



Caroline Center

Committed to Women • Committed to Work

NEWS RELEASE

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Caroline Center Places Its Graduates' Highest Career & Educational Goals Within Reach *New Academic & Career Advancement Program Is Yielding Impressive Results*

For Immediate Release – Caroline Center, a nonprofit workforce development organization serving women from Baltimore’s least-resourced neighborhoods, is taking important new steps to help its graduates, who are employed as certified nursing assistants and pharmacy technicians, take their career and educational aspirations to the next level. In the first two years, Caroline Center’s Academic & Career Advancement Program (ACA) has built a cohesive and growing alumnae base of more than 240 graduates and health care professionals who are actively pursuing exciting new opportunities through Caroline Center that will help them to substantially increase their earning potential.

“The new Academic & Career Advancement Program at Caroline Center was just a logical next step in the work that we have been doing for 20 years now to help women in Baltimore, whose resources and opportunities have been limited by the injustices of poverty, to achieve remarkable change in their lives and in their family’s futures through education, career skills training, and sustainable employment. The early results we are seeing indicate not only how capable and ambitious Caroline Center graduates are, but also how important significant community partnerships and support will be to their success,” says Executive Director Patricia McLaughlin, SSND.

Caroline Center Academic and Career Advancement Program Director Jacqueline Buedel has been in charge of building the two-year-old program, which now includes opportunities for graduates to:

- participate in one-on-one college navigation and career advisory services;

- attend review classes and financial aid workshops for college acceptance; and,
- enroll in classes leading to additional certifications as medicine aids, patient care technicians, sleep and surgical technologists, IV preparation specialists, and drug compounding technicians

Every Caroline Center graduate is welcome to use the full resources of the center for life as she seeks professional advancement and additional educational opportunities.

Impressive early numbers tell only part of the story for so many women whose lives have been changed because of Caroline Center's commitment to women, work, and Baltimore. Generous support in the form of competitive partial scholarships from foundations is making it possible for three recent Caroline Center graduates to pursue their nursing degrees while balancing work, a college course load, and the day-to-day demands of life. Partnerships with area hospitals, colleges, and universities have helped nearly 30 Caroline Center graduates to pursue additional certifications which will result in professional promotions. Two Caroline Center alumnae will enter a Practical Nursing program in the fall of 2015, and one alumna will graduate from Pharmacy School in 2016.

“There are many reasons for these early successes,” says ACA Program Director Jacqueline Buedel – “and, I would have to place our incredible Caroline Center graduates at the top of the list. The women who enroll at Caroline Center are among the most courageous, capable, and determined women I have ever met. With the opportunities and support that Caroline Center and the ACA Program provide, our graduates are succeeding and giving back to Baltimore and area employers in ways that are making a positive and perceptible difference in the quality of health care in Maryland. The support Caroline Center receives from generous contributors and from its valued partners in healthcare and education helps to make it all possible.”

Caroline Center's holistic approach to education is inspired by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), whose North American founder, Mother Caroline Friess, came to East Baltimore from Bavaria 150 years ago to teach the children of immigrant families whom society had pushed aside. As an SSND-sponsored work, Caroline Center reaches out to women with little resources and few opportunities so that they will have access to an excellent education that will empower them and help them to reach the fullness of their potential. Caroline Center believes that when you change one woman's life, you really can begin to change the world.

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