

# 19-year-old from Southbridge youngest graduate at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

CHARLTON — The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a mental and physical toll on many healthcare heroes and yet, Angeley Santa, 19 years old from Southbridge, is now an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse).

In a message to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director, Santa shared that she “passed my test!” which is the NCLEX-PN (National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing) and that she is grateful to the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, stating “Thank you for all your help throughout this journey!”

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy graduate, Angeley Santa, credits her parents for her success. Her mother Susan Torres (Susie) is a PCA.

Santa said, “My mother has always been interested in the health field; she previously completed CNA and phlebotomy programs, but she devotes most of her time to taking care of her family, so she really never finds the time to go back to school.”

Her father, Juan Santa, Jr. (known to family and friends as Al), graduated from Bay Path’s Automotive program in 1990 and owns Al’s Automotive in Southbridge. Although both Susie and Al were born in the USA, he in Massachusetts and she in Connecticut, both trace their heritage back to Puerto Rico. Angeley proudly wore a Puerto Rico stole during graduation.

Lovingly, Al and Susie wrote to their daughter Angeley, who “started school at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School and began to explore the shops they had to offer. Angeley has always been driven towards fashion and I had a feeling that she would automatically sign up for Cosmetology (it was one of her top choices); however, after finishing exploratory we were very surprised to hear that she wanted Health Tech as her shop of choice. Angeley did very well in her class and went on to tell us that she wanted to continue in the health field but was not sure which way to go. Shortly after, Angeley applied to several colleges but still was confused about what she wanted to do until she heard of the nursing program at Bay Path. Angeley was very determined to get into this program and planned out how she would be



able to juggle this fast-paced course, along with her job and social life, but Angeley is one to set goals for herself and is very organized and determined. Angeley was able to get into the nursing program at Bay Path and it was a lot of hard work, but Angeley was able to complete the course. Angeley just graduated nursing school on June 25, 2021, and on September 3, 2021, Angeley took her NCLEX and passed! Angeley became an LPN at the young age of 19 and we couldn’t be any prouder!”

While a student at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School’s Health Technology program, Santa was inducted into the National Honor Society. She participated in SkillsUSA and was a member of the Steering Committee. As a Health Technology Trade student, her impressive clinical experience line-up included Webster Manor, Accord Eldercare, All Saints Academy, St. Anne Elementary

School (all of Webster), the Goddard School (Auburn), Radius Healthcare, and Harrington Memorial Hospital (both of Southbridge), and the Overlook (Charlton).

While a student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Santa became certified in Mental Health First Aid, certified in Dementia Care with the distinction of obtaining 94 percent which is the highest score for the class of 2021. She was an attendee for the COVID-19 Contact Tracing at Johns Hopkins University. She was a judge for the SkillsUSA State competition and a member of the Admissions Panel. All while maintaining employment at Harrington Memorial Hospital as a Dietary Aide. She participated in Clinical observation at the Wound Clinic in Charlton and spent two days as a School Nurse at Bay Path

RVTHS. Most recently became certified in Infusion Therapy/ Central Line Care Program through the Intravenous Edu.

Santa graduated from the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy at 19-years-old, one of the youngest ever to do it.

She has been accepted to the Quinsigamond Community College Advanced Placement LPN and nothing will stop her from making a difference in this pandemic, one patient at a time.

## STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

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