

HCTC Success Story: Jeff Fugate



Hazard Community & Technical College has many success stories and Jeff Fugate is one of them.

After graduating from the nursing program, Fugate has had a varied career spiced with travel and other great rewards.

And it all started with his getting an associate degree in nursing in 1998.

Fugate, age 33, of Hazard, is now a pharmaceuticals representative for Sanofi-Aventis which sells drugs such as Plavix and Ambien, a position he's held since December 2003.

His other jobs include: Patient Education Coordinator for the UK Family Practice Clinic; and Hazard ARH in pediatrics for one year, two years for the Emergency Room, and less than a year at the Intensive Care Unit.

After Fugate graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a bachelor's degree in nursing he joined up with Travel Nursing. That job called for him to go where he was needed to work which led to an eight-month stint in Charleston, South Carolina and another stint in San Jose, California for the same amount of time. "Having the chance to travel, having our rent paid on top of a good salary were all points very appealing to my wife and me, especially since the California job meant living close to her grandparents," Fugate said.

"The education I received from Hazard Community & Technical College was excellent. I was well prepared when I went for the state board testing," Fugate said. "The faculty did a great job in providing an understanding of what to expect in the work world. The program was demanding, very tough, requiring a lot of reading, but the teachers were always available to help us get through it," noted the former student. "The faculty members wanted to see you succeed."

Fugate said he would recommend that others enroll in the nursing program because positions are available. Just as Fugate has found in his own professional life, he could find a job to fulfill whatever he wanted. He capitalized on his own experience to land a job with

pharmaceuticals because that business wants those with a bachelor's degree and those with a nursing background. "The medical experience helps. I can relate to the doctors and I understand how they are working to help their patients," he said.

Besides his day job, Fugate is wearing another hat now—that of teacher. He has joined Hazard Community & Technical College as a night time adjunct faculty member with the nursing program, which furthers opens his career opportunities.

Fugate is a graduate of Hazard High School. He and his wife, Angela, are rearing their baby boy—Aiden. Fugate's parents are David and Helen Fugate.