

Next Generation of Nursing

HONORING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

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Our society continues to strive to empower women and girls in the field of science. In order to foster women and girls as agents of change, the United Nations General Assembly declared February 11 as International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

Nursing and medicine are critical fields of science that continues to recruit women to enter and make an impact for patient care. Especially for the future of dementia care, we salute the advancements that women have made in the field, and look forward to future generations of nursing leaders.

Path to Nursing

For Claire Kobiske, nursing wasn't always in her plan. She thought she would go down the path of occupational therapy (OT), but changed course. "I remember being in high school and not knowing exactly what I wanted to do," Claire said. "After I shadowed the OT program, it just didn't seem like the right fit. Nursing is an amazing field and I decided that was the path I wanted to pursue. How the human body works is fascinating to me and I really enjoy learning about it. Plus, you meet so many people and can really impact their care. That's something I wanted to be a part of."

Evolving Role of Care

One thing that has evolved in nursing education is the emphasis placed on the role of the caregiver," Claire said. "When we're treating a patient, we're really treating the whole family. Especially for families on a journey with dementia, making sure the caregiver's needs are met becomes even more important. They are the lifeline for the person living with dementia and if their needs are met, they can be a better caregiver." Claire had a great uncle who had dementia and recalls, "my experience with my uncle gave me an insightful perspective into our studies of dementia care."

Claire is currently working at Waukesha Memorial Hospital on the ortho/neuro floor. She will graduate from the nursing program at Carroll University in 2023. She is active with the Alzheimer's Association in Advocacy efforts and the Walk to End Alzheimer's®. We salute Claire and her dedication to patient care, during International Day of Women and Girls in Science Day.

