



A Generous Legacy – Alexandra Filonenko’12 Makes Her Mark

By and large, Kingsborough Community College’s most generous alumni donors tend *not* to be recent graduates. Rather, they are more likely to be established professionals who credit Kingsborough as “the place that started it all” for them years ago. Alexandra Filonenko, however, is a remarkable exception to this rule. A proud graduate of Kingsborough’s Nursing program, Alexandra received her A.A.S. degree in 2012. Only a year later, she established the *Nursing Alumni Scholarship for Excellence in Service to Others*. Given out to one nursing student per academic year, Alexandra’s scholarship recognizes not simply a student’s academic pedigree, but their proven willingness to serve the greater community.

Originally from Russia, Alexandra first immigrated to Brooklyn, New York at age 22, where she worked as a waitress and babysitter to make ends meet. Though she was able to support herself, Alexandra ultimately aspired towards a more stable, fulltime career. Thanks to a friend’s encouragement, Alexandra eventually enrolled in Kingsborough’s Nursing program, a decision which she now regards as one of the most important in her life.

At Kingsborough, Alexandra quickly discovered that nursing was not merely an ideal career track for her, but a true calling: “My professors did much more than just teach me the practical and theoretical principles of nursing. They also helped me to understand what it takes to selflessly devote oneself to the care of others.” In addition to excelling academically, Alexandra played a tremendously active role on the Kingsborough campus, serving as the vice president of the Nursing Club and the editor of *Pulse*, KCC’s nursing publication.

As a KCC honors student, Alexandra also attended the Salzburg Global Seminar in Austria. As part of the program, Alexandra and her fellow KCC students visited the Dachau concentration camp in Germany. Like anyone who visits this historic site, Alexandra was horrified by what she saw there, but she also left the experience with a newfound sense of purpose: “Seeing the remains of the camp was a harrowing experience that made me realize, in a powerful way, just how fragile life truly is. More than anything though, it made me want to do everything in my power to help others, and to be an agent of positive change in the world.”

Since graduating from Kingsborough, Alexandra has continued to pursue her studies while also working as an interventional radiology nurse. Despite her busy schedule, she still makes time to come back to her alma mater and tutor current nursing students. And with her very own scholarship now a fixture at KCC’s Nursing Pinning Ceremony, Alexandra and her mantra “of service to others” will continue to inspire KCC Nursing students for years to come.

Like Alexandra, you too can make a gift that will help Kingsborough students overcome their obstacles and achieve their dreams. [Support KCC Today.](#)

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