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Spotlight On: Dawn Reid

In 2003, during my last year of the Law Clerk program at Fleming College, I was in a bad car accident. I went under a transport truck on the 115 and it took them 90 minutes to get me out of the car. My whole right side was broken and I had a brain injury. I had to learn how to walk and talk again. I was hospitalized for nine months, and then I continued treatment at home by doing cognitive, speech, and physiotherapy. It took me three years to recover from the accident.

The car accident put me behind with my education and I didn’t know how I’d finish my program, but I don’t like to start things and not finish them. It was a struggle, my brain injury put me at a disadvantage, but it just meant I had to work harder than everyone else. I did graduate from the Law Clerk program, but because of my accident, I felt a change of heart about my future career. Because of my accident and the help I received from excellent nurses, I had decided I wanted to become a nurse.

At 40 years of age with no algebra or chemistry experience, a brain injury, and a busy schedule of raising four kids and working, I didn’t know if I’d be able to go to university. But I upgraded my skills through ACE courses at Fleming, and then took the Preparatory Health Science program. Fleming got me back in the swing of things and I found it to be a great experience. The Pre-Health program prepared me for university, because it gave me the previous knowledge that university expects students to have.

After completing Pre-Health, I got into the Forensic Science and Nursing programs at Trent. I got into both programs and didn’t know which one to take, so I thought, why can’t I do both? I will have my Nursing degree first, but I know I will get my Forensic Science degree. A lot of people thought I was crazy - I work and I have kids - but I thought, ‘I can do this!’ And I did.

