

# AAMA Student Essay Award



## 2022 Essay Competition Excel Winner

### Tasha Siao, CMA (AAMA)

Community Care College in Tulsa, Oklahoma

**Essay Theme:** *As health care continues to have increasing demands and staffing shortages, providers are looking for medical assistants to fill important roles and provide excellent quality care to their patients. What opportunities do you think this offers to the medical assisting profession and how will you utilize those opportunities?*

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The landscape of healthcare is experiencing an interesting shift due to increasing demands and staffing shortages. The nexus between provider and medical assistant has become inextricably linked now more than ever. This has paved the way for Medical Assistants to enhance the multiskilled and highly diversified nature of their role through increased exposure and experience across various fields of patient care. In turn, these increased opportunities to diversify provide additional pathways to excel in areas of leadership and management and other critical roles in the provision and support of exceptional quality patient care that may have been non-existent in the recent past.

Medical Assistants have always been recognized as an integral part of any healthcare team; however, the ability and skills that AAMA Certified Medical Assistants possess to run entire clinics from the front office to the back office should not simply continue to justify their seat at the proverbial table but rather offer a complete overhaul to the shape of the table which in the end may not be a table per se, but a space where Medical Assistants are not just acknowledged but compensated according to the breadth and depth of their skills, knowledge, and experience and where they can be further equipped to flourish in their respective environments, not just as Medical Assistants but as leaders, mentors, managers, and advocates for excellent quality patient care. This may also be the impetus for Medical Assistants to be increasingly motivated to upskill, particularly relating to technology, while further their training related to critical hard skills in addition to refinement of their soft skills.

The CARES principle at Community Care College highlighting the values of 'courtesy', 'accountability', 'respect', and 'excellence' as critical elements for 'success' has become fundamental in my approach as a future Medical Assistant since it resonates with many of my personal beliefs, work ethics, and moral values. Bearing this in mind, I will embrace this ever-evolving dynamic in healthcare and stretch the multi-faceted and multi-skilled role of the Medical Assistant to its limits, from the front office to the back office, in all clinical settings whether it be at a family practice or in a hospital. I will continue to be alert, ready, and willing to follow the direction of my provider and fill in the gap wherever and whenever I am needed. With an open mind, I intend to learn any new skill or acquire any new knowledge across the spectrum of specialties so that I obtain the ability to provide the best support to my healthcare team in the provision of excellent quality of care to patients. I will also seek new and available opportunities within my scope of practice in various areas of leadership and management to grow and advance in my career as a Medical Assistant.

As a future Medical Assistant, I will continue to evolve with the 'ebbs and tides' of the health sector, keeping the values and principles of the AAMA close to my heart and consistent in practice.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity!