Tabitha’s inspirational journey is a true testament to how hard work can lead to great rewards. Here is her story – how she faced challenges with determination, dedication and perseverance – and how she successfully achieved her goals.

Tabitha Jordan, RMA, is a clinical coordinator for an orthopedic practice in Columbia, South Carolina, that is part of the largest healthcare system in the Midlands region. She says her journey to becoming a Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) was “nontypical,” and started in high school when she enrolled in a practical nursing program through her school district’s vocational center.

“I completed this course; however, there was a small catch: I was 17, a senior in high school, and would also be giving birth to my first child.” Despite the huge challenges Tabitha was facing, she completed the program and graduated high school with honors – ranked 38th in a class of more than 300 students.

After graduation, Tabitha started working for a large orthopedic practice and found a valuable mentor in her employer. “I had a physician who took me under his wing and taught me everything he could. I got the best three years of on-the-job training I could ever get.”

Tabitha then had an opportunity to join another practice. There was one catch: Tabitha had to be certified if she wanted to work there. “I did some research and found ‘another’ organization which required only two years of work experience,” she recounts, “and I could take the certification exam at home on the computer.”

Tabitha passed her exam. However, something was lacking. She expected to get more in return for paying her renewal fees and maintaining CPR certification. There were no networking opportunities, “no conferences – nothing – for the money I was paying,” she remembers.

After a few years, Tabitha wanted to increase her earning potential, and found a position with a major hospital group.

There was another catch: her new employer did not accept her current certification. She did her research, and found that her professional background as well as her interest in becoming involved in an affordable membership association pointed her to AMT.

Soon Tabitha faced yet another, pivotal challenge: summoning up enough courage to take the AMT RMA exam. “At this point I had been out of school for 15 years! I was super nervous. I didn’t want to be seen as a failure to both my family and my employer,” she recalls. “Finally, I said to myself that I needed to go ahead and set a date so I would know I had a deadline to pass my exam.”

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She studied every day, relying on AMT’s online study materials to better prepare her for the certification exam. When it came time to take her exam, she passed on the first try.

Tabitha’s impressive achievements didn’t stop after she became an RMA. She automatically became a member of her AMT state society, eventually becoming very active on both the state and national levels. She serves as editor for the South Carolina newsletter, The Palmetto Scope, and also served on the National Convention and the State Scientific Planning Committees. She attended three AMT National Conferences as an RMA delegate for the state of South Carolina and was appointed as the Under
40 Non-Voting RMA Observer on the AMT National Board of Directors for 2016.

“This is my third time serving as a state delegate for South Carolina, and I can truly say it was a great experience,” she says. “I encourage all members of AMT to become active in their state societies. I would love to have more RMAs active at the state and national levels of AMT. If it was not for being chosen as a delegate for the state, I may not have ever traveled to Hawaii for AMT’s Annual Conference!”

Tabitha’s willingness to serve and become active has led to more opportunities for professional growth and leadership than she has ever hoped or imagined – and it started the day she scheduled her RMA certification exam.

Find out how AMT certification can contribute to YOUR success. Visit www.americanmedtech.org for more information about our certification exams, practice exams and state societies.

Tabitha Jordan, RMA, is a clinical coordinator at Palmetto Health in Columbia, South Carolina, a 700+ physician member health system. She has been certified by American Medical Technologists (AMT) as a Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) for 3 years. In addition to her involvement with the South Carolina state society of AMT, Tabitha was instrumental in helping over 100 of her colleagues become certified RMAs to help her employer meet the requirements of Meaningful Use.