

“OVERCOMING ADVERSITY”

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT GRADUATE SUCCEEDS DESPITE HARDSHIPS IN LIFE

Tracey Lems, a 2006 Brown Mackie College – South Bend Occupational Therapy Assistant program graduate, knows what it feels like not to have a place to call home. A victim of domestic violence, Tracey spent time living at a local YMCA center, but when her allotted time ended, she was forced to live at a homeless center. Tracey stayed in the homeless center until a friend invited Tracey into her home. Without a doubt, Tracey has moved around quite a bit; fortunately for her, however, each time she moved she brought along her most valuable assets: determination, perseverance, and courage.

The instability that came with being homeless did not deter Tracey from making strides toward her educational goals. In fact, it seemed like the only thing that was stable in Tracey’s life was her pursuit of an education. Determined to live a better life and to accomplish her goal of becoming an occupational therapist, Tracey enrolled in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Brown Mackie College – South Bend.

She acknowledges Brown Mackie College for providing a positive environment for personal and educational growth. “I had so much support from my classmates and instructors at Brown Mackie College. They were always there to offer words of encouragement to me and my instructors always had an open door,” states Tracey.

Tracey values the education she received at Brown Mackie College – South Bend. “The knowledge I received in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program has really helped me in my professional career,” explains Tracey. Upon graduating from Brown Mackie College – South Bend, Tracey was successful in securing a position with the Madison Center and Hospital, where she currently works as an occupational therapist assistant. “I truly enjoy my job and I love working with people,” says Tracey. Her success and accomplishments are a testament to Tracey’s hard work. She recently became certified by the state of Indiana as an Occupational Therapy Assistant, after passing her certification assessment in just one attempt.

Tracey’s story is one of great motivation and devotion. She proves that despite once being without a physical home, education provided her with a lifelong shelter that could never be taken away.

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