

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into nursing



Danelle Kratochvil, RN, BSN, CWON

Ever since she can remember, Danelle Kratochvil wanted to be a nurse. That desire never wavered.

She has been able to achieve that dream through a career at Columbus Community Hospital. After graduating from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing in Lincoln in 1990, Kratochvil immediately started working at CCH.

For the past 10 years, Kratochvil has been a certified wound ostomy nurse (CWON) at the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Health Center.

“I have found this position to be very interesting, and feel very lucky to be working with the coworkers I have and the practitioners of the wound clinic,” she said. **“They are all so great to work with.”**

In her position, Kratochvil assists physicians with wound assessments, wound management, referrals and implementation of care plans for patients. She also helps with wound-vac management surgeries and wound-vac specialized dressing changes for patients in the ACU and ICU.

Outreach education is another part of her job. She provides wound and ostomy education to skilled nursing facilities and practitioners in the surrounding area. She also visits wound and ostomy patients when they need assistance with dressing changes, ostomy care, cast changes and education.

Kratochvil appreciates the diversity a career in health care has provided. **“At certain times, I have wanted to learn new things, and that desire led me to different jobs and new experiences,”** she said.

She has worked in several positions since earning a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. When she first started at CCH, she was a floor nurse and charge nurse on the med/surg unit floor for seven years.

Since then, she worked at the Dialysis Center of Columbus and was the wellness director at Cottonwood House, an assisted living facility. There, she managed medication aides, cared for residents and implemented the diabetes care program.

In 2010, she returned to work at CCH in the wound clinic and cardiac rehabilitation. With support from the hospital, Kratochvil continued with her training. A couple of

years after returning, she entered a program to become a certified wound ostomy nurse. She completed several graduate courses and 150 hours of practicum, sat for a national exam and obtained her certification. She has maintained that certification for the last eight years.

Kratochvil encourages others interested in a health care career to follow their dreams, because it can be very gratifying.

“It takes a lot of hard work, determination and stamina, but when you’re helping a client succeed or heal, it’s all worth it,” she said.

For more information on the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Health Center, visit columbushosp.org.