

Hi, my name is Elmar Barrios and I am currently a senior nursing student at Western Connecticut State University. WCSU has been quite unique by meeting great friends and professors that have helped me with my passion of becoming a registered nurse. It has been quite a journey from stress and hardship, but always seeking me to strive and keep pushing myself as the profession is quite unique in which life and death may be in our hands right in front of us. Moments when I have thought and considered throwing the towel and letting school take over me, my professors, classmates, and the WCSU community pushed me to keep at it. The honor house that the school offers is like no other to escape school and go to a place of comfort. I have been fortunate to be the President of a club on campus called Student Nurses' Association which helped me build leadership skills that I never knew I would be able to achieve and seek more into the community as so many people are not as fortunate. For example, Mission Health Day, which is a day to give back to the community where health care providers and WCSU students can assist in care and help translate for the greater good of the community of Danbury. This day helped me reflect upon why I didn't go into nursing school, which is to help provide equal compassionate care to those who are not able to due to a language barrier or financial burdens. Knowing this and reflecting on how WCSU has helped shape me into this competent and confident male student nurse, I will take into my future practice as a nurse and potentially as an APRN.