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AIS 4099: Senior Capstone
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Reflective Essay of BTAS Program

My name is Robin Aoki, I am a 40 year, single mother of one son. I am a Registered Veterinary Technician who pursued my Associates of Applied Science at University of Cincinnati. Currently I am the Practice Manager and also a Registered Veterinary Technician at a local small animal veterinary clinic. When I started the BTAS degree I was a Registered Veterinary Technician at my employers two other practices also located in the Cincinnati area for the past 18 years. I am in my final semester and the final Senior Capstone class pursuing my Bachelors of Technical and Applied Studies at University of Cincinnati.

I began my journey into the BTAS program at University of Cincinnati- Blue Ash to further my education and my career. With a son to support, and with Registered Veterinary Technicians making an average of \$16.50 in the state of Ohio I felt that I needed to open my career opportunities for the future. When I started the BTAS program my goal after much research, was to pursue a career as a Veterinary Pharmaceutical Representative. All of the Pharmaceutical Representative job postings required at minimum a Bachelors degree of some type, which meant I needed to do some additional work to meet those goals. These pharmaceutical representative positions didn't specify which, or what type of bachelors degree is required for employment in the field. After researching the different types of Bachelors degrees that were available I ran across the Bachelor's of Technical and Applied Sciences offered by University of Cincinnati offered as an add on to my existing associates degree. So the logical solution, as the BTAS was an add on to the Associates of Applied Sciences I had

already obtained through University of Cincinnati and with a quick 2 year timeline I decided the Bachelor's of Technical and Applied Studies would be my quickest path to obtaining a more financially stable future for myself and my son.

As I've pursued the BTAS degree through the University of Cincinnati I have grown and been promoted from Veterinary Technician to Practice Manager at a newly established animal hospital in the Cincinnati area. Along with this promotion came an increase in pay, enabling me to ensure a brighter immediate future for myself and my son. Professionally, I have a more stable and lucrative position enabling me to slow down and benefiting my work life balance in a more harmonious way. I have different sets of hours, make more money and am a major influencer to my future success. The BTAS program has helped me to support my current position through more knowledge of systems, better communication skills, planning and processing and human relations managing and enabled me to become a better and more well-rounded practice manager

When I began the Bachelors of Technical and Applied Studies at the University of Cincinnati, I viewed it as a tool to quickly obtain my bachelor's degree in order to obtain a more secure future in a higher paying position and in a different field of work. I expected to be taught management skills, technologic skills, and human relations from the program. I believe that the BTAS met and exceeded my expectations with classes that helped to support my goals, albeit in a different way than I had originally planned. The program taught me many human relations skills usable in my current management position along with the technology to help me organize, utilize, and enact goals of my current business.

The Bachelors of Technical and Applied Studies Program has helped me in many ways. Although I've had a change in my original goals, I don't think these changes would have been implemented had I not been pursuing my Bachelor's degree at University of Cincinnati. Being enrolled in the program gave me a leg up when the position came available for advancement within my company. Learning human relations has had a huge impact on my professional goals. Learning how to properly manage individuals gave me incentive to not only accept the position but also to be eligible for the position.

In conclusion the Bachelor's of Technical and Applied Studies is a very well-rounded degree path with quick results for those looking to obtain a Bachelor's degree. It is geared towards advancement amongst those in their current chosen fields or can be used for procuring a different or more advanced job. The skillsets that are taught to the students are geared towards management and technology and can be used in real world settings. The students pursuing the BTAS are better suited to advanced positions as they have more knowledge of systems, processing and human relations management making them better rounded and educated individuals.