

Cynthia refuses to be a teenage parent statistic; she graduated from Bell High school and is continuing her education at East Los Angeles Community College and wished to pursue her education in the health care field. Cynthia is not sure what career path she will take but she is determined to enroll in a university and become a professional individual with in the health care field.

Cynthia is a first generation college student. Her mother is her strength and her motivation to pursue her education in the health care field. A year ago her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and the news was too overwhelming for her family. Cynthia did not let the terrible news of her mother's diagnosis affect her school performance. The Cancer news became her strength and motivation to graduate from high school and assuring that her mom would see one of her children in a cap and gown at a graduation ceremony. Cynthia had to make that image happen for her mother, and so she did. Cynthia graduated from Bell High school in June of 2013 an enrolled at East Los Angeles Community College; along with the assistance of the DOL Escalera program she was able to attain a summer job through the AltaMed Summer Youth Program. Working for the Boyle Heights AltaMed Clinic was her first work experience. Through this work experience, and the professional development workshops Cynthia learned a variety of skills that prepared her for her first job. Cynthia was a very shy student, but through her work experience she has learned how to be more sociable and approachable. She learned how to dress professional, and be reliable and dependable. She is not sure what area in the health care field she would like to work, but being introduced to the medical field through AltaMed Summer Youth program only certified her interest in the health care field. Her mother's struggle with cancer continues to be her strength and passion to pursue a career in the health care field. Cynthia and her mother are very grateful to the AltaMed DOL and summer youth program for providing the guidance in Cynthia's next stage to success.