

Careers in Business

Andrea Akiyama

Business

“I want to open my own business, possibly a nightclub.”

Andrea Akiyama had no plans to go to college after she graduated from her high school in Brazil. That concerned her uncle in the United States and he encouraged her to try Edmonds Community College. She did. While studying English as a Second Language, Akiyama got a job on campus as a Student Programmer. Meanwhile, her new friends, advisers and teachers encouraged her to continue on at college. “As I worked and socialized on campus, I became more involved and excited about it,” Akiyama said. Now she is completing her Associate of Technical Arts degree in business. She’s learned budgeting, time management and marketing and used those skills in her on campus job. After she completes her degree, she wants to gain a year of experience working in the United States before returning to Brazil. “Coming here to learn English was a huge first step,” Akiyama said. “A Foundation scholarship helped me a lot. I could stay here longer and meet my goals.”