



Weinberg Therapy Aide, Grandmother, Returns To College To Become A Nurse

GETZVILLE, N.Y., July 12, 2018— Great grandmother, grandmother, mother, Weinberg employee, Christian and devoted friend are all words that describe Tezona Jones, Therapy Aide at Weinberg Campus. As of May 2018, she can now add "college graduate" to that list.

Going back to school is something Tezona had thought about for a long time, and she is not alone. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the number of older students heading to college is growing, with a 43% increase expected between 2009 and 2020.

With encouragement from her friends, church group and family--particularly her daughter, Misty--Tezona graduated cum laude from SUNY Erie (ECC) with an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts & Science. She was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society and was on the Spring 2018 Dean's List. "I am thankful that my manager at Weinberg Campus, Leah Samsel, was supportive and gave me flexibility when needed that allowed me to successfully complete my studies. My coworkers in the Therapy Department were very encouraging during my last two semesters, and celebrated my graduation!"

Tezona had returned to school a few years ago, but life issues caused her to take a break from her studies. "My daughter, Misty, was very passionate in encouraging me to return to school last fall to complete my degree. It's very special to me that we graduated on the same day," says Tezona. "It was truly a multi-generational graduation day!"

Misty earned her Bachelor's degree in Real Estate and Economic Development (R.E.E.D.) from the University of Baltimore. She graduated magna cum laude and received the 2018 Merrick Business Award for being the highest achiever in the R.E.E.D. program. "It was very precious to me that my daughter chose to attend my graduation instead of her own, where she had been chosen to speak," says the proud mom, boasting that prior to graduation, Misty had secured a job as Senior Project Manager for commercial and residential properties at Jabber 5.

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And where will Tezona's career path take her? Tezona was hired at Weinberg Campus in 1997 as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). In 2014, Tezona suffered a rotator cuff injury that required surgery to repair, and was off from work for several months. "I was interested in doing something less physically strenuous," says Tezona. About two years ago, she applied for a position in the Therapy Department. Working as a therapy aide, Tezona says she became intrigued with seeing a new side of personal care that improves patients' functional abilities and quality of life. The job change also broadened her perspective. "I've had the opportunity to see various levels of team work in multiple departments. [The experience] has shown [me] what it takes to make Weinberg Campus a home-like environment that allows families to be comfortable with their loved ones being here."

Tezona is now preparing to return to school to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. "We are very supportive of all of our employees who are interested in furthering their careers and education, particularly in nursing. It would be our pleasure to offer Tezona a nursing position upon her graduation," says Melissa Feider, Director of Human Resources at Weinberg Campus. "Tezona is an asset to the team and we look forward to her being able to inspire and mentor others to follow in her footsteps."

Tezona's daughter is also returning to school for her Master's degree. Will mother and daughter share another graduation?

Tezona has three children, 15 grandchildren and four great grandchildren, and is a member of The Chapel at CrossPoint.

Those interested in a career at Weinberg Campus may search our job bank at <https://weinbergcampuscareers.com/>.

About Weinberg Campus

Weinberg Campus is a non-profit organization serving all faiths that provides an innovative approach to senior care. Weinberg is passionate about creating comfortable environments with high quality care and assistance to individuals as their needs change.

Weinberg Campus offers the only rental community in the area with a continuum of care and no upfront entrance fee. A variety of services and living options include: spacious independent senior apartments, enriched housing, five levels of assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing care rated five out of five stars for quality, home care and rehabilitation.

Our trained, caring staff is always on hand to assist the people we serve. For more information or to schedule a personalized visit, call (716) 639-3332 or visit WeinbergCampus.org.