

Sheila Pry

CMA

Associate Degree in Medical Assisting

Kentucky Career Center

I worked in a factory. We ran two machines that made garbage bags. We worked 12-hour shifts, from 6 at night to 6 in the morning. Only good thing about that was we were off half the week. Of course, working that hard – and they demanded a lot out of you – you were tired all the time.

I was a single parent, trying to raise two teenagers. And, I didn't have that much self-esteem because I wanted to say, "Who wants to hire someone without any training?" And, going back to school, proving to myself that I could go back after 30 years, and not only did I go back, I had a 4.0. So, that made it even better. I showed everybody I could do it. It's given me self-confidence. I've got a good job now. I'm self-supporting. I'm independent. And, that's the most important thing – I'm independent.

When I lost my job, I didn't know what I was going to do. Once the unemployment ran out, I didn't know how I was going to live. The Kentucky Career Center was there. And, they pointed me in the right direction, helped me decide what direction to take with my life and how to fulfill my dreams.

People say, "How did you go to school?" and I'll say, "The Kentucky Career Center, go down there and talk to them." People need to be aware that there is funding for them, and there is chances of improvement of their lives, if they would take it.

Basically in the office I work at, I can do everything but the front desk and possibly the lab. I've done MAs, you know the medical assistant in the back office. I've done the prescription desk. I've done the operator's desk. Currently, I'm doing the referrals, making appointments for other doctors. You know, I've given it all I've got, and I guess I like hard work.

At this doctor's office, we're there to help people. So, I think that's another thing I like, helping people.

I was in my late 40s when I went back to college. That means if I can do it, anybody can do it. Just put your mind to it!