



# Nurse of Excellence

**Amber Bubka, RN**

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## Meet Amber.

### Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I grew up as the youngest of a family of four, in Wading River, New York. My family has seen many professions, but not nursing. When I met my future husband in college, and got to know his family, I was inspired by my mother-in-law, a nurse. She would talk about her job in Stonybrook in the Radiology department, and I was impressed with all I heard. Yet, it was not enough for me to make my decision that nursing would be my profession too. So, I started volunteering in the unit to see it all firsthand and what I saw inspired me even more than all I heard until now. When I graduated college, I enrolled with the Stonybrook Nursing Program, a fairly pleasant experience, considering I was lucky to be financially supported by my

parents throughout that time. This enabled me to focus on my studies without juggling a job. I was 21 when I passed my NCLEX exam and picked up my first assignment at Stonybrook Medical Center.

### What do you love most about your nursing career?

Travel nursing is my favorite. Honestly, I cannot see why any nurse for that matter should not travel. Especially if you are the type who likes to explore new things. I have traveled with my husband on the road across the country to an assignment in Seattle, Washington. with several stops on the way. It is an exhilarating fun experience. I only take assignments that are three days, so you can spend the rest on sightseeing. We especially love to visit national parks. Before checking the compensation to any of those places, though that's a fine perk of travel nursing, I check out the area to ensure it's a place that has what to sell. We've been to Monterey, California where we checked out more than five national parks, then to Fenix, Arizona, that has no national parks, but there was the Sedona that was gorgeous for a soft picnic and hikes. We are planning to spend next summer seeing the polar bears in Alaska.

### How do you find adjusting to so many different places?

The first two weeks has its challenge of navigating a new hospital setting that may be a tad different than you are used to. But I am pretty good at talking to people and making friends and have always found my coworkers on the floor to be helpful. Also, hats off to my husband who is completely selfless. He does most of the driving on those long treks, and he keeps house, cooking supper and caring for my two dogs. It makes things so much easier. Traveling is really a win-win situation. No losing involved.

### What are your future goals for nursing?

I am currently in school for my NP. Doing a condensed school schedule is grueling while balancing a full-time job. Advanced schooling is a lot more difficult than the initial studies to become a nurse. For your undergrad, you learn everything, but know you will still have the doctor to rely on to diagnose. As a nurse practitioner you need to be able to tell symptoms and diagnosis what is going on. Additionally, there are a lot more responsibilities that I have now that I didn't have as a fresh college graduate. Next year is my final year for school, where I will have to do two hundred and forty-one hours of clinicals! But I still feel it's worth it for my big goal.

### Any message you would like to impart to nurses all over?

I would love to let nurses know about the amazing health insurance and benefits you can get when working with White Glove Placement. I am not saying this lightly having worked with other travel nursing agencies in the past. Also, staff is so attentive always here to address any slightest concerns that may crop up!

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