

THE Importance of Caring

JULY 2021

my journey into health care



Avona Wennihan

LEAD CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Avona Wennihan didn't stray far from her roots in becoming a pharmacy technician at Columbus Community Hospital.

When she was 7 years old, her pharmacist father opened a store. Wennihan helped out around the shop, earning a little money by dusting shelves and sweeping sidewalks. As she grew older she continued working in the family pharmacy, taking on a more prominent role as a cashier and bookkeeper.

Wennihan stepped away from the business and the profession for several years when she started her own family, but eventually began working in the pharmacy at a local grocery store in Columbus.

So much had changed since her days working in her father's shop. Computers replaced much of the work she had to perform by hand years ago, such as writing patient charts. Prescription insurance was relatively new, and so was generic medication.

Wennihan enjoyed the challenge of adapting to the changing times. She also liked getting to know and helping the

customers. Having a positive effect on people is what drew Wennihan to working in medicine.

"Health care is my way of serving the community," she said. **"I wanted a job that made a difference in people's lives."**

She has continued to do that by working at the hospital for the past eight years. She was hired as a certified pharmacy technician and became the lead technician about three years ago.

"The patients keep things interesting, and it is satisfying to be able to make a difference in the way they are feeling," she said.

Her regular duties include helping train staff, scheduling technicians, ordering inventory, preparing IVs and restocking medication. There is no typical day, though.

"One day, I might come in and spend it doing IV preparation," she said. **"The next, I might focus on medication restocking. Yet another day might find me working on paperwork, writing a schedule and ordering stock."**

Working at CCH has allowed Wennihan to grow in her profession by attending conventions and training seminars. The Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter — a TRC Healthcare publication — provides continuing education and offers clinical resources and information on medication therapy to pharmacy technicians.

Wennihan has come a long way from dusting shelves and sweeping floors. No matter what the job is, she said she has found that all are important in a hospital, and she encourages others to consider employment in health care.

"Health care is a very rewarding career path," Wennihan said. **"There are so many ways to serve. It truly takes a village to keep a facility running. Choose to share your talents in a way that best suits you."**

For more information about the pharmacy at CCH, go to www.columbushosp.org.