

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into health care



Stacy Westfall

INFORMATION SYSTEMS, ASST. DIRECTOR
(DIRECTOR BEGINNING MARCH 2021)

Stacy Westfall tells her children that until they have some life experience it's hard to know what you want to do for the rest of your life.

“What you think you want to do coming out of high school or even college may not be at all where life takes you,” she said. **“Pick something that you enjoy that gives you a sense of accomplishment.”**

That's what Westfall did and it ended up working out very well for her. Today, Westfall is assistant director of Information Systems at Columbus Community Hospital. But growing up, she never would have imagined herself in that position.

“I had no idea I'd be where I am today,” Westfall said.

Out of high school, Westfall was happy working at a fast food restaurant with her friends, but her mom enrolled her in an accelerated program at the Spencer School of Business in Grand Island.

Though Westfall hadn't been too excited about the prospect at the time, she's now thankful her mother made that decision for her as she went on to graduate with an associate degree in business. Later on, she would also earn a bachelor's of administration degree in business from Doane College.

One of Westfall's first jobs was at NPPD where she gained experience in word

processing and at their IT help desk. Though Westfall wasn't actively looking for another job, her friend told her about a position in CCH's Education Department.

“I had heard the hospital was a great place to work so I applied for the job and felt I was a good fit with the people I'd be working with so I made the transition,” she said.

Westfall started working in CCH's Education Department in 1995.

“When I first started working at the hospital, there wasn't a computer department at all,” she said. **“For the most part, personal computers and networks were really just starting to make it to some of the smaller businesses.”**

Since Westfall had experience with computers from her previous job, she was able to help out the two CCH employees who – in addition to their regular jobs – were supporting the hospital's small number of personal computers.

“Technology was moving quickly at that time and I really pushed the hospital to use it more,” Westfall said.

Two years later, CCH formed its Information Systems Department and Westfall joined it a year later as an information systems assistant.

As CCH introduced more technology and its Information Systems Department grew, Westfall was promoted to assistant director of Information Systems in 2002.

In this position, she oversees clinical projects, supervises the clinical analysts

in the department, trains physicians on the hospital's software systems, supports end users, researches and tests new and current software, and serves as back up to the department's director.

This variety of tasks keep Westfall busy.

“There is never a typical day, which I think is pretty normal in any health care position. New tasks come up, issues arise, decisions need to be made, etc.,” she said. **“I can start off a Monday being very organized and creating my to do list for the day and sometimes just be lucky if that to do list has one to two items crossed off by the end of the week.”**

In all of her work, Westfall said she is very supported by the Information Services team which she said is full of **“very dedicated and intelligent people.”**

Westfall said she has also been very supported by CCH which she said is **“ahead of the technology game in a lot of aspects compared to other hospitals our size.”**

Though Westfall would never have thought she'd end up working in health care, she's glad she did and she encourages others to consider a career in the field.

“Health care and technology are ever changing and they go hand in hand anymore. There is very seldom a dull moment in both,” she said. **“You will be busy and you will work hard, but it's a rewarding field.”**

For more information on Westfall or the rewarding job opportunities available at CCH, visit www.columbushosp.org.