

# Spotlight on Student Success

## James McMahan

### A Leg-Up in the Classroom and on the Job

The Health Careers Program at West Shore has helped set James McMahan (LHS/WSCTD 2013) up for short and long-term success. Just a few months after graduation, James is employed at Fairview Hospital as a PCNA (Patient Care Nursing Assistant). He works weekends at the hospital and dives into textbooks during the week at Cleveland State University where he is a freshman majoring in Nursing. James acknowledges the tremendous help and guidance the West Shore program and Mrs. Jackie Smith provided. “Everything I do at work is a direct correlation to what Mrs. Smith taught in her class,” says James. His current job at Fairview Hospital is helping fund his educational goals and also building his resume as James will be earning medical certifications that he can add to his skill set.



James didn't waste any time during his high school years either. As with all Health Career students, James earned his STNA (State Tested Nursing Assistant) license during his junior year. With this credential under his belt, he got a job in a nursing home during his senior year. This initial job experience put him in a good position for employment at Fairview Hospital. Mrs. Smith describes James as “a diligent and reliable student who did well in the clinical area.”

James credits Mrs. Smith for helping him develop good study habits. He is an avid flash card user which helps him keep fresh in mind all the medical terminology he learned while in the West Shore program. James earned college credit in Medical Terminology. His college classmates are struggling with terms that he can recall easily.



**James' advice to students:** Don't be lazy! After high school, the world gets quick real fast. It's never too early to search and apply for scholarships. College is not cheap. I can't tell you how many hundreds I could have saved if I had just written a few essays. Every penny counts.”