

Unique Apprenticeship Provides Fast and Effective Pathway for Kaiser Permanente Employees to Upgrade Their Job Skills

SAN JOSE, Calif., Dec. 6, 2019 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – Bay Area Medical Academy, SEIU UHW-West, and the SEIU-UHW & Joint Employer Education Fund (the Education Fund) have announced today that they have partnered to offer Medical Assistant Apprenticeship training to Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara employees. The apprenticeship is designed to meet California's healthcare workforce challenges through innovation and education opportunities that underscore quality, equity, and inclusion.



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PHOTO CAPTION: Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara employees have started their Medical Assistant Apprenticeship at Bay Area Medical Academy, San Jose.

The ground-breaking apprenticeship began on September 23rd, 2019 and runs until January, 3rd 2020 at the Bay Area Medical Academy San Jose campus, with a clinical externship taking place between January 6th, 2020 and February 10th, 2020 at a Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara facility. The first cohort

includes Apprentices who currently work in non-medical roles at Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara and other locations.

“This program is an example of workers getting things done. It’s wonderful to see that these Kaiser Permanente employees, SEIU UHW-West members, are getting the opportunity to advance their career, attending a high-quality certification program, free of charge. Success in life is largely determined by the quality of education, but that doesn’t necessarily mean a four-year or a two year degree. Today’s economy allows people with technical skills and problem solving abilities opportunities to advance their lives and careers. The Fundamentals of Medical Assisting Program is just that: technical training and hands-on practice focused on the demands of the job,” said [Simonida Cvejic](#), CEO and Founder of Bay Area Medical Academy.

“The Medical Assistant career is one that creates a pathway into a robust career ladder with so many options. A career ladder that you can retire from. The program was developed to ensure that Apprentices will retain their current pay and job security while they are in school full-time. Apprentices will have a team from SEIU UHW-West, TPMG, KFH, Human Resources and the Education Fund to support them in being successful every step of the way,” said Terrie Ridgeway-Olmos, SEIU-UHW West

“Apprenticeship programs are one of the best ways to promote equity and diversity within workforce development and we are so proud to partner with SEIU-UHW and Kaiser Permanente to launch this inaugural MA program,” said Rebecca Hanson, Executive Director of the Education Fund.

Bay Area Medical Academy is providing a five-module curriculum that follows all California Medical Board requirements and concludes with an opportunity for Apprentices to obtain certification as a National Certified Medical Assistant. Apprentices are also receiving on-going assistance to ensure their successful completion of the apprenticeship, including twice-weekly individual tutoring services and exam preparation and coordination. The Education Fund has also provided program development, management and support, including career counseling for all the participants.

About Bay Area Medical Academy:

Bay Area Medical Academy is an accredited and approved healthcare certification training school with campuses in San Jose and San Francisco. Simonida Cvejic founded Bay Area Medical Academy in 2004, and the school has continually sought to provide occupational skills training that not only aims to help students obtain livable-wage jobs in the costly San Francisco Bay Area, but also provide [a starting point for students to develop long-lasting and upwardly-mobile careers in the healthcare industry](#). Bay Area Medical Academy is a certified B-Corporation, receiving a “Best for the World” rating two years in a row.

More information: <https://www.bamasf.com/>

VIDEO: https://youtu.be/-Cz-6isx_VU

Video Caption: Medical Assistant training at Bay Area Medical Academy.