



W.H.E.E.L.

Scholarship Contest Winner

Jessica Miyamoto

Topic:

New Career Choice

Why Now?

Your Inspiration

I am a 35- year- old wife and mom of three children. I have a 7-year- old son, 5-year- old twin girls, and have been married for 9 years. I graduated from Oakland University with a degree in Psychology in 2006 before meeting my husband. In November 2010, I gave birth to our son Michael, and in June 2013, our twin girls, Samantha and Sabrina. I was fortunate to be a stay at home mom with our children for a few years, but eventually decided I wanted to go back to school.

The new career choice I decided on was nursing. I have always enjoyed science and believe that there is always a need for good, strong, educated, reliable, compassionate nurses in the workforce. I applied to Lansing Community College in June 2016 and began my prerequisites that August. They consisted of General Organic Chemistry, Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, Microbiology, Healthy Lifestyles, Patient Centered Care, and a few math courses. I completed these courses in May 2018, applied to the nursing program with a 4.0 cumulative GPA, took and Kaplan Nursing Entrance Exam and have been accepted to the program. The program begins August 23rd. I just bought my first pair of scrubs!

In speaking with my husband about this career change, we chose to start in August 2016 because by the time I finished the prerequisites and (hopefully) began the full time program, both girls would be starting kindergarten (which they are this August) so it was perfect timing. I knew the program was going to be grueling and that it was full time. I wanted it to be that way while the kids were all in school so I didn't have them in daycare all day. I didn't want to feel like my husband and I were taking away from them for me to do this. That is why we chose to start at the time we did and plan it the way we did. It worked perfectly.

My inspiration is without a doubt my children. They are my drive and what keeps me going. I am a firm believer that it's important to let your children see you not only succeed but to let them see you struggle and stumble. My kids see me study and do homework. They see me not only understand material, but see me when I don't understand it at all and need extra study time. I think it's important they see that no matter how old you are, you're never too old to stop learning, and that there's always more to learn in life. Actually, weekend mornings are spent with my son at Biggby where he and I both do homework together; him with hot chocolate and me with coffee. I want them to know that it's ok to not always be the best as long as you always try your best. It's ok to stumble and fall, but get back up and you'll get there eventually.

I hope that as I venture into my career as a nurse, I can reach out to many different people at some of the most difficult times of their lives and provide them a sense of comfort and compassion when they are feeling a sense of insecurity and uncertainty. I hope that by me doing my job well and having that sense of compassion, I am in turn continuing to teach my children a sense of compassion and selflessness for others which I hope continues into their adulthood and future career choices.