

Alum In the News: Candi Carroll, 1999, Nursing

Years Attended: 1999

Area of Study: Nursing

Email: ccarroll@cableone.net

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With the love and support of her family, friends and co-workers, Candi Carroll has successfully completed her Masters in health administration through University of Phoenix. Candi obtained her nursing degree from Yavapai College in 1999. She enjoyed learning so much that she proceeded to complete her Bachelors of Nursing from University of Phoenix and ultimately reached her goal of a Masters degree.

Commencement will be May 9, 2009, at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz.

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From Barbara Claybaugh, Alumni Outreach Director:



"I am very pleased to share this story from Candi Carroll. It is most inspirational and shows that 'If we have the desire we can conquer anything.'"

Barbara, here are some "fun facts" about me.

When I moved to Prescott from Phoenix in 1976 I can remember walking the downtown square and watching all of the parties going on. This was a time when the square was closed off from traffic. I attended my ninth grade in what was called the "old Junior high". My father built the structural foundation of the "Ponderosa Plaza Mall" which is now only remnants of the Wal-Mart shopping center. I was never a popular person nor was I involved in much. I graduated from Prescott High School and went on to the world of Cosmetology. I opened a small salon in Flagstaff which had four chairs, two nail technicians, tanning and a masseuse that came in once a week.

Due to the economy and a failed marriage I returned back to Prescott. A couple of the patrons in my salon were nurses, and they got me interested in nursing. I loved to hear their stories, of triumphs and challenges at their work.

I decided to try my hand at healthcare; I started with getting my Medical Assistant via correspondence school. I obtained the certificate with honors, then went on to get my CNA. I loved being a CNA, however, I realized I wanted more so I enrolled in the Nursing program. Being a single momma with a new born baby and an eight-year-old at home, I went back to school after more than 15 years of being away from the textbooks. This was a challenge for me, as I was never a great student in high school. I had to start my education with all of the beginning classes. I can remember my apartment plastered in flash cards to learn the nerves, bones and muscles of the body. My son was a great help to quiz me so that I could pass the next test. There were times when I felt I was choosing the wrong profession and wanted to quit, but I kept going. It took me 4.5 years to get my Associates in Nursing at Yavapai. I can remember the graduation and the feeling of completion and realizing that I had met my goal of being a nurse.

It was not too much later that I felt I needed to do more than just being an associate, so I searched around for additional education that fit my schedule of being a mom, nurse, and wife by that time. I found that the University of Phoenix gave me the flexibility I needed. I completed my Bachelors in Nursing in just a short time, but realized that this was not my final goal. I continued on to obtain my Masters in Health Administration. My husband feels I will eventually get my PhD, but I am not so sure I have the strength or endurance at this time. I can remember sitting with the nursing students when I was in Yavapai, and we were all discussing where we wanted to go in our career. Each had their dream job, and mine was to be in administration. Some of the students thought I was nuts. I never saw myself in the fast pace of the ER, or the demanding job of being a floor nurse. Although I did dabble in a variety of positions up to

this time - such as a surgical nurse for a local ophthalmologist, a school nurse, a hospice nurse (which I loved), worked in dialysis (not my cup of tea) and Wellness Director for an assistant living facility my most rewarding job is where I work currently as a Clinical Service Manager of the Health Department.

Through my challenges both personally and academically, I have grown, and changed my outlook on life. I find it difficult to hear people give excuses for not bettering themselves as individuals. If we have the desire we can conquer anything. My quote during my journey was:

"When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change." —
Wayne Dyer.

This gave me strength to understand that not everything will come easy and there is always a reason for the ending result whether positive or negative. In due time we learn from those outcomes and develop new strategies to overcome the next challenge that we are handed.

Well, Barbara.. I could go on and on and on about my life, this is but a small snowflake in my life. I have to say I am pleased with my career change to be a nurse. Now I am working with my daughter to have her enrolled in Yavapai. I am sure she will develop a great foundation from her education that she gains from Yavapai College as I did.