

CAREER LADDER CONVERSATIONS

January 2005

e-Newsletter from the University of Kansas School of Nursing
<http://www2.kumc.edu/careerladder>

*****Thinking about a Bachelor's Degree???

At the top of your New Year's Resolutions' list, perhaps you want to add "go back to school!" Maybe you want to increase your base of knowledge, are seeking a career change, or just want to complete your bachelor's degree. Read below to see why Renee, a nurse from Paola, KS did just that!

Personal Profile:

- Name: Renee Bussell, RN, BSN
- Current Position: School Nurse, Prairie View School District, La Cygne, KS
- Professional Education: ADN from Anchorage Community College, BSN from University of Alaska, Anchorage
- Comments: "I went back to school because I had always wanted to continue my education. I felt that having my BSN would make me a more credible nurse. My degree has helped me in my current position and I feel like I'm on a more level field with the teaching professionals with whom I work."
- Challenges & Rewards: "The most challenging part of returning to school was juggling my work life, home life, and school but I loved the learning! One of the rewards proved to be monetary because I progressed on the clinical ladder at my hospital due to extra points received with my BSN. I was also selected to participate in an internship with the Alaska Public Health Service which was only available to BSN grads."

News in Nursing:

The National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice, policy advisors to Congress and the U.S. Secretary for Health and Human Services on nursing issues, has urged that at least two-thirds of the nurse workforce hold baccalaureate or higher degrees in nursing by 2010. Currently, only 43 percent of nurses hold degrees at the baccalaureate level and above. <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/EdImpact/index.htm>

If you started to advance your education today, you could be done with your BSN well before 2010.

Web Wisdom: For the above and more information about the impact of education on nursing practice, check out the following website: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/EdImpact/index.htm>

FAQ's

Ask the Faculty: How much time would it take for me to complete my bachelor's degree in nursing and how would I get started?

Find the Answer: Once you've completed the prerequisites, you can complete the BSN in one calendar year if you start the RN to BSN online program in June.

For guidance about continuing your education, contact the program director at your school or a mentor at the University of Kansas School of Nursing:

For questions about how a bachelor's degree preparation can advance your career contact:

Jeanne Schott, RN,MS
(913) 588-1625
jschott@kumc.edu

For questions about admission to the KU RN to Bachelor's in Nursing program contact:

Deborah (Debbie) Stratton, MS
Graduate & RN Recruiter, Student Affairs
(913) 588-1623
dstratton@kumc.edu