

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into health care



Heidi Wesch, BS, RRT

PHYSICIAN RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE

Heidi Wesch never imagined she would be working in physician relations — mainly because she wasn't aware it existed.

She tested high in math and science throughout high school, so her advisors encouraged her to pursue a career in health care. She also saw the positive impacts of health care firsthand as she watched her grandmother receive physical therapy treatment.

“I knew health care was for me after watching my aunt and uncle help my grandmother with different therapy modalities and suggestions, such as water therapy,” Wesch said. **“The benefits and positive impact the exercises had on her quality of life were amazing.”**

Wesch received her Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in exercise science and life science — and a concentration in respiratory therapy — through Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska. Then, she co-oped with the Southeast Community College Respiratory Therapy program and completed clinical rotations in Lincoln, Omaha and Grand Island.

Wesch started working at Columbus Community Hospital in 1999 while

attending Central Community College here. In 2002, she joined the hospital as a staff respiratory therapist. Her health care journey continued, and in 2009, she transitioned to cardiopulmonary rehabilitation. In 2015, she decided to leave and pursue an opportunity in durable medical equipment and homecare outside the hospital environment, which helped her grow professionally and personally.

Wesch was able to build rewarding relationships with health care providers, physicians, and leaders, which positioned her for success in her current role.

As a physician relations representative, her primary responsibility is establishing, building and maintaining relationships with health care providers, physicians, senior leadership and frontline workers. She also prides herself on providing excellent customer service.

“Every day is different, and the specific job duties vary, but it always includes maintaining good relationships with providers and being active in the health care community each day,” Wesch said.

The hospital's mission, vision, and values align with Wesch's ethics, so

returning to the organization was a great fit.

Wesch explained how the hospital is very supportive and always looking for opportunities to assist with employee success. Hospital leaders encourage continued growth and learning opportunities, allowing each employee to excel.

She encourages those interested in health care to gain as much education, knowledge and experience as possible.

“There are so many different opportunities in the health care field, from nursing to dietary to exercise science,” she said.

Regardless of where her career journey has taken her, Wesch's life has revolved around her family. She enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons in her free time. They attend professional sporting events as a family, and her sons like playing sports, as well. Camping, fishing, and other outdoor activities also fill their time.

To learn more about Columbus Community Hospital or physician recruitment opportunities available, visit our website at columbushosp.org.