

Employees achieve success with School at Work

by Kathy Bretsch

Employees from across BJC, including Barnes-Jewish Hospital, BJC Home Care, Christian Hospital, Missouri Baptist Medical Center and St. Louis Children's Hospital, celebrated their School at Work graduations in May. To date, nearly 200 employees have participated, many earning promotions or continuing in higher education programs.

Programs are currently in session at Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital, Boone Hospital Center and Parkland Health Center.

Frankie Cox, MBMC, says she enrolled in the School at Work program seeking the opportunity to further her education and regain her self-confidence. She says it's helped her accomplish both, as she plans to continue with higher education in the fall.

"My School at Work instructors were instrumental, with all of their encouragement, support and guidance," Cox says. "I'm grateful to them, as well as Missouri Baptist Medical Center, for allowing me this opportunity to better myself and further my education."

Now that her School at Work classroom time is completed, Cox is especially looking forward to job shadowing this summer in an area in which she has a particular interest — occupational therapy.

School at Work is a two-course program. The first course, "Introduction to Health Care," helps participants brush up on basic skills, such as reading, writing, math and computer use, as those skills relate to the health-care environment.

After completing the first course, students choose a second — either "Clerical Skills in Healthcare" or "Becoming a Healthcare Professional" — based on the career goals they've established with help from their coach.

Classes meet once a week during work hours and are taught through live TV broadcasts, online work and workbook study. Each hospital's coach oversees the TV and online portions of the course and helps participants establish goals for their careers.