



Heartbeat Newsletter

Staff Spotlight: Erica Samuels, OTA

Unity Medical Center recently hired Occupational Therapy Assistant Erica Samuels, whose passion for helping others and dedication to patient-centered care make her an important part of the Rehab team.

Erica joined UMC after earning her associate's degree as an Occupational Therapy Assistant from North Dakota State College of Science. She also completed her undergraduate studies at North Dakota State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Science. Continuing to build on her education and clinical skills, Erica is currently pursuing her Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree at Concordia University Wisconsin and will graduate in December 2027.

Erica had always known she wanted a career centered around helping people. She chose occupational therapy because it allows her to connect with patients on an individual level while finding meaningful ways to improve their quality of life and independence. She enjoys the challenge of tailoring care to each person's unique needs and goals.

Her pursuit of a doctoral degree reflects her commitment to professional growth and excellence in patient care. Erica hopes her advanced education will provide greater autonomy in her practice and create additional opportunities to expand her clinical expertise.

Originally from Wahpeton, Erica and her husband Colin, her high school sweetheart, have been married for three years. Along with their two cats Lulu and Ollie, they recently made Grafton their home. Erica and Colin enjoy spending time outdoors, tackling house projects and visiting the lake. Erica also enjoys Pilates, growing flowers, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Erica says she chose UMC because of its strong sense of community and commitment to patient-centered care. She values the opportunity to collaborate closely with patients across a variety of settings and appreciates the supportive, welcoming culture at Unity.

"Unity is a place where I feel I can continue to grow professionally while making a meaningful impact in a rural community," Erica said.