



News Release

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Nicky Fleming wins 2024 Caring Kind Award

For Immediate Release

(COLUMBUS, Neb.) – Nicky Fleming, a 13-year veteran of Columbus Community Hospital, has received the hospital's 2024 Caring Kind Award for being an admirable employee every day.

The Caring Kind Award, presented by the Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA), honors health care employees who exemplify exceptional patient compassion, dedication to their roles and service excellence.

"Nicky's role is incredibly demanding, but she consistently approaches her work with positivity, humor, and a genuine commitment to patient care," said Kathryn Decker, an executive nurse consultant in the operating room. "She goes above and beyond to ensure our team has everything they need to provide the best possible care."

"Her role is extremely stressful, and different challenges are encountered daily," Decker continued. "Nicky is positive, listens, has humor, provides education and goes out of her way to ensure CCH has what is needed to take care of the patient."

Fleming started her career as a unit secretary in the emergency room before transitioning to sterile processing. Her responsibilities now include managing vendor relations, coordinating with operating room staff and surgeons, and ensuring that surgical equipment is properly delivered, sterilized and maintained.

Despite the demanding nature of her role, Fleming consistently creates a positive work environment through her informative communication, helpfulness and exemplary customer service. "Nicky is a breath of fresh air," said Tawny Sandifer, vice president of patient care and administrative services at the hospital. "Her positive energy is contagious, and she's a role model for everyone on our team."

"In the years I've been in sterile processing, my role has evolved significantly due to advancements in technology and processes," Fleming said. "But one thing remains constant — the importance of doing things the right way every day for every patient."

Fleming's ability to calmly listen to requests, meet high standards and provide education and support to vendors and new team members is truly commendable, hospital leaders said. Her dedication and care serve as a reminder of the invaluable contributions the hospital's health care professionals make to their communities.



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