

# Bright Future Update

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BrightFuture

## Director's Corner:



### By Reza Khastou

Do high schools need the Bright Future Program?

During the past three years, an average of 1,184 students dropped out of Seattle public high schools at a cost of approximately five and half million dollars. In order to attract more students, and to help solve its financial problems, the Seattle School District must first take care of the students that it already has.

Bright Future is the only program around that helps high schools become better by providing help where schools need it the most: working with students who are either at risk or not performing to their potential. Here are some of the ways that the Bright Future Program improves high schools.

- Bright Future program offers access to advanced vocational programs that are not offered by the Seattle School District. During the past seven years program staff has discovered that offering comprehensive vocational programs makes education for high school students "meaningful" again.

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## SVI Grads Go Even Further

After completing their education at SVI, 40% of Bright Future students continue their education at colleges such as the University of Washington, Washington State University, North Seattle Community College (NSCC), and Seattle Central Community College (SCCC). Here is the result of our graduates work at other Seattle Community Colleges:

Bright Future Graduates at Seattle Community College District VI as of 8/2005

Number of Students	Campus	Number of Credits	Median GPA
24	SCCC	1000	2.81
12	NSCC	410	2.97



# Graduate Profile:

## Estephany Lagmay

ESTEPHANY LAGMAY was a junior at South Lake when she enrolled in the Bright Future Program. She completed the four quarter Medical Assistant program at Seattle Vocational Institute in the summer of 2004 and then continued her senior year at South Lake, graduating in June of 2005. She turned 18 in May and immediately began distributing her resume, cover letter and list of skills to area clinics, hospitals, and doctor’s offices. Within a month, she landed her first job as a medical assistant at Minor and James. This is her story.



“I was a discouraged learner in high school. I didn’t feel challenged enough, wasn’t putting forth my best effort and I didn’t have a goal. So, I rarely studied and did only the minimum work necessary to keep up my grades. Then I learned about the Bright Future program at SVI. I found out that I could enroll in a vocational program while still in high school and found out that my education would be paid for while I was still a high school student. That was a very attractive alternative to me, so after looking at all the programs I decided to enroll in the medical assisting program. I was only a junior in high school, but determined to start something new and to finish high school.

“It was very hard at first and during the first week I wanted to quit. ‘I can’t do this’ and ‘it is too hard’, I thought. The Bright Future staff asked me to stay at least through the first week before giving up. They encouraged me to focus on school and motivated me to not give up. I felt like Bright Future was my right hand, helping me to keep going. Their continued support helped keep me in school and working hard in the MA program and then to finish high school.

“The MA program was very challenging for me. I did not feel like I had the choice to fail. In this program you had to either do the work or leave. I remember staying up late and studying until 2:00 in the morning. One night I was up late, crying and felt like giving up. My mom heard me; got up; made me hot chocolate and encouraged me to stay with the program and work hard. She told me that studying hard was what college was all about and that the payoff would be worth it.

“Learning how to study was difficult and challenging, but very rewarding. It has given me the confidence to move forward and has prepared me for more college in the future. I am so happy I stuck with it. I am proud of myself, and my family and community is proud of me. I am so happy to find work in a clinic and anxious to put my skills to work.

“My position at Minor and James is in the Laboratory as a Patient Service Representative (PSR). It is a front desk job that enables me to perform services under supervision, such as blood draws, EKGs, and spirometry. As an employee I am encouraged and will be helped to get my Health Care Assistant license so I can perform these patient services unsupervised. I am so happy now and my family is happy too. I will always be grateful for the extra opportunity and head start I received through the Bright Future Program.”

## Did You Know ?

Since the start-up of the Bright Future Program in 1999, there have been ten sets of siblings in the Bright Future program.

Kerlin Barrios	Dental Assistant	Wided Souaiaia	Medical Assistant
Nydia Barrios	Medical Assistant	Rim Souaiaia	Dental Assistant
Tameshia Butcher-Sims	Medical Assistant	Pany Sysavath	Dental Assistant
Taneshia Butcher-Sims	Dental Assistant	Bounmy Sysavath	Administrative Office Professional
Erica Evenson	Dental Assistant	Jessie Thao	Medical Assistant
Elizabeth Evenson	Cosmetology	Buck Thao	Multiple Trades
Dorklux Keopaseuth	Computer Information Processing	Kim Tran	Medical Assistant
Boonthux Keopaseuth	Dental Assistant	Dat Tran	Network Technician
Farzad Namiranian	Health Unit Coordinator	Stephan Woods	Multiple Trades
Farshad Namiranian	Multiple Trades	Terrell Woods	Multiple Trades

## Director's Corner:

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- Offering vocational training is very expensive and labor intensive. The Bright Future program allows access to vocational programs without any further need for financial investment in equipment, building, or instructors. Target high schools pay for these classes only when students are enrolled.
- By partnering with the Bright Future program, target high schools are expanding their curriculum offering to their students. Bright Future students have access to more than 100 highly specialized classes. All of these classes are approved by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. This helps increase the quality and attractiveness of the curriculum.
- Bright Future program offers comprehensive case management. Bright Future staff work closely with counselors, faculty, and administrators of each of the target high schools and at the community and technical colleges.
- Bright Future program offers help to students that have the greatest need. More than fifty percent of Bright Future students are considered at-risk students. As a result of budget crunches, support services at high schools have either been cut or are non-existent. The Bright Future program helps fill this gap.
- Bright Future program provides weekly office hours at each of the target high schools. During these office hours, Bright Future staff is available to meet with students, parents, and staff, offering their expertise to those seeking alternatives to traditional paths for academic success.
- Bright Future program brings new students to the district. To receive program services, students must be enrolled in a Seattle Public Schools District high school. Over the last six years several students have enrolled in the SPS in order to take advantage of the Bright Future program.
- The Bright Future concept works and there is data to prove it. When students pursue a non-traditional aspect of education that has meaning to them, the result is a much higher than average high school and vocational completion rate. (Check our annual Progress Report)



## Program Profile:

### Health Unit Coordinator

The Health Unit Coordinator (HUC) program is a three quarter program (990 clock hours) at Seattle Vocational Institute. A Health Unit Coordinator manages the administrative duties involved in patient care and is the liaison between inpatient, outpatient and medical staff. Work settings may include hospitals, doctor's offices, clinics and nursing homes.

A typical day for a coordinator includes patient reception, ordering and scheduling tests, chart assembly, data entry, verifying insurance, performing transfers, discharging and admitting hospitalized patients.

Additional skills and traits include comprehension and use of medical terminology, prioritizing and handling stressful situations while maintaining a professional manner and interpreting doctor's handwriting.

The job outlook for this position is increasing due to population growth and expanding medical technology.



Isala, HUC student from Southlake High School



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## Dollars for Scholars

The John Marshall Dollars for Scholars Foundation provides aid to students at John Marshall for whom higher education would otherwise be out of reach. It is an all-volunteer organization whose philosophy and objective is to have all contributions go directly to scholarship awards. Established in 1997, the Foundation is a non-profit, local chapter of the national umbrella organization. All graduating students at John Marshall are eligible to apply by completing an application form.

The Bright Future program has been partnering with John Marshall Dollars for Scholars Foundation since 1999. During this period the foundation has awarded \$31,500 to 16 Bright Future students from Marshall. Of these students, 88% have either graduated successfully from Marshall High School or are still active.

Eighty-one percent have graduated from SVI or are still active. If you would like to make a donation to the John Marshall Dollars for Scholars Foundation, you may do so by mailing your donation to:

John Marshall High School Dollars for Scholars Foundation

The Hearthstone

c/o Linda Sorenson

6720 East Green Lake Way North

Seattle, WA 98103-5439

For more information please call 206-517-2257.



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