

Alumni Spotlight

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Alyssa Rinella

Class of 2016



Alyssa Rinella graduated from CVCC's Health Careers program in 2016, which was instructed by Diane Ellis at the time. From a young age, Alyssa aspired to work in the healthcare field, initially envisioning a career in nursing due to her passion for caring for others. Her inclination towards caregiving was nurtured by her experiences assisting her mother in caring for her ill younger cousin and great-grandmother.

"When enrolling at CVCC, students must list their top three program choices due to varying demand. I distinctly remember writing 'Health Careers' on all three lines because there was no other option for me – I knew it was what I wanted," Alyssa recalls.

Alyssa's favorite CVCC memory is from her last day at the school. *"Ms. Ellis created a personalized version of Dr. Seuss's 'Oh, The Places You'll Go!' for our class. She started tearing up while reading it, and the whole class was sobbing together. It's a memory I'll cherish forever."*

After graduating from CVCC, Alyssa worked as a phlebotomist, having obtained her STNA from CVCC. However, she was not fond of this position. She then briefly explored a career in education but quickly realized that her true passion was in healthcare. While searching for jobs online one day, she discovered the EMG Technologist (Nerve Conduction Technologist) position at the Cleveland Clinic. Despite her time away from the healthcare field, she decided to take a chance and applied. To her delight, she was hired and received comprehensive training from the Cleveland Clinic, which she credits to the strong foundation provided by CVCC.

Alyssa now works in Neurology at the Cleveland Clinic as a Nerve Conduction Technologist. Her role involves working closely with a Neuromuscular Neurologist, conducting tests to measure the speed of electrical impulses in patients' nerves. These tests can diagnose conditions ranging from ALS to carpal tunnel syndrome. Her duties also include preparing patients for these tests and conducting extensive patient research. *"I basically electrocute people for a living,"* she jokes, acknowledging the discomfort patients may feel during tests. However, her training at CVCC equipped her with the skills to make patients as comfortable as possible in these situations. *"I love what I do, and my experience at the Cleveland Clinic has been incredible."*

Alyssa advises those considering CVCC to go for it without hesitation. *"Don't second guess attending a program you're interested in; CVCC will help you determine if you want to work in that field for the rest of your life. Plus, discovering your career path in high school can save you significant time and money post-graduation. Do your research, ask questions, shadow professionals, seek out opportunities, and talk to alumni, including me!"* CVCC celebrates Alyssa's achievements and looks forward to her continued success. Way to go, Alyssa!

Written By: Makayla Robertson, CVCC Media Specialist

