



News Release

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### **Melissa Ramaekers Selected for CCH's Respiratory Therapy Scholarship/Apprenticeship Program**

For Immediate Release

**(COLUMBUS, Neb.)** – Melissa Ramaekers of Columbus was recently selected to take part in Columbus Community Hospital's Respiratory Therapy Scholarship/Apprenticeship program.

Through this scholarship/program, Ramaekers can apply to a respiratory therapy program or course through Central Community College and Southeast Community College, and have payments made on her behalf by Columbus Community Hospital (CCH) for tuition, books and other education-related expenses.

The majority of the program (general education credits) will be completed online, initially through Central Community College. Ramaekers will then complete clinical rotations and labs through Southeast Community College at a rural health care facility.

"We're happy to offer this opportunity to people who are interested in the field of respiratory therapy," said Dorothy Bybee, RN, MSN/MBA-HC, NEA-BC, CCH's vice president of patient care services/chief nursing officer. "It's a great way for us to ensure Columbus Community Hospital has the best respiratory therapists for our patients."

CCH's goal was to award these scholarship/apprenticeship funds to highly qualified people who want to serve the CCH service area as respiratory therapists in the future. Applicants would then ideally make themselves available to work at CCH as respiratory therapy techs as their school workloads permit.

"We chose Melissa for her excellent scholastic achievements, her dedication to the field of respiratory therapy and her desire to stay at CCH to continue her career after she finishes school," said Nathan Fuerhoff, B.S., R.R.T, R.P.S.G.T, CCH's director of respiratory care/sleep lab.

To be eligible for this scholarship/program, applicants had to be residents of Columbus or the surrounding area, attending school in the Columbus area, currently enrolled in an accredited program at Central Community College or Southeast Community College and maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average throughout the program.

For more information on CCH's Respiratory Therapy Scholarship/Apprenticeship program, visit [www.columbushosp.org](http://www.columbushosp.org).

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