

Caretaker juggles kids, job and pharmacy school

Jana Benscoter, For the York Daily Record 9:32 p.m. EST February 16, 2016



(Photo: Jeff Lautenberger, For The Daily Record)

There were days when Debbie Miller said she wanted to give up. In addition to taking on a nine-month pharmacy technician course at YTI Career Institute-York, Miller tended to her two children's needs, worked part-time and took care of her mother. She also had surgery on her broken foot.

The 2016 recipient of the President's Award, Miller was among the 138 to graduate Tuesday from the post-secondary institution of higher education. The Institute offers associate in specialized business and associate in specialized technology degrees, as well as programs leading to professional certifications and diplomas, according to its website. This is the first time that York, Lancaster and Motorcycle Technology campuses held their graduation ceremonies together.

"I hadn't been to school in 16 years," Miller said. "I graduated from high school in Texas in 2000."

The 33-year old said it wasn't easy. Both her 2- and 4-year-old were in the neonatal intensive care unit.

"The worst part of my son's trials are over," Miller said. "When he stopped breathing, it was stressful, when I had to worry whether I was going to find him blue again."

She attained a 4.0 at YTI. The credit, she said, goes to the institute's faculty and her mom.

"My mom said to find something that you think you're going to love to do and just do it," Miller said. "I knew I wanted something medical, with being everybody's caretaker. When I found the program at YTI, it was perfect. This is exactly what I wanted."



Debbie Miller receives the YTI Career Institute York Campus President's Award from pharmacy technician program coordinator Thad Graham during graduation at LCBC Manheim on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016. (Photo: Jeff Lautenberger, For The Daily Record)

Thad Graham, pharmacy technician program coordinator, who nominated her for the President's Award, said Miller "blew her classes out of the water."

"Her goals were simple," Graham said. "Be the best. She made sure she helped her classmates, anyone, people."

Her dedication to her studies was apparent when she had foot surgery, he said. That didn't distract her from showing up, attending her classes with her foot in a "little walker." Graham said he's proud of her to already have a job lined up.

"She was able to secure the job on her own accord," Graham said. "Penn State Hershey Medical Center had externships. They fell in love with her. Literally, every week, we heard she's amazing, she's excellent, send us more like her."



Debbie Miller, left, and twin sister Vix Kelley show off matching tattoos before Miller's graduation from the YTI Career Institute pharmacy technician program at LCBC Manheim on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016. Miller was recognized with the York Campus President's Award for commitment, enthusiasm and leadership. (Photo: Jeff Lautenberger, For The Daily Record)

Miller said she was grateful to both the medical center and the school. When she needed to juggle the duties of a student and a mom, the school helped her out.

"They would let me bring my kids into classrooms for tutoring sessions. That was really amazing," she said. "They would let a 2-and 4-year-old run around the classroom. They would let me do that while I was struggling. I am really grateful."

Graduates

Dustin R. Hall, Lewisberry, PA, Computer Systems Specialist; Matthew T. Johnson, York, PA, Computer Systems Specialist; Alexander N. Lengle, Landisville, PA, Computer Systems Specialist; Yeraldin Mueses, York, PA, Computer Systems Specialist; Zachary Newton, Lebanon, PA, Computer Systems Specialist; Andrew J. O'Brien, Ephrata, PA, Computer Systems Specialist; Naomi J. Puente, York, PA, Computer Systems Specialist; Travis D. Saintcross, Littlestown, PA, Computer Systems Specialist; Trevor C. Salm, Westminster, MD, Computer Systems Specialist; Brandon M. Six, Hanover, PA, Computer Systems Specialist; Ramon, Veloz, York, PA, Computer Systems Specialist ;Michelle E. Chronister, York, PA, Dental Assisting; Emily J. Flickinger, Gettysburg, PA, Dental Assisting; Brittany C. Glatfelter, Dover, PA, Dental Assisting; Amanda A. Hanna, York, PA, Dental Assisting; Mallory L. Lee, York, PA, Dental Assisting; Nenushka L. Madera-Zaccheus, York, PA, Dental Assisting; Lillian Rios, York, PA, Dental Assisting; Laura A. Salamon, Stewartstown, PA, Dental Assisting; Maia C. Senkbeil, Fawn Grove, PA, Dental Assisting; Limarie Vega, York, PA, Dental Assisting; Stuart C. Brennan, Goldsboro, PA, Electrical Technology; Brandon T. Good, Mount Wolf, PA, Electrical Technology; Kory W. Henry, Newark, DE, Electrical Technology; John D. Markley, Columbia, PA, Electrical Technology; Robert J. Morley, Littlestown, PA, Electrical Technology; Luis D. Rodriguez-Colon, Lancaster, PA, Electrical Technology; Kyle J. Tanega, Paradise, PA, Electrical Technology; Brandon L. Watson, Dover, PA, Electrical Technology; Gabriel J. Alowa Soh, York, PA, Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology; Matthew A. Bair, York, PA, Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology; Brian E. Bott, York, PA, Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology; Nicholas D. Bowers, Hanover, PA, Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology; Preston W. Forcino, Hanover, PA, Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology; Jay M. Frey III, Lancaster, PA, Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology; Joshua S. Mull, East Berlin, PA, Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology; Tyler J. Musser, Dillsburg, PA, Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology; Harry E. Wagman, York, PA, Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology; Jami L. Jackson, Felton, PA, Medical Assistant; Tabatha Maldonado, York PA, Medical Assistant; Francheska M. Miranda Pantoja, York PA, Medical Assistant; Savannah Travers, Red Lion, PA, Medical Assistant; Andrea G. Trinidad Lopez, Rosedale, MD, Medical Assistant; Heather J. Wright, Hellam, PA, Medical Assistant; Jeremiah H. Bailey, Washington D.C., Motorsports Technology; Aaron Boyle, Aberdeen, MD, Motorsports Technology; Theodore J. Buxton, Grantville, PA, Motorsports Technology; Tyler, Jones, Front Royal, VA, Motorsports Technology; John, Kline-Lyman, Lemoyne, PA, Motorsports Technology; Antonio, Mendez, Columbia, PA, Motorsports Technology; Kyle D. Miller, Pequea, PA, Motorsports Technology; Danny Panzarelli, Phillipsburg, NJ, Motorsports Technology; Adrian T. Patterson, Philadelphia, PA, Motorsports Technology; Matthew N. Potter, Landisburg, PA, Motorsports Technology; William C. Pruitt, Glen Watkins, NY, Motorsports Technology; Morgan D. Shepherd, Winchester, VA, Motorsports Technology; Nicholas C. Thompson, Boiling Springs, PA, Motorsports Technology; Dylan T. Thornell,

Saylorsburg, PA, Motorsports Technology; Orlando L. Velez, Harrisburg, PA, Motorsports Technology; Dennis M. Wirick, Latrobe, PA, Motorsports Technology; Heather L. Ditzler, Lancaster, PA, Pharmacy Technician,; Debra M. Miller, York PA Pharmacy Technician; Alicia N. Summy, Camp Hill, PA, Pharmacy Technician; Abriel P. Ancarrow, Elkton, MD, Veterinary Technician; Valerie N. Anderson, Wrightsville, PA, Veterinary Technician; Keisha L. Banks, Middletown, PA, Veterinary Technician; Ashley M. Blessing, Landisburg, PA, Veterinary Technician; Evan P. Brinkman, Etters, PA, Veterinary Technician; Kiarra L. Candelaria, Lancaster, PA, Veterinary Technician; Katie A. High, Lititz, PA, Veterinary Technician; Brianna J. Kuhn, Hanover, PA, Veterinary Technician; Amanda M. Leppo, McSherrystown, PA, Veterinary Technician; Toni V. Moore, Ruckersville, VA, Veterinary Technician; Brittany M. Nye, Dillsburg, PA, Veterinary Technician; Shelby V. Sipe, Dillsburg, PA, Veterinary Technician; Alexandria E. Walden, PA, Veterinary Technician

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