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NURS – 6003N Week 1 Discussion: Networking Opportunities Full Sample

Hello everyone. My name is xxx, and I have been working as a registered nurse for nearly five years. I began my nursing career at a small critical access hospital, where I quickly developed a wide range of skills due to the fast-paced and varied nature of the setting. After my first year, I transitioned to a surgical unit at a Level I trauma center at UW Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, where I worked for three years. I currently practice in the Neuroscience ICU at the same hospital. I truly enjoy the ICU environment and find the work both challenging and fulfilling. I have been married for a year and a half, and my husband and I share our home with a four-year-old Wheaten Terrier named Nora, who is rarely more than a few inches away from me when I am at home. My husband works for Epic, an electronic health record system used nationwide for clinical documentation and billing. Although a warmer climate is sometimes tempting, we are both happy and professionally satisfied where we are.

Walden University's mission and goals strongly align with my personal and professional values. The university emphasizes supporting a diverse community of working professionals while fostering positive social change through scholarly practice (Walden University, n.d.). As a nontraditional graduate student completing my education online, this mission is particularly meaningful to me. Online learning has allowed me to balance work, family life, and education in a way that would not have been possible in a traditional classroom setting. Additionally, the College of Nursing's vision highlights providing care across the human lifespan and addressing the needs of individuals and communities at both local and global levels (Walden University, n.d.). This resonates with my goal of becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner. While I recognize the importance of individual patient care, I also hope to make a broader impact within healthcare over the course of my career, including potential advocacy efforts related to workforce and practice issues.

The MSN program outcomes closely reflect the goals I have set for myself as an advanced practice nurse. I am committed to providing high-quality, cost-effective care, a principle that is emphasized throughout the program outcomes. One outcome that particularly resonates with me is the focus on evaluating the health needs of diverse populations and applying advanced nursing knowledge to promote health and prevent illness and injury (Walden University, n.d.). I also strive to practice as a scholarly nurse by consistently integrating evidence-based practice into my clinical work. In my role as a preceptor for new nurses and

nursing students, I actively incorporate EBP into teaching opportunities. Research has shown that undergraduate nursing students often have limited exposure to evidence-based practice, which can impact their readiness for clinical decision-making (Patelarou et al., 2020). Exposure to current research has already influenced my own practice, particularly in areas such as infection prevention and patient safety. Working in a neuro ICU has reinforced the importance of these principles, as many patients have invasive neurological devices where infection could significantly affect recovery.

Walden University offers a variety of academic and professional resources that I plan to utilize throughout this program, including faculty support, advising services, and writing center resources. I am especially interested in strengthening my academic writing skills over the next two years. Professionally, I am fortunate to work in a teaching hospital with access to numerous clinical resources and mentorship opportunities. I work closely with nurse practitioners, and I am supported by managers, charge nurses, and colleagues who value professional growth. Many of my coworkers are pursuing advanced practice roles, including nurse practitioner and CRNA positions. Being surrounded by motivated professionals is both inspiring and encouraging. I look forward to continuing my growth and eventually practicing to my full potential as a nurse practitioner. Evidence from recent healthcare challenges has demonstrated that nurse practitioners provide high-quality, patient-centered care, particularly during times of physician shortages (Thomas-Gayle & Muller, 2021). I look forward to learning alongside all of you throughout this program.

References

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Thomas-Gayle, P., & Muller, L. S. (2021). Nurse practitioners bridging the gap. *Professional Case Management*, 26(1), 38–42. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NCM.0000000000000481>

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