

MICHELLE (Fleming) BECHER

Changing Lives One Day at a Time: The Biography of a Nursing Teacher

Graduate: Class of 1993 Occupation: Nurse/Nursing Instructor
By Claire Becher, Spring 2010

Today, many people choose to attend college and major in ordinary nursing. However, Michelle Becher has taken her career a step further. Instead of just working in a hospital, Michelle takes the role as a nursing instructor at Henderson Community College.

In 1993, Michelle Becher graduated from Forest Park High School. The second she graduated, Michelle knew exactly her calling for the rest of her adult life. Michelle said, "My time spent working part-time as a nursing assistant helped me ultimately decide on my career." Thus far, this career has most definitely fulfilled each and every one of her hopes and dreams.

Nervous and excited to go to college to major in nursing, Michelle ventured off to attend college at Ivy Tech in 1995. Here, she obtained her practical nursing certificate. In 1999, Michelle received her associate's degree in nursing. About nine years later, she earned her bachelor's degree from Regis University from the Denver, Colorado, online program. To earn her master's degree, Michelle currently takes courses through the master's program at Regis University.

After earning her associate's degree from Ivy Tech, Michelle gladly received a job at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana, as a nurse. For a short time, Michelle also worked at St. Mary's Hospital in Evansville in the Oncology Unit as a staff nurse. Michelle also worked in Memorial's Wound Care Center in Huntingburg, Indiana. As a wound care nurse, she assessed and addressed the needs of clients and patients related to chronic wounds. Presently, Michelle works in an on-call position-a diabetes educator-with Memorial Hospital. This position entails teaching diabetes self-management skills to clients and patients on an outpatient basis as ordered by a physician. However, she balances another job as well. Michelle also works at Henderson Community College as a nursing instructor. Because she just started this particular job, this position remains new to Michelle.

Michelle considers her continuing education as one of her post-high school highlights. Another non-academic highlight, which is extremely important to Michelle, is her children. Michelle now resides in Ferdinand with her husband, Lance, and her three children: Alec, fourteen; Zoë, five; and Adi, four.

Looking back at her high school years, Michelle considers her time spent with friends as most memorable. Michelle's encouraging words for current Forest Park students are, "If you have an interest in a career in health care, I would definitely take a look at nursing. I don't know of too many other careers in health care that offer so many different paths." Michelle loves waking up every day and going to work to either nurse patients back to health, or teach nursing students the important fundamentals of nursing. "In nursing, everyone gets the same initial education, but after that, everything is learned through whatever field you choose to work in. There are just an endless amount of different options!" says Michelle.