



ALLEGANY COLLEGE of MARYLAND

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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PHOTO CAPTION==Allegany College of Maryland Nursing Student Jennifer Riley (left) receives a StudentAccess Scholarship award certificate from Pathways for Success/TRIO Student Support Services Director Tara DeVore.

PATHWAYS FOR SUCCESS STUDENT RECEIVES NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP



CUMBERLAND, Md. (June 5, 2019) –Allegany College of Maryland Nursing Major Jennifer Riley recently received a \$500 StudentAccess scholarship from Heilberg Consulting, Inc. Riley was recognized for her ability to overcome extreme hardships to pursue her academic goals. A non-traditional student and Cumberland resident, Riley is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

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“Jenn is the perfect winner for this award. While raising two young kids, she clawed her way through developmental courses to be eligible for the nursing program,” said Pathways For Success/TRIO Student Support Services Director Tara DeVore. “Despite incredible challenges while attending school full-time, she kept her goals in focus.”

Riley enrolled in the college’s Pathways for Success program on her first day at ACM in 2015. A first-generation college student, she relied on its supportive environment to get her through two years of prerequisite courses before entering the nursing program. Her decision to attend college was a promise she made to her grandmother who courageously battled cancer while Riley served as her care provider.

In December 2017, Riley was diagnosed with breast cancer while in her second semester of the nursing program. She chose to continue her studies at ACM and worked closely with her instructors to remain on track.

“Staying in class helped me maintain ‘normal’ for my family as my daughter was ten and my son was eight at the time and keep my sanity. The support from my nursing cohort was unbelievable,” explained Riley, who traveled between Morgantown, Baltimore and Cumberland for surgery and treatments.

On July 4, 2018, she celebrated her independence from cancer with her final radiation treatment. She takes a hormone blocker to remain cancer-free, attends regular check-ups and encourages others to have regular screenings. Riley, the former school bus driver who enrolled in college to construct a better life, now sees only blessings in even the hardest of circumstances.

“My difficult decision right now is to figure out whether I want to pursue pediatric or oncology nursing,” noted Riley. “That’s a terrific problem to have.”

Award recipients may utilize the StudentAccess funds for anything they choose. Riley and her children, Phoebe and Jay, are considering a trip to the beach.

ACM’s [Pathways for Success Program](#) at ACM is a TRIO Student Support Services project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. Founded in 2010, Pathways annually provides academic and supportive services for 140 students from under-represented and disadvantaged backgrounds.