**WorkforceGPS**

**Youth Voices**

**Career Pathways**

*Transcript by*

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Laycie Gwinn, SCWorks: So for me, I think the most essential thing for my success in the program altogether was my counselor. I'm not the most motivated person, unfortunately, and having her trust with me weekly, just checking in on me, making sure I was doing what I was supposed to be doing, keeping me in line and keeping me motivated, was probably the best thing that ever happened to me and I wouldn't have gotten through without her. You know, I think it was having someone else told me that I was capable that made me believe that I was capable because I wasn't able to convince myself, really. And that's I think that's really how she helped me the most.

Kind of my favorite part about having finished the program, it was like, you know, someone lit a fire under me and I was like, you know, I can do school; I can do really good in school and get a job out of it and get a certification. And like immediately after being done with school, I wanted to go back.

And prior in my life, I had tried college right out of high school and it just wasn't the right time for me, really. And as the years went on, I was like, you know, all my friends that I graduated with were graduating. And then there was me and I was like, you know, I can't do it. And then I did it.

And right after I wanted to do more, I wanted to further my career in pediatrics, but I wanted to do it through surgical assisting. I realized that I really love assisting, and what better way to do it than in, like, something that I'm so passionate about. Going through the MA program made me realize I'm really passionate about health care. Being hired at a pediatric clinic made me realize I'm super passionate about kids. And then the clinic that I was hired on at does minor surgeries and getting to be a part of that made me realize, gosh, I love doing this. This is so cool. I want to do this forever.

And the program, really what I brought from it was my capability, and that's the greatest thing I gained -- the confidence and the capability and the knowledge that I can do just about anything I set my mind to.