



News Release

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### **CCH's Kelly Wendt Named 2019 Surgical Technologist of the Year**

For Immediate Release

**(COLUMBUS, Neb.)** – Columbus Community Hospital (CCH) is proud to announce that Kelly Wendt has been named the 2019 Surgical Technologist of the Year for the state of Nebraska.

Wendt is a certified surgical technologist with CCH. Surgical technologists – who are also called operating technicians – assist before, during and after surgical operations by preparing operating rooms, arranging equipment and acting as an integral member of the surgical team.

The 2019 Surgical Technologist of the Year award will be presented to Wendt at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 26 at CCH. The award is given by the Nebraska State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists.

Wendt has served as a certified surgical technologist at CCH since April 2015. She started working at CCH in 2012 as a sign language interpreter before deciding to go back to school to become a surgical technologist.

“We were fortunate to have her here for clinical rotations and saw her potential from the beginning,” said Sue Hrnicek, MSN, CNOR, RN, director of Surgical Services at CCH. “We actually hired her full time while she was still a student so that we would not lose her to another facility.”

Wendt started as an operating room scrub technician before moving into her position as a certified surgical technologist when she received her certification.

“Since she started, she has worked to educate and elevate everyone’s practices for sterile technique,” Hrnicek said. “She is first to volunteer to precept students and new staff members...and actively seeks out opportunities for growth.”

Wendt is a member of the Association of Surgical Technologists.

For more information on CCH and its exceptional staff like Wendt, visit [www.columbushosp.org](http://www.columbushosp.org).

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