Surgical Technician to Nurse Manager

I completed my nursing degrees in this order:

- Associate Degree of Science in Surgical Technology (2002)
- Associate Degree of Science in Nursing (2004)
- Bachelors Degree of Science in Nursing (2008)
- Master's Degree of Business Administration with a focus in Healthcare Administration (2012)

I received my surgical technology degree and worked in the operating room. In my last year of school I began working as a surgical tech intern. I absolutely loved it and wanted to do more but wasn't sure. I was young, I had done things like hold the human heart in my hands and drill pins into people's fingers. I wasn't sure if I wanted to be a doctor. So I talked with some of surgeons I worked with all of the time. They said if I wanted more patient contact to become a nurse. Thus began my quest to become a nurse.

I worked as a surgical technologist full-time and went to nursing school. I graduated and worked as a nurse in the operating room. I hurt my knee and needed a couple knee surgeries. During my recovery I decided to go back to school and get my bachelor's degree.

After my recovery I went to cover a nurse on maternity leave in a surgical clinic. I ended up loving working in a health center. When the nurse returned from maternity leave I transferred into the primary care side. I had an amazing practice manager that saw a leader in me. I knew I wanted more schooling but wasn't sure what I wanted to do exactly. So I met with nursing leaders within the organization to find out why they got the particular degrees they did. This all lead me to my MBA. Through that schooling I started to move up the ladder. I became a supervisor and then I actually was able to run a primary care office.

I then changed paths and went into addiction medicine. This is still where I am at. I am starting a new grant, which is an amazing opportunity.

"Nursing is such a joy because you can do many different things."