

# THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into health care



**Ashley Carlson, BS, RT, (R)(T)(CT), ARRT**  
 COLUMBUS CANCER CARE PRACTICE MANAGER

Health care is a natural fit for those who like to take care of people. Columbus Cancer Care practice manager Ashley Carlson has found a rewarding career in providing patients with the best experience possible after they are diagnosed with cancer. She strives to help them and their families feel comfortable, hopeful and trustful.

Carlson completed her bachelor's degree in radiation therapy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, and she is now pursuing her Master of Business Administration degree through Doane University in Crete, Nebraska.

**“My background is in radiology, and I learned a lot in a laboratory setting during my career,”** Carlson said. **“With encouragement from coworkers, I rose to the challenge of my current leadership role in oncology radiation.”**

Carlson said the Columbus Community Hospital senior leadership team has positively influenced her growing leadership role. Her senior vice president, Keith Luedders; her team leaders; and her directors encourage her work ethic.

The hospital is also supporting her as she pursues her master's degree.

Carlson has worked in radiation therapy since 2014. After a short break from cancer care at a small critical access hospital, her career path led her to CCH. The hospital has always been a pillar of the community, she said; therefore, when the hospital took ownership of Columbus Cancer Care, she saw an opportunity to return to her passion while being part of something big for the Columbus community. This involvement will expand when the hospital creates an integrated cancer center, which is part of its strategic plan.

While Carlson's responsibilities involve managing the clinic's business and financial affairs and overseeing daily operations, she also has an opportunity to use her radiation therapy skills. Additionally, she takes patients to their rooms, covers reception responsibilities and helps with insurance preauthorizations.

**“Health care is a very rewarding place to be, especially in radiation oncology,”** she said. **“You are a part of**

**a patient's cancer journey, advocating for them the whole way.”**

Carlson loves spending time with her husband and two children. After growing up on a farm outside Duncan, Nebraska, she is thrilled that her family is experiencing the rural life she once did. Her children are surrounded by their cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents, and she is enjoying the simple pleasures a rural area offers.

**To learn more about Columbus Cancer Care or career opportunities available at the hospital, visit [columbushosp.org](http://columbushosp.org).**