, and myself, plus preparing school lunches is not easy!

Being a mom was just one obstacle, another was the fact that I had not been in school for so many years. I had no memory of good study techniques, as well as I forgot how much trouble I have with grammar and that I'm not the best speller. I had to get rid of my fear for reading out loud. It was definitely a very big adjustment. Countless times of me wanting to give up. However, I want to just take a moment to thank my wonderful teacher, Senora T! She gave me strength and courage to carry on. I can't count the times when I would go crying in Ms. Tadlock's office. I felt like I was always at my breaking point but she always had my back.

Having test after test, as well as learning skills and staying organized was a struggle. I can still hear Ms.Tadlock saying "You Got This!". Learning how to memorize words I had never used as well as medical terminology memorization was ever so difficult. However, Ms.Tadlock was right! I do have the skills I need to succeed, no matter the obstacles, I made it! After this whole program I feel like I can do anything that is thrown my way. The amount of time and brain power I used in this whole program shocks me.

Being a single mom, you often feel like you are alone and do not realize who is there for you until you need them. My mother and father went out of their way to grab the kids from time to time so I could focus on my studies. They knew that I was doing the program not just for mebut to offer a better future for my children. Out of their three daughters I am the only one who has stepped foot into attempting and succeeding steps into the medical field. They have told me time and time again how proud they are, to keep moving forward, and how honored they are to have me in their life when in all honesty I am the one lucky enough to have them.

Before I started the program, I went in thinking I was going to stick to myself and just go to school and learn what I could. Never did I think I would come out with lifelong friends. We seriously became a family in the group. We fought like siblings, defended each other from others, helped each other learn and honestly became reinforcement. We quickly got close to the point where we knew each other's menstrual cycles. When anyone was in a bad mood someone always stepped up to try and figure out what we could do to snap the other person out of it. We had to work in teams and figure out how to pull each other up when someone was falling behind. Most of us would get together and study for every test we all did our part to make this journey as easy as possible. I can not wait to hear in 5 years where we all ended up due to this program.

Krystal Cervantes was a very big part of this family. She literally sat with me while I was in tears from how frustrated I was with everything. She knew how I felt and what I was dealing with, as a mother and we connected. She knew I could do it and repeated it to me often. We both got a big laugh out of my spelling issues. I would always sing her name from the other room and she knew I was coming to bug her about an assignment or a test or simply because It brought me joy to bug her. She has a way of comforting not just me but the other students and breaking down a plan for when you are behind or need help studying. At times she would give up her lunch or stay later just to help all the students get what we needed done completed. Krystal goes above and beyond her job expectations to make sure she gets the job done as well as making sure the students get the support they need. I will miss yelling her name from my desk knowing I could simply walk over to her.

Clinical medical assisting is the best choice I could have made to step foot into. After being in the program as well as working for the California Pain Consultants I have learned that I really am a person who can not only take care of people but I can also make them feel comfortable in a stressful situation. Going to the doctor is never easy nor something I enjoy doing myself. However, having someone who is in a great mood and shows empathy for what you are being seen for really does make a difference. It was the best decision I made to step foot into medical assisting. The future looks brighter for me after succeeding in my program.

Thank you so much Ms.Tadlock aka Señora T I appreciate your time and patience you dedicated to me .

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