

# THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into health care



**Jennifer Jakubowski, MLS (ASCP)**  
 HEMATOLOGY AREA SUPERVISOR

Ever since graduating high school, Jennifer Jakubowski knew she wanted to pursue a career in health care. **“I wanted to help others and found science very interesting,”** she said.

Jakubowski attended Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska, where she received her bachelor’s degree in science with a major in biology and minor in chemistry.

While attending college, she worked as a pharmacy technician and thought her career would be in pharmacy. However, her interests changed after she stumbled across medical laboratory science while shadowing the laboratory at the local hospital for a class project. **“I knew I wanted to help others, loved science and had sort of a shy personality,”** she said. **“So here I am with a career that fits me perfectly!”**

After discovering her new interest, Jakubowski attended the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Omaha, Nebraska, where she received a second bachelor’s degree in medical laboratory science.

**“Working as a medical laboratory scientist began right after I graduated from UNMC, and CCH is where I landed my first job,”** she said. **“I am happy and love what I do in my current position!”**

Jakubowski first started working with the hospital in July 2009. Then, in 2013, she began her current position as a hematology area supervisor.

For Jakubowski, a typical day begins when she helps wrap up the morning run and prepares instrumentation for the day. She works as a generalist in the laboratory, performing tasks including analyzing a simple CBC, identifying an organism in a positive blood culture or getting a unit of blood ready for a transfusion. **“It all depends on the area I am assigned to for the day,”** she said. **“Some days we have heavier workloads, and other days we have our regular outpatients.”**

She is also responsible for ordering supplies and monitoring quality control information to ensure her various areas remain compliant, and reviewing daily and monthly reports. **“You may also find me working on new procedures and running**

**studies to stay compliant,”** she said. **“In health care, you are always ready for what may come your way!”**

**“I would recommend to anyone looking for a career in health care to explore, job shadow and step outside your comfort zone to see the variety of positions available,”** she added. **“I had no idea what a medical laboratory scientist was or did until I did a job shadow.”**

**To learn more about laboratory science at Columbus Community Hospital, visit [columbushosp.org](http://columbushosp.org).**