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Student Success Story

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When I decided to go back to school to continue my education there was no doubt in my mind that this time I wanted to get into the medical field. The medical field has always been an interest of mine, and one that I have grown familiar with over the years. After speaking with family and friends who are involved in many different aspects of the field I decided the Operating Room sounded like the most exciting and fulfilling place to be. The OR has always been a fascinating environment to me. It is an unfamiliar environment to most people and seems to be one of the most crucial to the field. The more I looked into job opportunities in the OR, the more I became convinced that filling the role of the Surgical Technologist was what I wanted to do. The human body is a complex system that not many people understand or get to see from the inside, or for that matter want to, but those of us who do, understand the intrigue. The Surgical Technologist position seemed to offer everything I was looking for in a career: excitement, knowledge, the opportunity to help the community and room for advancement.

Once I decided this was the career path I wanted to take and began looking into schools, the decision was pretty easy. Every search I did brought up Career Networks Institute (CNI). Every new page I clicked, and every new reference I checked had testimonials and references to CNI College, so I decided to go to the campus and take a look. I met with the Dean of Students, Kay Kenyon, who so graciously met with me without an appointment and explained every aspect of the program to me. She answered all my questions, set up a tour of the campus and even introduced me to another student who lived near me in San Diego. I had visited other campuses prior to this that were closer to my home, as I lived over 60 miles away, but was so impressed by the staff and facility, I knew this was the program that was going to benefit me the most.

Once the program began I realized what made this particular school so special. The instructors at CNI are so dedicated to their student's education. Each instructor was either a Medical Doctor or Scrub Tech themselves and offered invaluable clinical information to the lecture each day. I formed a close relationship with each of my professors that made it a joy to make the long train ride to class everyday. If at any time throughout my program I had a question, I felt comfortable going to the instructor and sitting down and reviewing the information with them. I never once felt like I was a burden or taking up their time. Each instructor brought a different area of expertise to the classroom, which I believe helped provide me with a well-rounded knowledge base. Class sessions offered textbook information as well as real life situations and problem

solving techniques, which certainly made me more comfortable once it came time to walk into the OR for the first time.

While the classroom was informative and interesting, the real excitement began once I reached my sites. I have not experienced a bigger rush than walking into the OR for the first time, knowing I was taking over the case. Even though it was my first time in the OR, my preceptor stood me next to the surgeon and had me involved in every aspect of the surgery. It has been my experience that the clinical sites CNI has provided for the students are truly interested in teaching. I found that the surgeons were eager to involve me in every surgery available and often times found myself being quizzed on anatomy and procedures to make sure I was aware of what was happening. I felt welcomed into each site I attended and am so grateful for the experiences I had.

I feel very fortunate that I was able to scrub in on some amazing surgeries at each site I attended. I am thankful to the instructors at CNI for their willingness to meet with me to review unfamiliar procedures at any time, even though I was no longer in the classroom portion of my program. I feel as though I was exposed to a wide range of surgeries as well as specialties. I spent the first portion of my externship scrubbing in at a world-renowned plastic surgeon's office, then another at a center specializing in orthopedics and the last at a very prestigious hospital. I am confident that the cases I have been allowed to scrub in on as a student not only show my capabilities as a scrub tech but CNI's ability to produce a confident and competent Surgical Technologist.

Having completed my externship and program I can honestly say that I definitely made the right choice. I chose a career that fulfills my expectations and chose a program that prepared me for it. CNI has been a wonderful support system throughout my program and I would recommend them to any student interested in a career in the operating room.