Jessie, a 2014 graduate of Paul F. Asicksik Senior High School in Shaktoolik, had planned for four years of college while in high school. She found out that sometimes plans change. During high school NACTEC helped her acclimate to life away from home and gave her the ability to plan for the future and work toward her goals.

Having completed Certified Nurse Aide training at NACTEC, Jessie is currently working full time as a CNA at Norton Sound Regional Hospital. Eventually Jessie would like to be a high school science teacher and is now working toward this degree. While it is difficult balancing full-time work and college courses, Jessie's long-term planning assures continual headway toward her goals.

“If I didn’t go through the CNA program, I would have stayed in Shaktoolik, my hometown. I’d probably be babysitting and living at home with my parents because employment opportunities are limited. Since becoming a CNA, I’ve realized that I’m a person that needs to be on their feet and moving around. A desk job is not one that would suit me. I’m working toward my goals of eventually being a teacher and returning to rural Alaska.”