

THE GUTHRIE NEWS LEADER

CRESCENT RESIDENT AMONG GRADS OF MERCY HEALTH CENTER SAW PROGRAM

Mercy Health Center announces its first class of co-workers to graduate from the School at Work (SAW) program. With an increasing national shortage of nurses and other healthcare workers, SAW provides job advancement and career development for entry-level co-workers. Beginning last summer, six Mercy co-workers joined SAW - a program developed by Louisville, Kentucky-based Catalyst Learning to provide a career ladder. By providing SAW, Mercy places an emphasis on retention and advancement of entry-level positions into clinical, clerical and support roles. SAW graduates include: Tâmara Bruner, a practice support service tech at Mercy Health Edmond Memorial clinic, of Oklahoma City; Dixie Jackson, food preparer in Food and Nutrition, of Moore; Kathy Logue, patient access representative for Mercy Central, of Crescent; Kathleen O'Connor, supply technician, of Oklahoma City; Sherry Simmons, environmental service tech, of OKC; Kristle Triggs, a food service tech, of OKC. Recruiting for the next SAW class at Mercy will begin in May. "School at Work has given me the confidence to enroll in a nursing program," said Logue, who started at Mercy as a housekeeper 24 years ago and today provides physician referrals for Mercy Central. "I've always wanted to be a nurse but for one reason or another, I never got around to it. In the 1990s, I went back to school to get my basics but my mother was diagnosed with cancer and I quit to take care of her. School at Work has given me the incentive to go back to school so I can be a nurse."

The SAW "Building a Career Ladder in Healthcare" program uses the internet, computer labs, DVDs and staff coaching to deliver instruction. Co-workers review basic reading, writing and math skills; improve computer proficiency; and study medical terminology, medical ethics, anatomy and physiology. Students also develop an individual career and learning plan to follow in reaching their goals. SAW has been used at more than 115 hospitals in 18 states since 2002.

KINGFISHER TIMES & FREE PRESS

CRESCENT WOMAN COMPLETES CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A Crescent woman graduated from Mercy Health Center's first School at Work program, which provides

job advancement and career development for entry-level coworkers. Kathy Logue, who started at Mercy as a housekeeper 24 years ago and now is a patient access representative said the School at Work program has given her the confidence to enroll in a nursing program.

"I've always wanted to be a nurse, but for one reason or another, I never got around to it," she said.

Logue went back to school for her basic education in the 1990s and then quit to take care of her mother when her mother was diagnosed with cancer. The School at Work program uses the internet, computer labs, DVDs and staff coaching to deliver instruction. Participants reviewed basic reading, writing and math skills, improved their computer proficiency and studied medical terminology, ethics, anatomy and physiology. They also developed individual career and learning plans to follow in reaching their goals. In addition to Logue, graduates of the first class include Tâmara Bruner, Kathleen O'Connor, Sherry Simmons and Kristle Triggs, all of Oklahoma City, and Dixie Jackson of Moore.

THE AMERICAN

RESIDENT GRADUATES FROM SAW PROGRAM

Oklahoma City--

Moore resident Dixie Jackson, food preparer in food and nutrition at Mercy Health Center, was in the first class of workers to graduate from Mercy's School at Work (SAW) program.

The program, Mercy officials said, provides job advancement and career development for entry-level co-workers.

Beginning last summer, six Mercy co-workers joined SAW-- a program developed by Louisville, KY-based Catalyst Learning to provide a career ladder. By providing SAW, Mercy places an emphasis on retention and advancement of entry-level positions into clinical, clerical, or support roles.

Four of Mercy's six graduates soon will begin pursuing higher education at Rose State College, OSU/OKC and other local institutions. Other graduates plan to apply for higher-level positions at Mercy.