

Testimonial from a 2004 Region 10 Scholarship Recipient

In June 2004 I received the Region 10 Scholarship. I used my scholarship award for my journey through nursing school, and what a journey it was! I started nursing school in fall 2004 at Winona State University - Rochester center. I previously had done two years of undergraduate classes in Winona. Last summer, 2005, I did a nursing internship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. I did a twelve week intensive program at St. Mary's hospital on the medical cardiology ICU. The program was a lot of hard work, but an amazing experience and it was an honor to learn from the best. I returned to school in the fall of 2005 to complete my senior year. I did an honors research project on the effects of genetic discoveries on health care and the nurse's role in genetic health care. I submitted my abstract to a research conference and it was accepted. In March, I traveled to Milwaukee to present my research project at the Midwest Nursing Research Society conference. For my senior capstone rotation I choose to do my clinical rotation in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Mayo Clinic. I quickly found out that I love working with pediatric patients and that I had found my calling. I applied for a nursing position on the PICU and was offered a job, which I quickly accepted. I graduated in May, Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I took two months off for some much needed rest, relaxation and horse time. I have been working for a month and love it; in fact I can't imagine a better job.

While in college I continued to ride and show Arabian horses. I show a purebred Hunter and purebred Country English horse at Hesten Park in Hastings, Minnesota. I unfortunately had to miss a lot of shows because of school and my internship last summer. During my two month break I did get to attend a few shows and thankfully got to attend our regional show again. I have to miss nationals this year because of work, but can't wait to get back out on the national circuit.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of Region 10 for my scholarship. You all made it possible to pursue my dream of becoming a nurse at the Mayo Clinic.

Sincerely-
Kristi Theede