

## A Dream Fulfilled

Alishia Daniel always wanted to be a registered nurse. “My dream of becoming a nurse started at an early age,” she says. “My mother actually inspired me to become a nurse. It was always her passion to become a nurse. Unfortunately, she passed away when I was six years old.”

The path Alishia followed to achieve her dream took some unexpected turns. After graduating from high school in 2013, she enrolled in prerequisite classes to prepare for SVCC’s Associate Degree in Nursing program. The required TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) proved to be an obstacle.

“I took the TEAS test twice and could not meet the passing requirement for the RN Program,” she recalls. “So, instead of giving up completely, I decided to apply for the LPN program.” SVCC’s certificate in Practical Nursing (LPN) program is a shorter-term program that prepares students to enter the nursing profession at a beginning level.

Alishia says, “I decided that it would be helpful to get some experience under my belt before pursuing the RN program again.”

Her plan paid off. In 2016 she met the requirements for entry into the RN program and graduated in 2018. “Although it took me a little longer to become an RN, I never gave up. I want people to know that sometimes you have to take the scenic route to achieve your goals and that’s okay. It has made me a better nurse.”

Alishia chose SVCC because it was affordable and she could take all the classes she needed close to home. She recalls, “My favorite part about the RN program was sim lab and the amazing bond I created with my classmates and instructors.”

“SVCC provided me with everything I needed to successfully pass NCLEX (National Council Licensing Exam) on the first try.” She gives special credit to three faculty members: Jonette Talbott, Melissa Arthur, and Becky Anderson. “They constantly encouraged and pushed me to be the best I could be. Nursing school was definitely one of the hardest accomplishments of my life, but these three instructors made it enjoyable and even fun.”

Alishia has now been working at Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital in South Boston for four years. “I am a registered nurse in the intensive care unit where I serve as a team lead, charge nurse, and preceptor,” she proudly reports. “As an ICU nurse I have gained experience with multiple bedside procedures, ventilators, critical medication drips, and so much more.”

Recently, Alishia also had the thrill of being featured on an SVCC billboard. “It feels so surreal!” she exclaims. “It’s located on Highway 360 in South Boston. It’s a constant reminder that hard work does pay off!”