



SALUTE TO NURSES

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE DAILY NONPAREIL

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Dickerson outstanding at Methodist Jennie Edmundson

TIM JOHNSON

TJOHNSON@NONPAREILONLINE.COM

Kelsey Dickerson is more than a nurse — she’s a “role model and mentor to the staff,” according to her supervisor, Maryjane Colburn, RN, director of nursing for orthopedics and neurology.

Colburn said she is an “excellent teacher and takes new staff and students under her wing.”

Dickerson is “excellent” with patients, too, Colburn said.

“She listens to her patients and will go out of her way to make sure they get what they need,” she said.

Dickerson willingly helps out where she is needed, Colburn said.

“If a nurse is getting behind on her work, she will go and help them until they get caught up,” she said.

Dickerson cares for orthopedic, neurology and sometimes oncology patients, she said. Her orthopedic patients are those who have received joint replacements or fractures.

“When you work with patients who have knee or hip replacements, you see them improve every day they’re here,” she said.

In neurology, patients may have experienced a brain bleed or spinal cord injury, Dickerson said.

“It’s hard,” she said. “The rewarding part is, every day they get a little better.”

In oncology, she cares for patients receiving cancer treatment, Dickerson said.

“You kind of build a bond with them, because they’re here longer,” she said.

While acknowledging that the job sometimes takes an emotional toll, Dickerson finds nursing satisfying.

“It’s a very rewarding profession,” she said. “Most patients are very appreciative of what you do for them.”

Dickerson also likes the variety.

“Every day, it’s something different,” she said. “You’re learning something new every day.”



Staff photo/Joe Shearer

Kelsey Dickerson is a nurse at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital.

Despite her youth, Dickerson helps train other nurses.

“I’ve trained a lot of the new nurses, and I’ve also been a preceptor to, I think, four students since I’ve been here,” she said.

Dickerson grew up in Minden and experienced Jennie Edmundson as a patient during her youth.

“I had a couple surgeries and was hospitalized a couple times,” she said.

The nurses who helped her and the atmosphere were friendly, Dickerson said.

“Everyone’s always friendly when you come in here,” she said.

Dickerson was always interested in nursing and took her first steps toward that career in high school.

“When I was a junior, I became a CNA, and that’s when I knew I wanted to be a nurse,” she said.

Dickerson got an associate degree in nursing at Iowa Western Community College and a bachelor’s at Kansas Medical Center and became a registered nurse. Her first job was at Avoca Nursing & Rehab. She started at Jennie about 4 1/2 years ago. She likes having more variety in her daily work.

Dickerson and her husband, Matt, live in Neola with their 9-month-old daughter.