

GRASP News

August 2019

Meet GRASP Alumna Olivia Simmons



What did you study in school? At the Chesterfield Technical Center, I studied Biotechnology and the first year of LPN (licensed practical nursing). In college, I received my BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing).

What is the best thing GRASP has done for you? GRASP helped me prepare for college financially and mentally.

What are you doing now? I started as an RN at Chippenham Hospital in July 2016. Over the past year I have worked on a professional development program through HCA Healthcare and received Clinician III in 2019.

What one piece of "educational advice" would you give to high school students? Take advantage of classes that give you training as a high school student. Even though I only completed the first year of the LPN program at Chesterfield Technical Center, it definitely helped me prepare for nursing classes once I started college courses.

What is the biggest life challenge you faced relative to your educational path?

The biggest challenge was staying positive when I felt overwhelmed with courses or when giving my best didn't seem enough. But those moments have shaped and prepared me to be a better nurse. If you love doing something enough, your passion will keep you going!

Bringing Hope for the Future

Thirty-five years ago, an educator saw a need. Athletes and affluent students were guided to college by coaches and parents, but others were left behind. Virginia's Great Aspirations Scholarship Program (GRASP) emerged to help those students and their families reach their educational goals, regardless of their financial circumstances. From our beginnings in Richmond to our latest expansion into Charlotte, Isle of Wight, Martinsville, Patrick, and Williamsburg-James City, our persistent presence has inspired students to pursue futures they had not known were possible.

Give now!

Thank you for bringing hope for the best future to Virginia students!



Ensuring career and college access for all

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GRASP is a Virginia 501(c)(3) nonprofit. GRASP seeks to give ALL students in Virginia the opportunity to build fulfilling lives through post-secondary educational pathways.

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