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## Orange Power OSU-OKC a national nursing leader



Mary Malaska, DNP, RNC, CNE (left) and Anna Nguyen, PhD, RN are two of the driving forces behind OSU-OKC's successful nursing program.

by Bobby Anderson,  
Staff Writer

Anna Nguyen, PhD, RN is a believer in Orange Power.

As a student in the late 1990s, it was OSU-OKC where she earned her Associate's Degree in Nursing that would eventually lead all the way to her PhD.

Two decades later, Nguyen holds the title of

director of an OSU-OKC Department of Nurse Sciences that is turning out nursing students with some of the highest NCLEX pass rates in the nation.

"We have the graduates that have a great deal of clinical experience, lots of hands-on guidance and mentoring by our nursing faculty," said Nguyen, who noted a 98 percent job

placement rate among OSU grads within six months of graduation. "When they are out in the field wearing that orange it definitely has a reputation that our students take great care of their patients.

"It's a reputation local hospitals definitely do look for."

And OSU-OKC is growing. Nguyen moved into the department's new \$13 million digs on August 22, the first day of classes.

Nguyen has spent the last year as department head after teaching full-time for seven years and spending two years as an adjunct.

It was the

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## Twenty Nurses Honored at 2016 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Awards



Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, September 27, 2016--The Oklahoma March of Dimes, in partnership with the LeNorman Family, honored 20 outstanding nurses at the 2016 Nurse of the Year Awards.

Through Nurse of the Year Awards, the March of Dimes recognizes nurses who demonstrate exceptional patient care, compassion, and service. Whether serving as a health care provider, educator, or volunteer, these nurses have played a critical role in improving the health of Oklahoma's residents.

"The winners of this year's Nurse of the Year awards are a testament to the caliber of nursing talent that is in our state," said Laurie Applekamp, Executive Director for the Central Oklahoma Market. "We know that not only the winners, but the nominees and finalists alike, are truly committed to their patients and profession and are all making great strides in their respective fields."

The event, chaired by Jerod Waters, Executive Nursing Officer, Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, had over 300 attendees and raised over \$80,000, making it one of the top Nurse of the Year events in the country.

Event partners included Title Sponsor, the LeNorman Family, Platinum Sponsor Chickasaw Nation Medical Center and Silver Sponsor St. John Medical Center. Nurse of the Year Awards are given annually in approximately 20 award categories. More than 500 nurses were nominated in Oklahoma and 52 of those were selected as finalists. Award Recipients were announced at a special awards event held on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at the Riverwind Casino's Showplace Theatre in Norman.

- Oklahoma's 2016 Nurse of the Year Award Winners**
- Susan George, INTEGRIS Advanced Cardiac Care, Category: **Advanced Practice Charge Nurse**
  - Stacie Willoughby, OU Medical Center, Category: **Charge Nurse**
  - Latisha Beames, INTEGRIS Canadian Valley, Category: **Charge Nurse**

## AWARDS

Continued from Page 1

### Critical Care

**Karen Peters**, OUHSC, Category:

### Education

**Kimberly Carroll**, INTEGRIS Canadian Valley, Category:

### Emergency Services

**Marinn Byers**, INTEGRIS Southwest Medical Center, Category:

### General Medical/Surgical

**Angela Gray**, INTEGRIS Southwest Medical Center, Category:

### Infection Control & Occupational Health

**Kristin O'Neal**, INTEGRIS Southwest Medical Center, Category:

### Managed Care

**Mike McCoy**, Lead Neonatal Nurse Practitioner at the Level II NICU at Comanche County Memorial Hospital / Dept. of Pediatrics, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at OUHSC, Category: **Neonatal/Pediatrics**

**Liz Klingensmith**, Mercy Hospital, Ada, Category: **Nursing Administration**

**Tonya Faires**, Norman Regional Hospital, Category: **Nursing Management**

**Kathy Stilwell**, INTEGRIS Southwest Medical Center, Category:

### Other Specialties

**Loren Stein**, OU College of Nursing, Category: **Public Health & Ambulatory Care**

**Annie Gonzalez**, INTEGRIS Canadian Valley, Category: **Quality & Risk Management**

**Sarah Bailey**, Saint John Medical Center, Category: **Rising Star**

**Nicole Nichols**, Duncan Regional Hospital, Category: **Surgical Services**

**Jamie Leonard**, INTEGRIS Canadian Valley, Category: **Women's Health**

**Madalene Smith**, Mercy Oklahoma City, **Lifetime Achievement**

The award recipients were determined by a distinguished selection committee comprised of health care professionals who screened the nomination forms in a blinded review process.

### About March of Dimes

The March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. For more than 75 years, moms and babies have benefited from March of Dimes research, education, vaccines, and breakthroughs.

For the latest resources and health information, visit our websites

marchofdimes.org and nacersano.org. To participate in our annual signature fundraising event, visit [marchforbabies.org](http://marchforbabies.org).

If you have been affected by prematurity or birth defects, visit

our [shareyourstory.org](http://shareyourstory.org) community to find comfort and support. For detailed national, state and local perinatal statistics, visit [persistats.org](http://persistats.org). You can also find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

# Mercy Nurses Sweep Oklahoma



“Madalene”: Madalene Smith, pictured left, has been a co-worker at Mercy for 59 years.

A number of Mercy nurses were recently honored at the 2016 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year awards banquet which celebrated nursing excellence in Oklahoma. All winners and finalists were nominated by patients, families and colleagues in 18 different categories.

Madalene Smith, a labor and delivery nurse, who has been with Mercy for 59 years received the first-ever March of Dimes Lifetime Achievement Award for which she received a standing ovation.

During her time at Mercy, she has helped three generations of mothers in labor and delivered thousands of children who are known affectionately as “Madelene’s Miracles.”

Liz Klingensmith won the

prestigious “Nurse of the Year” award in the nursing administration category. Klingensmith, Ada’s vice president of nursing, has worked as a clinical leader in Ada for more than a decade. She was also recently appointed by Gov. Mary Fallin to serve a five-year term on the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

In addition, Lauren Daughtery Phillips was named a finalist in the charge nurse category. Lauren, a registered nurse for three years, is a care manager at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City.

“We have incredible talent across Mercy, and this is just one indication that we have some of the best nurses in the country serving our patients,” said Linda Knodel, Mercy’s chief nursing officer.

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## OSU

Continued from Page 1

NCLEX pass rate back in the 1990s that originally drew her to OSU-OKC. Plus it was close to home in Yukon.

Today, OSU-OKC boasts pass rates nearly 10 percent higher than the national average.

"We have wonderful, dedicated, committed faculty members here," Nguyen said. "It's funny that some of the faculty who were my instructors are still here. The longevity of our nursing faculty here speaks loudly."

The Nurse Science Department offers a program of study leading to an associate in applied science degree. The Program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), formerly National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), and approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

Graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurse licensure (NCLEX-RN). The course of study is a 72-credit hour program, which includes classroom and laboratory instruction on campus, as

well as supervised clinical experience at affiliating health agencies. Because there are more students applying for nursing courses than it is possible to enroll, a Nurse Science Admissions Committee selects students for the program. Two classes are admitted to the nursing program each academic year and Nguyen says the school has been increasing the number of students accepted each semester.

A retention grade point average of at least 2.5 on college work completed is necessary in order to be considered for the nursing courses.

The recently completed Allied Health building features a 7,500 square-foot advanced simulation center with the latest training equipment available and a full-functioning Variety Care community health center open to the public.

Construction of the 45,000-square-foot building began in May 2015 and was completed in time to welcome students for classes on August 22.

The building is home to OSU-OKC's Health Sciences Division, which includes nursing, diagnostic sonography, nutritional sciences, health care administration, and radiologic technology. OSU-OKC will also host training and continuing education classes for experienced

healthcare workers employed throughout the Oklahoma City metro area.

"Because of the reputation of our health sciences programs, we have seen an increase in demand that we couldn't meet," said OSU-OKC President Natalie Shirley. "Now we have greater capacity to give our allied health students the foundation to be the very best in their chosen field. I am excited because this prime learning space means OSU-OKC will play an even greater role in addressing the local and national healthcare professional shortage by producing graduates who are ready to work immediately in the field."

The proximity of the Variety Care health center provides OSU-OKC students the chance to directly interact with physicians and patients, and the opportunity to learn and work as part of a healthcare team in a clinical setting.

An advanced Simulation Center is at the heart of the new Allied Health building and uses life-size human "manikins" that can be programmed to provide a realistic replication of a clinical situation. Students administer care to the simulator manikin as though it is a real patient and the simulator

responds accordingly, with all scenarios developed and evaluated by faculty.

Mary Malaska, DNP, RNC, CNE is the division head of the Health Sciences Department and says the power of orange is strong in the metro.

"We have quite a reputation in the area," said Malaska, who has been with the program for 20 years and, like Nguyen, is also a graduate. "It has been amazing. At this point we are in the 98 percent board pass rate for nursing."

And that, more than anything, may be the true result of Orange Power.

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# CAREERS IN NURSING TEAM APPROACH - NURSES AND PHYSICAL THERAPISTS SHARE EXPERTISE

by James Coburn - Writer/Photographer

Nurses and physical therapists work hand-in-hand in home health.

"You really can't have one without the other technically," said Nena Ray, a registered nurse and the administrator of HealthBack Home Health in Oklahoma City.

"The goal is to get patients better, so that they can stay independent in their own home," Ray said.

Home health depends on a team approach to reach those goals. She said the HealthBack nursing staff works closely with Marcland Luster, a physical therapist, who works closely with patients having trouble being ambulatory or have had prolonged hospital stays and need further care.

"That's where Marcland comes in to help them get back on their feet and help them gain that strength back to drive, to be able to go out, to be able to maneuver on the stairs of their homes. We want to keep them in their home," Ray said.

A nurse will go to a home and

order the physical therapy. Without physical therapy, a lot of times there is no need for nursing, she said. A majority of patients need therapy and strengthening because they are aging.

Ray said that some clients are becoming frail and weak so care is directed to keep clients safe and strong at home.

Luster has been an important staff member of HealthBack for six years, said Christy Evans, owner of HealthBack. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy from Langston University 23 years ago.

"It's a doctoral program now. I'm real proud of the things they are doing with the programs," Luster said.

Ray said he loves home health. Early in his career he was doing a lot of rehab work in hospitals with set schedules for patients. He said home health provides nurses and therapists

more one-one contact with patients.

"I can just really concentrate on them. I'm in their home so I feel more comfortable there than I would be in a rehab or hospital setting," Luster said. "It's just a real joy when being in someone's atmosphere. They open up to you."

"I've learned a lot, especially from the nurses and that component as well. It's a real team atmosphere."

He works alone in the patients homes, but at times calls upon the nurses to learn aspects of patient care that deal with medicine.

"They do the same thing with us when it comes to equipment that they need," Luster added. "There are walkers and wheelchairs. They may need grab bars in the bathrooms."

Ray said communication is important when updating subtle nuances in patient care so that the team is on the same playing field. When a new patient needs home health, a nurse will communicate

to Luster why physical therapy is needed. There may be a patient who has had a joint replacement after having frequent falls, Ray said.

"After that is done the physical therapist does their evaluation and the orders come through, and we see them two times a week or three times a week, whatever is needed by that patient," Ray said.

Luster will write a note to the nursing staff if a patient's blood pressure is high. The nurse then comes into play and will call the physician, Ray said.

Medication changes will be provided by the nurses if needed. There may be an extra visit by a nurse to visit the patient along with Luster.

"A lot of times in the home, the physical therapists know a little more about a patient than the nurses do," Ray noted.

She said nurses are focused on

Continued on next page

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medication, education, wound care and other things. Physical therapists are focused on strength training and mobility. So when Luster is doing that, he learns much more about the information that nurses need.

A patient's goal might be walking to their garden, Ray said. The secret of his connection with patients is finding out what they want to achieve.

"They learn a lot more personal things about them," Ray said. "That's why a lot of patients love their physical therapists."

Patients want to be at their personal best. They will say that they want to walk their daughter down the wedding aisle, Ray said.

"Those life moments that you're a part of and can make happen gives me chills now just kind of thinking about it," Luster said. "I've done this for 23 years and have numerous stories of getting people back to where they were or as close as they can. It's amazingly enriching to my life."



HealthBack Home Health Administrator Nena Ray, RN, and Physical Therapist Marcland Luster discuss the individualized care approach for each patient.



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# VA Town Hall a way to reach out to veterans, staff



Oklahoma City VA Medical Center Director Wade Vlosich speaks to attendees of a Sept. 21 Town Hall.

story and photo by Traci Chapman

Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs administrators say a lot has improved in the VA's reboot, but there is a long way to go – for patients and employees alike.

"We are very much on a learning curve, working to make the VA experience the best we possibly can for our veterans and their families, while we make sure our employees are happy and fulfilled, because that's the way to make sure they are dedicated to giving the best care possible to our patients," Oklahoma City VA Medical Center Director Wade Vlosich said.

The director's comments were made during a Sept. 21 Town Hall, attended by dozens of veterans and staff members. Aimed at addressing both patient and staff concerns, the meeting was part of an effort to help move beyond years of bad press involving long wait times for care, employee concerns about hospital leadership and more at VA centers across the country. And, while the

Town Hall gave individuals a chance to air ongoing issues, it was also a sign of a change in philosophy at the center, staff said.

"We are all working to make sure we are an active part of what we're calling the 'New VA,'" said Darrell Long, hospital specialty clinic float nurse. "We all know there is a bad perception out there, and we're working to change that."

Vlosich is a big part of that change, staff said. Joining the Oklahoma City VA facility in May, Vlosich is the first "permanent" director named in more than four years. With staff having no stable leadership to look to or lean on, Vlosich said it was difficult to provide both the kind of atmosphere needed for happy and quality employees, as well as the best in patient care.

"You just can't make it work without stable and dedicated long-term leadership," Vlosich said. "The quality of care we do offer is a testament to our employees – but now we owe them more too."

See VA page 9

## Oklahoma's Nursing Times Hospice Directory

- another free service provided by Oklahoma's Nursing Times -

**Alpha Hospice:** 7512 N Broadway Ext., suite 312 Okc, 405-463-5695 Keith Ruminer/volunteer coordinator/chaplain

**Autumn Bridge Hospice:** 405-440-2440

**Autumn Light Hospice:** 580-252-1266

**Carter Healthcare & Hospice:** OKC - OKC Pat McGowen, Vol. Coordinator, 405-947-7705, ext. 134; Tulsa - Samantha Estes, Vol. Coordinator, 918-425-4000

**Centennial Hospice:** Becky Johnson, Bereavement Coordinator 405-562-1211

**Choice Home Health & Hospice:** 405-879-3470

**Comforting Hands Hospice:** Bartlesville: 918-331-0003

**Companion Hospice:** Steve Hickey, Vol. Coordinator, Guthrie: 405-282-3980; Edmond: 405-341-9751

**Compassionate Care Hospice:** Amy Legare, Bereavement/Vol. Coordinator, 405-948-4357

**Cornerstone Hospice:** Vicky Herrington, Vol. Coordinator, 918-641-5192

**Crossroads Hospice:** Elizabeth Horn, Vol. Coordinator, 405-632-9631

**Cross Timbers Hospice:** Ardmore-800-498-0655 Davis-580-369-5335 Volunteer Coordinator-Shelly Murray

**Excell Hospice:** Toni K. Cameron, Vol. Coordinator 405-631-0521

**Faith Hospice of OKC:** Charlene Kilgore, Vol. Coordinator, 405-840-8915

**Frontier Hospice:** Kelly Morris, Vol. Coordinator, 405-789-2913

**Golden Age Hospice:** 405-735-5121

**Good Shepherd Hospice:** 4350 Will Rogers Parkway Suite 400 OKC OK 73108 405-943-0903

**Grace Hospice Foundation:** Sharon Doty, Dir of Spec. Projects - Tulsa 918-744-7223

**Harbor Light Hospice:** Randy Pratt, Vol. Coordinator, 1009 N Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 405-949-1200

**Horizon Hospice:** LaDonna Rhodes, Vol. Coordinator, 918-473-0505

**Heartland Hospice:** Shawnee: Vol. Coord. Karen Cleveland, 405-214-6442; OKC: Vol. Coord. Tricia Woodward, 405-579-8565

**Heavenly Hospice:** Julie Myers, Coordinator 405-701-2536

**Hope Hospice:** Bartlesville: 918-333-7700, Claremore: 918-343-0777 Owasso: 918-272-3060

**Hospice by Loving Care:** Connie McDivitt, Vol. Coordinator, 405-872-1515

**Hospice of Green Country:** Tulsa: 918-747-2273, Claremore: 918-342-1222, Sapulpa: 918-224-7403

**INTEGRIS Hospice, Inc. & the INTEGRIS Hospice House:** Ruth Ann Frick, Vol. Coordinator, 405-848-8884

**Hospice of Owasso, Inc.:** Todd A. Robertson, Dir. of Marketing, 877-274-0333

**Humanity Hospice:** Kay Cole, Vol. Coordinator 405-418-2530

**InFinity Care of Tulsa:** Spencer Brazeal, Vol. Director, 918-392-0800

**Indian Territory Home Health & Hospice:** 1-866-279-3975

**Interim Healthcare Hospice:** 405-848-3555

**Image HealthCare :** 6116 S. Memorial Tulsa, Ok. 74133 (918) 622-4799

**LifeChoice Hospice:** Christy Coppenbarger, RN, Executive Director. 405-842-0171

**LifeSpring In-Home Care Network:** Terry Boston, Volunteer and Bereavement Coordinator 405-801-3768

**LifeLine Hospice:** April Moon, RN Clinical Coordinator 405-222-2051

**Mercy Hospice:** Sandy Schuler, Vol. Coordinator, 405-486-8600

**Mission Hospice L.L.C.:** 2525 NW Expressway, Ste. 312 OKC, OK 73112 405-848-3779

**Oklahoma Hospice Care:** 405-418-2659 Jennifer Forrester, Community Relations Director

**One Health Home Health in Tulsa:** 918-412-7200

**Palliative Hospice:** Janet Lowder, Seminole, & Sabrina Johnson, Durant, 800-648-1655

**Physician's Choice Hospice:** Tim Clausing, Vol. Coordinator 405-936-9433

**Professional Home Hospice:** Sallisaw: 877-418-1815; Muskogee: 866-683-9400; Poteau: 888-647-1378

**PromiseCare Hospice:** Angela Shelton, LPN - Hospice Coordinator, Lawton: (580) 248-1405

**Quality Life Hospice:** 405 486-1357

**RoseRock Healthcare:** Audrey McCraw, Admin. 918-236-4866

**Ross Health Care:** Glenn LeBlanc, Norman, Chickasha; April Burrows, Enid; Vol. Coordinators, 580-213-3333

**Russell Murray Hospice:** Tambi Urias, Vol. Coordinator, 405-262-3088; Kingfisher 405-375-5015; Weatherford-580-774-2661

**Seasons Hospice:** Carolyn Miller, Vol. / Bereavement Coordinator, 918-745-0222

**Sequoyah Memorial Hospice:** Vernon Stone, D. Min. Chaplin, Vol. Coordinator, 918-774-1171

**Sooner Hospice, LLC:** Matt Ottis, Vol. Coordinator, 405-608-0555

## VA

Continued from Page 8

That staff cares for more than 61,000 veterans annually, this year that number jumping by more than 3,000 over the number of patients seen two years ago, Vlosich said. The center's \$460 million budget funds a 192-bed hospital and emergency room operations, as well as a myriad variety of specialty clinics, including extensive mental health facilities. The VA also administers community centered outpatient clinics in north Oklahoma City, Lawton, Ada, Wichita Falls, Blackwell, Ardmore, Altus, Enid and Stillwater.

Employees have worked hard to address issues with wait times in all areas of the facility, something that's been a longtime problem, Vlosich said. But, while the director has his work cut out for him in his new position, the challenge isn't anything new. Before coming to Oklahoma City, he served as director of Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Columbia, Missouri, for more than two years - a facility that before his arrival had been under "significant" fire for serious patient care issues.

"It was certainly a challenge, but we made some real improvement, and I know we will do the same - and better - here," Vlosich said.

Like the Missouri facility, Vlosich said Oklahoma City has a major asset, its employees, and they are the primary key in hastening the forward strides needed to improve service.

"We are very lucky to have people with amazing dedication and talent, people like our specialty clinic chief, Terri Sharp," the director said. "She and her staff have elevated our nursing services and make a huge difference in the lives of their patients."

Those efforts have made a difference, with primary care waits

dropping from seven days to three days, mental health from three days to two days and specialty care decreasing from 12 days to 11 days, Vlosich said.

"Obviously, that's an improvement, but we have lots of room for more advancement," he said.

Another frustration has been aged facilities, including inadequate parking for both staff and patients. Crews are working on a first and second floor clinic expansion, which will add 8,000 square feet and renovate another 16,000 square feet. A major parking addition should add 300 spaces and ease a situation that causes headaches on a daily basis, Vlosich said. The clinic project is slated for completion March 2017, while the new parking spaces should be ready by May 2017.

"We are also working to improve our facilities, which are a direct patient benefit but also is positive for our staff," Vlosich said. "That allows us to keep the excellent employees we have happy, while allowing us to appeal to quality staff because, of course, we are only as good as the quality of our nursing/medical and other staff."

That is an area that has seen forward momentum, staff said.

"There is a lot of excitement, a lot of commitment to the VA family," said Leann Denney, a chemotherapy nurse navigator. "We have the greatest patients, and we are so committed to them because there is that additional component that they have served, they've sacrificed for all of us."

"That's always been there, but there is also a new feeling that we are more of a coordinated team, that we will be able to better work together for the good of our patients," she said. "We are a family here, all of us - nurses and staff, patients and their families - and we're looking for things to just get better and better."

The Hospice Directory above does not represent a list of all Hospice facilities statewide. For a complete list visit [www.ok.gov/health](http://www.ok.gov/health)

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# ONA Convention to unite nurses

By Bobby Anderson, Staff Writer

The Oklahoma Nurses Association is pleased to present the 2016 Annual Nurses Convention in Tulsa on October 19th and 20th Dreaming in Color: Creating a Culture of Health.

During this two-day convention, ONA will focus on ways to build a Culture of Health in Oklahoma that enables all in our diverse society to lead healthier lives now and for generations to come.

ONA Executive Director Jane Nelson said the annual convention is a time for from all across the state and different specialties to come together, learn and advance their practice.

Nelson said the convention will focus examining existing programs, emerging projects and trends that exist or are in development in our state.

Sessions will highlight the power nurses can have on state and local policy makers as well as state health initiatives and the impact of health care providers working to create a culture of health in Oklahoma.

The ONA Convention provides multiple opportunities for nurses.

"It's a great opportunity to come meet other nurses in Oklahoma, network and see what is going on across the state and gather best practices," Nelson said.

Janet Haebler MSN, RN will kick off the convention, being held at the Tulsa Hyatt Regency.

As Senior Associate Director for State Government Affairs with the American Nurses Association (ANA), Haebler serves as a resource to the state nurses associations in their efforts to advance their legislative and regulatory agendas.

Throughout her forty-five years' experience, Haebler has held numerous leadership positions in a variety of settings: acute and long-term care, managed care, and academia.

During the past 15 years, she has been dedicated to the policy and advocacy arena; first at

the state level before joining ANA. While with the New York State Nurses' Association, she

was responsible for the Practice & Government Affairs program; during which time, she and her team

celebrated such legislative successes as title "nurse" protection and safe patient handling & mobility.

Seven years ago, she launched the American Nurses Advocacy Institute, a year-long mentored program designed to develop nurse's political competence.

She completed her undergraduate degree in nursing at Russell Sage College in New York and master's degree in nursing with a concentration in administration at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

During the convention you can hear from Oklahoma health care leaders regarding the current state of health care and what is being done to create a culture of health in Oklahoma. Panelists will discuss issues facing health care in Oklahoma from the perspective of the organizations and/or populations they represent. Each one of these leaders is involved with work that is creating a culture of health in Oklahoma.

Invited panelists include:

Secretary of Health Terry Cline, Ph.D, Connie Davis, MSN, RN, Executive Director of Health Services, Cherokee Nation, Jerod Waters, RN, Executive Officer of Nursing at Chickasaw Nation, Craig Jones, FACHE, President of the Oklahoma Hospital Association and Gina Crawford DNP, MS, APRN-CNP Facilitator.

During the ONA's annual House of Delegates the issue of full practice authority for APRNs will be discussed.

### FULL PRACTICE AUTHORITY

Full practice authority is generally defined as the APRNs' ability to practice nursing at the full extent of their knowledge, skills, and clinical judgment based on their education and training. Twenty-one states currently grant full practice authority to one or more APRN roles upon licensure and/or certification.

This makes Oklahoma one of 29 states with barriers to APRNs to practice at the full extent of their education and training.

Current Oklahoma Statute requires APRNs to have supervision of prescriptive authority as well as limits their ability of prescriptive rights to legend drugs and Schedule III to V. Other barriers include insurance

companies and facility regulations.

Nelson said it is the goal of ONA and the American Nurses Association to advocate for a health care system where RNs and APRNs can practice to the full extent of their knowledge and professional scope of practice.

Helping nurses harness their collective legislative voice will also be discussed. Nelson says the organization's annual Nurses Day at the Capitol is always well received by legislators who enjoy learning about the challenges facing Oklahoma healthcare from the frontline providers.

"(Nursing) is the most trusted profession in the country and has been for 15 years," Nelson said, citing the annual Gallup ranking of honesty and ethics in various fields. "When they go to the capitol legislators listen to them because they're trustworthy and credible. "The patient is always first when nurses talk. That's what makes them such a powerful patient advocate."

You can find more information about the upcoming convention online at [www.oklahomanurses.org](http://www.oklahomanurses.org) or by calling 405-840-3476.



**Vicki L Mayfield, M.Ed., R.N., LMFT Marriage and Family Therapy Oklahoma City**  
*If you would like to send a question to Vicki, email us at [news@okcnursingtimes.com](mailto:news@okcnursingtimes.com)*

**What do we know about holding on to frustrations that linger, annoyances that grow and anger that simmers constantly? We know about disease, illness and symptoms that multiply and divide. We know that silence is not good. It is not always in our best interest to be seen and not heard.**

PEOPLE TALKING WITHOUT SPEAKING  
PEOPLE HEARING WITHOUT LISTENING

Robotic is not living. It is not being invested in what is going on around you. There are situations we cannot change, people we cannot fix but always we have choices. There are people that we can engage and speak our thoughts and feelings. Listening to understand and connect is different from just hearing someone talk.

PEOPLE WRITING SONGS THAT VOICES NEVER SHARE AND NO ONE DARED DISTURB THE SOUND OF SILENCE

So we visit our doctors and take our pills, 3 pills turns into 5, into 8. We feel terrible. The tests reveal more toxicity at work in our bodies. We drink 12 beers now instead of 6. When we are asked what happened to us to cause so much conflict, people are caught off guard. "You mean you want to know about terrible things that happened to me, pain that I have never talked about. You mean the times I saw my mom beaten by her boyfriends, living in our car because we had no home, taking care of my sisters because my dad was drinking and tearing the house apart?"

HEAR MY WORDS THAT I MIGHT TEACH YOU  
TAKE MY ARMS THAT I MIGHT REACH YOU

We do not have to accept the disease model of life. Facing our realities, our fears, our traumas and talking about them can change us. Finding solace and companionship in healthy communities can change us. People can be transformed by using their voice. The goal is not to change people or situations that cannot be changed. That wastes our time. The goal is to change us from diseased people into people fully living our lives.

Move away from silence. Write your song and share it. Disturb the sound of silence.

**(The Sound of Silence by Simon and Garfunkel)**



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