



Mentor team
Shadi and Anna

Health Care Opportunity Mentors

More than 40 students in health-care programs at local community and technical colleges have been connected with a mentor already working in the field, thanks to a new WDC program. Opportunity Mentors link low-income students receiving state Opportunity Grants with mentors who can support and coach them in both their studies and job searches. Mentors—including nurses and others in health fields—make a one-year commitment of four hours a month to help students complete their schooling and minimize the time it takes them to transition to employment.

The project is part of the Opportunity Partnership funded by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

“We spent several hours getting to know each other in person, then e-mail follow-up. We just clicked!”

“I see myself as a coach. I wish I had someone who was there to guide me when I was figuring out school and my career.”

Anna Withee

Otolaryngology nurse, Group Health Cooperative

“I became interested in nursing because of the great kindness and support that the nurses provided my family when one of my family members was in the hospital.”

“I just knew I wanted to be a nurse, though no one in my family was.”

“It has been great to have a personal relationship and guide. With English being my second language, the one-on-one relationship is really helpful. I know there are study groups, but they are challenging for me as I read one page in 15 minutes, when it takes others two minutes.”

“Anna gives me guidance and direction to accessing the information I need but don’t know where to ask.”

“I had been applying for CNA jobs before, but was turned down every time. Anna coached me on the interview and helped me see the importance of the work experience. I got the next job I applied for.”

Shadi Zadehtalebian

Nursing student, Lake Washington Technical College