



News Release

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New hospital program wraps up successful first year at city schools

For Immediate Release

(COLUMBUS, Neb.) – Columbus Community Hospital recently released a new annual report that outlines the success of the Health Science Pathway program. The educational program gives area high schools, Central Community College, and the hospital an opportunity to collaborate. It allows students to learn about careers in the medical field through a series of classes that meet requirements from the state of Nebraska while also enabling them to explore various areas of health care.

Wendy Kallhoff, a registered nurse, leads the Pathway program. She has worked in several medical settings during her 20-year career.

“I have always loved teaching others about caring for people,” said Kallhoff. “When you provide care, you can only touch so many lives. But when you teach someone how to care for another individual, you reach so many more lives.”

The curriculum includes three different classes — an introduction to health care, a dual-credit certified nursing assistant course, and a capstone class that provides real-world job shadow experiences.

In 2022, more than 40 students at Columbus High School and nearly 20 at Lakeview High School were enrolled in the program. Participation is growing quickly, with a combined enrollment jumping to almost 200 students for the 2023-24 school year. With such growth, organizers will add a second instructor. Additionally, they hope to offer classes at Scotus Central Catholic soon.

“I attribute the program’s success to the planning and thought that was put into it before getting students in the room, as well as the students themselves being dedicated to their success,” said Kallhoff. “It is an exciting time for our students and our community.”

To learn more about the Health Science Pathway and view the report, visit columbushosp.org.