

# 2020 GMDM Scholarship Recipient Stefanie Allen Is Inspired by COVID-19 to Help in an Appreciable Way

by Deanna Thompson



**Stefanie Allen.**

Colfax resident Stefanie Allen is the 2020 recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Guilford Medical & Dental Managers (GMDM). She is using her scholarship to pursue her longtime dream of becoming a nurse.

"I often tell family and friends that I feel that nursing is a calling," she said. "I have felt this even more strongly since the COVID-19 pandemic has hit our country. Despite

the very real risk nurses face contracting the virus, I have longed to be able to jump in and help in an appreciable way."

GMDM, a professional organization for medical and dental office managers and other individuals involved in health-care administration, has awarded scholarships to deserving students pursuing higher education in health-related fields for more than 25 years.

## From the desk to the bedside

Allen spent nearly two decades working in healthcare administration – in roles ranging from billing specialist to physician liaison to office manager – before returning to school in 2018 to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She is pursuing her degree through a dual program at Winston-Salem State University and Forsyth Technical Community College that is designed to increase the number of nurses in the region with bachelor's degrees.

"I was 36 years old when I began, and the prospect of going back to school seemed a bit overwhelming," Allen said. "But I decided to face my fear and go for it!"

A former member of GMDM, she credits her time in the organization with helping inspire her decision to make the leap.

"I love the organization, and many of the speakers I heard through the years at GMDM monthly meetings helped to fuel the desire within me to further my education," she said.

## Support has made it possible

Allen has continued working part-time for her longtime employer in Greensboro, Carolina Vein Specialists, while going to school and caring for her family, which includes husband Michael and children ages 16 and 10.

Key to her success in juggling multiple roles, she said, is the support of her family and the two physician co-owners of Carolina Vein Specialists – Brent Greenberg, MD, and Mark Featherston, MD –who have "encouraged me at every

step and have offered me great flexibility with my schedule so I can attend classes."

This fall, Stefanie had to cut her part-time hours further as she began clinical rotations.

"Receiving this scholarship would be a blessing and would allow me to bridge the gap between what I owe in tuition, fees and books and what I am currently receiving in financial aid each semester," she wrote in applying for GMDM's scholarship.

Allen is anxious to finish her schooling so she can begin working as a nurse.

"I want to make a difference and care for people during some of the most vulnerable times of their lives," Allen said. "I can think of no greater privilege or blessing."



**GMDM Scholarship Committee Chair Jennifer Arrington (left) presents a \$1,000 check to 2020 scholarship winner Stefanie Allen.**

## Apply for a 2021 GMDM scholarship

GMDM scholarships are open to students pursuing degrees in dental, nursing and other health-related fields at area colleges and universities. Winners, who are selected based on financial need, grades and recommendations, promise to make an effort to stay in the area after graduation, helping to serve the healthcare needs of the area. For more information or to download a 2021 scholarship application, visit the GMDM website at [www.gmdm.org](http://www.gmdm.org).

## Interested in joining GMDM?

The organization is open to professionals working in supervisory or administrative positions in medical, dental, patient therapy, long-term care and home health care fields. Visit [www.gmdm.org](http://www.gmdm.org) for more information.

*Deanna Thompson is an associate member of GMDM and the owner of Thompson Communications ([www.thompsononline.biz](http://www.thompsononline.biz)).*