

Brandi McIntyre

City and state: Lakewood, WA

High school attended: Lakes High School

Graduation year: 2008

Colleges attended/degrees earned:

Associate of Arts from Pierce College



Current career/job:

Psychology Child Counselor at Western State Hospital

Describe the path you took from high school graduation to where you are today:

I took three years off before returning to complete my AA and was very hard-headed. I didn't want to be pushed into finishing school by my family. Eventually, I decided it was time for me to take my own future into my hands. I had been through a lot over those few short years and wanted to give back to the community.

How did your experiences in Clover Park School District help prepare you for this path?

As I was attending Lakes for my senior year and being in and out of the school district over a 10 year period, I always thought working for the school district would be dull and boring. However, I learned something about myself that took me some time to realize: I liked working with emotional behavioral disability (EBD) students.

Who was the most influential teacher or administrator to you as a student in the district? Why?

I believe my most influential teacher I had as a student was Mrs. Darrellene Canada. No matter how exhausted I was of school, she would always take the time to sit down with me and just talk about what was going on outside of school. I almost dropped out

four months before graduation. I had a full load from being a full-time student and getting a job outside of school to help my mom out with bills.

Do you have any favorite memories from when you attended school in Clover Park School District?

None that come to mind.

What opportunities exist in your career sector for new graduates? Is post-secondary education required for this field?

A bachelor degree in education or any related field is required for this position. If you wanted to remain at the school district and work as a paraeducator (where I started), you don't need any kind of training as a substitute. However, if you wanted a permanent position you need to pass the ParaPro Assessment or complete at least 72 credit college hours.