Drake said she appreciates the culture at MCC where she has close relationships with her students and is able to support their learning needs.

The married mother of a son and daughter, Drake feels it is rewarding to see the “light bulbs” come on in her students after they have been challenged and she has helped them to translate knowledge into critical thinking and safe application that creates a competent and compassionate nurse.

Currently completing a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program so she can serve the community in a greater capacity, Drake encourages those considering nursing to remember that they already have two precious resources to succeed – time and energy.

Drake encourages students not to get discouraged by wait lists for nursing programs, and advises those interested in the field to always be in nurse mode, assessing situations and environments they are in and getting in the mindset and thought process of being a nurse.

An active member of several nursing organizations, including the Grand Rapids Black Nurses Association and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, Drake is also an esthetician and a published author, working on her second book.

Wearing many hats, Drake continues to show compassion to those she reaches and instill a sense of compassion in those that she teaches.