

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into health care



Kendra Thiem, PA-C

COLUMBUS ORTHOPEDIC & SPORTS MEDICINE CLINIC

Kendra Thiem, PA-C, decided to go into the medical field as a child.

“When I was a kid, my dad had surgery. I remember visiting him in the hospital, seeing the care he had received and I thought it would be interesting to do something similar,” she said.

That surgery was done by Dr. Richard Cimpl.

Years later, Thiem would become a physician assistant in the Columbus Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Clinic (COSMC) where she would assist Dr. Cimpl with surgeries like the one that had inspired her to go into health care.

A Columbus-native, Thiem received her associate degree from Central Community College-Columbus and her bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska Omaha.

Though Thiem had been interested in orthopedics since her father’s surgery, she hadn’t considered a career as a physician assistant until her college advisor introduced her to the profession. Thiem did some job shadowing in the field and found it was a good fit for her.

She went on to get a master’s degree in physician assistant studies from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

From there, Thiem spent almost nine years working alongside a busy, trauma orthopedic surgeon in Lincoln. In this position, she took calls with the orthopedic surgeon at a level 2 trauma center nearly every day.

Thiem returned to Columbus in 2015 and started working in Columbus Community Hospital’s emergency department. She then moved to a part-time position in COSMC in 2016, while continuing to work in the emergency department one day a week. Later that year, she moved into a full-time position at COMSC.

As a physician assistant in the clinic, Thiem evaluates and treats patients, gives injections, places casts, and provides patients with reassurance or education.

She also assists the clinic’s orthopedic surgeons in the operating room, rounds on patients and provides consultations in the emergency department and other hospital departments, as needed.

“The thing I love about this job is that I don’t have a typical day,” she said. **“One day could be in clinic, the next could be in the OR. One day can be total joints and the next, fracture care. There are multiple doctors in the office with different specialties which gives me variety from day to day.”**

The only consistent part of Thiem’s job is that it allows her to care for patients – which is something she really enjoys.

“It can be tough, both physically and emotionally at times, but at the end of the day, health care is a very rewarding career,” she said.

For more information on Thiem or the orthopedic services offered at COSMC, visit www.columbushosp.org.