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NURSING STUDENT TOOK THINGS ONE DAY AT A TIME

NEOSHO, MO - Graduating with a 4.0 grade point average is a big accomplishment, but completing the Nursing Program at Crowder with a 4.0 is what Denisa Simpson, RN, and December 2011 graduate, set as her ultimate goal. "I really focused on one week at a time, one test at a time. It was too overwhelming to look at the schedule as a whole" stated Simpson. Her accomplishment earned her not only a diploma, but the James T. Payne Award for her excellence in scholastic performance.

Simpson, a wife and mother of two boys, took her ACT at age 42. She then took one class to see if she could manage being a full-time mom and students. "I was encouraged by my sister Lisa, and friend, Susan, who were both going to school" said Simpson.

When asked why she chose the rigorous field of nursing Simpson replied, "I was a patient in the St. Louis Children's Hospital when I was in Jr. High and the nurses were so good at making me feel as comfortable as possible. I thought that would be awesome to help kids, or adults not be so afraid".

Simpson admitted there were many struggles along the way, but attributed her success to the many great people she met on her journey. "I had a great study group, Marsha, Brian, Sara, Brittany, and Kerri, that helped a lot! There were a couple of teachers that went above and beyond to try and help us learn. One in particular would listen to our frustrations and bring chocolate for the bad days. She always found a way to encourage us".

Support from family and friends were what kept her going. "My husband and kids had to do housework, which they hadn't really had to do before. I had been a stay at home mom for 11 years, so it was a big adjustment for all of us".

Upon graduation, Simpson said she is going to take a break and give her family some much deserved time before applying for jobs at the first of the year. "Even when you are home you are studying most of the time." She mentioned an interest in pre-op, urgent care, pediatrics, OB, and community health might be areas she would pursue for employment.

"It's time to start a new chapter in my life and it's scary. I have been out of the workplace for a long time, so it will be an adjustment" said Simpson.

The Nursing Program at Crowder is a two-year program that contains classroom work as well as clinical experiences. The high standards of the program have made Crowder a well-known program for producing quality nurses. Crowder offers nursing at the Neosho campus, as well as at its Nevada and Cassville locations. In December, the first graduating class from Cassville accepted their diplomas.



Photo provided by Four Seasons Photography, Anderson, MO

For more information please feel free to contact my office at 417-455-5540 or e-mail: cindybrown@crowder.edu

Cindy Brown
Director of Public Information
Crowder College