

Burns, Vanessa

From: akwilliams07@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 2:02 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: Ann Williams- Testimonial - GWCC

I am a non-traditional student at Gateway Community College, currently working on my 4th and final semester of nursing school. I expect to graduate in May with my Associate's Degree in Science. My nursing school experience has prepared me to sit for the state licensing exam to attain my Registered Nurse license. My expectation is to be hired by YNHH on a medical -surgical floor, where I currently work as a student nurse assistant. This is a position that I attained while doing my clinical work at Yale, after being told about these positions from my Gateway instructor. It has been an extremely valuable experience and I have already had a job interview as a result.

My story is not that unusual. I had aspirations of becoming a nurse from a young age, but did not pursue the path of nursing school until the age of 49. Over the years, I raised 3 children and worked in a variety of different settings ; all valuable experiences that I bring to field of healthcare. About 1/2 of my fellow students are adults who are raising children, working and going to school to pursue their dream of becoming a nurse.

I have a very positive experience with 3 of the CT Community colleges as an adult learner.

At Middlesex Community College in Middletown I was able to attend evening classes while working full time.

At Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, I was able to begin work on the prerequisite classes necessary for admission into the nursing program. I did this over the course of 3 years, while working full time.

The experience I have received as a nursing student at Gateway Community College has been uplifting and I feel as though I have soared as an adult learner. The teachers are supportive and make it clear that their goal is to help us succeed. Gateway Nursing School has a Nurse Counselor on staff who is there to help all of the students succeed. Nursing school is grueling - as an A student, I have found myself with grades in the 70's after studying for hours. It is a tough road -there is so much to learn to be a good nurse.

At Gateway, we have the opportunity to do our clinical work at great CT hospitals - Yale New Haven Hospital, St. Raphaels Hospital, Corrine Scott Hill Health Center, Midstate Hospital to name a few. Gateway Community College nursing students are always welcomed and I was told twice on separate occassions at Yale that they find Gateway Nursing Students very hard working.

I attribute this to the fact that those of us who attend Community College do so because we want to be there- we are driven. We come from all walks of life, young, old, black, white, hispanic, asian. Most of us work while attending school. The Gateway program offers classes at night which makes nursing school a possibility for many students.

At Gateway, I have had the opportunity to work in the leadership role as the President of the Student Nurse Association. All of my adult life, I was involved in committees, but never in the leadership role. I looked at the opportunity at Gateway as a non-threatening environment where I could practice leadership skills. It has served me very well - the Student Government Association at Gateway is a group of energized, capable students that are lead by adults who provide guidance and support.

This experience has prepared me for the work that is done by the many committees in the hospitals.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for me to tell my story and to say that Gateway Community College is a rich, engaging institution that should be supported by the State, not cast aside.