

THE Importance of Caring

JANUARY 2023

my journey into health care



Kari McPhillips, MLT (ASCP)
 HEMATOLOGY SUPERVISOR

A positive example can make a big difference. That was certainly the case for Kari McPhillips, medical lab technician at Columbus Community Hospital, who grew up watching her aunt's career grow at the hospital.

“She worked as a night nurse for more than 40 years, and eventually became the clinical manager in the hospital’s pre-admissions department,” McPhillips said.

This inspiration and her desire to help people led McPhillips to pursue a career in health care.

She completed her general education courses through Central Community College in Columbus and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before enrolling at Southeast Community College, also in Lincoln. While completing her education, she explored potential career paths in physical therapy and nursing but took a special interest in laboratory science.

“I have always had an interest in science, and working in the lab is a great way to experience science every day,” she said.

After completing her education, McPhillips accepted a position with the

hospital’s lab as a medical laboratory technician in July 2000.

While she is not personally involved with direct patient care, McPhillips helps play a crucial role in providing personalized care to each patient who visits the hospital. Each day she focuses on processing and analyzing blood, tissues and cells to complete patients’ tests. The results of these tests help generate important data for identifying and treating various health conditions, including cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

“The hospital is excellent at keeping up with the latest technology,” she said. **“We always have the best equipment and supplies to do our job efficiently and effectively to provide high-quality patient care.”**

McPhillips started her career as a generalist rotating through each department in the lab, but found her niche in hematology — studying blood and blood disorders. Recently, she accepted a promotion to the role of hematology supervisor and is looking forward to learning and growing in her new role.

McPhillips said she is thankful for her career at the hospital and the friends she’s met over the years. It’s been a rewarding career that allows her to actively care for her community.

“Initially, I wanted to pursue a career at the hospital because it would keep me close to my family, and now I’ve gained a second family through each of my coworkers,” she said.

In her free time, McPhillips enjoys watching her three children perform in band, music and theater. She also likes attending professional sporting events with her husband — in particular, she visits Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri, to cheer on the Kansas City Chiefs.

To learn more about career opportunities or the medical laboratory technician scholarship available through the hospital, visit columbushosp.org.