**Professional Development Plan:**

 Taking the time to reflect on one’s career can increase self-awareness and enhance professional development. A career development plan is a confidential and integral document created by an individual which outlines the activities undertaken during their life. Hence, a professional development plan documents goals and skills required to accomplish dreams and aspirations. Moreover, a professional development program is reminiscent of ones’ past experiences and a glance at the future. Having a professional development plan in place is critical for graduate study to keep track of one’s progression. The principal purpose of a developmental plan is to give a description of my educational and professional background as well to explore my personal goals as it relates to my profession growth and development.

**Education and Professional Background:**

  I am Ms. Henderson RN/ BSN and would like to share some insight with you about life journey.   I am currently residing Queens New York. I have immigrated to the United States in 1989, from South America located in Guyana. I was raised in a little village where dreams seemed impossible to accomplish due to the economic development of the country. I was excited to come to America to obtain my dreams and that is to become a competent nurse who has empathy and compassion for others. I was only seventeen years old when I arrived in the United States of America with no formal education.  I knew that I was up for a challenge finding employment in the United States to support myself. It will take some form of training and teaching.  I decided to enroll at a local community college in my area where I   received a Bachelor's of Science in Chemical Technology in 1992. I worked for one year with my degree as a lab technician. I knew that my dreams back in Guyana were to become a Registered Nurse, so I decided to pursue my dream by enrolling at another institution where I earned an Associate degree in nursing 2005. I have been working as an RN for ten years in different specialties such as med-surge, home care, rehabilitation and as a public health nurse.

I had a chance to re-evaluate the trends in nursing and saw that most employers desired nurses with a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing or a Master’s of Science in Nursing.  According to the American Associate of Colleges of Nursing, the minimal requirement to work as a professional nurse is a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing. Because the health care setting is shifting away from hospital centers to outpatient settings, this has created a demand for nurses to have a higher level of education to function independently (AACN, 2012). I decided to pursue a BSN at a City University of New York, York College City University where I earned a BSN degree in 2014. Since I have met the minimal standard to work as a professional nurse; I decided to explore other options where I can earn a Master’s of Science in Nursing Education.  I have examined a few schools, but the one that resonates with me is Stony Brook University.  Their vision to allow students to meet their highest potential and their program offer flexibility and affordability.

**Employment:**

  I work as a public health nurse for the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene Office of School Health. My daily functions there as a nurse include administering care to students with a variety of injuries from blunt trauma to concussions. I enjoy working as a school nurse because I have compassion for kids and be a role model for others.  I am also employed part-time as a Home Health Aide and Nursing Assistance Instructor for a private proprietary school in Queens. I enjoy this position immensely because it allows me to connect with students from a multicultural background and to allow them to become the best and to strive for professional growth and development.  In addition, I am American Heart Association Instructor for Basic Life Support (BLS), advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) and pediatric life support (PAL's).  I am the owner and CEO of a CPR company called “The Heart CPR training.”  It’s a small business with only three employees. I am the instructor for the CPR courses. Students who enrolled in the CPR class receives an American Heart Association Card, which is valid for two years.  My experience is diverse, which makes me unique to work in any settings.  My leadership skills are self-driven and based on transformation style. Therefore, these elements have prepared me to embark on a graduate level.

**Professional Goals:**

 My professional goal is to advance my study in nursing education. An advanced degree in nursing education will enable me to gain entry level teaching position as a nursing educator in a CUNY or SUNY institution in New York.  Being able to teach nursing students, will demonstrate that my goals were accomplished. Moreover, I can use the new knowledge gained from Stony Brook University to enhance future nurses education. As I reflect on Stony Brook’s vision and mission statements, it motivates me to go after my dreams so I can transform the lives of others and give to social change in my community. Finally, having a higher education will improve my economic status by giving me financial security. Therefore, these goals will enable me to continue to uphold Stony Brook's mission statement by contributing to positive social change.

**Summary:**

 I am excited to a future career as a nurse educator.  I believe my past experiences and passion for teaching will prepare me to embark on this journey to pursue a master’s in nursing education. As I reflect back on my accomplishments, it gives me the motivation to strive for a higher education.  Hence, this will allow me to give back to society and make a difference in my community.  My goal is to encourage others to follow their dreams so that they can contribute to social changes. Therefore, the sky is the limits and all it takes is a dream and dedication to meet higher advancement.

 Sincerely,

Bibi Henderson RNBSN/AHA Instructor

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