

February 2005

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

Welcome to our second Career Ladder Conversations, the e-newsletter from the University of Kansas School of Nursing Career Ladder Grant. We hope you find this information useful and will go to our website to sign up for additional offerings. Best wishes on your own Career Ladder!

Thinking about a Bachelor's Degree???

February brings with it thoughts of snow days and Valentine's Day celebrations with loved ones. Speaking of love, are you involved in a career that you love? Are you seeking more from your work? How can you capture that ideal job? Read below to see how and why Jean is continuing her education.

Personal Profile:

- ⊕ Name: Jean Edmonds, RN, BSN
- ⊕ Current Position: Case Manager, Wound Care Center, Shawnee Mission Medical Center in Merriam, Kansas
- ⊕ Professional Education: Diploma from Stormont-Vail In Topeka, KS; BSN from University of Kansas (2003); enrolled in MS in Nursing program at University of Kansas
- ⊕ Comments: "I started back for my BSN because I wanted to work in a position in wound care that was my dream job. I needed my BSN in order to advance in my specific field. I swore that I wasn't going to continue my education from there but was motivated by a physician to keep going. I wanted more autonomy and respect in my work. It was important for me to be able to apply my knowledge."
- ⊕ Challenges & Rewards: "My biggest challenge is to manage my time effectively, especially with working full-time. The rewards are many...knowing that you're bettering yourself and the patient care that you provide, having a more 'global' perspective, and the autonomy that you gain with advanced education."

News in Nursing:

Employers further validate the skills that baccalaureate-prepared nurses bring to the nursing workforce through higher compensation levels. BSN nurses can earn salaries more than 10 percent higher than ADN nurses.

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/EdImpact/index.htm>

You could start to work toward your BSN today by completing an application by March 1 for possible summer enrollment at the University of Kansas School of Nursing. .

CAREER LADDER CONVERSATIONS

Web Wisdom:

For more information about nursing salaries and survey results, check out the following website: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/reports/rnsurvey/default.htm>

FAQ's:

Ask the Faculty? What are the costs associated with returning to school for my BSN Degree?

Find the Answer: Dr. Rita Clifford, Associate Dean, Student Affairs, responds: "Tuition at the University of Kansas School of Nursing compares very favorably with other institutions in the area and nationally. Since we are a state-assisted institution, the full cost of education is not shouldered by the student.

Students in the RN/BSN program complete all their courses on-line. The 2004-2005 on-line tuition uses the base Kansas resident tuition per credit hour (\$138.75) plus a \$50 per credit hour e-learning fee. Therefore the tuition per credit hour for the on-line BSN completion courses is \$188.75 (regardless of the state of residence of the student). A total of 37 credits is required in that program so the total tuition cost (using 2004-2005 tuition levels) is \$6,983.75. Other costs of attendance of any kind of educational program are books, travel and related campus fees.

Many hospitals and health agencies have very generous tuition benefits. Each nurse should explore with his/her employer the benefits offered at the workplace. In addition, KU School of Nursing has many kinds of financial assistance available including scholarships, grants, loans, and employment opportunities that have tuition waiver components plus a salary."

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 RN to BSN or RN to MS preparation can advance your career contact KUSON Faculty Member:

Jeanne Schott, RN,MS
jschott@kumc.edu

For questions about admission to the KU RN to BSN or RN to MS Nursing program contact, Student Advisor:

Heather Richardson
soninfo@kumc.edu
913-588-1619 or toll-free 888-588-1619