



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The Illinois Pioneer Coalition Provides Scholarships for Individuals Choosing to Work with Illinois's Aging Population.**

Marion, IL May 3, 2023- The Illinois Pioneer Coalition (IPC) advocates and facilitates deep system change and transformation in our culture of aging so that those aging in Illinois can ensure that they get the care and services that they need, want, and deserve. Pivotal in this mission are those individuals who provide care in long-term care communities throughout the state. This was the motivation for the IPC to provide two \$1,000 scholarships to current employees in long-term care who are committed to furthering their own education.

The scholarships were awarded in honor of Vivian and Mary Tellis-Nyak, who while they consider Illinois their home, have nationally challenged healthcare providers to critically look at how care is provided. Mary, a nurse by trade, and Vivian a renowned long-term care researcher, have spent decades considering the impact that the care provider has on people's quality of life, with research showing that there is a direct correlation. This holds true even more for those who consider nursing communities and assisted living as their home because care in these entities has a tendency to be institutionally driven.

When staff embrace people for who they were and are, it benefits the elder, the families, and the staff because relationships form. Those individuals who specialize in working with older adults and who are committed to person-centered care are at the heart of this transformational change. It can be a struggle for staff who are committed to caring for our frail elders to find the financial resources to further their education. The IPC has recognized this, which became the motivation to offer these \$1,000 monetary awards to care providers who have expressed their person-centered commitment through the scholarship application and board interview process. This year, Vivian and Mary Tellis-Nyak, selected the final two recipients from the final four applications selected by the IPC executive committee. Through the thoughtful review, those receiving the \$1000 scholarships are:

- Brandy Eads from Cobden, Illinois. Brandy is currently employed by the Veteran's Home of Anna. as a Certified Nurses Aid. She is currently enrolled at Shawnee College where she is studying to become a Licensed Practical Nurse and hopes to pursue Registered Nurse someday.
- Jennifer Campos from Chicago, Illinois. Jennifer is currently employed at Friedman Place Supportive Living as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Jennifer is currently enrolled at Malcolm X Community College in the LPN-RN Bridge program.

The Illinois Pioneer Coalition is a 501-3c organization and a 100% volunteer board. For more information on the IPC, its mission, or the scholarship, contact:

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