



For information:
Colleen Swanson
218.999.1454
colleen.swanson@granditasca.org

For Immediate Release
October 26, 2007

From Gettysburg to Grand Rapids: New Physician's Assistant Makes Move to Grand Itasca

Grand Rapids – For Dorrie Lisle, who graduated from the physician's assistant program at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania in May 2007, a job offer from Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital was just what the doctor ordered.

"I had several offers from health care providers in Pennsylvania, and out of the blue, I got a call from a recruiter about the position at Grand Itasca," said Lisle, who worked as a nutritionist and administrator with various community service agencies before returning to school in 2005. "Both the position and the region sounded interesting, so I decided to come for an interview. When I got here, I realized that I really wanted to make the move. I loved the clinic, liked everyone I met, and I just felt very comfortable in general."

Born in Gettysburg, Pa., and raised on a nearby farm, Lisle obtained a bachelor of science in nutrition from Pennsylvania State University in 1986. For nearly twenty years afterward, she provided Pennsylvanians with professional services in nutrition and community health, ranging from direct client care to management of a state-wide nutrition program.

"My work experiences as a nutritionist were varied, and I served many different populations, including pregnant women, mothers, low-income individuals, seniors and the disabled," said Lisle. "As a result, I had a tremendous amount of exposure to health-related issues, and that contact sort of rekindled a desire I had long had to work in the health care field."

Even as Lisle was completing her nutrition degree in the late 1980s, she wished that she had directed her career path in the direction of medicine. During WWII, her father assisted physicians in Europe, and his stories about that experience always intrigued Lisle. In addition, her mother had a chronic genetic disorder that required regular medical care.

"I saw my father provide a lot of heavy caretaking for my mother, and that also influenced me," said Lisle. "When I got to college, I did take a job that involved management of medications for severely disabled adults, but I ended up choosing nutrition and public health instead of health care."

Because Lisle majored in nutrition, she had much of the science background that is required for medical training. That made it much easier to decide to quit working in 2005 to attend the intense, two-year physician's assistant/master's degree program at Lock Haven University.

“I have one daughter, who is now married, so I didn’t have that responsibility to consider,” she said. “The timing was really perfect for me to dedicate two years to long hours of studying and intensive clinical rotations.”

After starting at Grand Itasca on October 1, Lisle began seeing patients in the clinic’s Unit D. She works closely with the physicians who are based in that unit, including Dr. William Rutherford, Dr. John Fedje-Johnston, Dr. Tim Pehl and Dr. Anne Tofte. Lisle focuses on general services such as physicals, ear infections, upper respiratory infections and other acute illnesses.

“As a physician’s assistant, Dorrie is a great addition to our team,” said Dr. Tim Pehl, family medicine physician and chief medical officer. “The fact that she has extensive training in and knowledge about nutrition just makes her that much more valuable to any of our patients that see her.”

At Grand Itasca, Lisle will use her nutrition background to help patients with issues such as infant feeding, elevated blood pressure, high cholesterol and more. She will also contribute to wellness initiatives within Grand Itasca and the community.

“I’m looking forward to getting out in the community and meeting people,” said Lisle. “There’s a real spirit of people working together here, and I’m glad to have the opportunity to become a part of this.”

In her free time, Lisle likes to hike and cross-country ski. She’s also already volunteering for local public radio station, KAXE.

###

From Gettysburg to Grand Rapids: New Physician’s Assistant Makes Move to Grand Itasca

Grand Rapids – For Dorrie Lisle, who graduated from the physician’s assistant program at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania in May 2007, a job offer from Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital was just what the doctor ordered.

“I had several offers from health care providers in Pennsylvania, and out of the blue, I got a call from a recruiter about the position at Grand Itasca,” said Lisle, who worked as a nutritionist and administrator with various community service agencies before returning to school in 2005. “Both the position and the region sounded interesting, so I decided to come for an interview. When I got here, I realized that I really wanted to make the move. I loved the clinic, liked everyone I met, and I just felt very comfortable in general.”

Born in Gettysburg, Pa., and raised on a nearby farm, Lisle obtained a bachelor of science in nutrition from Pennsylvania State University in 1986. For nearly twenty years afterward, she provided Pennsylvanians with professional services in nutrition and community health, ranging from direct client care to management of a state-wide nutrition program.

“My work experiences as a nutritionist were varied, and I served many different populations, including pregnant women, mothers, low-income individuals, seniors and the disabled,” said Lisle. “As a result, I had a tremendous amount of exposure to health-related issues, and that contact sort of rekindled a desire I had long had to work in the health care field.”

Even as Lisle was completing her nutrition degree in the late 1980s, she wished that she had directed her career path in the direction of medicine. During WWII, her father assisted physicians in Europe, and his stories about that experience always intrigued Lisle. In addition, her mother had a chronic genetic disorder that required regular medical care.

“I saw my father provide a lot of heavy caretaking for my mother, and that also influenced me,” said Lisle. “When I got to college, I did take a job that involved management of medications for severely disabled adults, but I ended up choosing nutrition and public health instead of health care.”

Because Lisle majored in nutrition, she had much of the science background that is required for medical training. That made it much easier to decide to quit working in 2005 to attend the intense, two-year physician’s assistant/master’s degree program at Lock Haven University.

“I have one daughter, who is now married, so I didn’t have that responsibility to consider,” she said. “The timing was really perfect for me to dedicate two years to long hours of studying and intensive clinical rotations.”

After starting at Grand Itasca on October 1, Lisle began seeing patients in the clinic’s Unit D. She works closely with the physicians who are based in that unit, including Dr. William Rutherford, Dr. John Fedje-Johnston, Dr. Tim Pehl and Dr. Anne Tofte. Lisle focuses on general services such as physicals, ear infections, upper respiratory infections and other acute illnesses.

“As a physician’s assistant, Dorrie is a great addition to our team,” said Dr. Tim Pehl, family medicine physician and chief medical officer. “The fact that she has extensive training in and knowledge about nutrition just makes her that much more valuable to any of our patients that see her.”

At Grand Itasca, Lisle will use her nutrition background to help patients with issues such as infant feeding, elevated blood pressure, high cholesterol and more. She will also contribute to wellness initiatives within Grand Itasca and the community.

“I’m looking forward to getting out in the community and meeting people,” said Lisle. “There’s a real spirit of people working together here, and I’m glad to have the opportunity to become a part of this.”

In her free time, Lisle likes to hike and cross-country ski. She’s also already volunteering for local public radio station, KAXE.

###

