

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into health care



Jayleen Hernandez

MEDICAL SCREENER /CNA

Jayleen Hernandez always knew she wanted to work in the health care field. After joining the team at Columbus Community Hospital in July 2020 as a medical screener, she believes she now has a foot in the door with more opportunities to come.

“I have always been intrigued and interested in the health care field,” she said. **“There is stability and a variety of opportunities in this field. It makes me excited to explore and find the best path for me.”**

The Norfolk native has been part of the Columbus community for many years and does her part to keep the community healthy. As a medical screener, Hernandez is often the first person patients and visitors encounter in the hospital. She helps maintain the safety of all patients, visitors and staff by screening them for COVID-19 at the hospital’s entrance.

During the past year and a half, Hernandez has worked as a screener at multiple facilities in Columbus and surrounding communities, including Cargill, Inc., Becton, Dickinson and Company, Occupational Health Services and the hospital’s main campus.

“I arrive at my scheduled location at 5 a.m. and stock the screening stations with masks, thermometers and other necessary supplies,” she said. **“Depending on the day and staffing needs, I stop by each screening station to make sure there is proper staff support.”**

Hernandez regularly screens patients and visitors upon their arrival, but she also tries to help other hospital areas that need additional support. She often steps up to serve as a Spanish interpreter for patients and their families. She also received her certified nursing assistant (CNA) certification in June 2021 so she could assist the acute care team.

“I enjoy helping others around the hospital as much as I can,” she said. **“I have an interest in nursing, so working as a CNA has been great exposure. When I assist various hospital departments, I can explore the career opportunities available.”**

As the COVID-19 cases fluctuate, the hospital has had to adjust policies to protect staff and patients.

Hernandez has noticed confusion amongst patients regarding the policies and guidelines. She utilizes these opportunities to demonstrate clear communication, problem-solving skills and professionalism.

Hernandez has devoted her heart to helping others and demonstrates it through her work each day. She encourages anyone interested in pursuing a career in the health care field to explore the various opportunities and specialties.

“Do not feel pressured to decide right away what field you are going into,” she said. **“Take the time to explore each area and find something you are passionate about — no need to rush yourself.”**

For more information on career opportunities available at the hospital, visit www.columbushosp.org.