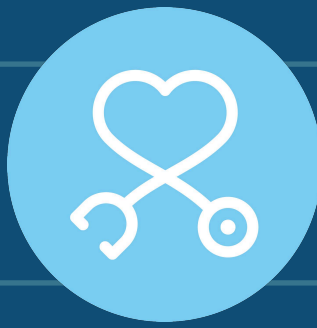


MARIA
PIMA COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



TUCSON, AZ

**Health Career Opportunities
with Personalized Educational
Supports (HOPES)**

From retail to healthcare, Maria finds her passion in helping others

Maria worked as a nurse for five years in her home in Moldova before moving to the United States in search of new opportunities. Unsatisfied with the retail job she worked after moving to Arizona, Maria researched local agencies that could help her get back into healthcare. She connected with ARIZONA@Work and made an appointment to get help.

ARIZONA@Work knew Maria would be a great candidate for the **Health Career Opportunities with Personalized Educational Supports (HOPES)** program at Pima Community College. HOPES connects the underserved population of Pima County, AZ with tuition, testing fees, and employment services to advance their journey along the healthcare career ladder. When Maria went to her random assignment appointment, she was happy to learn she would receive HPOG services. She was excited to start her certified nursing assistant (CNA) program through HPOG and ARIZONA@Work.

After successfully finishing her CNA certification, Maria continued her healthcare training through the competitive Surgical Technology program at Pima Community College.

While she had no family in Arizona to assist her with childcare, many of Maria's friends from the CNA program stepped up to take care of them while she was in school and working full time. Maria completed the Surgical Technology program just as Arizona put a "Stay at Home" order in place due to Covid-19.

It was a long journey, but Maria always knew she wanted to get back into healthcare and would not be able to do it alone. Maria is grateful for all the assistance she received as she obtained her education – tests, fingerprints, and more. She also received help with her resume and basic knowledge on how to get a job.

Maria now works at Banner Hospital as a Surgical Technologist making \$21.30 per hour. She loves her new job and all the opportunities that come with it. Maria is not done with her healthcare journey and hopes to become a registered nurse.

This success story was self-identified by the grantee and information contained in this document was provided by the grantee.