Maria Colandrea  
School of Nursing Alumni Award  
2014 Recipient

Introducing Maria

Home: Holtsville, NY  
Education includes: Stony Brook University  
Stony Brook University Class of: 2014  
Honors include: Nominated for Nurse Excellence award 2013 at VA; NNEI scholarship through the VA

Maria’s Message of Thanks

Receiving this scholarship has helped me to believe in myself and my abilities. I believe that this scholarship opens up career/professional choices for me that I would otherwise have been unable to pursue. Receiving this scholarship makes me want to help the next generation of students when I become successful.

I want to thank you for your generous contribution to the School of Nursing. This award helped me represent the School of Nursing Nationally at the ENRS conference. This contribution has allowed me to fund my conference tuition and travel. I am grateful for your generosity. I know someday my research will be valuable and contribute to improved patient outcomes.

Maria’s Career Interests/Approach to Career

The DNP program has taught me to think carefully about best evidence practice. I plan to use my education to improve my patients outcome through research. In addition, I plan to teach at the academic level.

Maria’s Inspiration and Proudest Accomplishment

I would say that there are two people who inspire me most. First, my mom for showing me how to be a brave and courageous woman. She fought breast cancer valiantly, but did succumb to an untimely death. She taught me to be strong and fight, even when the urge to give up is also so strong. The second person would be my father. He taught me by example, what hard work and dedication can bring. He lost his wife, my mother as a young man, and had to raise 4 children alone. When his business failed, he went back to school to become an educator. He recently went back for a doctoral degree at the age of 65 and graduated with an Ed.D. Everything I am is because he taught me never to give up, and to work hard to achieve all my goals. He continues to be a huge support for me during my pursuit in doctoral studies.

I am most proud to be the mother of 3 beautiful boys. I remind them to be proud of who they are, have a strong work ethic, and put 110% into everything they do. I am proud to make a difference in the care of veterans while improving patient outcomes.

The Scholarship’s Impact on Maria

My father has made significant sacrifices in order for me to attend Stony Brook. He has given up many days driving me to and from class, has read many papers, cooked many meals, and sacrificed many hours mentoring me through my doctoral degree.

The scholarship you so generously donated will enable me to pay for my attendance for the Eastern Nursing Research Society conference where I am representing Stony Brook and presenting a poster related to my scholarly project. It will help me pay for my hotel, conference tuition, and air travel.