AAMA Student Essay Award

(Sponsored by F.A. Davis)

2019 Essay Competition Excel Winner
Susan Michelle Little
Greenville Technical College in Greensville, South Carolina

Essay Theme: *What inspired you to be a medical assistant, and why is it important to become credentialed?*

I remember being afraid when I went to the doctor, and the medical assistant kept me calm and talked me through everything. That experience changed the way I felt about going to the doctor. There are many reasons I am excited to be a medical assistant, the first and most important to me is helping people feel comfortable when they visit the physician’s office. It can be a very scary, overwhelming, and confusing experience. When patients don’t understand what exactly is going on they are less likely to comply with the physician’s recommendations. This could lead to worse health problems or lack of treatment. I want to help patients feel comfortable and have less stress about going to the physician.

It is also difficult for patients who have little medical education to understand what is going on with their body and what the physician is telling them. Sometimes, patients are nervous to ask questions. I feel it is very important to help them understand their health information in terms they can relate to, build a relationship where they feel comfortable asking questions, and know someone cares. I enjoy the medical field, helping people, and teaching. I think being a medical assistant combines all the things I am passionate about.

Being a medical assistant is exciting to me because the CMA-AAMA credentials provide a support system and resources for additional training and professional connections with fellow medical assistants. The local meetings provide an opportunity to learn about new regulations that would affect the profession and time for networking to grow my relationships with other medical assistants in the area. These relationships are valuable in providing emotional and professional support to someone, like myself, who is new to the field. The opportunity to also meet experienced medical assistants allows for mentoring relationships to develop.

It is important to become a credentialed medical assistant because it regulates that those in the profession understand the scope of practice, standard of care, and patient advocacy. The continuing professional development component of credential renewal ensures that all medical assistants stay up to date on best practices and new important information in the field. Membership and participation in the CMA-AAMA provides a resource for new and established medical assistants to get additional feedback, education, and mentorship beyond their place of employment. Medical practices value credentialing because it ensures that the medical assistants they hire will have mastered the competencies required to perform the job duties expected of them in this position.

I look forward to not only beginning my career as a medical assistant, but also the opportunities for growth, advancement and specialization that I will have as I explore and expand my skills in this field. As I gain expertise and experience, I hope to work in a specialty practice like dermatology or orthopedics, pursue increased responsibility in management role, or even become an instructor to educate a new generation of medical assistants.