

# The Washington Times-Herald

## Dr. Amy Campbell

### The 'Brain Gain'

*By Andrea McCann*

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WASHINGTON — Daviess County citizens are blessed to have a modern and diverse medical community that provides a variety of services and physician options. The return of young doctors who grew up here, as well as those new to the area, helps maintain that level of service.

“In the area of physician recruitment, we have been successful in several instances at meeting our community’s health needs by recruiting physicians with local roots,” said Gary Kendrick, Daviess Community Hospital CEO. “Dr. Amy Campbell from Washington, Dr. Jackie Graber from Montgomery, and Dr. Jonathan Frances from Knox County are DCH medical staff members with local roots. And this summer, Dr. Nick Dahl, another physician with local roots, will be joining our staff as well.

“However, Daviess Community Hospital’s recruitment and retention efforts are always focused on attracting the most qualified and caring medical professionals who deliver the very best medical care to the people we serve. Our employees live all over southwestern Indiana, and they drive here from places as far away as Evansville, Bloomington, Olney and Terre Haute.”

Kendrick said the hospital offers a tuition reimbursement program for all its employees, which allows them to pursue advanced health care degrees. He said the program has been helpful not only from the standpoint of developing the work force, but also with retention and fulfilling a community need. DCH also has a scholarship program that benefits students from Daviess, Martin and Pike counties who want to pursue a career in health care. These opportunities help to contribute to “brain gain” in the local medical community.

Dr. Amy Campbell said this is a stable area, and there’s a need for new, young doctors. Now a physician with Cullen Medical Professionals, she said she always knew she wanted a career in the medical field. She grew up around it, following her dad, Dr. Stephen Cullen, and watching him interact with and care for patients. During her junior year in high school, Amy said, she was thinking about going to nurse practitioner school and decided if she was going to spend six years doing that, she might as well become a physician.

“I felt led that way — called,” she said. “I pretty much always had the dream of coming back and being in practice with my dad. He was my role model.”

So after graduating from Washington High School in 1997, Amy attended the University of Southern Indiana, studying biology and pre-med. From there she went to Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, graduating with a doctoral degree in osteopathic medicine in 2005 and going to Wichita for a three-year family medicine residency. There, she met her future husband, Dr. Jason Campbell, whom she married April 28, 2007.

Jason was also doing a family medicine residency, after receiving his undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering and his medical degree from Texas A&M University in 2005.

The couple located in Washington in 2008 and began practicing at Cullen Medical Professionals clinic. Amy said her dad and mom, Sharon, seem excited to have another physician in the family. Amy practices family medicine and some obstetrics. She has a special interest and training in eating disorders.

“I take care of a lot of kiddos,” she added. “I love taking care of the kids.

“I have an advantage that I’m one of the only female physicians in town, and a lot of women feel more comfortable with a woman doctor for themselves or their kids.”

Being in a general practice, Amy said, they see a wide variety of patients, for whom they strive to provide compassionate care.

“We see birth to death,” she said. “In a small town, you get to see more and do more than in a larger city.”

By the same token, that limits the eating disorder work she gets to do, but she points out that’s not really a disadvantage and she does get to do consulting in that field. In fact, Amy said she can’t think of any disadvantages to coming home to work. She said it’s comfortable treating patients she knows, and she likes serving the community in which she grew up.

She also likes being only 5 minutes from everything, including family and long-time friends.

“Being able to be back and be Aunt Amy has been a blessing,” she said, explaining that her sister, Jennifer (Cullen) Boyd, and brother, Daniel Cullen, still call the area home, although Daniel travels a lot. “It’s been a lot of fun to be back. I’ve been friends with Carrie (Bean, DVM) forever, and we’re both back practicing at home.”

Even though Jason grew up in the much larger Dallas, Texas, he said he also lived in other

cities in Texas and Kansas, which helped the transition to small-town life. He said he enjoys being surrounded by the open spaces of Daviess County.

“It was an easy transition,” he said. “The community really welcomed me. We have everything we need in town, and everyone has been good to us. I’ve really felt the warmth of the people in the community.”

As for practicing medicine in a small community, and with his father-in-law, Jason said: “It’s been wonderful coming into an already established practice. We were blessed to walk into something with a great staff and providers that made it easy to transition.”

Both Jason and Amy said it’s nice having the opportunity to learn from and consult with each other and Dr. Cullen on diagnoses. They said it also benefits their patients. The couple plans to stay in Washington indefinitely.

The Campbells believe the completion of I-69 in the county will only be a plus for the local medical community. Although they hate seeing some patients lose their homes to the project, and the new highway may mean fewer people driving through Washington, they said there likely will be gains. They anticipate more visitors shopping and using services, as well as improved ease of travel for some of their patients.

Kendrick said travel will be easier for some hospital employees, as well, especially those coming from Bloomington and Evansville. And, he said, it could make the area’s facilities and services more attractive to new patients.

“For some of our specialty services, like orthopaedics, women’s health, rehab, behavioral health, Quick Care, and the sleep lab, I-69 will undoubtedly be a positive influence on a patient’s decision to select our hospital for care,” Kendrick said. “It will be a quicker drive for those living both south and north of Daviess County, as well as those working in the tech park at Crane, to come to our hospital. The road could be a positive influence on a patient living outside Daviess County to select DCH for care.”

He said the hospital’s board of governors has a long-range plan that includes an outline for future updates or additions that may be needed. If I-69 spurs a tremendous growth, he said that plan might need to be reviewed and modified.