



Student Success Story

Kelli Simmons '22

Graduate Kelli Simmons '22 illustrates the impact of St. Joan Antida High School's (SJA) Career Pathways program. Kelli participated in the Health Sciences track where she became CPR and First Aid certified. She also earned credits in a Certified Nursing Assistant course in partnership with MATC and completed a clinical at a senior living facility.

Outside of academics, Kelli was a leader on campus, serving as part of our Link Crew student mentoring program and as an official student ambassador for SJA. Kelli was also involved in numerous clubs and extracurricular activities. During her speech given at SJA's 2022 Gala Kelli shared:

“My favorite thing about St. Joan’s is how much of a family we are. SJA is a true sisterhood where everyone looks out for one another, and we all try to help one another grow. I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for SJA and the teachers who helped me get here.”

Kelli was accepted into 17 colleges and universities and selected to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she started her studies in the fall of 2022 in their pre-nursing program on a full scholarship. Kelli, will help address a critical shortage of nurses but also add the needed diversity in the nursing field, in which only 6% of RNs are African American.

“SJA has prepared me well for life after high school and has given me great learning opportunities for the nursing field I am going into,” said Kelli. “I have developed strong communication skills and have worked to develop leadership skills as I did things that took me outside of my comfort zone.”

