

MERCY INSIGHTS

Spring 2018

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Randi VanEnk, RN, visits with one of her patients, George Schlittenhardt, to ensure he understands his plan of care.

GROWING OUR OWN

Randi VanEnk was working the front desk at CHI Mercy Health when one of her friends told her about the Dakota Nursing Program.

"One of the aides at the hospital planned to attend the program," Randi says. "I did research through Valley City State University to find out more. Having such an opportunity in a local area was exactly what I was looking for."

Randi enrolled to become a licensed practical nurse in 2010 and a registered nurse in 2012. She completed the registered nursing program in 2013.

"I absolutely loved the program," Randi says. "The instructors were great and wanted everyone to succeed. They would work with you one on one if you needed it. They also knew each student individually, which made me feel well connected."

Randi now serves as an RN in the Medical/Surgical Department at CHI Mercy Health. She believes the Dakota Nursing Program gave her the tools she needed to succeed.

"The program gave me independence and confidence, which is what a nurse needs when working in a small community," Randi says. "I would encourage anyone interested in becoming a nurse to attend this program."

Randi lives in Valley City with her boyfriend, two cats, and two dogs. She enjoys camping, riding horses, and working in her yard when she's not at CHI Mercy Health.

MISSION

The Mission of Catholic Health Initiatives is to nurture the healing ministry of the Church, supported by education and research. Fidelity to the Gospel urges us to emphasize human dignity and social justice as we create healthier communities.

CORE VALUES

REVERENCE

INTEGRITY

COMPASSION

EXCELLENCE



**CHI Mercy
Health**

Imagine better health.®



Dakota College
at Bottineau
Practical Nursing
students and
faculty meet with
CHI Mercy Health
staff for clinicals.



The Faces of **Success**

The flexibility of the Dakota Nursing Program helps keep health care local.

In collaboration with Dakota College at Bottineau, Valley City State University, and community stakeholders, the Dakota Nursing Program graduated its first Certificate in Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) class in 2009. With the addition of the Associate in Applied Sciences Registered Nursing Degree (RN) in 2010, the program really took off.

"Our students bring an entire spectrum of life experiences into the classroom, which adds to the uniqueness and strength of the program," says Betty Tykwinski, MSN, RN, nursing faculty with Dakota College at Bottineau. "This program offers people career-advancing opportunities they may not have had otherwise."

Many graduates choose to pursue nursing careers with CHI Mercy Health—Valley City.

PRACTICAL HELP

"My classmates and I had a wide range of clinical experiences during our training," says Hannah Morast, RN, 31, a medical-surgical nurse at CHI Mercy Health—Valley City. "The opportunity to try different fields before graduation was awesome."

Since the Dakota Nursing Program began in 2009, the program has graduated 80 students with a Certificate in Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) and 58 with an Associate in Applied Sciences Registered Nursing Degree (RN). With a variety of clinical site opportunities, including ones in pediatrics, obstetrics, geriatrics, home care, and mental health care, the program prepares students for practical, real-life nursing situations.

Handling the demands of nursing school while raising two kids and working a job was a challenge, but with encouragement from her husband and other family members, Hannah enrolled first in the LPN program, then completed her RN through the Dakota Nursing Program in 2017.

"Nurses I followed in my clinicals encouraged me to take bits of advice and incorporate them into my own practice," Hannah says. "I use those tidbits of advice daily."

TAKING A LEAP

Although she worked as the military equivalent of an LPN during her 13 years in the Navy and the Naval Reserve, Renee Wert's training did not take the place of civilian credentials.

"I chose the Dakota Nursing Program because at my age, it was the best fit for me" says Renee, 53, who earned her RN in May 2016 and is currently a medical-surgical nurse at CHI Mercy Health—Valley City. "The hands-on training was truly a blessing. Betty once turned our nursing suite into a hospital and brought in volunteers to play our patients. I was given the role of charge nurse. It was probably the most profound experience I had in the program."

Renee began work as a graduate nurse the Monday following her graduation.

"When you graduate, you know you are competent to go out and do a job as important as nursing," Renee says. "It is one of the best programs out there to prepare you."

Are you interested in pursuing a career in health care? Visit www.mercyhospitalvalleycity.org/scholarships to find tuition assistance opportunities.

Giving Students a Glimpse of a **Satisfying Career**

By hosting medical providers-in-training, CHI Mercy Health is shaping the next generation of behind-the-scenes healthcare professionals.

Each year, CHI Mercy Health provides observation and hands-on training experiences to students preparing to enter the healthcare field from several institutions in our region, including Dakota College at Bottineau, Valley City site; North Dakota State University (NDSU); Rasmussen College, Fargo, ND; University of Jamestown; University of Mary; and University of North Dakota.

"I have worked with students from Dakota College at Bottineau, Valley City site, and Rasmussen College, and enjoyed the experiences very much," says Carla Bata, MSN, RN, Education Coordinator at CHI Mercy Health. "The students are able to experience rural nursing and see what employment opportunities are available."

INVALUABLE EXPERIENCES

At CHI Mercy Health, students can work in a variety of departments, including Medical/Surgical, Physical Therapy, Surgery, Ambulatory Care, Emergency, and Pharmacy.

"We enjoy hosting the students," says Donna Smith, Rehabilitation Manager at CHI Mercy Health. "They bring fresh ideas. We provide them with real work experiences, and some of them may eventually come back to work at our hospital."

The students aren't the only ones who find the experience enriching.

"I enjoy having NDSU pharmacy students join us because it keeps me on my toes," says Amy Noeske, Pharmacy Manager at CHI Mercy Health. "We invest our time in the students, and we gain so much by what they're able to help us with and teach us."



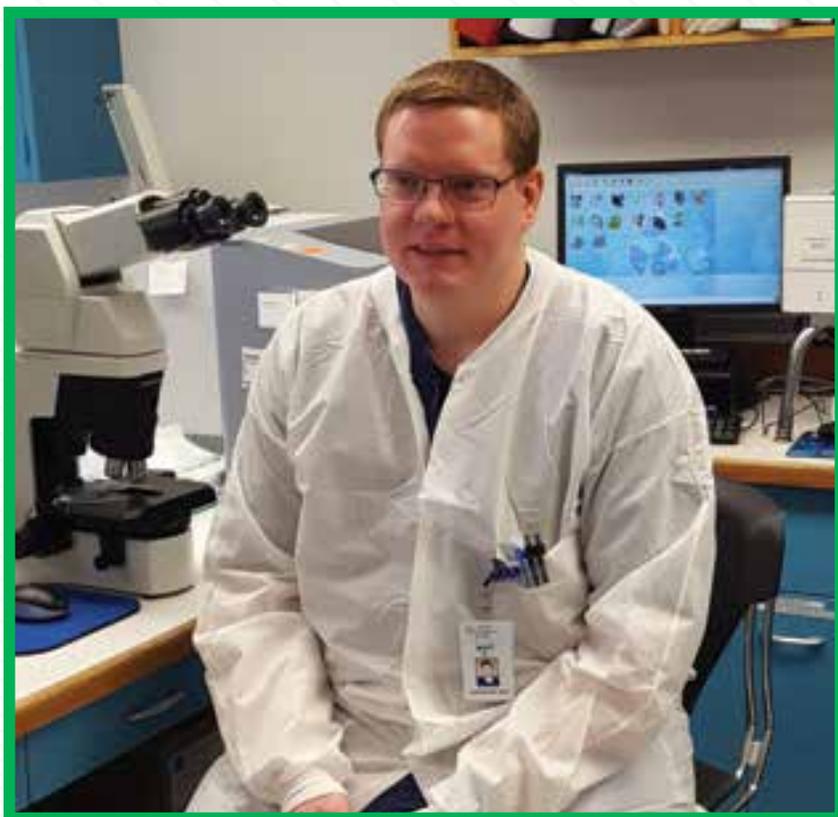
Chantal Stenen and Brandon Orcutt

"Each person in the CHI Mercy Health Laboratory—and throughout the hospital—has been patient with me and more than willing to help if I have questions. On my first day here, I could tell there was a strong sense of teamwork and integrity among the departments. I hope to take those qualities with me to my future endeavors. I've been extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to be at CHI Mercy Health."

—BRANDON ORCUTT, WHO WILL COMPLETE A SEVEN-MONTH INTERNSHIP IN THE CHI MERCY HEALTH LABORATORY AND GRADUATE WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA THIS SPRING

"In 2010, I was the first Rasmussen College medical laboratory technician student to complete an internship at CHI Mercy Health. I was welcomed into the CHI Mercy Health family immediately, and by the end of the internship, I was well prepared to start as a professional in my field. I knew after my time at CHI Mercy Health that I was meant to be a lab tech."

—CHANTAL STENEN, WHO WENT ON TO COMPLETE A SECOND INTERNSHIP AT CHI MERCY HEALTH WHILE EARNING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND NOW SPLITS HER TIME BETWEEN LAB JOBS AT CHI MERCY HEALTH AND IN BISMARCK



Matt Sprague is pursuing his bachelor's degree for Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) through the University of North Dakota.

Your Partner in Professional Development

Full- and part-time employees with CHI Mercy Health are eligible for our Lifelong Learning benefit.

If you are part of the CHI Mercy Health team, we know you've worked hard to get where you are. And we want to do all we can to help you continue to develop your professional skills through higher education and degree advancement.

As part of our CHI culture and people strategies, CHI Mercy Health offers a Lifelong Learning benefit for part-time and full-time employees. This benefit includes:

- academic advising
- education discounts for tuition, textbooks, and fees
- online and call center support
- tuition reimbursement

Choose from a variety of courses to help you grow professionally in your current position or to prepare you for a different job with CHI Mercy Health. You can select courses from clinical and non-clinical degree programs, but you don't need to be working toward a degree to qualify for the benefit.

The courses you take must be associated with an accredited college or university. Courses that are part of a certification program will not be covered by the Lifelong Learning benefit.

To learn more about developing your professional skill set, call 701-845-6490 or email NicoleNestler@catholichealth.net.



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Keith E. Heuser, President

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