



From Student to RN: A WorkNet Success Story

by Winona Esquivel, Economic Development Analyst

Carlos, a Stockton resident, embarked on his journey toward a career in nursing with determination and the support of WorkNet. As a recent high school graduate referred by the Healthcare Academy High School, Carlos had no prior employment experience or personal income. His goal was clear—to pursue a stable and well-paying career in nursing.

Carlos was selected for the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) training program in 2021 through a collaborative effort involving WorkNet, Healthcare Academy High School, San Joaquin Delta College, and the Hope Program. Living with his family, he relied on their support as he dedicated himself to full-time studies.

Carlos met the eligibility criteria for WorkNet and was initially assigned to case manager Qutina Reinschell at the San Joaquin Delta College WorkNet Center in May 2020. She guided him through the enrollment process and necessary requirements. Following her departure, Carlos was reassigned to case manager Kia Yang, who continued to provide unwavering support throughout his ADN training.

Despite challenges, Carlos remained committed to his education. WorkNet played a crucial role in ensuring he had the resources needed to succeed, providing him with:

- Textbooks and study materials
- Exam preparation and fees
- Required program accessories
- Uniforms and shoes
- Licensure exam fees
- Live scan and fingerprinting fees
- Advanced certifications

Carlos also participated in clinical rotations at various sites, gaining hands-on experience essential to his training. After three years of dedication and perseverance, Carlos successfully completed the ADN program and obtained his Registered Nurse (RN) license. With continued guidance from WorkNet, he navigated the transition into his professional career. Shortly after earning his license, Carlos secured full-time employment as an RN Float Nurse at a General Medical and Surgical Hospital, earning an impressive \$62 per hour.

Carlos stated “WorkNet has been very helpful, especially you, Mrs. Kia. Not only did you provide me with all the information, details, and services I needed, but there was great guidance as well. Thank you very much!” Carlos' journey exemplifies the impact of WorkNet's programs in empowering individuals to achieve their career aspirations. His success story serves as an inspiration for future students seeking to turn their dreams into reality.