About The Able Trust's High School High Tech Program

Melisa is a registered nurse at Halifax Health Medical Center in its Intensive Surgical Care Unit in Daytona Beach, Florida. She participated in The Able Trust High School High Tech (HSHT) program for all four years of her high school experience, crediting the HSHT program with the motivation and inspiration to seek the career of her dreams. Growing up with a hearing and learning disability, Melisa knew her opportunity to accomplish success and independence would be better served by the support of others. She found that support in the HSHT program.

Melisa graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor’s degree in Nursing from the University of Central Florida College of Nursing in Daytona Beach in 2017, after earning her Associate of Arts Degree in Health Science at Santa Fe College. She completed clinical rotations at Halifax Health and Florida Hospital while pursuing her RN degree. In 2018, Melisa was named Neuroscience Floor Rookie of the Year for her outstanding work at Halifax Health Medical Center.

“The Able Trust High School High Tech program played a major role in my life and helped me become the person I am today,” Melisa says. “I know my internships were invaluable in helping me achieve my career goals, and I thank The Able Trust for all that they did to help me succeed.”

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The Able Trust HSHT program provides high school students with various types of disabilities the opportunity to explore jobs or postsecondary education leading to successful careers.

The program is designed to: 1) improve participation in education, vocational and employment-related activities for youths with disabilities; 2) increase their enrollment in postsecondary education and training; and 3) help them identify and pursue a successful career path. During the 2017-2018 school year, The Able Trust HSHT program served 1,336 students with disabilities at 43 sites in 40 counties and achieved a graduation rate of 99% for all participating seniors.