

Darin Life – nursing education

Why did you choose your degree program? How has it helped you grow personally and professionally?

I have been a bedside nurse for 31 years, and I felt it was time for a change. Many of the other positions that interested me preferred advanced degrees. Administration was not an area I was interested in pursuing, which left me with community health or education. I ended up choosing education because of the versatility of its applications. Pursuing this degree helped me grow in my ability to perform research and evaluate articles in order to find best practice. It has helped me grow personally by assisting me in realizing I do have the determination and skills to perform at a higher level.

What activities are you involved in at McKendree?

I joined Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society of nurses, which has a chapter on campus.

What are you most proud of accomplishing during your time here?

I am most proud of completing my master's while also developing a new program at the hospital I work for in Elizabethtown, Ky.

Who helped you the most on your journey?

The two people who helped me the most were my wife, Traci, who supported me and pushed me as I completed the program, and Rosa, a friend and coworker, who encouraged me to start this journey and encouraged me when it got tough.

What's next after graduation?

My next step is to continue to develop my new position as sepsis coordinator.