

Becky Ihlendorf's Testimonial: Class of 2008

Deciding to go back to school to pursue a career in nursing, after five years of teaching elementary school was an exciting, yet stressful decision. I asked myself many questions and weighed the answers accordingly. Some such questions were, financially, can I do it? Mentally, am I ready to learn a whole new field? Emotionally, do I have what it takes to help people going through the most trying times of their life? In my heart, I knew the answers to these questions were yes; and I knew I did not want to wait any longer to make this dream a reality.

I began looking into schools and became disappointed with what I was finding. Many had waiting lists a year and a half long or longer. I would also leave messages and emails with nursing admissions representatives from various nursing programs and never get a response. Amidst all of the schools I contacted, there was only one that stood out, The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences. When the secretary answered the phone, I could tell by the tone of her voice that she sincerely was interested in me and wanted to help me. She even offered to transfer me to the assistant dean of students so that I could get more detailed information. At that point, I found out Christ College does not put accepted students on a waiting list; if you are accepted in March, you begin in August. I also found out there were various loan and scholarship opportunities available to apply for, and that various tracks were available so that I could choose to complete the program in a two or three year track, which ever fit my lifestyle best. She said academic advisors help you plan your schedule and meet with you upon acceptance.

After that conversation, I realized that this college would not see me as a number, but as a future nurse they wanted to help make successful. I never gave a thought about another nursing school, but I did do a lot of praying and hoping. When the envelope with the blue steeple emblem arrived in mid-March, I opened it up to see the words, "Congratulations on your acceptance to The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences." I screamed, "Thank you, God!" and called my family to share the good news.

I have now been apart of this excellent nursing program at The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences for seven months. That caring, supportive vibe I felt when I first called seventeen months ago is still present everyday that I walk in the doors, except now I have specific names and faces to associate with these characteristics. The instructors know me by name, they offer help and guidance whether there is a tough exam coming up or if I'm nervous about a skill I'm going to practice on a patient during clinical. I have been welcomed into opportunities to become involved in organizations and projects to build leadership skills as well as to help the community and college. Most importantly, I have met friends. Together, we help each other think, understand, laugh, and encourage each other to do our best. Without a doubt, I am extremely proud and fortunate to say I am a student at The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences.