

Success Story: Kaira Dorsey

Kaira, a 2010 graduate of VSP's Work Adjustment Training program, obtained valuable skills as a clerical trainee within Sinai Hospital's Maternal Fetal Medicine Department (Labor and Delivery). She regained a daily routine and began to build a future for herself. Kaira so impressed those in her training department that a "good-bye" party was held in her honor.

Kaira then entered VSP's Job Placement service via referral by Deborah Thompson-Smith, a Counselor with the Division of Rehabilitation Services.

During orientation, VSP job placement staff reviewed job seeker roles and expectations. Kaira recalls the orientation being "very hands-on and interactive". VSP staff enhanced her resume, provided her with on-going job leads, and most importantly, supported and motivated Kaira toward employment. "VSP staff saw something in me," Kaira shared.

Kaira entered her job search with high motivation and enthusiasm, focusing on clerical/customer service opportunities with local healthcare employers. She applied for advertised positions via websites, followed through on assignments, and attended job club meetings and numerous job fairs. Despite hundreds of job seekers at

a local job fair, Kaira surprised herself by securing an "on-the-spot" interview.

In spite of these efforts, Kaira received no employer response or feedback, and she realized that internet job search alone was not effective. She decided to approach her job search "as a job," adjusting her job search schedule, waking up early, dressing professionally, and presenting herself to prospective employers, unannounced and with resume in hand.

She widened her career options beyond clerical or customer service.

In June 2011, Kaira was offered employment as a security officer with Watkins Group, Inc. Kaira excelled there for one year, until her position was eliminated through downsizing. Kaira has since secured permanent employment with the federal government and could not be happier.

Kaira Dorsey has a keen sense of a successful job search and now inspires others to follow in her

footsteps. Recently, she came back to VSP's job club to share her experiences with others, "trying to empower, motivate and shine positivity on job seekers." She talked about her job search struggles and the importance of perseverance and "looking past the negative." She emphasized the significance of being assertive, dressing professionally, coming prepared and believing in the expectation of a job offer. Kaira spoke of the importance of follow-up calls and thank you letters, along with knowing how to effectively sell oneself, especially at job fairs. Reflecting back, Kaira recognizes how far she has come, "creating a future for herself," and inspiring others in the process.

