

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into health care



Keith Luedders

VICE PRESIDENT OF ANCILLARY SERVICES

Keith Luedders is new to Columbus Community Hospital but he is not new to health care.

Though Luedders became CCH's vice president of ancillary services just a few months ago, he brings more than 20 years of health care experience to the position.

Luedders received his associate degree in applied science in respiratory care from Southeast Community College and started his health care career as a respiratory therapist at Bryan LGH in Lincoln.

He enjoyed working in respiratory therapy because it allowed him to help people and provided him with a challenging environment with opportunities for growth. During his seven years with Bryan LGH, Luedders went on to become the manager of respiratory care on Bryan LGH's west campus.

“Early in my career as a respiratory therapist, I was given several leadership opportunities and I found out that, not only did I like helping patients, but I also really enjoyed the opportunity to assist staff and work through higher level issues,” he said.

Luedders' experience as manager of respiratory care inspired him to pursue a career in health care leadership and he took a position as the director of cardiopulmonary services at Beatrice Community Hospital. He ultimately became the director of the laboratory there as well.

Luedders spent eight years at Beatrice Community Hospital before he decided to pursue an opportunity in hospital administration at the Tri Valley Health System in Cambridge, Nebraska. He started out as a business development and ancillary service executive with Tri Valley before eventually becoming the health system's chief operations officer.

Over the years, Luedders expanded on his health care education by earning a bachelor's degree in allied health from Doane College in Lincoln and a master's degree in business administration from Bellevue University in Bellevue.

After seven years with the Tri Valley System, Luedders joined CCH as vice president of ancillary services in August.

In this role, Luedders serves on the senior leadership team and provides support for the laboratory, radiology, respiratory care, central scheduling and a few other special projects.

Though Luedders did not plan on working in senior leadership when he started his career, he believes his background prepared him well for the job and he is grateful for the opportunity for more growth.

“Respiratory therapy gave me a great foundation for the position that I am in today and Columbus Community Hospital provided a great opportunity for me to advance my career,” he said.

Luedders is particularly happy to work at CCH because it allows him to be closer to his family and because he enjoys the hospital's forward-thinking and friendly work environment.

“CCH has given me an opportunity to be a part of a progressive organization that is working hard to meet the needs of their patients and community,” he said. **“I really appreciate the team atmosphere here and I am very happy to be a part of it.”**

For more information on Luedders or the variety of job opportunities at CCH, visit www.columbushosp.org.