The school of graduate and professional studies partners with local hospitals to offer a tuition discount to employees who continue their education at Stevenson University in either the RN to BS, RN to MS, or graduate nursing programs. To find out if your hospital or community college is already a Stevenson University Preferred Pricing Partner, please visit <stevenson.edu/graduate-professional-studies/admissions-aid>.

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The Culmination of Your Residency Weekend:
The Latest Addition to the Master of Science In Nursing Program: Population-Based Care Coordination Concentration

Residency Weekend:
The Latest Addition to the Master of Science In Nursing Program: Population-Based Care Coordination Concentration

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Alumna Profile

Measurable Outcomes: The Benefit of a Four-Year Degree in Nursing Recognized

Instant Decision Day

Complete the entire application, financial aid, and registration process in one visit. Bring an official (sealed) transcript of previous college-level coursework.

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Time: Noon-2 p.m.
Location: Garrison Hall

Saturday Information Session

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Residency Weekend: The Culmination of Your Graduate Program

The Master of Science in Nursing program at Stevenson culminates in a Residency Weekend during which students come to campus to give presentations showcasing what they’ve learned throughout the program, focusing on a specific topic. New students in the program are told about this requirement—but do they know what it’s like to participate in it? Journeys asked Darlene Leach, who graduated in August 2014, to share her experience.

Journeys (J): How did the Residency Weekend complement your degree program at Stevenson?

Darlene Leach (DL): It allowed me to demonstrate the skills and knowledge I learned in my coursework and practicum experience. I was able to make my first oral and poster presentations in front of a large group, which increased my self-confidence. The experience allowed me to prove to the faculty, as well as to myself, that I was prepared to obtain a faculty position upon completion of the program.

J: What did you personally get out of it?

DL: Residency weekend gave me the confidence to transition into my new role as a nurse educator. It was a celebration of my personal and educational growth. I gained new knowledge through the presentations and discussions with the other students. The leadership courses provided a wealth of information on the next steps I need to take toward possibly advancing my educational goals.

J: Can you explain to someone who has never been to such an event what it’s like?

DL: Residency Weekend is an event that you do not want to miss. It is exciting! This is the time where everything comes together for that final stamp of approval. It is a celebration of your accomplishments, and you also have the opportunity to meet and socialize with other peer online students in person.

J: Is there anything else that would be of interest to someone who is considering enrolling in Stevenson’s nursing program?

DL: Stevenson’s nursing program is truly designed for those who have a desire to further their educational and career goals. They have awesome educational and support staff and systems, starting during the enrolling process and through graduation. The courses are double for anyone who is on a tight schedule, and the practicums are designed to enhance your abilities and increase your confidence to be an effective leader upon completion of the program.

Measurable Outcomes: The Benefit of a Four-Year Degree in Nursing Recognized

By Judith A. Feustle ScD, RN
Associate Dean, RN to BS and Graduate Nursing

An Oct. 8, 2014 issue of The Daily Record included the article “Study backs 4-year nursing degree.” This new study by Olga Yakusheva and colleagues lends support to the research and conclusions of Linda Aiken, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania, and others in the field.

Linda Aiken has published numerous articles documenting that there is a measurable difference in patient outcomes if there are more bachelor’s-prepared nurses on the hospital staff. Most of her research addresses the fact that there are decreases in surgical patient mortality and a decrease in complications with an increased percentage of bachelor’s-prepared nurses on staff. Additionally, the new study found that increasing the number of bachelor’s-prepared nurses will lower readmission rates.

These new results on the economic impact coupled with previous research help to justify an investment in furthering the education of all nurses as a way for hospitals to control costs while ensuring top-quality care. They also provide a rationale for healthcare to support tuition reimbursement, educational partnerships, and other measures that help nurses staff increase their education.

Alumna Profile

Tabitha Legambi, who graduated with her master’s of science in nursing in August 2014, chose the Education concentration—a decision that was a given before she started the program.

“I had worked as an Adjunct Clinical Nursing Instructor at CCBC Catonsville for three years before returning to school. It was there that I found my passion for educating nursing students,” she explains. “When I made the decision to return to school for my master’s degree, it was to prepare myself to be a full-time nursing educator.”

It turned out to be a good choice, Legambi says: there is no question that the program prepared her for her current role as an Instructor of Nursing at CCBC Catonsville. “Stevenson taught me how to design a curriculum, utilize technology in nursing education, and analyze evaluation of student success, just to name a few small important tools I gained.”

In fact, she credits the education she received with landing her the job in the first place. “During my interview with CCBC, I was able to discuss real experience that I had as an educator,” Legambi says. “For example, I was able to explain how, during my practicum in my final semester, I implemented the various teaching strategies that I learned in the online classroom.”

Overall, she says, she chose Stevenson’s nursing program in general because its online nature allowed her to maintain a balance between work and family while returning to school. She adds that although there are many online programs for nursing graduate degrees, she wanted a program with a good academic reputation that had a brick and mortar presence as well. “I worked with other nurses who were attending Stevenson’s graduate nursing program and highly recommended Stevenson based upon their positive experiences. The multiple starting point option also was appealing to me.”

Of the program itself, Legambi says that the discussion boards stimulated virtual conversations that made her critically think of nursing education in a new light. “The assignments were targeted to the real-world applications that I would need as an educator. And now, I’m using what I’ve learned in my new role.”