

# Angela Miller & Her Family Have a Lot to Celebrate!

by David C. Butty



The year 2024 will be a year that Angela Miller and her family will forever remember. Both Angela and her son received their degrees respectively --- Angela, her Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) and her son received his Bachelors of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor just one month apart.

But there is a special offer that was the icing on the cake when Angela received the news that she was selected as the recipient of the American Nurses Association of Michigan's Exceptional Promise Award. The invitation simply read, "Congratulations! You have been selected as this year's recipient for the ANA-Michigan Exceptional Promise Award. ANA-Michigan is fortunate to have talented and dedicated professionals like you, and it is our honor to bestow this merited recognition. Because this professional acknowledgment is a celebration, we invite to join us for an in-person award recognition dinner in June."

"At the time I received the news, I was taking a break from studying

for my nursing Transition's Management HESI exam. I checked my personal email, and I had received an email notification of the award. At first, I had to re-read the email. I was so honored to receive a nomination, but did not expect to receive the award," she said.

"I called I immediately my husband, and told him the news. He was ecstatic," said Angela who will receive her Associate Degree of Applied Science in Nursing when Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) holds its Fifty fourth annual commencement exercises at Ford Field in Detroit, on June 8, 2024. The program will begin at 11:00 am. This year's keynote speaker will be Hill Harper, Actor, Author and Humanitarian.

Angela's journey to the finishing line at WCCCD began in 2021. "I enrolled in the AAS program in January of 2021 with the goal of applying to the nursing program. I carefully planned out the order of pre-req's and co-req's so that I would be eligible to apply for the May 15, 2022 deadline. This meant I had to take on average 7 credit hours per semester, including sum-

mers while working full-time. I chose to complete my co-reqs prior to the start of the nursing program so that I would be able to solely focus on nursing classes, if accepted."

Like every learner with family, Angela had to juggle all the pitfalls to balance life between family and school. "Juggling pitfalls of college as a middle-age learner, with family obligations was very challenging. The last time I attended school was high school, when I graduated from Romulus Senior High School in 1997. I relied heavily on being detail oriented. Navigating pre-reqs/co-reqs was manageable while working full-time."

"The nursing program was a game changer. I had to readjust not only work life, but my personal life. I was less available to family and friends and my employer. I am so grateful for the support I had in every aspect. I am the proud mother of three. My family respected and supported my efforts as did my employer, allowing me flexibility and a reduced work schedule. My husband was my rock. Always there, always supportive."

Among the crowd at Ford Field cheering this year's graduates will be Angela's family. "Having my husband, children, family and close friends at my graduation means the world to me."

Angela said there is no secret but that she learned a lesson from one of her professors. "One of my nursing professors shared with us the importance of knowing the "type of learner" you are. There are many free on-line tests that will assess your learning style, you can use this to inform your study methods. I am a kinetic learner. Reading, and studying for endless hours, does not help me retain information, much less process it. I need to see, touch and hear, but take frequent, disciplined breaks."

When she is not studying or tending to family matter, Angela will be tending the flowers in her garden. "I love gardening and especially love to grow items that support the dwindling Monarch Butterfly population."



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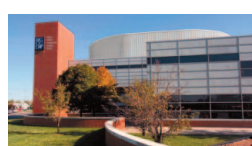
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