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Regional Development Guide

Meet the new COO of Mercy Health in Fairfield

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Justin Krueger, the new COO of Mercy Health – Fairfield Hospital, was attracted to health care from an early age. While his stepfather was a physician, “I didn’t see a clinical future for myself but nonetheless was intrigued at the thought of working with others in a health system in order to achieve a common goal,” he says. “I wanted to help people in their time of greatest need.”

Krueger arrived at Fairfield Hospital in May, after serving as COO of hospitals in South Carolina, Mississippi and Florida. After more than 10 years working in health care, his passion and respect for the field have only grown.

As the new COO, what items are at the top of your to-do list? The first thing was to acclimate myself to the Mercy Health system and Mercy Health – Fairfield Hospital. The ministry that is Mercy Health has provided more than 160 years of service in the Greater Cincinnati area, and it was imperative that I become acclimated with the history and guiding principles of the ministry, as well as the individuals that carry out our mission each and every day – the staff and the physicians.

How will experiences from your previous positions help you in your role at Fairfield Hospital? Having been involved in hospital operations in five different facilities now throughout the U.S., I feel that I bring with me a unique skill set centered around adaptability and new and different ways of doing things. Early on in my career, I was fortunate to come to the realization that in order to be successful at both work and in one’s personal life, you have to have a tremendously healthy respect for what you don’t know. There’s far more that I don’t know than I do, and therefore I continue to surround myself with intelligent, passionate individuals who want to do what’s best for our patients and aren’t afraid to challenge both me and the status quo in order to achieve even greater results for our patients.

How have you adjusted to life in Greater Cincinnati after living in the South for so many years? It’s been a change but a welcome one. My father and his parents grew up outside of Chicago in northwestern Indiana and have lived there their whole lives. So after spending more summers than I can count with my grandparents throughout my adolescent years, the Midwest has always held a special place in my heart.



DAVID KALONICK

Justin Krueger is chief operating officer of Mercy Health – Fairfield Hospital.

They call it the “Heartland” of America for a reason and the people here are some of the kindest, hardest working individuals I’ve ever met and they have made my family and I feel very welcome.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? Spending time with my family, traveling and trying out new restaurants.

Bio

Name: Justin Krueger

Title: COO, Mercy Health – Fairfield Hospital

Hometown: Wheat Ridge, Colo.

Education: Bachelor’s degree in food science and human nutrition; master’s in health administration; University of Florida

Residence: West Chester

Family: Wife, Courtney; daughter Olivia, 3; son Jackson, 6 months; Great Dane Beau, 11

Business philosophy: “Surround yourself with bright people who are innately passionate about what they do, empower them to succeed and then stand back. Great things will happen.”