

## **ELLEN NICOLE WENGER**

Ellen is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Washburn University. After graduation, she plans to work on the cardiac step-down unit at Stormont Vail Health. After a couple of years working on this floor and obtaining practical experience, she plans to continue her education in nursing by obtaining a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at Washburn and becoming an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). APRNs have more responsibility such as prescribing medicine, having increased decision-making ability, and diagnosing medical conditions. Her overall career goal is to become a cardiac specialty nurse working in a clinic setting. She has delivered Meals on Wheels to the elderly in central Topeka on the second Friday of each month since 2012, schedule permitting. El Centro de Topeka provides free basic preventative health screenings and education in the Oakland community to struggling families for whom English is often a second language. Ellen has volunteered by providing awareness about local resources, blood pressure checks, blood glucose checks and blood cholesterol checks. Ellen's Clinical Prevention and Population class provided her the opportunity to help many other organizations in Topeka while recognizing the various health disparities located throughout Southern Shawnee County. She has spent 45 hours packing food for those in need at Harvesters, presenting poison control information to kindergarteners at McEachron Elementary School, teaching students at Ross Elementary School, educating senior citizens about medication at East Topeka Learning Center and assisting Let's Help as needed.