



Andrea Silva is a Junior enrolled at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in the Nursing BSN Program. She began her journey in healthcare at the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School in the Nursing Assistant Program and became a Certified Nursing Assistant. From young age, she was in charge of going to appointments after school and was the main translator for her grandmother. She helped educate and clarify the complex medical terminology from English to Portuguese. It was at this time in her life that she was truly exposed to what bedside healthcare was to care or lack thereof that may occur in these facilities.

She makes a true impact on people's lives and be there for those who may not have anyone else by their bed side. She believes that being a CNA has provided her with the privilege to give patients back their dignity and quality of life.

She believes that the basic hands-on skills that she has acquired through the years will help her to become a better nurse for the future. She is not afraid to not only advocate for her patients but also participate in their hands on daily care and emotional needs. One of the biggest takeaways that she has gathered is never forget to treat the patient and not the disease or task at hand. She believes that each person in her care is somebody's mother, father, grandmother, etc., and they should be treated herwith respect and dignity. She is grateful for the job that she has today and she will never forget those who helped her involve in her journey as they have made her a better and more compassionate CNA and a future nurse.