If you can focus on careers available in your department. You might tell the story of how you ended up in your role. Let me know if you have further questions!

Introduction of self and current role at ECU Health Medical Center

Timeline:

BSN – ECU 12/2004

Started at Pitt County Memorial Hospital – 1/2005

Worked as a new graduate nurse in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit until end of 2009

Started at RHA Howell Care center in January 2010

Left this role and returned to Vidant Medical Center to assist in opening the Children’s ED in 2/2012

Have continued my career at Vidant Medical Center – now ECU Health Medical Center since this role. I worked up from a bedside nurse to the Assistant Nurse Manager and then the Nurse Manager of the Children’s ED. Stayed in this department until January 2020 when I moved into the Trauma Department.

During my time in the Children’s ED, I also returned to ECU to complete my MSN in Nursing Leadership.

Currently I am the Pediatric Trauma Program Manager. This is a completely different opportunity to manage a program versus managing the team members in the Children’s ED. I am now responsible for maintaining our Level II Pediatric Trauma Verification.

My career trajectory demonstrates the many different opportunities that are available in the role of nursing and the many roles available in an academic care center like ECU Health Medical Center. In nursing, you can be a bedside nurse, an informal leader, clinical manager, program manager. This is one of the most adventitious aspects of a nursing degree. The career opportunities are varied and readily available. Even within each role there are many different specialties and areas in which you can work. Most of my career I have worked in the pediatric population but that has even varied from the premature infant to the chronic care of the pediatric patient to the emergency care of the child and now to the care of the injured child.

The Pediatric Trauma Department is currently a team of one but works closely with the adult trauma program, which has many different roles within their program. We maintain a trauma data registry, complete performance improvement, and maintain follow-up and burn clinics. One of our nurses completes PTSD screenings while another is in charge of outreach and education. All of these roles are different components of the nursing career path.

Our outreach coordinator works together with the clinical simulation center to provide education to the region with our mobile simulation unit. This allows us to teach EMS squads and regional ED teams the standards of Pediatric Trauma since they care for the majority of our patients prior to their arrival at our trauma center.