

The Best of Nursing

CGPS's nursing program is filling a crucial need to provide higher education options to this vital sector of healthcare professionals. The undergraduate R.N. to B.S. in nursing program, the R.N. to M.S.N. completion program in Nursing Education or Nursing Leadership, and the Certificate in Nursing Education program provide nurses from all clinical and academic backgrounds with a spectrum of educational opportunities.

Lisa Hogan, DNP, CRNA, Director of Nursing Education, said, "What makes our programs work so well for active nurses is the tremendous amount of flexibility built into them. Nursing students can get a combination of classroom and online learning and may access the program at any of our New Hampshire CGPS Centers. Or if it's more convenient, they can do the program entirely online." Besides the ease of attending classes online and/or in Manchester, Portsmouth, or Lebanon, students may enter the program in a track that is tailored to their educational level and goals – whether they have an associate degree, baccalaureate degree in nursing, or a non-nursing baccalaureate degree.

Patricia (Trish) Clark '14 is a prime example of a student who has taken full benefit of the flexibility afforded by Franklin Pierce's Nursing program. Trish has worked at Wentworth Douglass Hospital in Dover, N.H., for 39 years, first as a nurse's aide, then for seven years as an L.P.N., followed by 29 years as an R.N. She earned an associate degree 30 years ago, raised two sons who have graduated from college, and then registered at Franklin Pierce to work toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree while continuing to work at Wentworth Douglass. Trish is rightfully proud, as is her family, that at 60 years of age, she is reaching this milestone.

"Everyone at Franklin Pierce has bent over backwards to help me achieve this goal," Trish said. "Nursing has been such a rewarding

career; going back to school has allowed me to continue to grow in a field I love and has renewed my desire to be in this profession. It's made me a better nurse."

Trish cited the constant changes in how health care is delivered as motivation to go back to school. "There are always new procedures and technological advances to learn," she said. Furthering her education has allowed Trish to retain the agility she needs to be able to assume new nursing roles in response to all the changes. "Going back to school has helped me to better myself and my patients."

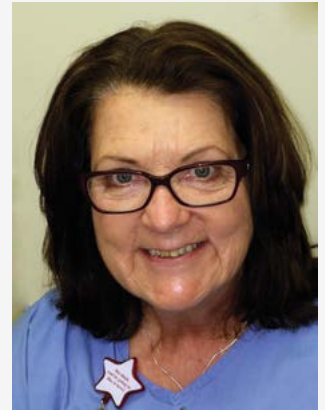


Photo by Sandy White

Trish's family and patients are not the only ones who appreciate the effort she has invested to advance her knowledge and develop leadership skills in her field; Trish's colleagues at Wentworth Douglass nominated her for the New Hampshire Nurses' Association (NHNA) Direct Care Nurse of the Year Award. The prestigious NHNA annual awards program recognizes outstanding performance by six registered and student nurses.

Franklin Pierce's Nursing program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and is proud to educate students such as Trish, who exemplify the passion and dedication that are hallmarks of the best in nursing.

For more information about the Franklin Pierce University Nursing program, go to: http://www.franklinpierce.edu/academics/ugrad_adult/programs_of_study/nursing.htm.