

## **Director of Professional Practice Education**

I wanted to be a nurse since early childhood. This can be the career of a lifetime if you commit to being a lifelong learner. That has been the key to the wonderful opportunities that I have been given.

I was the first person in my family to go to college, and had to live at home and work part time to pay my tuition. I was originally diploma prepared as a nurse, and worked for a number of years before I decided to go back and get a bachelor's degree. Like a lot of people, I was working full-time while going to school.

Once I had the experience of being back in the classroom, I was pretty inspired. I completed back to back graduate degrees in Education and Nursing, then focused on getting board certified in my specialties before going back to get a Doctorate in Nursing. It was a long road: working all day, then going to school in the evening or on weekends, then studying and writing papers, but it paid off. Education changes the way that you think, the person that you are, and the life you live. With every educational milestone, I was given a new opportunity.

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