

**STUDENT SUCCESS**  
by Samantha Mack



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# Paige CHURCHILL

## Nurse found her path at MCC

**M**ontcalm Community College alumna Paige Churchill said when she doubted herself, her nursing instructors reassured her that she was on the right path.

Churchill is a Registered Nurse (RN) for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and the Medical/Surgical Unit at Sparrow Carson Hospital in Carson City. She was honored as the 2017 Nurse of the Year at Sparrow Carson Hospital in May. Nurses at Sparrow Health are recognized for their excellent service every year during National Nurses Week. One nurse is selected for this recognition at each Sparrow site per year.

“I feel very blessed to receive this honor,” she said. “I was nominated among some top-notch, experienced coworkers. I am very grateful to be caring for others, and to be honored for doing so makes me want to be better every day.”

Churchill chose to go into nursing because she wanted to be there for others during their times of struggle and joy.

“A nurse cares for all families in times of birth, illness, surgery and death,” she said. “I want the responsibility of making each stage of life an experience of triumph for the patient and family.”

Churchill attended MCC right after high school.

“I didn’t even take the summer off,” she said. “I graduated from Grand Ledge High School in May 2008 and started an Anatomy and Physiology course at MCC in June. It was the only class I had left to complete to get onto the waitlist for the nursing program.”

She earned a Long-term Care Nurse Assistant Certificate from MCC in 2010 and began working at the Laurels of Carson City, an assisted living facility, while pursuing a Certificate of Practical Nursing (CPN) at MCC.

“I did not know where I wanted to be as a nurse, and my instructors reassured me that was okay and assisted me in exploring the multiple options in nursing,” she said.

“At times I wondered, ‘Is nursing for me?’ Then I would have an experience in clinical, lab or simulation that reassured me I was on the correct path,” she added.

Churchill earned her CPN and an Associate of Liberal Studies from MCC in 2012. She continued her education while working and earned an Associate of Applied Science in Registered Nursing from MCC in 2013

and completed an RN to MSN program at Walden University in Minneapolis, Minn., in 2016.

“Life is challenging and not easy at times, but it is possible to manage what comes your way,” she said. “I was blessed with a baby boy and got married during my master’s program, and through it all I worked two jobs and went to school. I wasn’t afraid to ask for support; my friends and family were there for me.”

After becoming an RN, she started working at Sparrow Carson Hospital, which was previously called Carson City Hospital. In January 2017, she returned to MCC to teach nursing courses part-time.

Churchill resides in Carson City with her husband, Nate, and their children, Trenton and Rylie.