**Educational Background Summary**

This year I am celebrating 27 years of nursing. My pursuit of the nursing profession began in 1986. As a mother and a wife, I chose to attend a local community college, Kellogg Community College. At that stage of my life, I could not make a commitment to obtain a bachelor’s degree. The program was challenging. However, as I think back I was very fortunate to have had several nursing instructors who are still influential to my practice today. As with most associate degree programs, the focus was primarily on anatomy and physiology, along with an emphasis on the technical skills of nursing.

In 1987, I obtained a part-time job as a nurse extern in a local hospital where I had performed many hours of clinical rotations. It was during this time I feel I gained a large majority of my nursing education. The registered nurses I worked under served as preceptors. They held me accountable for patient bedside care, documentation, and procedures. I was able to learn time management, organization, communication, and problem solving skills. In the spring of 1988, I graduated with an Associate Degree in Applied Science, and was hired as a graduate nurse on the same unit. I spent the next 14 years in various capacities on this Cardio-Pulmonary unit, including charge nurse.

As my Resume’ and Curriculum Vitae’ reveal, my nursing career has taken me in many directions (both detailed documents are located under the appropriate headings in this portfolio). After leaving the nursing profession in 2009, I became employed as a tactical marketing manager. This break made me realize I wanted to return to the nursing profession, but not at the bedside. In January of 2011, I returned to school at Ferris State University to pursue my bachelor’s degree in nursing. This portion of my education introduced me to theory-based practice. It focused on improving communication and critical thinking skills. My educational experience at Ferris was positive, and midway through the RN-BSN program I knew I wanted to focus on a master’s degree. Graduating in May 2012, I transitioned into the master’s program at Ferris State receiving my degree in May, 2015.

Currently, I am employed by the local county health department as a school nurse. Being a school nurse has led me in the direction of education, with an emphasis in public health. Much of my time is spent in the classroom promoting health and wellness. It is my desire to continue down the path of public health nursing in a master’s level position.