



Jasmine Chentell Howard  
Graduate of the Year

Jasmine's life has taken many paths and with each journey, she's been driven to find the best one. She's been guided by her keen awareness that the one she was on was unhealthy. Since age 5 she and her sister lived with her aunt, who was appointed their legal guardian. Her birth mother lost custody due to a history of substance abuse.

Jasmine had the desire for a career at an early age and was drawn to the medical field. She enrolled in a medical core class in high school. She cruised through school and in her senior year she was an honor student, in the top of her class. But her life path took a left turn that year when she began hanging out with the wrong crowd, met and moved in with her boyfriend. She felt the need to change her unhealthy lifestyle so she moved out to stay with friends in Milwaukee.

Six months later, she returned to the Long Beach area, and met a GoodwillSOLAC Employment Services Coordinator at a job fair who suggested she apply for the Healthcare Training Program. She entered the program in September 2009 and graduated from the Health Care Training program as one of the top students in her class which earned her one of the two internship spots at Community Hospital of Long Beach.

Jasmine has yet to choose between continuing her studies for Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, but whatever path she chooses, she will succeed. In the meantime Jasmine is living independently and working part-time at Community Hospital of Long Beach.