Cassie Harris

Clinton High School OWL Program

AR Counselor: Robin Tate

  I have wanted to be a nurse since I was in kindergarten, maybe even before that. When I was little my grandma had to have surgery on her stomach because she had a hernia. When she came home she had a wound. There were nurses in and out of our house all the time checking on my grandmother.  I wasn't allowed in my grandma's room when the nurses were there because I was too young, but I was curious about what they were doing to help my grandmother. Eventually the nurses stopped coming.  My dad started helping my grandmother because he was a CNA. My dad let me help him take care of my grandmother. It was then I knew I wanted to be a nurse.

     The summer of 2019 I had the best opportunity of my life. I had the privilege to be accepted into the MASH (Maury Academy for Students in Health) program. I went every day at 8am till about 5pm for two weeks to explore different areas of our local hospital. The days were long but I enjoyed all of them.  It taught me about the kind of nurse that I want to be.  Out of all the areas that I worked in, I was intrigued when it came to the emergency room.  You never know what is going to come through the door.  Allison, one of the emergency room nurses, told me that she had done everything from head on collisions, delivering babies, to removing a splinter.  I know that is where I want to be when I am done with nursing.

     Recently I had a conversation with my father about nursing and what he thought about me pursuing a career in the field.  I will never forget what he told me.  He said that nursing fit my personality perfectly, because I am always trying to help everyone that is around me when they get hurt.  He also told me a story about when he worked in the Emergency room as an ER Technician.  He said that it was the most enjoyable years of his life.  He said that he learned so much about how to treat all kinds of ailments.  During his time at the ER he told me that there will be times that you have to step back and take a breath, there will be times that you are so tired that you want to just find a corner and sleep, and then there will be times that you just want to cry cause you know there is nothing that you can do for the patient but make them comfortable. At the end of his story, he told me that the one thing that I should always remember is to stay humble and treat every patient like they are my own family member.

     With average pay for Registered Nurses in the state of Arkansas at $26.18 an hour and the advanced skills that it takes to become a Registered Nurse; The nursing field peaks the interest of a lot of 2021 of graduates.  I know for me looking at the need for nurses and planning for my future, becoming a Registered Nurse is at the top of my goals.  I also plan on starting a family once I am done with college and the pay will be an added bonus.

After researching all the colleges within the state of Arkansas that offers nursing programs, I really like what UCA in Conway has to offer. The program is extensive and offers exactly what I am looking for.  It will also give me the opportunity to be close to home, so that I would still be a short drive to see my family and friends.

I know that I am young and just getting started in my nursing career, but there is nothing that I want more in life than to become a Registered Nurse and give back to the community that I call home.