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To whom it may concern:

Concorde Career College provided me, an Iraq combat veteran with eleven (11) years of combined service in the U.S. Army active duty and Washington State Army National Guard duty with the opportunity to pursue my dream career which traditional college denied. In late 2013 I started the traditional college journey of prerequisite course work that could have ended in 2017 without a degree. Concorde Career College not only provided a quality education but also assisted with my successful completion of the NCLEX-LPN test and employment placement.

As a veteran and an older student in traditional community college I felt that I did not belong. I struggled to engage with the other students, even the very few that were my age. Feeling isolated but determined to complete this path of prerequisite courses in traditional college, however my college level GPA of 3.50 was not good enough for me to continue the pursuit of my dream career as a nurse through traditional college. After multiple applications and denial letters I applied at Concorde Career College and was accepted. By my request I was fast tracked through the application process and started my education in nursing sooner than traditional college could process my application.

As a veteran, after the initial awkward moment of the first day introductions, tours and expectations I knew and felt I belonged at Concorde Career College. Many veterans like myself have spent years learning to do things by seeing it done then doing the task or skill. Concorde Career College excelled at incorporating this learning style, where traditional college failed. Concorde Career College has mastered an excellent balance of all four learning styles; watching, doing, reading and listening.

Concorde Career College gave me the opportunity that I was denied through traditional college because I did not have a perfect 4.0 GPA. Concorde Career College accepted me as a veteran, my experience, knowledge and previous education and helped me build on it to obtain my dream career. As I transitioned from service member to veteran, like many others that have gone through this transition, I lost my sense of belonging and identity. Concorde Career College not only gave me back my identity as a veteran but also my sense of belonging in my newly established career as a Licensed Practical Nurse with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Should you have any questions or wish to hear about my continued success please contact me by email at krisheflin@msn.com.

Sincerely,

Kristopher Heflin,  
LPN, U.S. Army Veteran