



Luke Chappa

2021 Posen graduate attending

Alpena Community College

working on a degree in pre-nursing.

Hi Luke, tell us a bit about yourself?

I am 19 years old and from a small farming town in northeastern Michigan. Within 5 years, I hope to be a registered nurse, either working on my BSN or my MSN. My long-range plan is to achieve my DNP or Doctor of Nursing Practice. I currently work at MyMichigan Medical Center as a Patient Care Assistant. I would describe myself

as compassionate and dedicated. Knowing that I am working towards providing a better life for my family motivates me to achieve my career goals.

What made you choose nursing as your career?

I love helping those in need, nurses are at the front line of patient care and arguably the most important figure in a patient's recovery. Also, my papa has been a nurse for many years and he was my role model growing up, I always wanted to be just like him. He taught me the core values of life and healthcare.

Why Alpena Community College?

Originally I was planning to attend Northern Michigan University, but after finding out about my son I had to stay closer to home for better support, ACC was the perfect choice. My son has completely turned my life around and continues to motivate me every day to achieve my goals.

College can be costly: how did you help defray the cost?

I received two small scholarships through CFNEM (Community Foundation for Northeast MI). Financial Aid has had the biggest impact on covering the cost of my schooling.

Do you have any advice for TRiO Talent Search members?

Stick with TRiO Talent Search and run with every opportunity you are given. It is a fantastic program with some pretty amazing leaders. TTS provided me with tons of information and planning skills - while allowing me to experience certain colleges first-hand to further my understanding of their programs. My fondest memory as a TTS participant was being stuck in the U.P. due to the bridge conditions on a college exploration trip to LSSU.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

I chose to become a CNA or Certified Nurses Aid to help me achieve a better understanding of the nursing field. Working alongside veteran nurses has allowed me to gain experience in both compassion and medicine. To anyone who is considering becoming a CNA, definitely do it. Not only will it help you become a better nurse but it will also allow you to experience situations and people that the nursing program cannot prepare you for.

Luke, thank you for sharing with us!

We wish you all the best as you "realize the college dream" at ACC!