

Desiree Stiles



Desiree graduated from SRJC with an associate's degree in Administration of Justice and is now attending Humboldt State University majoring in Leadership Studies. She has 3 sons and is employed as a Records Supervisor at the Santa Rosa Police Department while her husband is a stay at home parent. With her degree she hopes to get promoted to be a Technical Services Division Manager, the highest civilian position in the PD. She is a member of the Peoria Indian Tribe of Oklahoma and wants to make them proud. Desiree and hopes to be a good role model to her 3 sons by showing them that education, volunteerism, perseverance and hard work are the keys to success.

Olivia Harvey



Olivia's ultimate goal is to become an Anesthesiologist or Psychiatrist. She majored in Psychology at SRJC and is transferring to UC Davis to get her BS in Psychology before applying for Medical School. Although she struggled with health issues for over 20 years, Olivia was finally able to dedicate herself to returning to school. She feels that with her own experiences as well as her empathetic nature she can successfully help others in need. Olivia believes that earning her BS in Psychology will give her a suitable foundation for either specialty as both rely on being able to assess a person's well-being, albeit in different ways.

Michelle Lopez-Kronicz



After losing her best friend and confidant, her grandmother, at age 14, Michelle used that deep pain to fuel her energy to work to become a Nurse Practitioner and help women susceptible to strokes and heart complications like her grandmother. Financially she was unable to attend college right after high school and worked very hard for many years. Ten years after receiving her high school diploma she finally was able to go to SRJC and received her ADN. Michelle is now at Sonoma State University on her way to becoming a Nurse Practitioner.

Elizabeth Quiroz



Until the age of 26, Elizabeth had led one of the most difficult lives imaginable. With the help of a one-year program at the Women's Recovery Services she was able to turn her life around and begin to help other women to rise above. Besides having 5 children of her own, she volunteers for many programs and is currently a Drug and Alcohol Counselor at Athena House. Elizabeth graduated from SRJC with multiple degrees in Social Services and will continue her studies at Sonoma State University in Sociology and would like to become a Probation Officer.

Samantha De Roque



By the time Samantha was 16, she knew she wanted to become a nurse and took a Medical Terminology course at the SRJC that fueled her desire. Unfortunately in her early 20's, she was hospitalized several times and that set her back considerably from going back to school. Through these experiences as a patient and seeing first hand all of the kindness and compassion of the nurses that cared for her, her determination to become a nurse was renewed. Samantha received her ADN at SRJC and is now at Sonoma State working to become a registered nurse. Her ultimate goal is to get a Master's Degree and become an Oncology Nurse.

Ellie Whitely



Ellie's goals encompass the statement that Activist Marian Edelman wrote "Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than yourself." Her ultimate goal is to work at an agriculture educator for the UC Extension or similar organization. Ellie earned her Associate's Degree in Sustainable Agriculture at SRJC and will continue at UC Davis to pursue her Bachelor's degree in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems and plans to earn her Master's Degree in a related agricultural field.

Jamie Smith



Jamie always knew that she wanted to help people that were disadvantaged. After working for many years as a caregiver at a Nursing home her desire to work one on one with patients became a burning desire in her heart. She knew that she was meant to be a nurse and needed to go back to college. Her first class was College Survival. School was going to be a challenge, but with the help of the excellent counselors and tutors at SRJC she was able to obtain her ADN and give birth to two children in the process. She is now attending Sonoma State University to become a Registered Nurse.

Emily Ashley



After being in office furniture sales for 13 years while supporting her wife and toddler, Ashley decided it was time to find a more challenging career that offered the opportunity for continuous learning and growth. Utilizing her retirement savings, Ashley is attending school full time to become a computer programmer. She has earned her Associate's degree in Computer Science and is now attending Sonoma State University to get her Bachelor's degree and hopes to do it in 3 semesters. This will be her second Bachelor's degree as she has a previous one in English.