LETTER]

College Worth the Investment

Published: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at 12:09 a.m.

Last Modified: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at 12:09 a.m.

Lately, people have been discussing the notion that a college degree may not be worth the investment. For me, the decision to go to college was both challenging and empowering.

It was only a few years ago that I was climbing the corporate ladder when my brother-in-law was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer. It was during this time that my life transition began after being inspired by the hospice nurse who took care of him. I told myself that if I sincerely want to make a positive impact in my community, then I need to empower myself with the necessary tools, starting with a degree.

After careful thought, I selected Keiser University's nursing program because I had previously experienced campus life at a large university. I felt like nothing more than a number and longed for a more one-on-one educational setting. Today, I am one semester away from graduating with my degree in nursing and one step closer to fulfilling my dream of empowering others.

This time of year, parents are helping their children with college applications and adults are assessing their current employment situation and deciding what changes they need to make and whether or not that includes furthering their education. While my story may not be universal, I think it can serve as inspiration for those who are on the fence.

There is no question that college is expensive, but most often education is an effective means toward overcoming your current circumstance in life.

If you have looked at all your options and done all the appropriate research, and you came to the same conclusion that I did — a college degree can be the springboard to a professional future — then make the investment in yourself. I did, and it's working.

MIGNON JACKSON

Lakeland