Summer IET student successfully transitions into Pharmacy Technician program

Liliana Aparicio enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in the summer of 2017. She completed the ESL program and never imagined transitioning to Career & Technical Education (CTE). Ms. Vicky Broccolo visited her ESL class last May and presented students with an overview of the Integrated Education & Training (IET) Pharmacy Technician course that was to be offered in the summer. Ms. Aparicio was highly motivated and told herself,***“Just give it a try.”***

Her background is in Business Administration and she holds a Bachelor’s Degree from her native country El Salvador. During the Summer IET class she was able to appreciate the opportunity to become exposed to this fascinating career. She had held jobs in warehouses and hospital kitchens, which she disliked due to the lack of interaction with customers. She will be able to interact directly with people on a daily basis when she completes her training and become a certified pharmacy technician.

It has been a challenge for Liliana, since she is raising two young children, ages 6 and 4, while pursuing her goal of completing the Pharmacy Technician program. Her mother has been very supportive by being involved in her grandchildren’s education and upbringing. She also finds the language barrier a bit daunting, but so far she has persevered and overcome many challenges. After class, she goes home and relaxes for an hour, then goes to the library, where she catches up on the day’s lesson for three hours.

***“I see the importance of the support that East LA Occupational Center offers all students, not only to help us learn English, but to encourage us to pursue a career through the Career Technical Education programs,”*** she added.

Her advice to her former ESL classmates, ***“Give it a try; you have to find something better for yourself and family.”***

She would like to thank her current teacher, **Ms. Broccolo**, for her patience and leadership, **Mr. Bill Hrycyna**,**Ms. Veronica Aguirre**, and her husband for the motivation in pursuing this new challenge.