

# Zia'Keiya Brickhouse

## Success Story



No money, no car, no support, no love, no plan. These “no’s” are a nightmare for anyone and for one person they were a reality. Meet Zia'Keiya Brickhouse, a 23 year-old woman born and raised in Chowan County, who was living a life with no car, insufficient finances to support her family, no support or love, and no plan to see things differently. Zia'Keiya, better known as Zia, was introduced to the NWDB Youth program as a senior in high school. When she graduated from John A. Holmes in 2014 she started working in fast food not giving much thought her future and left the program.

After experiencing the challenges of young adulthood, she reconnected with NCWorks NextGen a couple of years ago as a parenting youth with two children. If someone asked her about furthering her education or what her dreams were, Zia thought she didn't have the time, dedication, or tools to make that a reality. She faced various challenges being a young parent, deficient in math skills, little technical work skills and living in a low-income area. However, with guidance and encouragement from her NextGen Career Advisors, she was empowered to convert those those barriers into stepping stones on the road to success. Zia took the Traitify personality and career assessment and discovered her passion for helping the elderly. She took this information as a building block for her education and employment plan. Zia put her plan into action by enrolling at COA and completed the Nurse Aide I course and became a state Certified Nurse Aide. Not settling at this entry level, she took on the challenge and gained a stackable credential of Medication Aide making herself more marketable in the medical field. While taking these courses Zia also took on two jobs at a nursing facility in Chowan County. Currently Zia'Keiya is continuing her education in the Medical Assisting program and is an honor student at COA-Edenton. She is also making her mark at COA as the Senator of the Student Government Association (SGA). Zia who thought her world was all no's learned that with hard work and dedication her world was really just a bunch of “not yet's”. Zia is striving for success even under challenging conditions, has stepped up to the plate and swinging to succeed for herself and her children. Upon completing her current program of study, she plans to remain at her place of employment and obtain her RN degree and hopefully find future employment at the hospital in Edenton to make a positive and impactful role in her community. “Yes” is definitely in her life now and in the future.