

Washtenaw CTE Partner Spotlight – Cindy Elliott Video Transcript

Cindy Elliott, RN, FACHE, President – Trinity Health Michigan Medical Groups:

I've been serving in healthcare now for nearly 45 years. 42 years ago is when I graduated from the CTE program. I was a high school student thinking about college, but unsure if that was really going to be an option for me. And the CTE program provided an opportunity for me to gain my certification as a nursing assistant student, and day one post-graduation began working as a clinician in the field of medicine.

It was really the program, the mentorship, the work-study program that allowed me to, I think, really solidify my passion. I wanted to be of service. I knew I wanted to help people, and this program provided the pathway to do that immediately post-graduation. To say that it was a pivotal, instrumental time in my life would be an understatement. It really was one of those forks in the road that allowed me to actually, I think, serve today in the role that I have.

I wish folks knew how life-impactful a program like this could be for young adults who are assessing options but are unclear about really the swath of options really available to them. One of our most valuable resources we have are our young people and helping them on their way to me feels like a worthy cause, any and every day of the week. I have a bias for people, and I have a bias for helping people. If it weren't for the CTE program and somebody coming alongside me, I wouldn't be where I am today.

I look back on that time in my life today, and I still think, "I want to pay it forward." If we're sort of thinking about where do we make investments, where do we make investments in people, in infrastructure, in policy, this would be one of those areas that I think would pay dividends for a lifetime. And I think I'm proof of that.

[Graphic: The Future Moves with Us]

[Graphic: Washtenaw CTE (Career Technical Education) logo]