**Ashley Croft, 2019 WOC-AP Scholarship:**

The comprehensive perspective I’ve gained during my journey from starting as a nurse’s aide to becoming a wound ostomy and continence (WOC) nurse will be enhanced by my training to become a family nurse practitioner (NP). The last five years as a WOC nurse have been the most rewarding of my nursing career. Upon graduation as an advanced practice WOC nurse, I plan to bridge the gap between providers and nursing by providing timely sharp debridement and other advanced procedures. Using my new skillset, I will also be able to help my local complex ostomy population. My hope is that my new role will improve efficiency in patient care, decrease length of stay, decrease readmissions and enhance patient satisfaction. I am grateful for all the support I’ve received in my journey and will continue to work hard to support my colleagues’ growth and development.

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