



CONCORDE
CAREER
COLLEGES

INSIGHT

QUARTERLY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019



A Knack for Nursing

Meet the Concorde grad who became
the health care professional she
was always meant to be.

► Page 6

WELCOME MESSAGE



Welcome to summer, Concorde Alumni!

It's that time of year when the entire country is finally outdoors and enjoying the opportunity to bask in the sun with family and friends. Daily life in a health care profession is demanding and challenging work, for which you have been well prepared. Taking an opportunity to breathe and reflect on your success is well-deserved.

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." This quote from Pelé, arguably one of the best soccer players of all time, sums up what each Concorde graduate has lived through on their way to graduation and achieving their dream of being a health care professional.

Perseverance is the most important virtue we possess. It allows us to banish thoughts of giving up and to find the will and courage to attend class, pass a test or achieve clinical objectives. The sacrifices you make along the way make the end result even sweeter.

We are so proud of your accomplishments and hope that you are, too. Concorde takes this time to celebrate summer and to celebrate you. You are a success each and every day.

Enjoy this issue of Concorde Insight!

Regards,

John Carreon

General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer
Concorde Career Colleges



IN THIS ISSUE

2 **Welcome Message**

4 **Introducing the New Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program**

5 **San Antonio Alum Donates Kidney**

6 **Alumni Spotlight: A Knack for Nursing**

8 **Calendar of Events**

Connect With Concorde

KC Dental Hygiene Student Wins State-Wide Award

Campus President Spotlight: Tracy West

Alumni Benefits

Concorde is proud to offer alumni discounts and rewards through Working Advantage. Save up to 60% on ticketed events and online shopping by going to workingadvantage.com. ID# 253238577



PROGRAM NEWS

Introducing the New Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

Now offered at Concorde Jacksonville, Kansas City and Tampa

At Concorde, our goal is to continually provide meaningful health care education to our past, current and future students. That is why we are so excited to announce our new Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at our Jacksonville, Tampa and Kansas City locations.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) associate degree program focuses on preparing students for the Abdomen (AB), and Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) concentrations.

Students will gain in-depth knowledge of general sonography. They will be able to perform sonography in a variety of settings such as hospitals, emergency rooms, outpatient clinics, imaging centers and more.

Diagnostic medical sonographers, also known as ultrasound technologists, are highly-skilled professionals who use specialized equipment to create images (sonograms) of structures inside the human body. They create images and/or conduct tests that are then passed on to radiologists and/or physicians to help assess and diagnose medical conditions. Often sonograms are the first images a physician asks for when a disease is suspected.

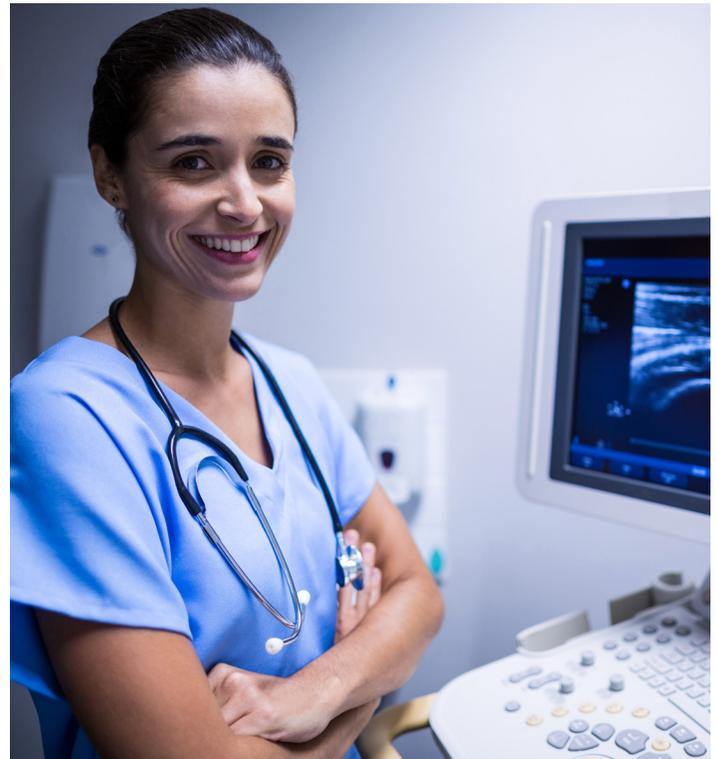
Being a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer can be a rewarding career. It offers the opportunity to help and

serve patients in a unique way by getting to see images that cannot be duplicated by any other diagnostic test. Sonographers often are referred to as the “eyes” of radiologists and physicians through sonography.

Ultrasound techs take on many responsibilities on a daily basis, with accurately identifying pathology in the body, reporting findings and collaborating with providers to ensure the best care for patients. It is a career that fosters professional growth and opportunity.

Many DMS positions require professional certification in at least one area of specialty. Employers typically prefer graduates of programs to be registered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS). In order to receive professional certification, candidates must pass two exams. The first exam is the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI), which is a prerequisite for any of the other specialty exam and does not count as the ARDMS certification. The second exam is in one specialty area, such as Abdomen (AB), OB/Gyn or Vascular (VT). It is common for DMS workers to have more than one specialty certification.

Upon completion of Concorde’s DMS program, students are encouraged to explore various certification options through the American



Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), which are both nationally recognized certifications.

The DMS program curriculum will include in-depth didactic courses and clinical education of sonography in the field. Students will learn about imaging of organs, organ systems, small parts, soft tissues and obstetric and prenatal scanning. Courses will be a mix of in-class work and in-lab live scanning on a weekly basis. Students will then venture into live clinic settings where they will put their skills to the test on real

patients with the supervision of their preceptor.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational outlook for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers and Cardiovascular Technologists, employment of diagnostic medical sonographers is projected to grow 23 percent* from 2016 to 2026, which is faster than the average for all occupations.

Are you looking for a new and exciting health care career? Now is the right time and our new DMS program is the right place. Further your education and take your health care career in a new direction. •

FEATURE ARTICLE

Giving of Himself—Literally

San Antonio alum's commitment to service gets physical with kidney donation

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." ~ Albert Einstein

If that saying is true, David Campos's life has already been a good one or the many ways he has served.

The 2019 graduate of our San Antonio Surgical Technology program portrayed his commitment to service of his country by joining the United States Marine Corps. He finished his service in the military in 2012.

After retiring from the Marines and feeling like he had "lost his sense of purpose for a while," Campos found another way to invest by launching his pursuit of a career in health care. He completed our Surgical Technology program in March of this year.

"David was dedicated to his college work from day one," said Concorde Surgical Technology instructor, Carolyn

Brzoznowski. "He was an overachiever in many senses and lit up the room with his enthusiasm for learning."

Campos has carried that enthusiasm forward into his career, now investing in others' well-being as an obstetrics tech at a Texas hospital. Not only is he dedicated to his regular role, he picks up shifts in the main OR on his days off!

"It's the best of both worlds," he said, "because I absolutely love assisting the doctors with C-sections, but I still get to do a big exploratory laparotomy case every now and then."

But Campos's biggest investment in another person came from within—literally.

After seeing a television news story about a young San Antonio father who was in desperate need of a kidney transplant, Campos didn't hesitate.



Terrific shot of David during October 2018—smiling during his recovery after donating a kidney to a Texas man he didn't even know.

"I felt compelled to help," he said.

Within two hours of seeing the story, Campos had contacted a man whom he didn't even know and offered his own organ.

"I must have read the story at least five, six times over and over again," he said. "My wife got home and I asked her about it, and she said, 'If that's what you feel like is your calling, then go ahead and do it.'"

The transplant surgery was performed in October of last year while David was still in school. He still managed to keep up with his studies and finish the program successfully!

"I was shocked, but incredibly proud of David's act of kindness," said Brzoznowski.

"He gave the gift of life—and I hope his story can inspire others to do more unselfish acts of kindness."

Since the surgery, Campos has remained close friends with the kidney recipient and his family. Campos continues to be heavily involved in his own three children's lives, his community and his church.

"I believe you have to have a heart full of passion, and that is why I decided to pursue the health care field—to help others," Campos said. "You can literally be someone else's superhero by doing the smallest things to help in big ways."

We couldn't even be more proud of our alumnus and can't wait to see all the ways he continues to invest his selflessness and compassion in others! •



David hard-at-work during his days as a student in the San Antonio Surgical Technology program.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

A Knack For Nursing

Alumna's own life story pushed her into a career as public health nurse practitioner



Meet Concorde-Kansas City alumna Bobby Mickens.

Ask Bobby Mickens how she arrived where she is today, and she'll tell you. It was her own life experiences that inspired her.

The hurdles and hardships started early for Mickens. She had to drop out of high school to care for her ailing father when she was just a teenager. (He passed away from congestive heart failure when she was 16.) The experience of taking care of her dad taught Mickens at that young age that she had the capability—and the desire—to care for others.

“My father would cry because he knew I was out of school while taking care of him,” Mickens said. “During those days I realized I had a knack for nursing, and I promised him I would go back.”

But that opportunity wouldn't come until later. Mickens soon found herself in another predicament.

By the time she had earned her GED and was ready to pursue her future, she wound up a single mother with an infant living on government assistance and with literally no one to help her.

“It was scary during those days,” she said. “But I just had to dig deep and approach it.”

She knew she needed a quick path to get to the next level because she had a child to raise on her own, so she checked out the health care career training programs offered at our Kansas City campus and literally enrolled in the Medical Assistant program the day she interviewed with Admissions. And that's when things started to change.

“It was the first time I was able to excel in an educational program. I was making terrific grades and found pride in myself. It was awesome!”

With this newfound encouragement, Mickens did the hard work with a baby in tow, finished the program in 2001

and went straight to work as a Medical Assistant. But the urge to actually provide care for others was still there.

With the support of then-new husband, Landon, Mickens decided to keep going for it. And the rest is no less than a series of inspirational “stair steps”—which is her own terminology for describing her systematic approach for reaching her goals.

She earned her associate degree in nursing in 2006 from Metropolitan Community College and went to work as a labor and delivery nurse. And she kept climbing. By this time, she had become a mother of three and was still holding down her job, but she didn't let it distract her. She pressed on to earn her bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC)—and she still didn't stop there. With patient care as her goal, she then earned her master's degree from UMKC in 2014 and went on to become a nurse practitioner and eventually a director of nursing! Amazing!

Mickens will readily admit it wasn't all easy. She has no problem talking about when she failed her pharmacology class at UMKC and had to wait another year for the opportunity to take that course again. She watched as all her classmates moved on and graduated while she took extra classes and bided

her time. But it didn't keep her from staying focused and, eventually, succeeding!

"You just have to dust yourself off and realize everything is not going to be a 'win,'" she said.

"Bobby's determination and success story is truly a testament to what can be accomplished with hard work—regardless of your previous life circumstances," said our Kansas City campus Senior Graduate Employment Specialist, Dan Gurule. "Her story speaks directly to our students because she has been where they are and, in turn,

she gives them a real-world example of how limitless their future can be."

Not only has Mickens been where our students are—she's been where her patients are.

Because of her hardships early in life as a high school dropout and single mother, Mickens has intentionally pursued her career as a nurse practitioner in a public health role so she can help the underserved. She's dedicated to the health needs of women in the community at Kansas City-based Swope Health—a federally-qualified public health center delivering

accessible care to the Kansas City metro and surrounding areas.

"I've always had a passion for helping young mothers who need it, because that once was me," she said as she smiled. "Now I get to do it where they need it the most. Sometimes it takes tough love, but I know my patients appreciate it because they come back to see me just to give progress reports of their personal successes."

"For a while, I was Director of Nursing for Swope Health and was hiring fresh-faced medical assistants who were just like

me when I finished Concorde's program. It's a full circle, and I believe it was all meant to be."

As a means of giving back to her community in other ways, Mickens often takes her story of survival and success to public platforms. She makes routine appearances on local radio stations and in grade schools around the area as a motivational speaker and hosts podcasts designed to inspire. She even addressed our own Kansas City graduating class of 2018 at their spring Commencement Ceremony!

Because of her exceptional life story, we asked Bobby to offer her words of advice on how to survive—and to thrive—regardless of the obstacles life can throw in the way. Her perspective is inspirational for anyone:

"You just need to be motivated. You can never have a 'woe is me' attitude. That won't get you anywhere. Yes—there are times you'll think you aren't capable. But when that happens, you just have to tap it down and realize you can do it. It's a piece-by-piece process—but trust yourself. You'll get there!" •



Where it all began: Bobby Mickens visits the Medical Assistant training lab at the Kansas City campus where she began her successful health care career journey.

Want to tell your story?

We would love to hear from you! If you would like to share how Concorde played a part in your journey, please reach out to alumni@concorde.edu.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2019

- 4 **Independence Day** • All Campuses Closed
- 9 **Commencement Ceremony** • Orlando
- 16 **Someone Cares Blood Drive** • Garden Grove
- 31 **International Day** • Aurora

AUGUST 2019

- 3 **Back to School Bash** • Tampa
- 12 **Backpack Giveaway at Crosspoint Church** • Grand Prairie
- 13 **Be the Match Blood Drive** • Dallas
- 14 **Back to School Bash** • Orlando
- 26 **Carter Blood Drive** • Dallas
- 27 **Be the Match Blood Drive** • North Hollywood

SEPTEMBER 2019

- 2 **Labor Day** • All Campuses Closed
- 14 **Alumni Annual Picnic** • Aurora
- 16-22 **Surgical Technology Week**
- 17 **Constitution Day** • All Campuses
- 24 **Vitalant Blood Drive** • Memphis
- 26 **Campus BBQ** • Garden Grove

Connect With Concorde



KC Dental Hygiene Student Wins State-Wide Award



Our Kansas City Dental Hygiene program is celebrating with Isabel Ruiz-Escutia, who was recently selected over all other senior dental hygiene students in the entire state of Missouri for the Outstanding Student Award from the Missouri Dental Hygienists' Association (MDHA).

"Isabel routinely goes above and beyond to be involved in the community and is a true advocate for the profession. We're so proud of her," said Dental Hygiene Program Director, Alissa Beckerle.

Isabel's goal is to eventually return to Concorde's program as a bilingual dental hygiene instructor. She'll be honored for her award at the MDHA Annual Session this fall in Springfield, Missouri. Congrats! •

Meet Concorde - San Bernardino New Campus President, Tracy West!



Tracy West comes to us with 14 years of education experience, ranging from adjunct instructor to lead instructor and program director. She has held roles such as program dean, associate dean, campus director for several locations

and now Campus President. She holds a Ph.D. from Walden University in management, leadership and organizational change.

"Higher education is my passion because of all the great people who nurtured me. I want to give back to others just the same," she said.

Prior to getting into education, Tracy's career was in management—leading specialty retail and big box stores for about 20 years. These diverse experiences have helped lead to a well-rounded leadership style.

"From the moment I heard about the opportunity (at Concorde), I was intrigued by the possibility of health care since my career in education has mostly been in business, management and technology," she explained.

"It's exhilarating to lead a team of people who respond to the culture changes and the building of a new team. Every day is different, and the students' response has affirmed my reasons for choosing Concorde—to help change lives." •