



Tamia

I've learned that sometimes the biggest obstacle to earning a college degree isn't getting accepted. It's finding a way to stay enrolled. Between working to pay for school, balancing classes, and navigating through family challenges, struggling to maintain academics all in one. Those experiences have strengthened my determination to become a registered nurse and help create a stronger healthcare for reservations. My passion for nursing began with my grandfather. My family lived on Lower Brule Reservation with little to no knowledge about dementia. Watching him live with dementia showed me how much impact it has on an individual's life and family. As his memory faded, it was difficult because I couldn't do anything, I was useless. That moment forward, I knew I wanted to be someone who is able to help, whether it's providing comfort or just being present. Today, I am gaining firsthand experience by working as a Certified Nursing Assistant, where I have learned many responsibilities of taking care of someone.