

Patsy Downer Dement Nursing Scholarship



I graduated from Marshfield High in 1964 and began my college education at SWOCC, followed by enrollment at University of Oregon School of Nursing in Portland. (later renamed Oregon Health Sciences University) My first student uniform was a grey- green pin-stripe. Next came our capping ceremony. Our caps had a black velvet pin stripe across the top. As a freshman our caps had 1/2 of the stripe crossing the top after we successfully completed our 1st year studies and later, another ceremony was held to pull the stripe over to the other side of the cap to complete the final look of our cap.

Post-graduation, I worked in Dr Albert Starr's Cardiac Recovery. Dr Starr invented the first heart valve to be implanted in a person. My work on "the hill" were the best years of my career. I went on to be a nurse manager on a plastic surgery and recovery unit. I later moved on to home health nursing and eventually worked on various programs for Good Samaritan Hospital. When retirement days came, I volunteered to hold a support group for young women, teaching parenting skills.