THE
Importance of
Caring

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my journey into nursing

Kimberly Eisenmann, RN, BSN
DIRECTOR OF MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH

For Kimberly Eisenmann, RN, BSN, nursing was an obvious career choice because it combined two of the things she loved.

"I just really liked the science of medicine and working with people," she said. **"That's what got me into nursing."**

Eisenmann uses her skills in both these areas as the director of Maternal Child Health at Columbus Community Hospital (CCH).

In this position, Eisenmann oversees the day-to-day operations of the department. She handles the department's staffing, budget and supply purchases; and helps take care of its patients.

"I can get pulled in at any time to help out on the floor to take care of a patient, whether it's helping out with a delivery or sitting in the NICU to watch a baby," she said.

Eisenmann has years of experience in maternal child health. She started at CCH in what was then the OB department in August 2000. She also served as the service-line coordinator for the Maternal Child Health Department, prior to serving as the department's director.

Eisenmann did all of her undergraduate studies at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln before getting her diploma of nursing from Bryan School of Nursing and completing her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

Maternal and child health has always been a special interest for Eisenmann, who worked in women's health at Bryan Hospital in Lincoln before coming to CCH.

"When I went to nursing school, my biggest interest was in OB and pediatrics," Eisenmann said. **"That was definitely my favorite part in school. So, when I started looking for a job, that's sort of what I focused on. I went to women's health because that was a bridge to getting into OB eventually."**

According to Eisenmann, that's one of the benefits of having a career in health care – it offers you the opportunity to focus on the field or specialty that interests you the most.

"I think a career in health care is wonderful because there are so many different things you can do," she said. **"Whether it's being a doctor, nurse, respiratory therapist, patient advocate or social worker, there are just so many different options."**

She said the field of nursing, in particular, offers people many different opportunities.

"Even within nursing, there are so many areas you can focus and specialize in," she said. **"If you really like working with older people you can do that. And, if some day you decide you want to do something new, like work with babies, you can do that. There's so many different avenues you can pursue."**

In addition to its variety, a career in nursing also offers opportunities to care for people when they need it most.

For example, as part of her work in the Maternal Child Health Department, Eisenmann and several of her fellow staff members developed the Precious H.E.A.R.T.S. (Healing, Embracing, and Remembering Through Sharing) program at CCH. This bereavement program provides individuals and families who have experienced a pregnancy loss prior to 20 weeks with an annual memorial service and a memorial site.

"Precious H.E.A.R.T.S. was something I knew about from when I worked in Lincoln and I just felt there was a big need for it in Columbus. So, I'm happy to have been a part of a team who got that service up and going for our hospital," Eisenmann said.

CCH leadership supported Eisenmann and her fellow staff members with Precious H.E.A.R.T.S. and Eisenmann said they've also been very supportive of her continued education.

"I've learned a lot here and they've always encouraging me to learn more," she said. **"They've been very supportive about sending me to different conferences and providing educational opportunities, not just for myself, but for all the staff. If you say you want to learn something more, they say 'Yes, go do it.'"**

This commitment to education helps CCH offer high-quality patient care in all areas of the hospital, including Eisenmann's Maternal Child Health Department.

To learn more about Eisenmann, or the services offered in CCH's Maternal Child Health Department, visit www. columbushosp.org.