

Mary Susan Denton Trains Future Nurses at OFTC

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Sandersville, Ga., (OFTC) –After high school, Mary Susan Denton thought she wanted to become a teacher. But after her father’s triple bypass surgery, his nurses left such an impression that she now dreamed a different dream – one day, she would become a nurse.

“I knew right then nursing is what I wanted to do,” Denton shared. “I wanted to help save lives, bring new life into the world, and be that shoulder to cry on when all measures were taken to revive a life, but it just wasn’t God’s will for them to live here on earth.”

Denton’s nursing dream became reality when she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 2002 and later her Master of Science in Nursing.

And for over 18 years now, Denton has worked as a labor and delivery nurse. While it’s a field she’s passionate about, Denton reiterated that her time in labor and delivery hasn’t been “all smiles.”

While she’s helped mothers usher in new life, she’s also grieved with them over loss of life. But it’s in those moments that Denton says she knows she’s doing “indeed what I was called to do.”

Teaching Future Nurses

When Denton decided to become a nurse, she laid her desires to become a teacher to rest. But in 2017, she was given an opportunity to teach future nurses in Oconee Fall Line Technical College’s (OFTC) Associate Degree in Nursing Bridge program.

“When I was given the opportunity to teach nurses what I love to do, I jumped at it,” she shared. “I want others to have the same passion that I have for the profession.”

“I’ve been a nurse for a long time,” she added, “so I see good nurses and bad nurses. It’s important to me to teach nursing students to be the good, safe and competent nurse.”

With her experience in-field, Denton looks at teaching as a way to make a difference in the lives of her students and countless others.

“Nursing instructors have the opportunity to shape a student nurse that will have an impact on many patients, families and other nurses long after the initial interaction,” she said. “No matter how bad an outcome a patient or their family experiences, the way they are treated is how they will remember their nurse.”

And this concept is what Denton says drives the instruction students receive at OFTC. They not only strive to prepare students with the accurate knowledge to pass the NCLEX and provide safe, quality care to their patients, they desire to train compassionate, caring nurses.

A Great Career

Having a true love for the nursing field, Denton says nursing is a “versatile and flexible” career choice. “It’s one of the most rewarding jobs that someone can commit to,” she said.

With nurses in high demand, Denton says it’s a great field to go into if you have a love for people. And how can someone know if they’d make a good nurse or nursing student?

“A good nurse is on time,” Denton said. “They concentrate on the task at hand, work well with others, and are a team player. They’re compassionate and know how to work an emergent situation without totally freaking the patient out.”

Likewise, a good nursing student is “on time, organized, driven and goal oriented,” Denton added. “Nursing school is hard and takes up a lot of a student’s time. A good nursing student will set goals for themselves to stay motivated to do well and finish strong.”

For more info about OFTC’s [nursing programs](#), visit the college’s website, OFTC.edu.

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