

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into nursing



Stephanie Vodicka BSN, RN

SERVICE LINE COORDINATOR FOR OR AND CENTRAL STERILIZATION

Stephanie Vodicka turned her interest in science into a challenging profession that helps her make a difference each day. Vodicka, a registered nurse at Columbus Community Hospital, wasn't exactly sure what career she would choose, but thought the medical field could be a good fit.

"I always knew I wanted to be in health care, but at first, I wasn't quite sure where," she said. **"Science was always fascinating to me in high school. However, it wasn't until years after graduation that I pursued a career in nursing."**

When she did settle on nursing, she attended the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. **"On my first day of nursing school, my instructor asked us what kind of nurse we wanted to be,"** Vodicka said. **"I immediately said I wanted to be a surgical nurse. I don't remember what steered me in that direction, but it was always fascinating to me."**

After earning her Bachelor of Science in nursing, Vodicka didn't start in the operating room right away. She first worked in

medical-surgical, obstetrics, emergency room and infection prevention/employee health. **"It took me a few years of nursing to get to the operating room, but it was well worth the wait,"** she said. **"I absolutely love the OR."**

Her career at CCH started in 2015. She is the service line coordinator for the operating room and central sterilization department, where staff clean and prep equipment for surgery. As a service line coordinator, she oversees the daily staffing and scheduling in both departments.

"Most days I run the OR board, making sure the scheduled cases go as smooth as possible and that any add-on cases are coordinated appropriately," Vodicka said.

Her job requires that she have strong communication with surgeons; medical device representatives; and the outpatient services, post-anesthesia care unit, anesthesia and OR staff.

Over the past six years at CCH, she has found great support for furthering her development as a health care worker.

"They have given me opportunities for professional growth and continuing my education," she said.

While at CCH, she has been able to pursue her master's degree, which she will be finishing this summer. She also has been involved in the hospital's UBC/steering committees and the professional development program. Vodicka encourages others who are considering pursuing health care to go on that journey. The gratification that comes from the work is worth the time and dedication it takes to do the job. **"It is such a rewarding and amazing career,"** she said. **"It's tough, but well worth it."**

For more information about the services offered at CCH, visit columbushosp.org.