



**KELLY
GRIMMER**

Age:

38

City of Residence:

Peabody, MA

**Institution and
Program of Study:**

North Shore
Community College,
Community Health Worker



What are your plans for your future?

A couple of years ago, North Shore Community College received a grant to provide training and a Community Health Worker certificate at no cost to students. This really intrigued me. After I completed the certificate, they also began offering certificates in Recovery Coaching. Now, my goal is to become a licensed alcohol and drug counselor.

Why did you enroll in a non-credit program?

This was the right start for me. I needed flexible scheduling after having a newborn. I had a terrible admissions experience at a different school in the past, but North Shore made enrolling in the non-credit program easy. I wanted more for my career and it provided a path for me. Right now, I only do administrative work, but I want to do more for our clients. The grant and support from staff opened the door for me to enroll.

What prompted you to transition to a credit program?

The professor pushed me. She asked me, “why aren’t you doing more?” She encouraged me to consider credit and a range of options. North Shore Community College faculty encouraged me. She walked with me through admissions, financial aid, and walked me through every process to ensure I was successful. The process to transition from non-credit to credit was simple.

What recommendations do you have to faculty and staff who are working to improve the student experience across non-credit and credit?

Meet people where they are. Break it down for your learners and help them understand the process. Encourage and help students understand what non-credit courses are and how students can leverage the training to transition into credit programs. Faculty who are not just there to teach, but help students, made all of the difference for me.