**Helping Hands Turn into Healing Hands with Baptist College of Health Sciences**

For Crystal Spielman (2010 Nursing) the decision to go into health care, and specifically into nursing, was an easy one.

When she was a child, her grandmother was diagnosed lung cancer and had home health nurses assist her.

“Seeing the nurses interact with my grandmother impacted me,” said Spielman. “I knew I wanted close contact helping patient as a health care provider, so nursing seemed to be the best path for me.”

And it is. Spielman has been a practicing cardiac nurse since she graduated from the Baptist College of Health Sciences in 2010. She currently works at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis in the Transplant ICU.

Spielman is heavily engrained in the College, earning her undergraduate degree, working with a Baptist-affiliated hospital and now earning an advanced degree.

“Baptist has always been a part of the family,” Spielman explained. “I liked the closeness and community feeling the campus offered when I was touring school as a high-school senior. I knew I would get the education I wanted from the Baptist College of Health Sciences.”

While earning her undergraduate nursing degree, Spielman was always happy to lend a hand to her peer students. She served as a student nurse mentor.

“I wanted to be as involved as possible at the College,” she said of her mentorship.

As a student nurse mentor, she helped first and second year students in both the classroom and clinical settings.

She is now back in school at the College to earn her Doctor of Nursing Practice with an anticipated graduation date in August 2020. With the DNP, Spielman hopes to be able to improve her leadership skills, continue taking good care of patients and increase her health care knowledge base.

As a full time student and nurse, Spielman has a lot to juggle but with her weekend work schedule and support of team members, she is making it work

Spielman plans to stay working as a bedside nurse when she graduates because she likes helping people and teaching.