

## Outstanding WIOA Out of School Youth – Shareka McKinnie

Shareka came to the WIOA Youth Program at the Harnett County Department of Workforce Development in Lillington as a 20-year-old single mom who was basic skills deficient in both reading and math. She was determined to earn a post-secondary degree and work in a career field that would allow her to provide a better life for herself, and her child.

Shareka enrolled into school at Central Carolina Community College to pursue an Associate's Degree in Medical Office Administration.

Throughout her time at CCCC, Shareka was an active youth program participant, and successfully completed leadership development activities, community service projects, financial literacy workshops, pre-employment training, and a Paid Work Experience opportunity. She even completed the National Career Readiness Certificate Course and obtained a silver certificate.

When asked to nominate someone, her case manager, Anitra Hart, instantly knew that Shareka was who she wanted to nominate for this award. Concerning Shareka, Anitra wrote, "Shareka should be selected to receive this award because she has demonstrated determination, hard work and perseverance in accomplishing her goals. Shareka has become a leader amongst her peers and is dedicated to engaging in community service projects to serve her community."

In 2018, Shareka earned her Associate's Degree and is currently employed full time as a Medical Office Assistant at UNC Family Medicine earning sustainable wages. She plans to continue on her Career Pathway and eventually become a Medical Office Manager.

Picture Caption: Shareka was presented with the 2018 Outstanding WIOA Out of School Youth award at the TSWDB Awards Banquet from Jim Roberts, a TSWDB Member from Harnett County.

