

Project BEYOND-2

Newsletter Spring 2020

Overcoming COVID-19 Challenges

Inside the issue:

Overcoming COVID-19 Challenges 1

Congratulations! PB-2 graduates:

Reflections and advice 2-5

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic we all faced challenges, abrupt changes, uncertainties, fears, and, for some of us, painful losses. Project BEYOND-2 would like to thank Marquette College of Nursing students for being so brave and resilient during these tumultuous times. We would also like to thank the steadfast faculty and staff for adapting, reinventing, and pressing on for the sake of our wonderful students. An absolute demonstration of what it means to be a nurse, in particular a Marquette Nurse!

Due to the circumstances affecting graduation, we would like to dedicate this edition of the newsletter to our graduating seniors. We did not get to say goodbye. We will miss you!

“When we least expect it, life sets us a challenge to test our courage and willingness to change.”

Paulo Coelho

Project BEYOND-2 Team:

Leona VandeVusse, PhD, RN, CNM, FACNM
Project Director

Terrie Garcia, PhD, RN
Project Coordinator

Amber Nicole Johnson, BSN, RN
Mentor /Advisor Specialist Lead
MSN Student

Tana Karenke, BSN, RN
Mentor/Advisor Specialist
PhD Student



The Project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number D19HP30849, Marquette: Growing Diversity for Nurses & Campus Community. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

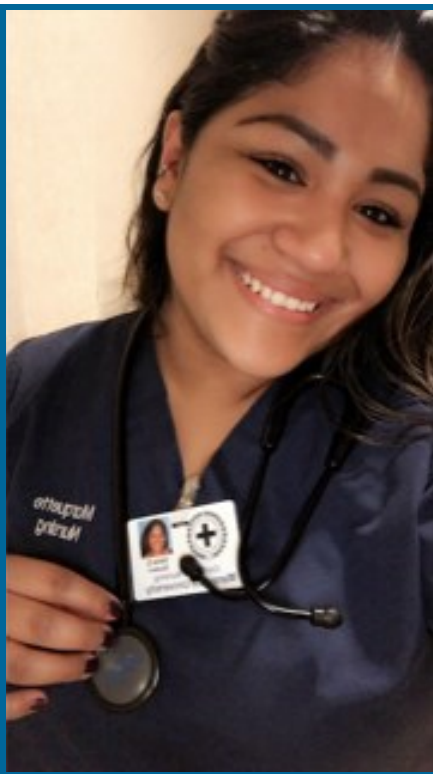
Congratulations! Project BEYOND-2 Graduates



My experience at Marquette has forever changed the trajectory of my life. I am so grateful for my

amazing mentors and the support I received through my nursing school journey. As a minority nursing student, it is important to be inquisitive, seek resources when you need them, and lean on your support network. Project BEYOND-2 became my second family and I am so thankful for the team's hard work. Remember you can and will get through this! You are smart, capable, and will be a great future nurse. Keep working hard and making the dreams of you and your family come true. *Jasmine Hernandez*

The last four years have been some of the most amazing and challenging of my life. I worked 20-35 hours every week while going to school full time and getting my Bachelor's in Nursing. While it was difficult I made it through because of the people that supported me, whether it was my counselors, my amazing parents, or my fiancé there was always someone there that I knew had my back. That is what helped get me through college and enabled me to grow into the person I am today. So thank you to everyone that was a part of this incredible journey, I will never forget what you have done for me. *Madalena Membrila*



Project BEYOND-2 has been a great program and helped me a lot these four years. I have been a mentee and a mentor, learned the importance of making connections and was able to be around people who are as excited to be a nurse as much as I am. The financial help from PB-2 helped me worry less about paying my way through school and focus more on my education and experiences, which I will forever be grateful for. Lastly, I would like to thank Madeline Schmidt for all of her help this year, especially during this COVID-19 time, in helping us through this tough period, and being there for us and teaching us how to

use our resources in Kaplan to be prepared when we finally take the NCLEX. *Delia Diaz*

PB-2 is something that positively shaped my experience as a Marquette



student nurse. I have the confidence and skills to go on and become a graduate nurse knowing that I have made personal connections that will last a lifetime from this group. I, again, cannot thank PB-2 enough for what they have done for me at Marquette. As a new graduate, I will be actively pursuing a career in critical care in the hopes to return to graduate school in the future. I am proud to be a Marquette graduate, and, even in the COVID-19 circumstances, I know that I am becoming a part of an amazing profession. *Samantha Deninger*

Reflections and Advice to Incoming Freshmen



It's only until the end do I realize how my journey in Marquette changed me. As I navigated through our nursing program and became involved in what Marquette had to offer, I thought I was learning how to become a Marquette Nurse. I now know that Marquette made me confident in communicating with friends and strangers. In fact, I would say I became eager to talk to those around me. Marquette brought me stories I will continue

to retell, even when people roll their eyes because I repeated it for the millionth time. It gave me friends and mentors I will cherish and connect with for the rest of my life. Marquette prepared me to step out in the world as I traveled around the world and learned what it had to offer. Thank you Marquette and best of luck to all you who are beginning your journey!

Mihir Patel



Being a student at Marquette University, as well as a member of Project BEYOND-2 the past four years, has really pushed me to strive for excellence and step out of my comfort zone. Because of this, I chose to study abroad in Peru the summer before my senior year. There, I gained a sense of cultural competence and learned the significance of serving others

according to their inherent dignity. This is something I will carry with me as I transition into the role of a registered nurse this summer. *Ashley Lopez*



One of the biggest things that has helped me be successful over the course of my 4 years at Marquette is all the support I received from the staff at Project BEYOND-2. There are a lot of different topics that are covered in nursing school and it is difficult at times to make adjustments to all the changes. My mentors at PB-2 facilitated those changes by giving me different study strategies, tips on how to stay organized, and most importantly how to relieve stress. Whenever I had any doubts or just simply wanted to talk to somebody, my mentors were always available. They not only kept me prepared for all of my classes, but they were also there when it came time to start looking for jobs. My mentors not only wanted to make sure that I got through all of my classes, but also that I had my plans set for after graduation. A lot of my success is due to the support I had from this program and I will always be thankful for that.

Braulio Preciado

Congratulations! Project BEYOND-2 Graduates



The advice I would like to share with other students is to have courage in everything you desire. There could be times where stress and nerves get to you, it could make you feel anxious and other feelings, however, when all of these emotions are taking over, remember to believe in yourself. The things you can accomplish with constantly believing in yourself can surprise you, as they have surprised me during my time at Marquette.

Kristen Gabrielle Nuguid



As I reflect on the last four years, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities Marquette has provided me. I was pushed academically and it helped me grow and learn more than I thought was possible. I gained so much compassion and respect for everyone around me as

I learned about disparities and inequalities in healthcare along with what we are doing to fight them. Project BEYOND-2 was vital for my success in the rigorous nursing program. The mentors I had guided me through difficult courses, offered me guidance, and I know they will be there for me whenever I need them in the future. Thank you Marquette and thank you Project BEYOND-2, I look forward to going into healthcare as a Marquette nurse.

Katelyn Pisellini



and wiser person is so worth it. Take this time to invest in friendships and people you can count on to study with you next year. *Felize Claudine Odisho*

If I were to give a piece of advice to each class, I would say: To the freshman - get ready for the best and worst times of your life. You'll be challenged in ways you've never been, but coming out on the other side as a stronger

Reflections and Advice to Incoming Freshmen

It has been a journey since freshman year and it feels strange that undergraduate nursing school is over. Thank you to everyone in Project BEYOND-2 for helping me build confidence in myself and the tools I needed to strengthen my skills to be able to meet my goals. The support from everyone really helped me to strive for more opportunities. Thank You so much!!

Catherine Andrade



When it was all said and done, I saw a light that was brighter than I expected. It was something I was told about, but I truly didn't understand it's power until it was all over. I surpassed the struggles, those mentally and physically, only to find myself at the end of the finish line. I was told I could do it, and I did. But I didn't do it by myself. Take advantage of your resources: professors, instructors, tutors, upperclassmen and classmates. Everyone has something to say and it doesn't hurt to listen. Knowledge is power, and nurses are full of knowledge. To the Marquette University College of Nursing and my fellow classmates in the class of 2020, thank you, and God bless you. *Connor Machuga*



Overall, I think I've been really lucky in finding Marquette and PB2. The community is welcoming and always willing to help. I have found the best friends and have found friendships with my professors and advisers. I couldn't be more thankful for choosing Marquette and joining PB2. *Coleen Egan*

Not pictured. *Juhi Gandhi*