

Marissa Granstra



Upon graduation from the SDSU (South Dakota State University) nursing program, I plan to work in long-term care as a Registered Nurse. I have always had a love for the field of geriatrics, which is why I am also minoring in gerontology while I continue my education at college. I have worked in long term care for approximately 5 years and cannot see myself in any facility but one like a long-term care facility. I feel called to work in this field. During my employment at a long term care facility I fell in love with working with the elderly; I look forward to my future employment in this field. I did not foresee the deep commitment I would have to this field when I first started as a Certified Nursing Assistant in high school, but it did not take more than a few shifts at Crossroads Care Center for me to see that this field is where I belong.

When I graduate from SDSU, I plan on staying at the facility where I am currently employed as a TMA and a CNA. I would like to get a RN position at Colonial Manor nursing home when I graduate from college. This is a small-town nursing home and cannot see myself working in any other type of facility. I have found myself wanting to return to this facility during long school breaks, and during summer breaks, so I do not believe that will change upon graduation. I hope to spend shifts at the nursing home putting smiles on the faces of the elderly people and of the staff. I plan to work to provide the up most care that the residents need in order to live their lives as fully as possible. I plan to listen to the needs of each of the people that live in the nursing home and plan to provide for them and always treat them with dignity and the deep respect I have for them.

There have always been times where we feel that we do not have enough time in a day to listen to the concerns of our patients or residents; we feel rushed and as a result they feel rushed as well. This is not the care that they deserve and it is not the care that we were taught to give, but all are occasionally guilty. In my current place of my employment I have worked very hard to mitigate this. I try to spend any extra time I have conversing with the residents to reassure them that there is someone there listening to them. This has been helpful to them and to me as well. One time in particular springs to mind; I had a few extra minutes on my hands so I sat and visited with a new resident of Colonial Manor. He told me about his experiences and visions that he had during his stroke and his heart attack that happened not long after. This resident shared with me his religious values and beliefs and talked with me about the words of the Lord; I felt honored to have taken part in a conversation like this with someone and he felt relieved that I had the time to listen to what he went through, and how he felt about it. Upon ending the conversation he was thankful that I sat down and talked to him about it and proceeded to give me a hug in gratitude. We then parted our ways and I went home at the end of my shift feeling uplifted that I was able to give as much time as I did to care for this man's emotional needs as well as his physical needs.

When I am at school and going through clinicals and skills lab, I feel that I positively impact some of the students around me by teaching them some of the things that I learned throughout my years at working at a nursing home. Some of my classmates become frustrated and feel that they are not cut out for the major because they do not understand some little things or why we do some of the things the way we do. I try to talk them down and help them realize that the stress and the hard work that we are currently going through will pay off once we start our careers in the real world. I try to help them see that the difficulties now will make us better nurses in the future. Some of the students have never

been in a health care facility to teach, learn, or work, so they get frustrated when they attempt to do something new and do not succeed right away. I try to stand by them and talk them through the simple things that I have been doing for the last five years, whether it be feeding a patient, bathing someone, or even administering the right medication at the right time. I try to help out as much as possible.