

## **My Personal Philosophy Statement**

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My passion for healthcare education is now the driving force in my life. I feel that all the pathways I have traveled in my career and personal life thus far have led me to this one purpose/destination. I strongly believe that I have found my calling in life to inspire, educate, and help transform the lives of those seeking higher education in nursing. I love nursing and I am passionate about education. It is my aspiration to guide the next generation of nurses as they embark on their career pathways. I recognize the need for strong nurse leaders, especially those who choose to follow the pathway I have chosen as a nurse educator.

Two years ago my career took a detour when I was given the opportunity to teach at the High School level. For the past two years, through trial and error, and with the help of great mentors, I have been able to build a successful Health Professions/CNA program at a brand new school, Thunder Ridge High School, from scratch. During this time, I have collaborated with healthcare professionals in the field, educational teachers and administrators as well as local and state leaders in Career and Technical Education (CTE) to glean as much knowledge as I can to help further my students' education. The more information we can give them will provide a solid foundation on which they can build their careers. A solid foundation from the beginning will result in the delivery of safe patient care, increased patient satisfaction, increased job satisfaction, and thus increased staff retention levels.

Initially, in order to become an educator, I chose to take part in the CTE InSpire "cohort", which allowed me to obtain an Occupational Specialist License. This is a two-year program which I will complete next month (June 2020). This educational experience has been invaluable in obtaining knowledge of CTE, the educational process, and the Health Professions pathway

that now guides my instruction. However, I feel that in order to truly advance my career and have an increased capacity to help others, pursuing a Master's of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree would be invaluable.

Healthcare is a fast-paced system that demands progressive and forward-minded individuals to be a driving force towards meeting the continuously changing culture. It is ever more urgent to teach and train qualified nurses and nurse educators. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), "The U.S. is projected to experience a shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs) that is expected to intensify as Baby Boomers age and the need for health care grows. Compounding the problem is the fact that nursing schools across the country are struggling to expand capacity to meet the rising demand for care given the national move toward healthcare reform" (Rosseter, 2020). One way to combat the projected nursing shortage is to invest in long-term training and professional development. Education plays a crucial role in the nursing shortage as it helps prepare nurses for the complex healthcare environment. By increasing my education, I can, in turn, assist others in this process.

## References

Rosseter, R. (2020). Fact Sheet: Nursing shortage. *American Association of Colleges of Nursing*.

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