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## ONYEKACHI B. OKONKWO

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R.N., B.S.N

### **Learning Self-Reflection**

During my time as a nursing student, I have gained an abundance of knowledge as well as insight. The Associate's degree program was centered around the human anatomy, diseases, treatments, and proper care. Such knowledge is the backbone of the profession, but in the Bachelor's program I gained the muscle. The educational focus was placed on important concepts like leadership, professional advocacy, and community outreach. In leadership, I learned how to lead amongst my peers in the most effective way possible. The tips and strategies I received have built my confidence in professional interactions. Nurses have long been viewed as followers, but in truth, we are the leaders of this profession. Professional advocacy is a course that I truly appreciate because the importance of being a voice for my patients and peers was highlighted. Our intent as nurses is to heal and serve others, but to also advocate on behalf of our patients and fellow nurses. I have learned to let my voice be heard and I appreciate each skill I have garnered along the way. In my community course, the focus was placed on how to interact with and support the community. My hope is to become a maternal-child nurse in an underserved community. Understanding how to retrieve important information and services for a community's members is critical for me. Health maintenance no longer takes place in the hospital so it is important that the resources needed to maintain life are readily available in the community.

I am entirely grateful that I was opportune to go straight into the Bachelors program after completing my Associates degree. I feel well rounded and ready to approach the community with a new view of the profession. In the next three years I plan on getting my Master's degree but until then, look out community, I am coming!