



In high school Aleea decided she wanted to work in the dental field, starting as a dental assistant. Those were busy days with school and extracurricular activities. She played volleyball with her school team and also with traveling teams. As a senior, Aleea was varsity team captain, a role she definitely enjoyed with the challenges and opportunities it offered. Off to college was to be the plan after graduation. But plans can change and hers did when she became pregnant at 18. Aleea said there was no anger or sadness – just shock followed later by excitement about the new life within her. She says, “I made it my mission not to become a statistic. I graduated high school with a Core 40 diploma, got myself a part time job that works great with my school schedule and I am currently a full time student at Ivy Tech.”

Aleea has set a goal to be on the Dean’s list for all semesters, to receive her dental assisting certificate along with expanded function and to find a full time job as a dental assistant by 2017. This year she has been President of the Dental Assisting Society at Ivy Tech where she has exhibited leadership and has had an opportunity to play a more professional role at school.

Her instructor wrote, “Aleea has demonstrated great leadership skills during her role as the dental assisting society president, and seems a natural at it. On a daily basis I am seeing many of the traits it takes to be an exceptional dental assistant. Her hard work and commitment to the program and fellow students has shown and continues to show.”

Aleea’s determination to achieve her academic goals, as well as giving full attention to her role as mother of two year old Peyton, is a challenge she is very capable of achieving. She has met challenges before – one in particular as a young teen, when she successfully took control of her health and weight condition. She dropped from 204 pounds to an appropriate weight through diet and exercise.

Aleea has a busy summer ahead of her. She is taking the Expanded Dental Assisting Class of 8 hours a week plus her Externship of 30 hours. This will mean cutting her working hours at Tate & Lyle down to five hours a week. The Rotary scholarship comes at an important time and will be a needed help.