

# International Trucking School • Fran Bernard

International Trucking School (I.T.S.) celebrates their 20th anniversary this year. Fran Bernard started with one office and now has six different locations throughout Michigan. I.T.S. works with several colleges and just recently started an online program with Glen Oaks Community College. This opens up so many possibilities for men and woman that are looking for a new career. I.T.S. can help get them back out in the work force and into a whole new career. Without her highly trained staff, I.T.S. wouldn't be as successful as it is today.

Fran loves to tell the story about Terry Stewart, a woman that attended I.T.S. She was a little nervous and half way through, wanted to quit. She was the only woman in her class and worried about things she heard about being on the road. When she found out the owner of the school was a woman, she found a new inspiration. After speaking with Fran, Terry decided to stay, and was she glad that she did. Right out of training she went to work for Swift. A year later she was a trainer and visited I.T.S. When she got out of her truck, she had on six-inch red stilettos and was excited because she had just made the last payment on her own truck. After speaking with Fran, Terry had the confidence to keep going in this non-traditional career.



*Terry Stewart in her red stilettos*

What Fran loves most about owning I.T.S. is the people the school impacts to help change their lives, hearing the success stories, and seeing the



*Fran Bernard, President, International Trucking School, and her daughter Angela MacDonald, author of this article*

great things people are able to do after being trained. She doesn't look at it like her students are getting a job; to her it is a new career opportunity, for everyone that graduates from I.T.S. Ever since she joined Woman In Trucking, she is happy to give away a free one-year membership to all women that graduate from I.T.S.

A lot of her ambition, drive, and integrity comes from her dad, Dick Crane. He was a legend in his own time. There is a truck show in his honor every third weekend in September in St. Ignace, Michigan. It is the Richard Crane Memorial Truck Show and it is amaz-

ing! Hundreds of both show and working trucks come from all over the country to participate in this NAST (National Association of Show Trucks) sponsored show. They have a parade of lights across the Mackinac Bridge that is just breathtaking. If you are ever able to participate in this show or just come and see it, you will be so glad that you did.

Fran is now concentrating on putting together the finishing touches on the Associates Degree in Transportation that should be up and running soon. She is really excited about this new endeavor along with getting the online programs secured. She is also working on her newest adventure, Heavy Equipment Training. She was approached about combining the truck driving and heavy equipment training and decided to take on the challenge of introducing this new curriculum at I.T.S. People were receiving heavy equipment training and couldn't take the equipment to the job sites because they didn't possess a CDL-A license. Now with the students receiving both programs, they have many more job opportunities available to them and that really makes Fran happy.

Being able to help military men and women is a real quest for Fran. She is so ecstatic to have her own

son home from the military where he served overseas in Qatar. I.T.S.'s Basic Truck Driver Program is approved for Veteran's Training by the Michigan State Approving Agency. Being a member of Commercial Vehicle Training Association (CVTA), has enabled Fran to join Commercial Driver Training Foundation (CDTF). CDTF has set up a scholarship program offering partial scholarships for Veterans to attend truck driving schools across the United States. I.T.S. is one of the schools included in this scholarship program.

Last year Fran was forced to slow down a little when she was diagnosed with cancer and had three

different cancer surgeries. Her outlook is like it is all the time, very optimistic. She said if it weren't for God, her family, and friends, she wouldn't have been able to get through this difficult part of her life.

On her 20th anniversary, Fran is proud to see all she has accomplished throughout the years and looks forward to continuing to set new industry standards in the future.

International Trucking School  
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