V. Doreen Wagner

Tallahassee Community College nursing alumnae V. Doreen Wagner has been admitted as a member of the International Nursing Association, a network of nursing professionals working to create new possibilities in the treatment and diagnosis of disease and improve the quality of life. Wagner’s admission coincides with her upcoming listing in “Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare.”

Wagner began her career as a periodontal assistant. However, she soon realized she wanted to become a nurse and decided to enroll at TCC. Although she struggled with the rigorous curriculum and with juggling two jobs, Wagner stuck with it and became a registered nurse.

After graduation she relocated to Atlanta, practicing as a nurse for about 10 years before she was offered an educational position within the hospital.

“TCC had obviously given me enough of a solid background that I felt technically competent to take the offer,” said Wagner.

However, she also realized that she needed to go back to school to learn how to be an educator. Over the next several years Wagner earned a masters degree and began teaching at DeKalb College. She also consulted for a surgical company, conducting a clinical trial on the efficacy of a patient-warming device. It was this research experience that convinced her to return to school once again—this time to earn a doctoral degree in nursing science, which would give her the knowledge and credentials needed to lead research projects and teach at the university level.

In 2007 Wagner earned her doctorate from the University of South Florida, focusing her research on how stress impacts the mind and body. Today, as an associate professor of nursing at Kennesaw State University, she conducts clinical studies with surgical patients and with nursing students. She is also still teaching, helping to educate nurses in medical surgical nursing, pathophysiology and research.

For Wagner, TCC was “a great stepping stone.” As an educator, she believes very much in the importance of community colleges.

“Two-year programs can help students like myself find success, not failure.”