Profiles of Success
Meet Cristina Duran... California

Cristina is an alumnus of the East LA AHEC’s Escalera program. At the age of 16, Cristina fell behind in school and dropped out due to bad influences. As a way to steer away from those influences and catch up on her school credits, Cristina enrolled at the Occupational Center. There, she met individuals from the AHEC Escalera program, who were offering supportive services to students. Wanting the same support, Cristina enrolled in the program.

During her time in the program, she received support from a case manager, who encouraged her to go on college field trips and participate in job preparation workshops. Through the program, she obtained an internship at AltaMed Boyle Height Clinic, which exposed her to the health professions. Today, Cristina works full time as a medical assistant.

“Being a young mother I never thought I could fully pursue a career as a medical assistant, but East LA AHEC’s Escalera program continued to push me to find a way.”

### About the Title VII AHEC Program
- The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program is authorized through Title VII of the Public Health Service Act.
- The East Los Angeles Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is hosted by AltaMed Health Services Corp., a non-profit regional health network that has grown to become the largest Federally Qualified Health Center in California, serving as the medical home to over 125,000 predominantly Latino children, youth, adults and seniors.
- Through East LA AHEC, AltaMed enhances its work through the provision of health education and wellness promotion, workforce development programs that include case management, health careers training and certifications, after-school tutorial and mentoring and career services for at-risk youth.
- Find more information at: [http://www.cal-ahec.org/eastla.htm](http://www.cal-ahec.org/eastla.htm)

### According to Cristina...
AHEC gave me my first work experience and exposed me to the medical field. AHEC offered me the opportunity to do a Medical Assistant program at AltaMed Boyle Height Clinic. There, I had many mentors who trained and helped me along the way. During the process, AHEC also supported me by providing scrubs and transportation assistance. I would have never considered enrolling in training like this if I had to pay for it. Now I am a full time medical assistant at AltaMed Health Services Corporation. I am economically stable with a job I love. This is merely the beginning. I plan to continue and eventually keep moving up the company starting with the next step of medical assistant degree. I would like to thank AltaMed East LA AHEC and all the partners for continuing to provide the services young people need to succeed. I am proof that your investment is worth it.

For more information, contact: Association of American Medical Colleges, Government Relations
655 K Street NW, Suite 100 ● Washington, DC 20001 ● Ph: 202.828.0525

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