

FALL 2020

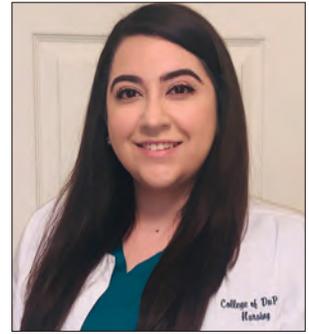
## *Jerry Bradshaw Memorial Scholarship*

RECIPIENT

| Janette Macias

**CITY:** Wood Dale, IL

**DEGREE PROGRAM:** Nursing



I am a very compassionate, nurturing, and selfless individual who enjoys helping others in a time of need. These are just a few traits needed to be an amazing nurse which is why I knew I needed to be in healthcare. Thus, I started my journey when I enrolled at Lincoln Tech for a quick nine-month program to become a Medical Assistant. I thought this could be a great step towards my career goal. After graduating, I started working at a Home Visiting Physician's office. It was nothing close to ideal, but I was able to gain experience that year. On our daily trips, we saw mostly geriatric patients. While performing my job responsibilities, talking to the patients was always what I looked forward to. This made the experience more personable and they were able to build trust in me. I was always told I was a great listener by all of the patients. The most recent job, which is where I currently am, is at Edward Elmhurst Healthcare where I work in pediatrics. I love coming into work because I can hear the funny jokes and sayings the kids tell me.

My greatest support system and biggest motivators would have to be my parents. Without them, I would not have imagined myself in college for the second time. Whenever I felt like giving up, I would hear my mom telling me, Don't give up. You have a lot to give. I don't want you to work in a factory-like us. Those words have always kept me going and will continue to motivate me until I obtain my degree.

Being a first-generation college student, my biggest struggle was learning about my college options such as going away for college, staying local, and learning about financial assistance. I had always been the one translating for my parents that I now needed their help. Even though my mother did not speak nor understand most English, she strived to give her best to help me. For many more reasons, my role models have always been my parents and now, my son. My mother's perseverance, my father's strong work ethic, and my son's ability to live in the moment and never lost hope are all traits that I admire. Them, I am forever grateful.

Soon, my main goal is to complete my education at the College of DuPage and apply to a university for their Bachelor's program in Nursing. I hope to apply all my knowledge while working in a pediatric unit while gaining more experience. After a few years, I would like to enroll in a Master's program to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

I look back and think of how far I have come, and I cannot help but smile and be grateful for the opportunities being given to me. I would like others to see that no matter the obstacle, one will always be able to achieve great things with dedication and hard work.