

Guadalupe Hostetter  
Current Excelsior College Student  
Enrolled 4/17/2015

Mr. Chairman and Members, my name is Guadalupe Hostetter. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

I am a single mother of three daughters and value quality time and support for my family. I chose Excelsior over a traditional nursing program because of its flexibility and convenience. I study best and most productively from 5 am - 7 am and 7 pm – 12 am, which is not the time that a traditional school is open.

Excelsior has allowed me to work, maintain my family, and support my household while advancing my nursing career. I have also been able to be a good role model for my children by doing homework as a family prior to sitting down for dinner. These days, life is so busy we sometimes forget about the basics like family time and sharing a meal at the dinner table together.

The knowledge and skills I have developed in the Excelsior Nursing program has changed the way I see myself as a professional nurse, providing me advanced skills in leadership, knowledge of informatics, and safe competent nursing practices. I work with two other nurses that have graduated from Excelsior. They are highly respected, knowledgeable leaders that demonstrate behaviors that I hope to provide in my career and toward my peers. Healthcare has become increasingly complex with the use of technology to improve patient safety. Last year and this year there has been a push to change to electronic health records (EMR) and electronic communication. Our hospital made the transition from paper charts to an EMR system this year. Lucky for me this was just after I finished studying nursing informatics and healthcare technology through Excelsior. This helped make the transition easier and gave me the knowledge and skills to improve my patient outcomes and provide higher quality of care.

The baby boomers are coming and with the shortage of nurses, practitioners, and physicians, it is imperative to have as many competent and safe nurses as possible. The patient to nurse ratio is constantly getting larger and in order to prevent nurse burnout, injury, and malpractice of nurses, it is essential that all is done to retain the nurses that are practicing now. With the assistance from Excelsior College, more competent and safe nurses can help close this nurse patient ratio gap and provide an optimal outcome for the patients that are in our care.

If it was not for Excelsior, I would not be able to pursue an advanced nursing career. I hope to one day become a nursing instructor.

Most importantly, as a single working mother I have shown my daughters that they too can accomplish anything.