

HEALTH CAREERS

Graduate Success Story



Jessica N. Maravola

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Optical Technology

Tri-C Experience

Jessica wanted to pursue a satisfying career and gain financial stability by becoming a licensed optician. In order to do so, she needed to pass the American Board of Opticianry exam, which requires 2,000 apprenticeship hours. She heard about the College's program through a friend who graduated from Tri-C and learned how the optical technology program has helped many students prepare for the exam and succeed in the field. Once she started the program at Tri-C's Metropolitan Campus, she knew why Tri-C was the right choice. "The instructors are incredible, extremely knowledgeable, and they care about your success in the program," Jessica said. "They truly make you feel like you are important and you will succeed – they have a passion for assisting students." The program has helped Jessica become much more confident in her job and provided her with a vast understanding of optics.

Student Success

As part of the program, Jessica has gained field experience as an apprentice optician working at Eye Candy Optical in Westlake. The organization is known for its groundbreaking business model and was named one of America's Finest Optical Retailers by Invision Magazine in 2015. This experience counts as college credit and provides Jessica with real-world training and education. "My co-workers are super supportive and an awesome group of people who have shared their knowledge on how to approach and care for individuals

in the best way," said Jessica. Her co-workers love having Jessica as part of the team and appreciate her caring, empathetic and positive outlook, which is critical to success in the health care field.

Making a Difference

Helping those in need through volunteerism has always been part of Jessica's DNA. For example, she has championed the collection of funds for eye exams and used glasses for those in need. In her role as an apprentice optician, Jessica shared the story of a customer who was unable to speak English and had difficulty with mobility. The customer's daughter came into the store and explained that her father had broken his glasses and needed a new pair in a hurry. In order to get the glasses made quickly, Jessica went outside – during a snow storm – to get the man's measurements. "When he received his new pair of glasses, he was all smiles and my heart was truly warmed," Jessica said.

Advice for Students

Jessica encourages students to put forth their best efforts and study hard so they do not fall behind. "Instructors and classmates pay attention to who is invested in learning, and you never know when that can come in handy," said Jessica. She added, "Do not be afraid to ask questions, seek information that you require to be successful and always be willing to share your knowledge to help others."

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Jessica graduated from Girard High School and attended Youngstown State University, majoring in psychology, before moving to Brecksville to pursue a degree that will lead to a satisfying career in optical technology. She hopes to complete her bachelor's degree after graduating from Tri-C.