

OHSU SCHOOL OF NURSING-MONMOUTH CAMPUS  
**GOLDEN LAMP AWARD**  
**Raelyn Alamani Kanoho '22**

*The Golden Lamp Award is based on the American Nurses Association Code for Professional Nurses and the Florence Nightingale Pledge. It is given in recognition of exemplary demonstration of scholarship, leadership, professional commitment, innovative contributions and humanitarian ideals.*

RAELYN ALAMANI KANOHO '22, first became interested in healthcare when her grandpa was diagnosed with cancer.

"I told him before he passed away that I was going to go to college and become his nurse," she says. "Unfortunately, that didn't happen."

While the impetus for Alamani Kanoho's journey into healthcare is tinged with sadness, she is thankful nonetheless for the fire it ignited. Her first steps toward a career in healthcare included becoming a certified nursing assistant while she was an undergraduate studying Community Health at WOU. Upon completion of her bachelor's degree, she started work in the Oncology Unit at Salem Health.

"It drove my passion, working with patients and seeing them go from being really, really weak at one point to being strong and being able to leave the hospital," says Alamani Kanoho. "Then I wanted to further my education and actually become a nurse."

In 2019, Alamani Kanoho enrolled in OHSU School of Nursing and hasn't looked back. She's deftly juggled the stresses and responsibilities of a full-time job as a CNA with demands of nursing school, including almost two years of online schooling.

"It's been a little crazy, I'm not going to lie," she says with a laugh. "But the faculty, they are just so supportive and encouraging. And, because we're such a small cohort, I have had the opportunity to get to know a lot of my cohort members and to grow together."

She also credits prioritizing a work-life balance as central to her success.

"I take time away from school to be present with family, whether it's Saturday night dinners at my grandma's house or spending the day cuddling with my dog," she says. "They're the most supportive people I know. They're probably the reason that I'm here and striving to be better in nursing school. I don't think I would've made it through the last three years without them."

During her senior practicum in the Emergency Department at Peace Health in Springfield, Oregon, Alamani Kanoho found a passion for critical care.

"It's been eye-opening," she says. "I chose the emergency room because I wanted a challenge. It was something scary to me at first. You always hear horror stories about how crazy the emergency room can be and after the first two days, it was like, I love this. I love the hustle, bustle and teamwork. That drove me to want to take care of critical care patients, in either the emergency room setting or in an ICU setting."



*Raelyn Alamani Kanoho*

Alamani Kanoho lives in Salem with her fiancé, Tyler, a middle school math teacher, and says her immediate goal is to find a nursing position in the area. She also hasn't ruled out more schooling.

"I don't think you're ever done learning in nursing. I'm planning on getting specialty certifications first and then giving back," she says, explaining that the current shortage in nurses means fewer nurse preceptors to supervise nursing students during clinical rotations. After earning her specialty certifications Alamani Kanoho says she would like to become a preceptor, and is considering an advanced practice RN that would enable her to work in anesthesiology.