**Morgan Shughart, WOC Scholarship:**

I first became interested in the WOC nursing field when I was working on a busy cardiothoracic post-op unit. I was caring for a patient who had a sternal wound infection after having open heart surgery. His wound was being treated with negative pressure wound therapy. I was amazed by the skill, compassion and knowledge that the WOC nurses displayed while caring for this patient. This experience made me realize that I wanted to pursue becoming a wound, ostomy, continence nurse. My opportunity came in July 2017 when the hospital where I work developed a program to “grow” their own WOC nurse. I eagerly accepted the position and formally began my WOC nursing education at Cleveland Clinic’s WOC nursing education program in the fall of 2017. I have been certified in wound and ostomy since May 2018. It has always been my goal to become a full scope WOC nurse, so in January 2019 I re-enrolled in Cleveland Clinic’s School of WOC nursing to complete my education and study continence. I just recently finished my continence clinical and will soon be taking my certification exam. I am very passionate about the WOC nurse specialty and am constantly trying to spread awareness about who we are and what we do while I am out on the floor seeing patients. In addition to my daily duties caring for patients I am also responsible for tracking and providing trends for hospital acquired pressure injuries within our health system. Pressure injury prevention is a passion of mine and in addition to sitting on our hospital systems pressure injury prevention committee I am also a member of research council and am participating in a quality improvement project to improve pressure injury prevention. Additionally, I participate in our hospital system’s orientation, teaching newly hired nurses about pressure injury prevention and wound care protocols. Another one of my favorite duties as a WOC nursing is assisting with organizing an ostomy support group for local ostomates. I believe I have found my calling and my niche within the nursing world as a wound, ostomy, continence nurse and I look forward to a long and rewarding career helping to better the lives of those with wound, ostomy, and continence needs.

