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NSPRA Excellence in Writing for ‘Nursing Assistant Alum Wins Love Takes Action Award’ by Karen Thornton

The article “Nursing Assistant Alum Wins Love Takes Action Award,” included in the November 2020 issue of the Tech Talk Online newsletter, tells the story of Kirsten Lynch, an extraordinary Nursing Assistant student who risked her life to help others. As part of her Nursing Assistant program internship, Kirsten volunteered at Skyview Nursing Home, and she continued to do so during the height of the pandemic. This article relays not only Kirsten’s bravery, but the fact that she learned many of her skills from her Career and Technical Education program. It helps bring to light how Career and Technical Education programs can help students train, heart and soul, for their future careers.

To view, see third article down via Link: <https://conta.cc/3pcN6ja>

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Nursing Assistant Alum Wins 'Love Takes Action' Award

Former Nursing Assistant student and Croton-Harmon High School senior Kirsten Lynch was recently honored with a New York Life Foundation's Love Takes Action award, which recognizes 35 community members from across the nation embodying "love taking action" in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kirsten was nominated for the award in recognition of her work with Croton-on-Hudson's Skyview nursing home. Kirsten, who was attending the Career and Technical Education Center's Nursing Assistant program at PNW BOCES, started volunteering at Skyview before the pandemic as a way to give back to her community and gain firsthand experience in a medical facility. Kirsten volunteered Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and her passion and dedication impressed Skyview staff and residents from the beginning.



Once the pandemic struck in March, Skyview was forced to pivot to emergency sanitary disease control protocols. Despite changes in staffing, Skyview immediately offered Kirsten a position. Throughout the spring and summer, she showed incredible bravery as she risked COVID-19 infection to help staff and residents any way she could. Whether it was spending hours disinfecting supplies with bleach or teaching residents to use Zoom or Skype to call their families, who could no longer visit them in person, Kirsten was on hand for what was needed.

"Volunteering changed overnight, and suddenly I was a nursing home employee during a global pandemic," said Kirsten. "As extreme infection control unfolded in front of me, I committed each protocol to memory, knowing my actions could save lives."

Now a high school senior who plans to pursue nursing in college, Kirsten is continuing her work at Skyview. She has developed close relationships with many of the residents, some of whom consider her an honorary granddaughter.

Veronica Farlow, Nursing Assistant instructor at PNW BOCES, said that Kirsten was an excellent, attentive student who showed great dedication and compassion.

"Nursing is a calling, and Kirsten showed her passion for it from day one," said Farlow. "She was determined to find a way to help during this difficult time, and she did; she made this world a better place."

The Love Takes Action award recognizes those who have shown an extraordinary commitment to community service during the COVID-19 pandemic, with each winner choosing a nonprofit to receive a grant of \$50,000. Kirsten selected the Center for Court Innovation, which works to create a fair, effective, and humane justice system around the world.