



## Alumni Spotlight

Meet Allyssa Molenda, she graduated technically in the Spring of 2020 during COVID, however, she was allowed to walk the stage during graduation in 2021, and she graduated with her Associate in General Studies. Right after high school, Allyssa attended Casper College, but shortly after leaving she knew she made the wrong decision, that is why she decided

to attend Gillette College, to be closer to home with her family. "Gillette has such a great community and support system that isn't the same in other places." She lived at home with her family and took in-person classes until COVID hit then she went to strictly online classes. Allyssa's favorite classes were Intro to Public Speaking and her least favorite class was Health and Wellness. Her favorite thing about being an alumna was being able to share that she finally had a degree that gave her pride, "there was a point in my life where I didn't think my life goal of completing a degree would happen." Allyssa's words of advice would be "Always ask questions. Even if you feel it is a ridiculous question, someone else in the room may be think the same thing."

Allyssa's family is a mix of a few cultures; her dad is from Mexico; her mom is from North Dakota. She was born here in Gillette, but when she was younger, they moved to California, where her younger brother was born. They moved back to Gillette after that and then her sister was born, and they are all still here in Gillette. Allyssa's husband is from Indiana and both of their children were born here, "Gillette is our home!" Her values include kindness, inclusion, patience, creativity, equity, honesty, dependability, family first, and generosity. "Growing up as a Hispanic girl was bumpy sometimes. Not everyone is accepting at all times." Her current hobbies and interest are music (singing and playing instruments), spending time with family/friends, watching racing, bowling, and creating by crafting or building.

Allyssa's next steps include continuing her education and getting her Bachelor's degree. Her 5-year goal would be to have graduated with her Bachelor's degree and her 10-year goal would be to have a job in that field to possibly stay until retirement. Currently, Allyssa is working at Gillette College as the Facilities Coordinator, she came to work for us because of the atmosphere.

**Thank you so much, Allyssa! The Gillette College Foundation is proud to recognize you as a Gillette College Alumna!**

## Scholar Spotlight

Meet Kylie Bullach, she has received the Richard M. Baker Scholarship at Gillette College, which has helped her cover school finances so that she can focus her income on making sure her family is taken care of. As expensive as college is, she does not think she would be able to afford to pursue a better future through school if she did not receive any scholarship help. "I'm very appreciative."



Kylie is currently working at a coal mine and has been for almost 3 years, Mine Rescue Team. She is a young mother of two, doing it all on her own. Kylie is a gym junkie, she is a committed college student, and she raises tarantulas.

Kylie graduated in 2018 with general education, she took a 3-year break and is currently working on her Health Science degree for the past 1.5 years to hopefully get into the Nursing Program in 2023. She will also be graduating with her Associate in Health Science in 2023. Once she gets her ASN through the Nursing Program here in Gillette, she's hoping to continue her education through UW online to get her BSN and maybe even one day her MSN. Kylie's future goal is to work at the hospital in the labor and delivery unit or the emergency room.

While at Gillette College she has learned, "To never give up and that I am capable of way more than I believe I am. Anything is possible if you are willing to put in the work." Kiley Dodson, from Financial Aid, is one of the staff members that really helped Kylie, she was always huge support and helped Kylie when obstacles popped up. The best thing about Gillette College was the opportunities offered and all the support that was offered and of course the food. A few words for future students, "If you tell yourself, you can't do it, you won't. If you tell yourself, you can do it, you'll achieve anything you set your mind to."

**Congratulations, Kylie! The Gillette College Foundation is proud to recognize you as one of our scholarship recipients!**

## Veterans Day Celebration

We had a great turnout for the celebration in the Veterans Lounge on Veterans Day. If you missed it here are some great pictures. Thank you to everyone who showed up and thank you to all the men and women for their service.



## Upcoming Events

**December 6** - Tree Lighting - Tech Center - 4:30 pm

**December 7** - Ornament Making - Area 59 - 6:00-8:00 pm

**December 12** - Alumni Association Meeting - BN Room - 4-5 pm

**December 21** - GCCD Board of Trustee's Meeting - 11:30 am - Tech Center Pronghorn Board Room

**December 22-January 2** - College Closed, Winter Break

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