

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into nursing



Josh Wenande CRNA, MSN
 DIRECTOR OF ANESTHESIA

A nursing career has allowed Josh Wenande to pursue his interest in science and combine it with the joy he experiences interacting with people.

“Health care, specifically nursing, allowed me to have the best of both worlds,” said Wenande, who is a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) and the director of anesthesia at Columbus Community Hospital.

Wenande earned an undergraduate nursing degree from Mount Marty University in Yankton, South Dakota, then worked in an intensive care unit at Avera McKenna Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, before starting the CRNA program at Bryan College of Health Sciences in Lincoln, Nebraska. After graduating and passing his board exam, Wenande started his CRNA career at CCH in 2016.

Nine months ago, he became director of anesthesia at CCH — a role which has provided plenty of interesting challenges.

“No two days are the same, because the anesthesia department provides

24/7 coverage throughout all areas of the hospital,” he said.

As a CRNA, Wenande helps carefully manage patients throughout their procedures to ensure safe and comfortable experiences. In the director role, he also spends time working closely with other disciplines to ensure open communication and continuity of care throughout the hospital.

Wenande said he has always felt supported working at CCH. His department is growing and adding new anesthesia techniques to make patients more comfortable. The anesthesia department is committed to managing their pain in new ways, performing more than a dozen different nerve blocks and using enhanced recovery after surgery. Wenande feels the progression in the department is exciting.

“The group has spent a tremendous amount of time incorporating evidence-based techniques to improve the care that patients receive,” he said. **“From an organizational standpoint, we have been supported throughout the entire process to**

ensure we have the training and equipment necessary to achieve this growth. I think the support we have received is unique and has allowed the anesthesia department to serve as a standard for other departments across the state.”

The changes in anesthesia are part of the constantly evolving world of health care. Wenande said those advancements make working in a hospital challenging and extremely rewarding.

“As health care providers, you have a direct effect on the patient’s experience and outcome,” he said. **“You are taking care of people at their most vulnerable time, and for that reason, the connections you can make are unlike any other profession.”**

For more information about the anesthesia department at CCH, visit www.columbushosp.org.