



Jennifer Popich '09

Flight Nurse
REACH Air Medical Services

Jennifer Popich '09 works with REACH Air Medical Services as a flight nurse, where she provides pre-hospital advanced life support care until patients are transferred to hospitals.

After graduating from La Roche, Ms. Popich was a critical care registered nurse at a Level I trauma center (2009-2013), which provided a foundation for her to work in the trauma and critical care environments. In 2013 she became a travel nurse.

"Travel nursing is a very challenging role because hospitals that need travelers are suffering severe staffing shortages and a lack of retention of seasoned nurses. The average level of experience is only a few years," she said. "As a traveler you are expected to be on your A-game. I enjoy this challenge and got comfortable being uncomfortable."

Now Ms. Popich is a flight nurse for a major helicopter EMS transport service in Southern California and the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. She has responded to major traumas related to recreational vehicle accidents in the sand dunes of the desert, falls, shooting or stabbing victims, and military training events.

Active in her community, Ms. Popich also gives back through volunteer work, both in California area and other parts of the world. She was a part of the San Diego Fire Department for a Girls Empowerment Camp; the Amor House Building Project in Tecate, Mexico; Grace the Americas-Medical Mission Trip; and Habitat Brigades in Honduras.

Her volunteer efforts stem from a love of people. She said, "I honestly love people and have a bleeding heart for humanity. It really makes me happy when complete strangers unite to serve and help others."

Ms. Popich obtained her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Chamberlain College of Nursing. In May 2018 she received the NTI Scholarship from Boston, Massachusetts.

