

THE Importance of Caring

MARCH 2020

my journey into health care



Melinda Allen

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Melinda Allen is a lifelong learner who believes in the value of education.

“Education is never over. Every day I seek to learn something new and that is what keeps me motivated,” she said.

It’s this belief in education that makes Allen so happy in her position as education coordinator in Columbus Community Hospital’s Human Resources Department.

Allen started in this position in August 2017 after working in adult education through Central Community College and the Platte Valley Literacy Association, as well as with the Nebraska Department of Labor.

Through her work with CCC and the Platte Valley Literacy Association, Allen learned about the importance of training and education. Her work with the Nebraska Department of Labor then gave her new opportunities to grow in her professional skills and serve others.

“Being a lifelong learner and making good use of all of the training programs that were offered through my employers helped me to gain the skills needed to get better in my positions,” Allen said.

She then took these new skills to her education coordinator position at CCH, a job that allows her to **“utilize all of my skills which is very exciting and humbling.”**

In her position as education coordinator, Allen does orientation trainings as part of employees’ onboarding process, and coordinates educational and annual safety trainings for hospital staff. Through the management of CCH’s tuition reimbursement and loan forgiveness programs, she also works with employees who are returning to school.

Additionally, Allen manages the hospital’s job shadowing program, works with clinical rotation students and serves as the hospital’s business liaison for the Project SEARCH program. She also visits schools and attends community events to educate students about health care opportunities at CCH.

“There is so much variety in my position,” Allen said. **“I may be visiting with students in schools, training in front of a group of employees, communicating with students and departments for job shadows or meeting with community partners.”**

However, despite her various job duties, Allen said there is one constant in her work – it allows her to work with people in the way she enjoys.

“I love people! In whatever I am doing for work, I seek opportunities to connect with people and to do good for others,” she said. **“Every day I get to work with**

amazing people and connect them with resources and information that will assist them in their professional lives. It is very rewarding work.”

Allen also particularly enjoys working in the health care field though it’s something she never expected to do.

“Honestly, I would have never guessed that I would end up in health care,” she said. **“I didn’t choose health care, it chose me.”**

Dance and the arts were Allen’s passion growing up and that passion has never faded. But guided and supported by mentors who always believed in her, Allen found herself in the education field and then in health care – a field she finds very fulfilling.

“Health care gives you such a sense of purpose. You work shoulder to shoulder with some of the most caring people in the community,” she said. **“Although I don’t work directly with patients, I get to take care of the people who do and that is a great feeling.”**

For more information on Allen or the educational opportunities offered at CCH, visit www.columbushosp.org.