LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUMGet To Know You



MEETMichelle Niermann

President and CEO, UnityPoint Health -Cedar Rapids



WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT WORKING IN HEALTH CARE?

I love everything about working in health care. I love that we came to be because our communities needed us. I love that we remain mission-driven. I love that **IT TAKES A TEAM** - so many different people in so many different roles, all dependent upon one another to make a difference for our patients and our communities.



WHAT ARE 1-3 KEY LESSONS YOU'VE LEARNED FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

First and foremost, the pandemic reminded us that our **PEOPLE ARE AMAZING**. Their expertise, compassion, courage, adaptability and resilience - essential and amazing. Secondly, a pandemic (or a derecho, for that matter) is a good time to have a great team. Having a strong and healthy culture, characterized by trust, camaraderie and pride in the work we do, as our foundation makes all the difference.



WHAT ARE YOUR "WORDS TO LIVE BY" OR A QUOTE THAT INSPIRES YOU?

"What would you do if you weren't afraid?"



WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?

I read a lot of books. My favorite so far this year is "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM? On this side of the state, THERE'S ONLY ONE RIGHT ANSWER.



WHAT ARE 2-3 HOBBIES OR INTERESTS TO SHARE?

I like to go to farmers markets and outdoor festivals with my family. After being re-inspired by my college friends and their book clubs a few years back, I started reading for enjoyment again.



WHAT ARE 3 WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOU?

Focused.

Dependable.

Occasionally feisty.



WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE ABOUT YOUR LIFE?

I don't believe actresses come in my height.



FINISH THIS SENTENCE – "IF I COULD HAVE ANY OTHER JOB/CAREER, I WOULD BE A CLOTHING STORE OWNER."



HOW DO YOU START YOUR DAY?

I devote the absolute minimum of time I can to getting ready. Then I listen to the 80s on 8 on my drive to work.



HOW DO YOU END YOUR DAY?

I hug my kids. I write down three things I was grateful for from the day. I listen to a guided meditation, during which I nearly always fall asleep. Maybe not best practice meditation, but not a bad way to end the day!

