

# McDaniel Foundation Scholarship



Nursing scholarship graciously  
donated by the McDaniel  
Foundation

This scholarship is awarded to three nursing students joining the nursing  
honor society, Sigma Theta Tau – Iota Tau

# Mandy Sue Putnam

## Attends Creighton University - Grand Island Campus



What draws you to the career of nursing? What specialty of nursing are you passionate about?

I have enjoyed taking care of patients for years and want to be able to do more for them. I plan to work in NICU and begin work to become a neonatal nurse practitioner.

What does being a nurse leader mean to you? Please use examples from your nursing school and clinical experiences.

I think that first it means to be a great example. Working hard and putting the patients first shows others who you are and what you hope your coworkers will be. During clinicals there was a nurse practitioner that works in one of the departments. She was a medical provider, but she would answer the phone when it was busy or answer call lights. No matter what; she put patient care first without ego getting in the way. I strive to be like her someday.

Many new nurses struggle to find their place as a nurse leader, continuing learner, or nurse researcher. What are some things that you can do in your first one to two years as a nurse to achieve your goals?

Before you can teach or lead you need to learn. Learning also comes from good and bad experiences. I really want to strive to learn all I can in my first couple years.

# Emily Sanders

## Attends Creighton University – Omaha Campus



What draws you to the career of nursing? What specialty of nursing are you passionate about?

I am drawn to nursing for various reasons, but the primary reason being its selfless and empathetic nature. I have always been drawn to the idea of finding a career that relates to my personal values, and helps me live out my purpose of serving others. Specifically, I am interested in public health nursing. I am not sure exactly in what form, but I love caring for the whole person, specifically populations that are often left underserved and underrepresented.

What does being a nurse leader mean to you? Please use examples from your nursing school and clinical experiences.

A nurse leader to me, means someone who both leads and acts as a mentor. Through nursing leadership scholars, I have served on the governance council for two years, as the vice president, and as the outgoing president. Through this organization, I have seen the power of igniting my own leadership through planning biannual retreats, coordinating local nursing leaders to speak to our organization, and assisting with our mentor-mentee program. Specifically, this organization has taught me the other value in being a leader: being a mentor for future leaders, uplifting their voices and ideas, and following when necessary. I believe these past four years at Creighton and with leadership opportunities such as NLS, I have been able to understand the importance of taking a step back as a leader and amplifying the younger leaders around you, to promote the longevity of the community.

Many new nurses struggle to find their place as a nurse leader, continuing learner, or nurse researcher. What are some things that you can do in your first one to two years as a nurse to achieve your goals?

I believe that I will find many opportunities to grow as a leader, learner, and researcher throughout my first two years post-graduation. I believe I can do this by finding as many service opportunities as possible, including a possible year of service through JVC. I believe that I will continue seeking these opportunities to serve and grow because Creighton has ignited that service-oriented passion in me that continues to ask questions, find new ways to support others, and become more educated. I also believe that I will find myself searching for new ways to learn, whether this be on the job, in possible grad programs, or through personal engagement. Ultimately, I believe that Creighton has made me a strong, passionate, and curious young woman, and I believe that my first few nurse will only raise more questions that I will seek to answer.

# Samantha Isaac

Attends Creighton University – Phoenix Campus



## Iota Tau Chapter

What draws you to the career of nursing? What specialty of nursing are you passionate about?

My two nephews being born prematurely and being in the NICU for a while was the beginning of my desire to become a nurse. The comforting and amazing care the NICU nurses provided to not only my nephews but my brother and sister-in-law as well is why I want to be a NICU nurse. I want to be there for these new, little people, to welcome them into the world and care for them and love them when they are sick and their parent/s are not able to provide the care they need at this time in their life.

What does being a nurse leader mean to you? Please use examples from your nursing school and clinical experiences.

A nurse leader to me means to be a supportive, team player. I've experienced two nurses talk bad about another nurse when she left for her lunch break and that is not being a nurse leader. A nurse leader supports her fellow nurses however she can. A nurse leader helps with a simple task such as changing an occupied bed, or is an ear to listen when a fellow co-worker needs to vent, or can even give a quick, comforting hug.

Many new nurses struggle to find their place as a nurse leader, continuing learner, or nurse researcher. What are some things that you can do in your first one to two years as a nurse to achieve your goals?

As a nurse within my first year or two, I will utilize my resources and never be afraid to ask questions to help achieve my goals. My resources could consist of talking to my nurse manager or charge nurse or utilizing my online resources such as Sigma Theta Tau to continue my education.