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MLN Scholarship Essay: Nursing Career Session

If asked to lead a career session on nursing, which is something I plan to do as a nurse, then I would begin by focusing on the professional. Nursing is a challenging career and requires specialized training. Not just a “job,” the nursing “profession” combines science and technology with interpersonal skills such as communication, critical thinking, teaching, and compassion. Nurses, entrusted with patient care and education, are highly respected for their work and dedication. For the seventh straight year, according to the November 2008 USA TODAY *Gallup Poll*, nurses ranked first in the public’s view in Honesty and Ethics. To earn that trust takes a professional.

The variety of settings nursing offers is another aspect I would present during the session. I would stress the importance of having choices and opportunities for growth. Nurses can choose their work setting and the types of patients they want to care for. From babies to the elderly, from similar cultures to different lifestyles, the types of people nursing touches is amazing. Beyond hospital settings, there are clinics, surgery centers, schools, large companies, colleges and rehabilitation centers. There are travel nurses and home care nurses. Nursing can take you anywhere; the variety of opportunities is almost endless.

Lastly, I would overview the job opportunities associated with nursing. Explaining the nursing shortage and the projected job growth will be essential. The registered nursing profession will generate about 587,000 new jobs during 2006 – 2016. This is one of the largest numbers among all occupations (United States). In Michigan, registered nurses expected job growth is 17,550 jobs in the next five years and the hourly wage is \$28.70 (Michigan Department of Labor). In these tough economic times, these statistics are encouraging for nursing students.

Three highlights of my presentation to promote nursing are the professionalism that can earn a

nurse trust and respect, the variety of settings that can enable a nurse to choose the best place for them to be, and the job opportunities available that will give graduates confidence of finding work. I feel blessed to be in a profession that I love and trust it will provide me with the opportunity to share my special talents with those who need it during their most vulnerable times. I will be a professional. I will embrace every challenge that comes my way and I will strive to make a difference both as a nurse and as an individual.

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