

STUDENT SUCCESS
by Samantha Mack



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MCC helps nursing alumna find the right career

Montcalm Community College alumna Shannon Jones said the college helped her find the right fit for her college experience and for her career.

Jones is a Labor and Delivery Registered Nurse (RN) in the Women and Children's Services Department at Sparrow Main Hospital in Lansing, where she was honored in May as the 2017 Nurse of the Year. Nurses at Sparrow are recognized for their excellent service every year during National Nurses Week. One nurse is selected for this recognition in each specialty area in the Lansing location per year.

"I am on cloud nine to be honored as Sparrow's Nurse of the Year," she said. "I feel honored to work among so many great nurses in my unit, and for them to recognize me as the nurse of the year put me over the moon."

Jones's journey to becoming a nurse was nontraditional.

"I did attend MCC in 1997 right out of Ionia High School, but decided that it was not for me at that time, so I got a job and went back many years later," she said.

Jones worked at Family Video and then Independent Bank in various positions before returning to MCC in 2010.

"I decided to go back to school because it was the right time in my life," she said. "I felt mentally ready to return and to apply myself.

"Let's face it – nursing classes were not easy, but I would not have had it any other way because I am a better nurse for it," she added.

Jones graduated from MCC in May 2012 and began working at Sparrow Main Hospital in August. She also started Ferris State University's (FSU) online Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program that year.

After her first year, Jones determined that Ferris's program was not the right fit for her at the time and she transferred to an online program with the University of Phoenix, where she completed her BSN in May 2017.

"MCC contributed to me getting my BSN by instilling how important it would be for the future trend in nursing," she said.

"MCC not only prepared me for life outside of school, but also gave me the knowledge and skillset to succeed as a nurse," she added.

Jones said she found her niche when she transferred to labor and delivery in April 2014.

"In a short time, my career has been more than I had ever expected and I have my instructors at MCC to thank for the preparation to excel in all that I do. However, without my husband, mother, father and other family and friends, I would not have had the drive I had to finish school and seek more from myself in my career."

Jones resides in Ionia with her husband, Ehren, and their dogs, Remington and Storm.