

135 graduate from YTI Lancaster



K. Scott Kreider

With flowers in hand, a Culinary Arts graduate stands to be recognized.

BY SAM JANESCH
Staff Writer
sjanesch@lnpnews.com

Future chefs, dental assistants, state troopers and more walked the stage Tuesday night as new graduates of the YTI Career Institute Lancaster campus.

A total of 135 students graduated across eight programs, with the largest program being Culinary Arts/Restaurant Management with 54 graduates. This was the first year for students to graduate from the Health Information Technology program, which had five graduates.

Deb Levy, interim president of the Lancaster campus, said the institution focuses on helping students start their careers with "industry-modeled, student-centered training and support of the highest caliber."

She said many of the graduates were "pioneers" as the first people in their families to graduate from a post-secondary institution.

Kristin Snavelly, winner of the exclusive President's Award and graduate of the Criminal Justice program, said she was 21 years old with an infant son and working a bartending job when she enrolled at YTI.

There were times in her experience, she said, when she thought negative influences would get the best of her.

However, Snavelly told her fellow graduates, "with the right tools, you can accomplish anything."

The Distinguished Alumnus Award went to Shadoc Meyers, a state trooper in Maryland, who said one of the best decisions she ever



K. Scott Kreider

YTI graduates look for family members as they enter LCBC Manheim auditorium.

Meet some of the YTI graduates

Name: Nicole Morrison
Hometown: Lancaster
Major: Health Information Technology

Biggest lesson learned:

If you are willing to put the work in, you can have whatever career you choose.

I know that in my class we all come from different generations and different backgrounds. The one thing we all have in common is that we know what we want to achieve following graduation and will do everything we need to make it happen.

What's next: Find a job. I know I'm spending all day, every day, filling out applications and sending out resumes.

Will miss most: I am



Nicole Morrison

Name: Kristin Snavelly
Hometown: Quarryville
Major: Criminal Justice

Biggest lesson: Never trade what you want most

for what is convenient now. Always persevere and when you think you can do no more, keep going.

What's next: State Police Academy or Baltimore Police Academy.

Will miss most: I will really miss going to my externship at Hellam Township Police Department. I was able to learn so much there and gain so much advice that will continue to benefit me for my entire career.

Will miss least: I won't miss leaving (for classes) at 5:45 a.m. every day!



Kristin Snavelly

Benjamin Emerson
Hometown: Ephrata
Major: Specialized associates in Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management

Biggest lesson: Professionalism.

What's next: I will continue at The Kling House at Kitchen Kettle Village as kitchen

manager for the foreseeable future. It is a great company with focus on personal and company growth.

Will miss most: My cohort, and the learning process involved with the culinary arts.

Will miss least: Time not spent with my children, and 18-hour days!

Professor who had the most impact on me: I'd



Benjamin Emerson

made was deciding to attend YTI.

Meyers, who graduated in 2011, encouraged the graduates to keep trying to attain their dream jobs despite struggles they may have.

"You will apply for positions, and you will be denied," Meyers said. "You will apply for positions again, and you will get your dream job. This is the reality."

Teresa Mudge, a certified coding specialist for Select Medical Corporation, was the commencement speaker and said both Snavely and Meyers exemplified a quote she keeps on her desk: "If you choose a job you love, you never have to work a day in your life."

To the crowd of about 1,000 people at gathered at LCBC Manheim, 2392 Mount Joy Road, Mudge told the graduates to inspire others with their own stories and personal struggles. For Mudge, her inspiration to go back to nursing school in the 1980s came from desire to help her daughter who was diagnosed with leukemia.

Her daughter, now a practicing attorney, watched from the crowd as Mudge told the graduating class to treat others with kindness, listen to constructive criticism and handle job interviews like blind dates.

"Success isn't what you do in your life — it's what you inspire others to do," Mudge said. "You all have stories. You all have things you can inspire others to do."

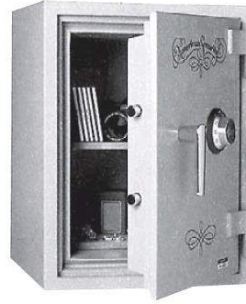
absolutely going to miss the amazing women of my cohort that I've gotten to know and love. When you spend two years with the same women every night for five hours at a time you get pretty close. I hope to stay in contact with them and hear about where their careers take them.

Will miss least: Sitting in class for five hours every night until 10:30 p.m. It will be nice to have my nights back.

Professor who had the biggest impact on me: Lisa Hershey, our program coordinator and instructor, has honestly made a huge impact on my life. I consider her to be a mentor to me. She put her heart and soul into our program and has truly been invested in us for the past two years. She's worked so hard to make sure that everything runs smoothly for us and it hasn't gone unnoticed. Lisa Hershey is what I strive to become in my career. I can't thank her enough.

Professor who had biggest impact on me: Each professor has impacted me greatly in a different way. I would have to say Mr. Pace because I had him for most of my classes and he ... used examples in a very realistic perspective. He has taught me useful skills that are necessary in the field.

have to say Chef Luckenbaugh. He was down to earth, and had a real way of encouraging us to keep our noses to the grind, all the while showing us that it was within our reach to become great culinarians. His attention to detail and ability to see the big picture was a true inspiration.



Feel Safe!

Burglary & Fire Protection!

We're your source for expert safe advice. Know the facts before you buy!!

 **WIZARD**
LOCK & SAFE CO.

299-2385

218 N. Prince St., Lancaster • www.wizardlock.com

Now thru May 27, 2014

Soft Carpet Sale

Soft Carpet

\$1.99 sf

\$39.99 per month**

