



Lexus Edmond, Kristen Washington, Diamond Davis and Cassandra Stokes each completed the Certified Phlebotomy Technician program at the Gifted Hands Academy in Hammond, Ind. in the spring of 2021.

At Gifted Hands Academy, students can earn their phlebotomy technician certificate in as little as eight weeks.

Lexus and Kristen (pictured right, wearing red scrubs) were introduced to the academy through a local WorkOne office where they also secured enrollment funding assistance. Both completed the program and a three-week clinical in preparation for a National Healthcareer Association (NHA) certification exam, which they passed.

As of early 2024, Lexus continues to utilize her skills within the Community Healthcare System while Kristen is working at the University of Chicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial Hospital.



The 2021 class also included Diamond Davis (pictured left) who enrolled in phlebotomy classes after securing funds through a scholarship program offered by the academy. She passed the NHA test with one of the highest scores possible. After earning her certificate, Diamond was hired by Alverno Clinical Laboratories.

However, earning a new certificate was only Diamond's first step in pursuit of a career in healthcare. In fact, as of 2024, she had also enrolled in an Ivy Tech Community College nursing program with hopes of receiving tuition reimbursement through her employer.



Cassandra Stokes (pictured left) was also a 2021 program participant. She landed an internship at the Gifted Hands Academy and as of 2024, is working in her chosen field at the University of Chicago.

To learn more about the classes offered at Gifted Hands Academy, visit <https://giftedhandsacademy.net/>.