

Cynthia Lewis-Washington's Biography

I was born in Mobile Alabama and continue to reside there at this time. My greatest desire was to become a nurse and provide care to sick individuals. Therefore, I pursued a career in nursing and graduated from Southwest State Technical College with a degree in Practical Nursing in 1986. I pursued my Associate Degree in Nursing at Bishop State Community College and received my degree in 1989. I worked several years in a local Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in a level three hospital. I also traveled as a nurse to various states to work as staff in Pediatrics, Neonatal ICU, Mother-Baby Unit and Adult Health. This allowed me to become flexible and knowledgeable of care for all age groups.

I decided to continue my education in nursing in 1998 by receiving my Bachelor's Degree in Nursing at The University of South Alabama. I continued to work in a local Neonatal ICU for several years after receiving this degree. I decided to return to school to further my education in 2001. I attended the University of South Alabama where I received my Master's degree in Nursing with certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) in 2003. Upon completion of this degree, I began teaching at The University of South Alabama School of Nursing as adjunct faculty. Also, I taught at a local community college and provided clinical and classroom guidance to nursing students in Adult Health, Geriatrics, Maternal-Child and Pediatrics.

I continued to work as an FNP at a community clinic as the onsite clinical manager and health care provider in an underserved area for almost five years. My most recent practice as an FNP consists of providing care to the Geriatric population in a long-term care facility. There is a great need for practitioners in long-term care facilities. I recently completed my Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at The University of Birmingham School of Nursing in August 2009. The focus of my DNP project was to increase knowledge of risk factors to diabetes, heart disease and strokes among African Americans in underserved areas. The project was a success and I look forward to publishing it in the Journal of Community Health later this year. Upon completion of my DNP degree, I sought opportunities to become a full time nurse faculty member of a school that focuses on improving access to care in underserved areas. I found Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing to be the best choice, especially since we share the same goals. I really enjoy my career as an educator and practitioner. It is challenging and rewarding as well!