

# REACH, “Within Our Reach” News Volume 2, Issue 1, May 2020

## *REACH Single Parent Students Making Great Changes through COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place*



The REACH staff want to place the spotlight on four fantastic single parent REACH students, Jasmine Baez, Te'Sheika Reece, Kristen Bohannon and Carissa Akins. They are determined to complete their educational training goals despite Shelter-In-Place orders due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. These women have made great changes and have persevered from the first day, campus closed and their training program went to distance learning.



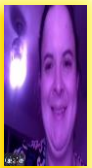
Jasmine Baez, mother of four children ranging from 10 months to 5 years old. She is training to find employment as a Medical Office Assistant. Jasmine started REACH in August 2019, completed an internship at the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, and is determined to succeed. Ms. Baez applies herself diligently to the task of finding work and proves a model student. Despite facing her numerous personal challenges and the added COVID crisis. Jasmine is confident she will gain employment as the state reopens. She has been invited to several online interviews. Kudos Ms. Jasmine! Keep pushing forward, there is a light shining your way at the end of the tunnel!



Kristen Bohannon, mother of two children ages one and two years old. Kristen started her Administrative Assistant training February of this year. This young lady's attendance and participation in class is amazing! Despite housing challenges and starting the distance learning without a laptop and home internet service, Ms. Bohannon has managed to overcome her limited technology and found a way to get resources to complete her online Universal Class training courses with REACH. Keep moving forward, the light will shine brighter, just don't quit!



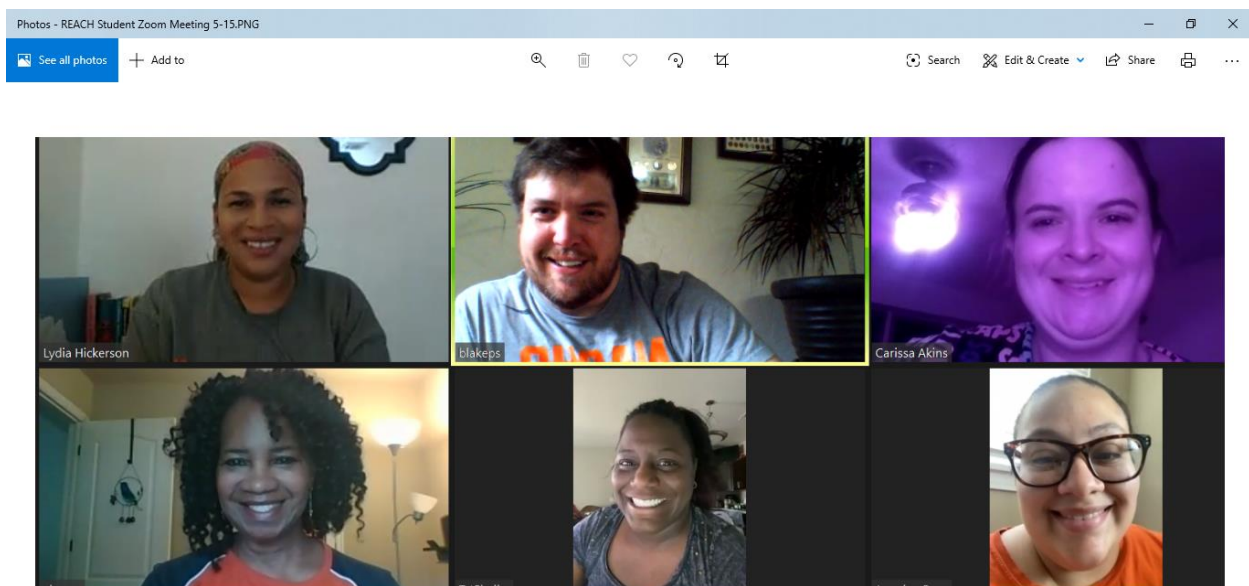
Te'Sheika Reece, mother of two girls ages 12 and two years old. Te'Sheika is currently working on two educational platforms while also taking advantage of every opportunity to improve her job searching and interviewing skills. A great big congratulations to Ms. Reece for gaining an onboarding offer to start employment as a Customer Service Representative for Aerotex! Her anticipating start date has been moved to the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month. Given Te'Sheika's work ethic and determination, we are convinced she will be an asset to any company that hires her. Keep it shining!



Carissa Akins, a devoted mother and a first time college student. Carissa is currently enrolled the OSU-OKC Intro to College Math and doing her a great job and her best to stay on top of assignments during the pandemic. As a REACH participant Ms. Akins is striving to understand the various training outline as she is also learning to navigate through her Universal Class assignments. Kudos, Carissa you are a champion for hanging in the spotlight, keep it bright, you will get through the tunnel!

The REACH program at OSU-OKC collaborates with the Department of Human Services to enhance employment and training opportunities for unemployed adults. We provide short-term career skills in various areas that qualify students to enter the workforce in professional positions. Student participants are accepted through a referral-based system through the TANF grant-funded project.

REACH staff, Blake Sullivan, and REACH Instructor Lydia Hickerson REACH Career Development Specialist has been meeting with students face-to-face online each week. I got an invite to meeting today. It was a joy to see them all at once!



Pictured above top row: Lydia Hickerson, Blake Sullivan, Carissa Akins, bottom row, Angela Barnes, Te'Sheika and Jasmine Baez. Absent, Kristen Bohannan.

Article written by Angela Barnes, REACH Coordinator.