

MY CAREER PATH STORY



**HAMPDEN COUNTY
WORKFORCE BOARD**

**Clinical Assistant Professor/
Nurse midwife**



I had to work hard to get my degrees- and it took a long time. I started out as a history major in another state, then transferred to a big university to finish my bachelor's degree and become a nurse. I had to work the whole time, and school was expensive- so I had to stop and take a year off twice to work to save enough money to complete the degree. Finally I ended up working for a hospital associated with the University, and even though it was hard to work 32 hours a week AND do my full time school work, it was worth it. I did get my bachelor's degree- and the hospital paid for my last year. After that I worked as a nurse for a while, then started back to school for my masters' degree. To do that, I again transferred from one big university to a second, more affordable one in another state. Once there, I acquired state residency, worked, took student loans, received a federal nurse trainee grant and cleaned the apartment building I lived in to cut the rent. It was a scramble, but I got my master's degree, and got to see another part of the country. Then I worked for a while again with my advanced degree. My doctorate took the longest, because I had children and worked both full time AND per diem to support my family while in school. It's hard going on to school when you're already a nurse and working- and like many nurses going back to school, I found that family had to come first. I couldn't go to school full time and complete the work. Finally, I worked for the University where I got my degree, and that paid for tuition and many of the fees. I stuck to it, and DID finish- and don't regret it at all. It was a great day when I was finally done, and that graduation was a triumph! So.... stick to it and get the best education you can is my best advice!!

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