

LESLIE GEHLHAUSEN

Full-Time Student, RN in Training: A Perfect Example of What Hard Work Can Accomplish

Graduate: Class of 2007 Occupation: Student Nurse Extern By Ryan Welp, Spring, 2010

A 2007 graduate of Forest Park, Leslie Gehlhausen is currently a full-time student in the Indiana University School of Nursing, located on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis (IUPUI). While enrolled as a full-time student, she also enjoys her part-time job at the IU Medical Center in Indianapolis. She has a busy schedule to say the least. She has worked at the IU Medical Center since the beginning of her fifth semester of college in 2009. Currently a junior and splitting her time between her job, schoolwork, and pet dog Porkchop, she looks forward to getting her degree and finishing school.

“Each day,” she says, “I pass medications, draw any lab work, start IVs, and help each patient with activities of daily living, basically meeting any needs they have. I typically do the same work as a nurse only under another nurse's license since I am not yet a licensed RN. Legally, anything I do falls on the nurse's license that I'm working with, including any errors.” Soon, she will get a degree as an RN and work on her own. When asked how she felt about that, she started laughing and said, “Then I'll have to take the blame for my own mistakes.”

Working her way up the healthcare ladder for about five years now, Leslie's first job in this career was as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Northwood Retirement Community in Jasper, Indiana; it became obvious from the beginning that she enjoyed her occupation here. Talking nearly every day, she and I kept in good contact, and often she would have a new, exciting story to tell about her day's work.

The main mission of nursing or medicine in general, according to Leslie, “is to improve the health of our patients, and community through innovation and excellence in care, education, and service.” Anyone who knows Leslie would say that she loves taking care of others, helping them in any way possible. That is why I believe she represents the ideal person for the healthcare system, especially in nursing.

In conclusion, her advice for current Forest Park students would simply be, “Enjoy your time in high school because after you graduate, things get more difficult, and more responsibility is on you every day. . . Study hard in high school because school doesn't get any easier as you move up. Dream big for your future. Never believe anyone who tells you that you can't achieve one or all of your goals. . . I never thought

I would be accepted into the IU School of Nursing as it is an incredibly rigorous process; however, I've not only accomplished this, but I've also landed an amazing job at a world-renowned hospital. It's a great feeling to know that I'm well on my way of attaining my dreams and aspirations.”