Words From Our Student Workers: Vicky Gichina

By: Kevin Berkopes

The Mathematics Assistance Center [MAC], an open access peer-to-peer learning center located in the heart of IUPUI’s campus, prides itself on hiring the best student employees. As a mathematics learning center, readers may believe that this hiring goal requires little more than seeking a workforce with a high aptitude for mathematics. We at the MAC believe differently. We believe that to hire the best, they must not only know mathematics, but our mentors and tutors should be leaders, work well with others, and be able to empathize with their peers about the stresses of being a university mathematics student. Vicky Gichina, a mentor and tutor for the MAC, is a perfect example of this type of employee. Gichina, who grew up in the area and chose IUPUI because of its unique urban culture, has made working at the MAC part of her college experience for the past five semesters. Gichina is a psychology major with a medical humanities and health studies minor, is looking to work in the healthcare industry to help at-risk women dealing with mental health issues. This is the exact type of student the MAC wishes to engage. In Gichina’s words, “The MAC has provided me with the opportunity to become involved in the campus culture and the opportunity to help others academically. Being a mentor at the MAC has helped me develope my skills of patience, understanding, and mathematical knowledge.” Gichina states, “The MAC is a special place, a place where students can come and get peer encouragement that they may not get anywhere else in their lives when it comes to academics.” Employees like Gichina are what make the MAC special. Having bright, motivated, and positive students that are also mathematically inclined is truly what defines the MAC’s staff as the best IUPUI’s campus has to offer.