



W.H.E.E.L.

Scholarship Contest Winner

Tricia Miller

Topic:

New Career Choice, Your Inspiration, and Why Now?

In 2017, when I was 39 years old, I decided to go back to school and finish the college degree that I started 21 years earlier. Right out of High School, I went to Lansing Community College for one year, and then met the man that I would end up marrying. I went to school for another semester after that, and then we moved to Chicago where he pursued his bachelor's degree. My goal at that point in life was to be a mom and stay at home with my children. Right after we moved to Chicago, I got pregnant with our son. Two years later, we had our daughter. I spent the next 18 years raising our kids and having so much fun doing so!

When my kids were about 4 and 6, I got a job at a local church writing their children's curriculum for the elementary age kids. I did that for the next fourteen years and had a great time doing it. During those fourteen years, my life fell apart. My husband had two affairs, I was trying to keep my family together and keep my children's life as normal as possible. It was one of the hardest things I have ever had to go through.

In 2017 my son graduated High School and started at MSU. I was still trying to keep my family together, but it was only hanging on by a thread. In November of that year, the thread broke. After 9 years of trying to work things out, I finally realized that there was no way I could keep going. My daughter and I moved out and got a place of our own.

I started taking classes in the fall of 2017 at LCC to pursue a nursing degree – something I had a deep passion for. Deep down, I had always dreamt of going into Pre-Med during High School. The passion for medicine was rekindled in me about 5 years ago when I started taking care of my parents who are in their mid-80's. I realized how much I love caring for people, how much I love the medical field, and how much I really wanted to pursue medicine.

I was accepted into LCC's nursing program in the Fall of 2019! I was so excited! I had a plan for my future and a way to provide for myself financially. I knew that after everything I had been through, I was going to make it. Nursing classes are so hard, but I knew it was going to be worth it in the end. I was going to land on two feet.

My inspiration through everything that I have been through has definitely been my children. I couldn't give up because they needed me. I couldn't give up because they needed to see that life is full of hard things, but you have to find a way to push through. You can't stay in bed all day just because life throws you a curve ball. You can feel what you need to feel, but then you need to keep going. I wanted them to see that, even at 40+ years old, you can still pursue your dream. Anything is possible when you put your mind to it.

It has been so fun being in college the same time as my children. We have fun conversations about our professors, homework, good and bad professors, and deadlines that we have to meet. I never thought that I would be having these conversations with them, but I also didn't think I would be divorced at 42 either. However, I am so excited to be pursuing my dream of becoming an RN!!