



PUTTING MY BEST FOOT FORWARD

by Long Pham



Long Pham in the State Attorney's office mailroom

Working at the State Attorney's Office as a scanning administrator through the Academy's Transitional Employment Program has been such an amazing experience thus far. I am learning about communication and community. All of us work together to make things happen. I realize now how important community is, and that there are no small roles.

Communication is equally important. People are not mind readers, so it's key to express yourself clearly. Letting others know what you need is essential to creating a positive workplace. People can't help you unless you speak up. I've learned to communicate my needs and ask for help more often.

I am extremely grateful for the support I'm getting from the Academy and the State Attorney's Office. I appreciate everyone who has encouraged me. When days are tough, I remember that I'm representing the Academy at Glengary and that makes me put my best foot forward. It makes me do my best for everyone and the job I enjoy. So, thank you all for the amazing support.

Working at the State Attorney's Office is a meaningful step in my recovery journey. This experience is helping me build confidence, sharpen my skills, and envision a future with new possibilities. I'm grateful for the chance to grow in a setting where I was both challenged and encouraged. I even had the opportunity to meet State Attorney Ed Brodsky, who is to thank for the Academy having this great opportunity.

WARM WELCOME TO HANNAH LINDELL

by Hannah Lindell

I became a member of the Academy at Bradenton in June after hearing about it from a very good friend of mine who has been a longtime member. At first, I was skeptical and didn't know what to think of a place like the Academy. I knew that it serves adults with mental health diagnoses, and that they help with vocational training, but that was about it. I first visited the Academy at Glengary campus in Sarasota last winter for the annual art show. My friend introduced me to so many members and everyone went out of their way to make me feel welcomed.



Hannah Lindell

Since joining, the Academy has been helping me find new opportunities to grow and develop personally and professionally. I currently work full-time as a cafeteria worker in a public school district. My ultimate professional goal is to become a teachers' assistant. I've done goal-planning with Academy staff and already feel like I am moving in the right direction. **I also recently starred in a video that will be featured on our livestream Telethon next month on August 14 from 7-8pm EST at AcademySRQ.org/live.** It was tough learning all of the lines, but I did it! It was so much fun!

I feel so fortunate to have found the Academy, and to have met so many great people.



(L to R) Hannah Lindell, Aaron Williams, Jodi Weiss and Hunter Lanoue filming a skit for our upcoming livestream on August 14.



(L to R) Carolyn Daniele and Patricia Haltinner in culinary

THE HEART OF CULINARY

This week, our culinary team worked especially hard behind the scenes as we welcomed several community partners to the Academy. We hosted Conversations Across the Aisle (CATA), whose mission is to create safe space for meaningful dialogue between people of different ideologies, and also began collaborating with Sarasota Strong (SRQ Strong) to plan their upcoming event at the end of the month. With multiple groups visiting and the kitchen buzzing with activity daily to serve our members lunches, culinary rose to the occasion—prepping, plating and presenting with excellence. Their teamwork, professionalism and attention to detail made a lasting impression on our guests. New Academy member Carolyn Daniele, who is a fine artist said, “It’s been wonderful to be a part of the culinary team this week. Food is like art—you use all the colors of the palette, and everything is beautifully presented.”



Public Defender Larry Eger moderating the dialogue at the CATA event

It’s clear that when big things happen at the Academy, culinary is always at the heart of it.

SARASOTA CAMPUS

1910 Glengary Street
Sarasota, FL 34231
(941) 921-9930



BRADENTON CAMPUS

601 12th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
(941) 929-2800



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