

Janie



Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative (CPI)

Northwest Arkansas Community College — Bentonville (SFY 2020)

Janie Huerta has lived in Northwest Arkansas for 22 years, and currently lives in Bentonville with the youngest two of her five children. She shares that, “For years, I worked in health care. However, I felt it was impossible to find the time and the financial resources needed to go to college, while raising five children and working 50-plus hours a week, just to make ends meet at home. I eventually made the decision to pursue a career in nursing, after my oldest two children graduated from high school and moved out to live on their own.

In 2015, I began taking classes, part-time, as a non-traditional student. Upon completion of all my prerequisites, I applied and was accepted into NWACC’s fast track nursing program! I began a 15-month program in the summer of 2019. However, due to the fast-paced nature of Track II, nursing students were highly discouraged from working while in the program. I put in my resignation with my employer of seven years, and became an unemployed, full-time nursing student. I could not have finished nursing school without the resources made available to me through NWACC’s Career Pathways program. The program helped me all through nursing school with the required textbook, software, exam fees, scrubs, nursing shoes, gas cards, and school supplies. I was even provided with a laptop during my last semester of nursing school, when my laptop suddenly stopped working. I am so grateful for this program and for all the encouragement I received from Career Pathways staff.

In August of 2020, I graduated with the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from NWACC! I then passed my National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and shortly after, I accepted my first nursing position with Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in the Neuro Progressive Care Unit.