

Marshfield Lab student receives national scholarship for dedication to lab studies

Emily Matthys, a senior in the medical laboratory technician (MLT) program at Marshfield Labs, is one of five students nationwide to receive a \$2,000 scholarship from the American Proficiency Institute.



Matthys is not your “traditional” student. She came to the Clinic last August to study a number of departments in the lab.

“I have a master’s degree in biology, was researching fisheries biology and was teaching microbiology at the college level,” she said. “I wanted to see how I could use my lab skills in the microbiology lab, and that’s how I got into the medical microbiology field.”

“Emily comes to the practicum with a wealth of experience,” said Julie Seehafer, Ph.D., director of Laboratory Education at Marshfield Clinic. “With her technical knowledge and her leadership skills, she is likely to make an immediate contribution.”

She applied for the reward from the American Proficiency Institute, which offers innovative solutions and technical excellence for the proficiency testing needs of hospital laboratories, physician offices, clinics and point-of-care testing sites. She was shocked and happy when she found out she received the award.

“I was so surprised,” she said. “It’s a national scholarship, so it’s one of those opportunities you apply for, but it will be really helpful to offset costs of tuition. I was very honored and excited about it.”

After word spread that she received the award, she has had a number of people congratulate her, even people she went to school with.

“I went to Michigan Tech University, and I’m finding a lot of people who went there that are coming out of the woodwork to congratulate me and support their fellow alumna.”

She graduates in May, with hopes of working as generalist in a lab, so she gets a taste of everything. Eventually, she would like to work in a microbiology lab.