

Mentoring Paves the Way for Success

Following an inspirational, impactful, and supportive internship opportunity with Michele Johansson, nurse manager of the Baystate Wing Emergency Department, EJ Perrin shares his story about gaining experience, building a network, and finding a career opportunity that was right for him!

“I started an internship with Baystate Wing Hospital in February as a high school observer in the Emergency Department through a program in my school called River East School to Career, Michele Johansson, the nurse manager, was my preceptor. She placed me with a variety of team members and my experience was great and I quickly realized how interested I was in healthcare,” said ‘EJ’ Edward Perrin, a graduate of Palmer High School and ED technician at Baystate Wing Hospital. “During my internship, Michele and I were recognized with the Outstanding Student-Mentor Team award at the annual School to Career breakfast. In addition, I also enrolled in an emergency medical technician (EMT) class and my tuition was funded by my high school. After completing both my internship and the EMT class, I qualified for an ED technician position at Baystate Wing and was offered this position. I've been working in the ED for a month, and I love it. The ED team is an amazing group, and they have all been so very welcoming to me. Sometimes people tell me I look too young to be working in the Emergency Department and that always makes me smile. My favorite part about the work I do in the BW ED is being able to give and help people in need!”



“As a new manager, sponsoring a student in the department was a new experience for me,” said Michele Johansson, MSN, RN, CNL, nurse manager of the Baystate Wing Emergency Department. “It was exciting to bring in a high school student who already has an enthusiasm for healthcare and wants to help patients when they aren’t feeling well, just as our care team does. All of us in the ED are always proud to highlight the work that we do and the care that we give. It was very easy to welcome EJ for this reason and showcase our passion for our jobs. Our team members and colleagues also felt the same, so he was easily embraced by everyone he shadowed including our ED techs, doctors, and physician assistants as

well as a member of our security, radiology, respiratory therapy, and nursing teams. It takes the entire team to give adequate and thorough care to a patient. We were delighted, of course, to help cultivate a career in emergency care for EJ, it was a pleasure and a great experience. We are looking forward to hosting our next student. Truth be told, we secretly hope they too will love their experience enough to want to join our healthcare team.” **#MyBaystateStory**