



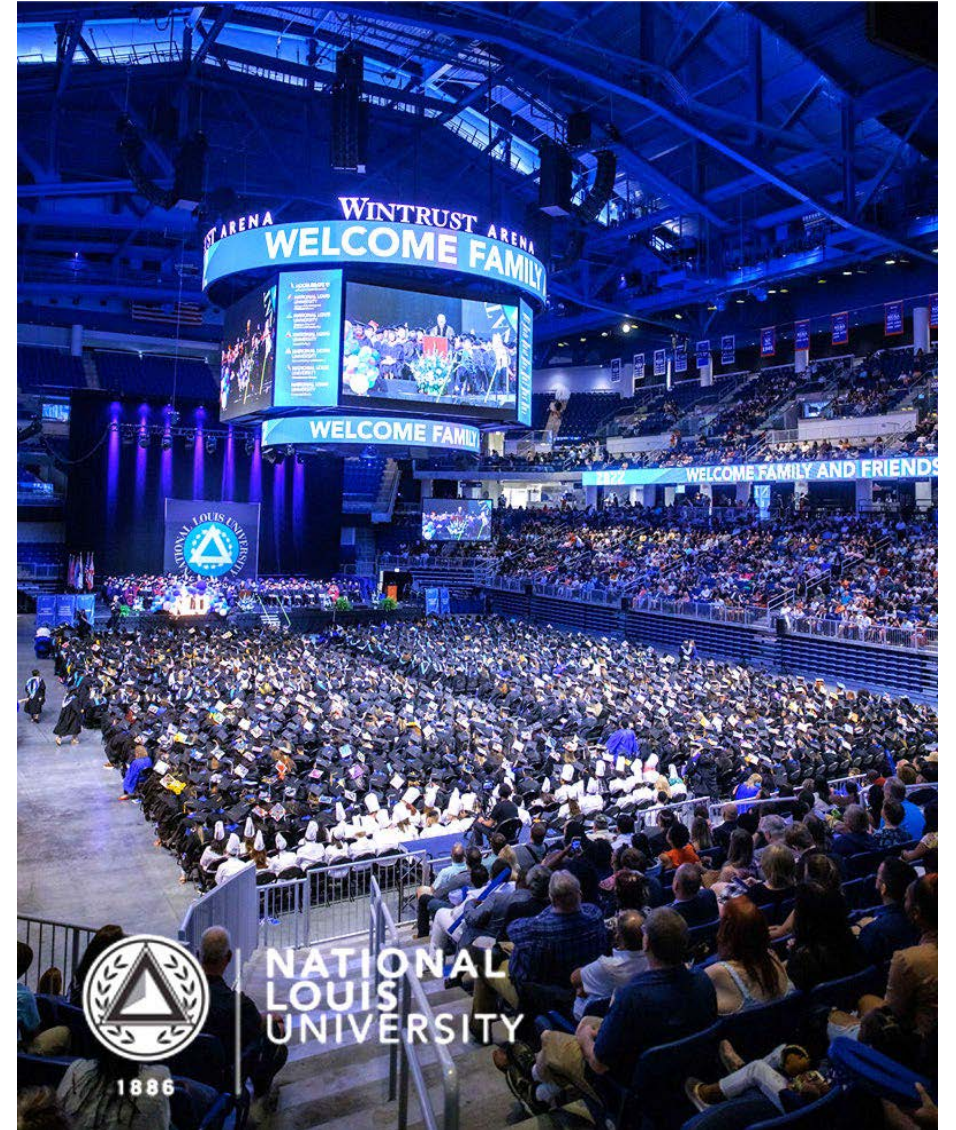
ACCELERATE U at NLU
credentials. connections. careers.

ACCELERATE U PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Summer 2024

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY

- Non-profit university founded 140 years ago to educate Chicago's immigrants
- **11,000 students**
- **70/70/70% Pell-eligible, First-Gen, Black & Latinx**
- Average undergrad age of **29**
- **70 programs across 5 colleges**
- NLU Gets Lots of Attention!
 - #1 Best Bang for the Buck
 - #4 in Social Mobility
 - Top 25 Most Diverse Universities
 - Top 10 Colleges that Make the World a Better Place





ACCELERATE U

A NEW SOLUTION

A Pathbreaking “Job-First Higher Education” Model

Employer Focused

- Work with employers to build learning experiences that are aligned to actual in-demand, upwardly mobile jobs
- Create a new talent pipeline for employers

Learner Focused

- 6-8 months long
- Online + in-person: flexible and convenient
- Career Coach + Cohort = Belonging and Confidence

Develops “work ready” employees

- Technical and “Durable” (soft) skills
- Work in the field (externships, apprenticeships)
- Guaranteed interview and a clear path to FT job

Affordable

- <\$7,000 and eligible for fed/state grants (Pell/MAP)
- Little to no debt
- Emergency funds, stipends and paid externships (when possible)

Provides Stackability

- 25-30 NLU college credits and clear pathway to earning bachelors
- Industry-recognized certificate valid in all 50 states



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR LEARNERS

- 88% BIPOC
- 64% South or West Sides of Chicago
- 80% Pell-eligible
- 90% Female
- 82% First Gen
- Avg. 23 years old
 - Range: 17-54
- Middle quartiles of HS class
- <1 year of college experience
- ~15-20% parents
- Most are working part- or full-time



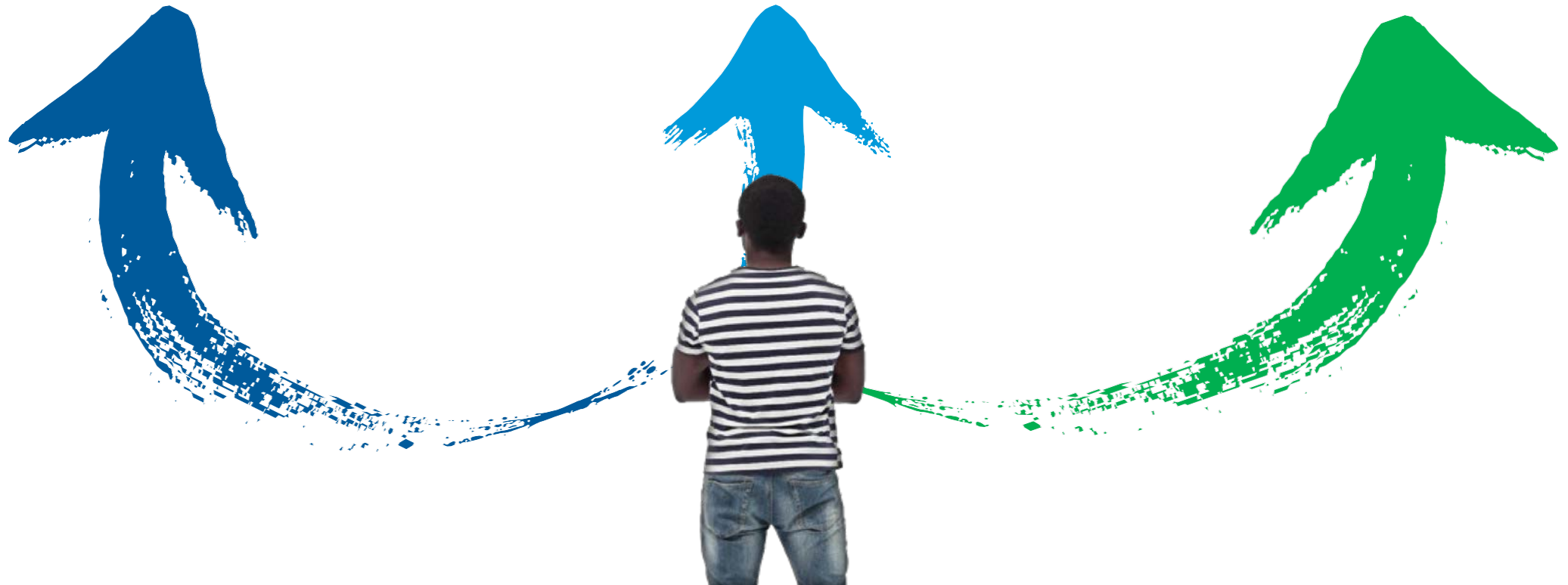
MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO CONTINUE EDUCATION

Pathways available **after credential completion – credits stack!**

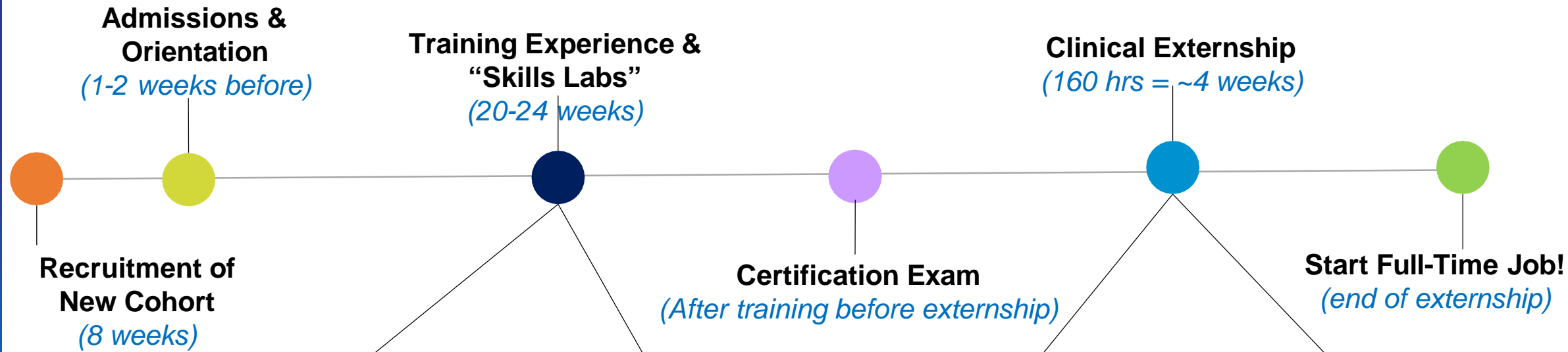
Work towards a Bachelor's degree in the same or different field.

Work towards an Associate's degree in the same or different field.

Work on *another credential* and earn additional college credit.



THE MEDICAL ASSISTANT TRAINING MODEL



- 20-25 learners in each cohort
- "Live" class with instructor 2x/week
- Cohort coaching session 1x/week
- 10 In-person "Skills Labs"
- Learners complete 3-4 hrs of work each day
- 4 sequential courses aligned to CCMA cert exam
- 3 new cohorts each year (July, Sept, Jan)
- Adjuncts = experienced MAs connected to employer partners
- Alumni coaches providing added support

= 25 NLU quarter hour credits

- On-site "externship" experience at a local healthcare facility
- Ongoing support from coach
- Prepare for FT job as MA

= 5 NLU quarter hour credits

TWO NEW TRAINING PATHWAYS

Registered Behavior Tech (RBT)

- Works with clients on autism spectrum to build a behavioral plan
- \$40K salary
- Launched January 2023 with pilot of 10
- “Earn & Learn”
- Stacks into multiple NLU majors
- Career starters and changers (ECE, paras, etc.)

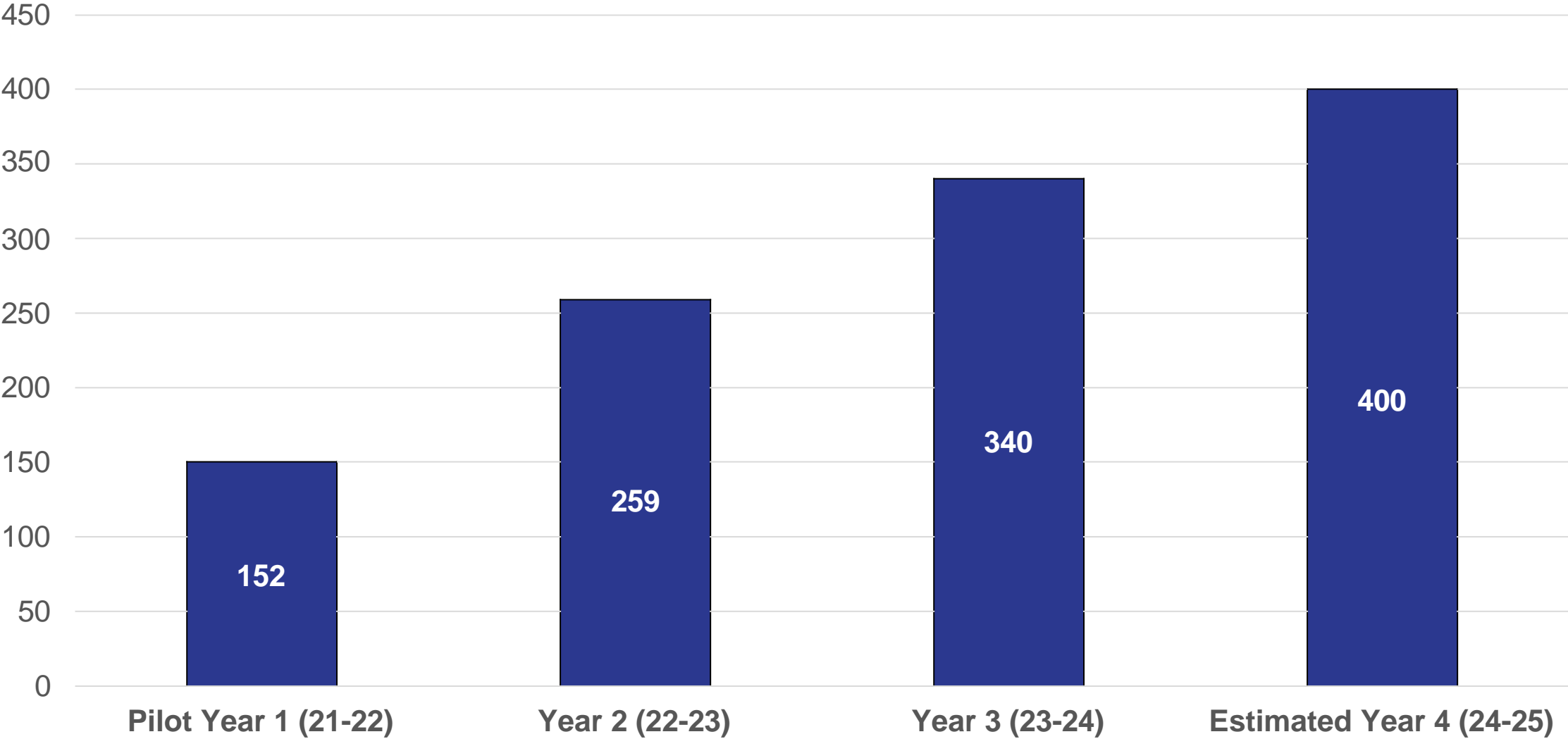


Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)

- IT credential focused on network infrastructure and systems management.
- \$40-60K salary
- Launched September 2023 with pilot of 15
- In-person coursework
- Stacks into NLU Comp Sci degree
- Career changers, veterans, undergraduates ready to work



ACCELERATE U ENROLLMENT



SOME OF OUR EARLY LESSONS LEARNED

Lesson/theme....

...and how we're evolving our work.

The student learning experience is essential for strong outcomes.

- Coaching is special sauce; improving ratios + coordination with instructors (esp. with Propel)
- 20 hrs a week vs. 30 hrs a week learning load
- More “durable skill” development (role plays, practice)
- Online fatigue is real: in-person “low-res” experiences are essential for practice and belonging
- Re-evaluating content sequencing and certification prep
- Determining the AU “buy vs. build” design strategy

Robust employer partnerships sit at the center of the AU model.

- Job/pathway selection is a core competency.
- Increase MA pay & comp for externships
- Reduce barriers to starting (paperwork, parking, etc.)
- Three levels of employer communication
- Testing “few/large vs. many/smaller” employer strategy

AU/NLU systems and processes will continue to evolve to support a new (rapid) model.

- AU is building a rapid program design process (<6 mos)
- Refine the selection model to ID for motivation for job.
- Define the target learner clearly and find them!
- Focusing on redesigning the “plumbing” of higher ed – (admissions, financial aid, program approval, accreditation) for short-term experiences



Thank you!

Thackston Lundy

Vice President of Workforce Pathways, Accelerate U

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APPENDIX



SUCCESSFUL AU LEARNERS ARE:



Eisha



Aldo



Jessica

- **Motivated to work FT** and to complete a rapid training program
- Open to **learning in new ways** - online, in-person, in the field
- Thrilled to **join a learning community** with your peers
- **Energized to earn a certificate and college credit** towards a degree
- **Willing to meet employer requirements** (COVID vax, immunizations, background check)

WE LOOK FOR **THREE THINGS** IN ALL OUR LEARNERS:

1. HS degree or GED(>2.0 GPA)
2. Desire to start a new job
3. Motivation and commitment to do the work to complete our program

THE ACCELERATE U TEAM



Shantall Del Giudice
Dir of Career Coaching



Alicia Collins
Career Coach



Kylie Vadnais
Dir of Learning & Product



Richard Vance
Career Coach



Angel Alcazar
Dir of Outreach



Thackston Lundy
Vice President



Jennifer Robin
Dir of Strategy & Ops



Maria Ixtlapale
Ops Coordinator



Mary Aboutar
Dir of Allied Health



Lisa Hairston
Dir, Employer Engagement



Gabriela Khodja
Career Coach



Nina Mercado
Career Coach



Chieme Atubi
Finance/Data Analyst



Alvin Ocasior Jr
Data Management Assistant

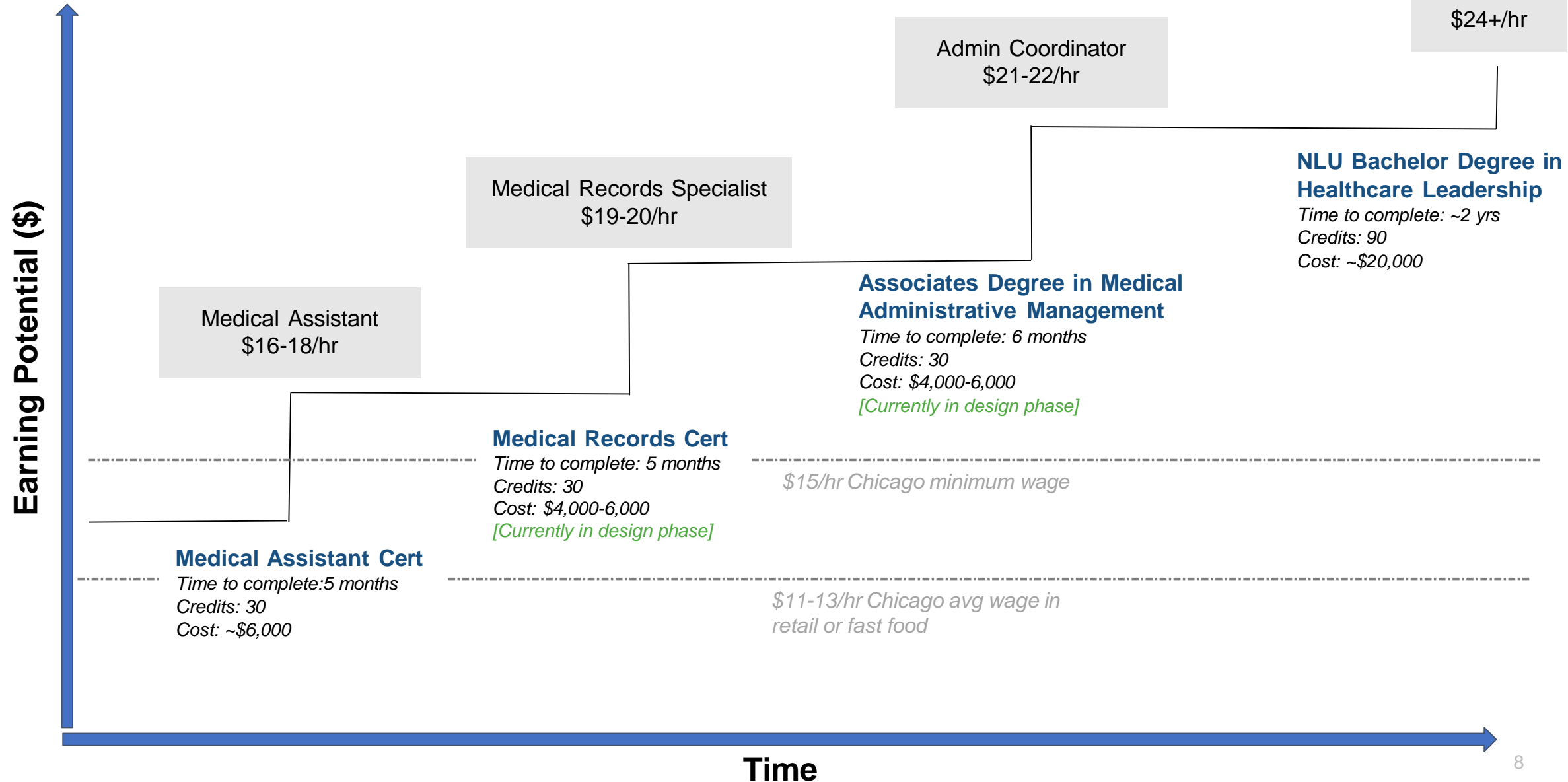


Eisha Cloption
Externship Coordinator

WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR EARLY SUPPORT



AN EMERGING NLU HEALTHCARE PATHWAY



ON DECK FOR 2024-2025

- Scale!
- Launch #4 credential (IT Support Specialist) in September 2024 and add #5 credential (Healthcare or Tech) for Summer 2025
- Expand connections between AU and existing NLU tracks/degrees
 - Learn & Earn in 3
 - UGC/AU working group
 - Alumni engagement
- Build new learner recruitment pipelines
 - Amazon partnership
 - Chicago non-profit partners
- Grow the AU team and resources to prepare for scale
 - Alumni Lead, Data/Finance Lead, 3 Career Coaches
 - Raise \$ to support new program development, learner supports, stipends
- Learn, push, experiment...



OUR EARLY IMPACT & GOAL FOR 2023-24

	2021-2022 (Chicago Only)	2022-2023 (Chicago Only)	2023-24 (Chicago Only)
# of Enrolled Learners (at Add/Drop)	55 learners	122 learners	155 learners
# of Learners Completing Training	39 learners (71%)	101 learners (83%)	127* learners (82%)
FT Hire as Medical Assistant	33 learners (85% of completers; 63% of starters)	76 learners (72% of completers; 60% of starters)	99* learners (78% of completers; 64% of starters)
Pre/Post-Program Comp Bump**	~\$13,500	~\$13,500	~\$13,500
Total New Comp	~\$446,000	~\$986,000	~\$1.34M

* This final # and % is still TBD as it does not include final data for Spring 2024 learners. These numbers represent what we expect to happen.

**Medical Assistants in Chicago are making \$38k-\$40k + benefits in Y1. Our goal is to get learners to \$40k+ & benefits. On average, Chicago learners see an increase of \$13,500 pre- to post-program. The \$40k minimum is a key metric for picking future training tracks.

