



August 31, 2022

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## How Jessie was called to teach nurses

Jessie says that seeing her students develop as professional nurses is what she finds most rewarding. "It's just amazing how they mature and grow," she shared.

When she begins teaching a new group of students, she tells them, "You don't realize how much you're going to grow and mature over the next 15 weeks." Then, when she sees them again as graduates, "They're like totally different people."

### Nurses have so much to give

"God called me to the medical field when I was in elementary school," she explained. Growing up, she saw so many people in communities that didn't have adequate health care, and she knew she wanted to help.

"That's one of the reasons I worked at Richmond Memorial," she said. "It was a community hospital, serving communities the other hospitals were not." Regardless of where a nurse earns a living, Jessie believes in serving outside the walls of the hospital as well. Until the pandemic began, she volunteered her time and expertise with a free clinic in the area.

"I've always felt that nurses have so much to give, and it's our calling to do it," she explained.

### Jessie's journey

Jessie had been working on a med-surg unit as a nursing assistant while she was in school. After graduation, she stayed there for six years, until a colleague urged her to move to the emergency department (ED).

"I think if you listen, God leads you to where you need to be," she shared. So she accepted the new position, which included education and leadership responsibilities.

"I loved teaching new students and techs and mentoring the new grads. And a lot of the paramedics who I worked closely with went on to become RNs. They'll see me in the hospital and say, 'Miss Swann got me where I am today.'" After 13 years in the ED, Jessie transferred to the post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) and enjoyed that role for more than a decade. Sadly, her mother passed away during this time.

"I was at a little bit of a loss after her death," Jessie recalled. When a friend mentioned that Walden University was on the hospital campus talking to people about their master's programs, she decided she needed to do something new. She enrolled in the nursing education program and earned her master's degree — even though she was certain she'd never work in a nursing school.

She retired from the PACU, and just before graduation, Jessie's father passed away. Her focus shifted to spending time with family. But it was clear she would return to nursing. Her retirement lasted only eight months. She took on a PRN role, and then a couple more before a friend from the PACU told her she needed to come and work in the College.

"I thought I'd just do a little bit and dip my toe in the water," she said. "It blossomed from there."

She started as an adjunct professor about seven years ago, and her hours steadily increased. Today as a full-time instructor, it's clear this is where she is meant to be.

"God put me here," she shared.

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