

# Student Success

Hospitality Boot Camp | Certified Professional Food Manager and Handler | Work Readiness and Soft Skills  
Child Development Associate | Home Health Aide | Certified Nursing Assistant

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



# PATHS

## Erica Cartwright

**Erica Cartwright** is licensed in CPR and Medical Office Administration, and is currently enrolled in the Billing and Coding course. She gravitated to the medical field because of past experiences with the health care system, and has developed a passion for helping people who are seeking medical care. Her career goal is to start her own medical and billing consulting company that provides professional services to medical practices. She is confident that her career choice will give her financial stability, and the flexibility to travel and work with different businesses. Ms. Cartwright's

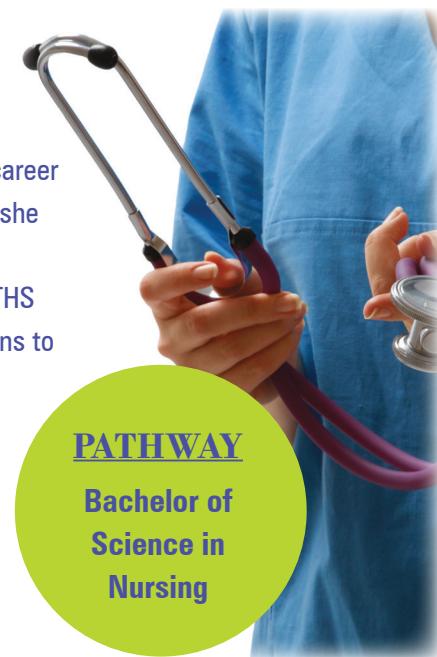
children are her greatest source of inspiration. She says, *"My children give me more encouragement than I actually give them. Some days I have so much homework, and I always say to them, let me help you with your homework. However, they tell me to do my homework and then we can help each other."* Taking the Medical Billing and Coding pathway has opened doors she never imagined herself walking through.



## Rukayat Bojuwon

**Rukayat Bojuwon** earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in May 2018. Through the PATHS program, she has gained self-confidence and an ability to make clear and calculated career decisions. She is employed in the health care sector, where she uses her nursing skills to financially support herself and her children. Ms. Bojuwon is grateful for the opportunity the PATHS program has given her to pursue a career in nursing, and plans to establish her own health care agency one day.

Her advice to other District residents who currently receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits is *"Whatever you decide to study, stick to it, and keep going no matter what. There will always be somebody to help!"*



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## Bianca Epps

Bianca Epps received her concierge certification from the PATHS program, and is currently employed in a growing sector, where she says, *"there will never be a shortage of positions,"* due to the expansion of rental properties. She is applying the knowledge she learned about leasing apartments, fair housing laws, and more, in her day-to-day work. Currently, she is partnering with temp agencies, and is in high demand with many housing communities that are requesting her services. She entered the Concierge Essentials course through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, and now receives a good salary with bonuses. Her career goal is to become a property manager. Ms. Epps says that *"being in the position I'm in now, I know that I can be self-sufficient and able to provide the things my kids need on my own."* Her advice to future students is to *"stay focused ... and become dependent on yourself ... so you'll have that drive and determination to succeed."*

### PATHWAY: Concierge Essentials

## Jonyce Cole

Choosing the Child Development Associate (CDA) program was a natural decision for **Jonyce Cole**, because she loves children, and has always flourished while working with them. For Ms. Cole, one of the most compelling parts of the CDA program was learning about various experts, and their theories of how children grow and develop. She stated that *"the biggest thing was learning how you speak with kids now, versus when I was coming up."* A four-month investment of her time and hard work gave immediate results. One month after finishing the program, she was successful in landing a position as a teaching partner.

With the goal of becoming a child psychiatrist, Ms. Cole is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree. A top of the list goal for her is a career position with the DC public school system, providing counseling to children in need. She knows that for some students, *"school may not be something they feel they are good at."* However, her words to them are, *"trust the process, and you'll get there."*

**Stay focused ... and become dependent on yourself.**

**Trust the process, and you'll get there.**

**PATHWAY  
Child  
Development  
Associate  
(CDA)**

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## LaChey Jackson

LaChey Jackson, a Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) student, obtained her certification in March 2019. She firmly believes that her academic success was made possible by caring and committed instructors who exhibited a genuine concern for students, provided motivation, and truly wanted to see every student succeed. She has learned to "go with her gut," and not shy away from taking on new challenges and opportunities. Her newfound computer skills are being put to work designing fliers, posters, and weekly schedules for the UDC PATHS program that employs her. Ms. Jackson looks forward to continuing her studies in the computer field, which will provide her family a pathway to the middle class. Highly impacted by the PATHS program, this is her advice to future students: *"If you don't want to work, and you don't want to do whatever to succeed, this is not the place to come, because the people here actually care about you."*



**PATHWAY**  
Microsoft  
Office  
Specialist



**PATHWAY**  
Hospitality

## Skylar Kelley

Skylar Kelley has always been told that she is a "people person," because empathizing with others comes naturally to her. The Hospitality Pathway, which she completed in April 2018, provided the perfect fit for her interests and passion. She is proud that she has moved from homelessness onto a career path that will lead her toward greater self-sufficiency. Her long-term goal is to become an advocate for women living in crisis situations. Ms. Kelley hopes to encourage other women to participate in the UDC PATHS program, where they will engage with instructors who are passionate about helping them realize their full potential. One day she plans to operate a transitional housing program for women. In the meantime, when asked about the impact of the PATHS program on her life, she says, *"I want my story to get out because I honestly believe my story can make a difference in other people's lives, [because] two years ago I was homeless, living out of my car and in different people's homes."*

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**PATHWAY**  
Microsoft  
Office  
Specialist

### Alexandria (Alex) Walker

Alex Walker, a Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) student, was selected to participate in the DC Learn Earn Advance Prosper (L.E.A.P.) Academy. The program trains District residents who currently receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits to serve DC residents. The LEAP Academy bridges the gap between unemployed/underemployed TANF customers and in-demand jobs within DC Government while providing a pathway to the middle class.

The program is a collaboration between the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) and DHS, Office of Work Opportunity (OWO). The goal is to target TANF customers for positions available within DC government.

### Ashley Richardson

Ashley Richardson completed Hospitality training in December 2018. She completed an externship with The Brooks Group, LLC, and greeted and assisted students in the PATHS program. In February 2019, Ms. Richardson was offered employment with the District of Columbia Department of Human Services (DHS), Economic Security Administration (ESA), as a Program Support Specialist.



**PATHWAY**  
Hospitality  
Training

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### Lashawn Rascoe

**Lashawn Rascoe** successfully completed the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Home Health Aide (HHA) pathways. Prior to enrolling in the PATHS program, she held numerous jobs in the fast food and retail industries, and was unsure of her career path. She said, *"The day after I had my son I realized I had to figure out what I wanted to do, and to figure it out now so I can start while he is young, and by the time he is five I can be working in my career."* These two programs laid the foundation for her developing an interest in the health care industry. Currently, Ms. Rascoe is enrolled in the University of the District of Columbia Community College, pursuing an associate's degree in nursing. She has found a career that she can dedicate her life to, and that will financially support her young son. While it required hard work to complete both programs, she attributes her success to the life-changing PATHS program, supported by the Department of Human Services (DHS), Economic Security Administration (ESA).

#### PATHWAY: Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Home Health Aide (HHA)

### Emonie Kennedy

**Emonie Kennedy's** first job was at TJ Maxx, and she loved it because she enjoyed helping people. Supporting others was a key reason she chose to get her certification in the Food Manager and Handler program. PATHS has been a positive impact, as it afforded her the skills to pursue her passion, and a position that accommodates her lifestyle. Influenced by the women in her family who enjoy cooking and create memories around the experience, Ms. Kennedy dreams of opening her own bakery. Her current position at a catering company keeps her smiling, and is exposing her to key aspects of the food industry. Within the first 10 months of working, she received a promotion. When talking about her PATHS experience, Ms. Kennedy says, *"I feel like I accomplished a lot. I'm fully able to provide for myself and my son without government assistance. My first check was the biggest check I've ever gotten."* She has power advice for anyone considering getting a PATHS certification: *"If someone is going to give you something like this for free, why not take it."*



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