Michael A. Sbarra 2018 NER WOCN Scholarship, Personal Statement:

As a recent graduate of Rutgers CWOCN program, the program gave me the knowledge and skills I need to care for patients with complicated wounds. I initially developed an interest in wound care when my mother became ill and needed multiple surgeries. She was diabetic and prone to abscesses which took a lengthy time to heal and the visiting nurses that cared for her, had little experience with wound care. I enjoyed learning how to change her wound vac and pack her wounds. To me it was like putting a puzzle together. After becoming a Registered Nurse, I started working with the geriatric population through skilled care and hospice. Seeing the complications related to wounds and irritations from incontinence mixed with pressure, I decided to pursue a career as a CWOCN. My goal is to teach patients how to treat their wounds and come to terms with their new ostomies. I also hope to place prevention protocols to reduce end of life discomfort. I feel I can make a difference in these patients’ lives. I am looking forward to getting started working in the field.