

## **IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUCCESS CENTER FIRST STEP TO MILLER'S DREAM**

Often times in life there are obstacles that block people from achieving their ultimate goals in life. Rondi Miller of Spirit Lake was no different. A single mother of an 18-year-old son, she always wanted to be a nurse. But there was one obstacle in her way: Rondi did not have a high school diploma and she was afraid that she would never be a nurse for that reason.

In April of 2008, Rondi overcame her biggest fear by walking into the Student Success Center at Iowa Lakes Community College. It was her very first step in achieving her goals to become a nurse. Rondi Miller completed her General Equivalency in 2008 and went on to be accepted into the nursing program.

Miller has been seen quite often in the Iowa Lakes Community College marketing commercials and advertisements. She is one example of the impact that the Iowa Lakes Community College Student Success Center has had on many students. Changing careers has been a popular trend over the past year for various reasons. For Miller, she simply needed a change in her life.

“I chose to come back to school and obtain my GED/Nursing degree because I was working a job, I was miserable, and I felt trapped. I made a choice,” Miller said.

Ed Purdy and Debbie Clark, Student Success Faculty instructors located in Spirit Lake, both played important roles in Miller overcoming her fears to achieve success.

According to Miller, “The first person I met was Ed Purdy and he told me that ‘I had made the first step and from now on, you are going to make it.’”

Rondi Miller entered the nursing program in the summer of 2008. She is in her last year of college and plans to be an RN.

Debbie Clark has very high reviews of Miller's determination. “Rondi is driven by her self-directed goals and a clear vision for her future in Nursing,” she said.

Iowa Lakes Community College has helped approximately 80 people complete their high school equivalency diploma over the past year.

From the Nursing Program, to the Wind Energy Program, to a 2-year Associate in Arts transfer degree, general equivalency diplomas have helped students pursue their degrees of interest. During the semester of fall 2009, 145 students with general equivalency diplomas were enrolled in a variety of programs at Iowa Lakes Community College.

