

OFTC Medical Assisting Grad Lands Great Career Following Externship

By Emily Raley, Director of Marketing & PR
Oconee Fall Line Technical College

Sandersville, Ga., (OFTC) --After leaving her hometown of Hartford, Mich., and moving to Sandersville with her husband, Griselda "Gray" Garcia pursued a career as a medical assistant to test the waters and see if a career in a medical-related field was right for her.

Garcia researched colleges and found a Medical Assisting program at Oconee Fall Line Technical College (OFTC) in Dublin. She liked the size of the college and decided to give it a try and says her overall experience affirms she made "a great choice."

"OFTC works with you when it comes to your academic life and since the class sizes are small the instructors can work with you one-on-one," Garcia shared. "And if you need help with anything there is a tutoring center with great tutors that help you out."

The hands-on instruction associated with OFTC's program was also a stand-out to Garcia. "Being able to have hands-on experience throughout the entire program was a great start

to my career because once I got to my externship, I knew how to perform many of the services the

clinic had to offer, and it felt good to show the people I was working with that I knew what I was doing," Garcia said.

Besides the hands-on instruction and inviting atmosphere, Garcia described her time in the classroom as anything but "basic." "Mrs. Gurr was a great instructor and she made us all feel welcome and made our lessons fun. We were able to learn and have fun," which always made it interesting, she said.

While those aspects of her career training increased the value of her education from OFTC, what Garcia

really wants others to know about OFTC is "that you don't have to go to a big university to get a higher or better education, because that's not for everyone," she said. "You don't need to be in debt for the rest of your life to succeed in something that you are passionate about."

From Externship to Employment

After completing the first two semesters in OFTC's Medical

Assisting program, Garcia began a required externship at Community Health Care Systems (CHCS) in Sandersville. She made such an impression that when her required hours were completed with CHCS she was given the opportunity to complete the remainder of her externship there.

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"I am so grateful that I got the pleasure of working with the CHCS team during my externship," Garcia said. "I would say this was the best part of doing my externship at Community Health – working with a tight group of people who allowed me to see the way an office is supposed to run."

A few months later, Garcia completed her externship and officially completed OFTC's Medical Assisting program. She took and passed her state boards to become a Certified Medical Assistant (AAMA) and was hired by CHCS to fill a permanent Medical Assistant position at their Tennesse office.

In her role as medical assistant, Garcia often works with patients and looks forward to bringing smiles to their faces even when they're not feeling well.



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