



### Sylvia Rushing

2010, Bachelor of Science, Nursing  
South University, Columbia

Sylvia Rushing had been an LPN for over ten years prior to enrolling at South University. She began studying nursing when she joined the United States Army just after high school. It was through her military service that she also met her husband.

Sylvia utilized her educational benefits as a veteran to attend South University's RN to BSN program at the Columbia, South Carolina campus. "As a veteran, and as well as being married to one, I have had the opportunity to continue my education. I was extremely impressed with the VA Officer who went out of his way on my behalf to ensure my educational costs were covered. I knew South University was the right fit for me from the day I met with an Academic Advisor and realized South catered to working adults with families and very busy schedules!"

Graduating with honors in December 2010, Sylvia was the first valedictorian from the nursing program on her campus, and also the first in her family to attain a bachelor's degree.

After graduation she began working as an RN at Palmetto Health Richland Hospital. Her passion to one day work with oncology patients began early on in her life. "My mom is certainly one who has inspired my whole journey," she shared. When Sylvia was a junior in high school, her mother was diagnosed with cancer. "Watching her go through some of the most awful things a person can go through during cancer treatment was very difficult," says Sylvia.



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South University has given me the tools to begin a lifelong journey, not just a degree.

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Sylvia became certified in oncology, relying on her experience working directly with patients and chemotherapy drugs, attending a series of educational classes, and then passing a verbal and written examination.

She recently relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina, to continue her work with oncology patients at Carolina Medical Center – Levine Cancer Institute, as a clinical research nurse for hematology clinical trials. She plans to begin a Masters program within the next year. Her future plans include studying for a nationally recognized certification (ONC), and continuing in the field of oncology; either becoming a Nurse Practitioner working with patients or expanding in the field of research. Ultimately she would like to teach as she says, "It's vital to encourage other future nurses with enthusiasm and knowledge. Sometimes the right teacher can have the most positive effect on the rest of one's career!"