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October 5, 2020

Information for the Oklahoma Nursing & Health Care Professional

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Great Attitude and High-Fives!



Tijuana Raphel, RN, has been a nurse for the last seventeen years and has spent the last seven years as an OKCPS nurse for a middle school.

by Vickie Jenkins, Staff Writer

With a bubbly personality and a beautiful smile is Tijuana Raphel, RN, who is a school nurse at an Oklahoma City Public middle school. Being a nurse for seventeen years, Tijuana has worked in a variety of medical setting over the years. "My first job as a nurse was at Baptist Hospital. I guess you could say that I took the long route in the medical field," she said with a laugh. "I started as a

Unit Clerk, then Nurse Tech, LPN and graduated as an RN in 2004. I strongly believe that the long route made me a well-rounded nurse. I have worked every clinical area within the hospital; medical surgical, mom-baby, pediatrics and psychology. I worked in Flight Medicine at Tinker AFB two different times and Outpatient Surgery in the Case Management setting. Now, as a

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Five INTEGRIS Nurses Receive March of Dimes Awards

*Virginia Hubble takes
home the Lifetime
Achievement Honor*



Virginia Hubble, RN. - recipient of the - Lifetime Achievement Award.

On Thursday, the March of Dimes of Oklahoma celebrated a decade of nursing excellence by recognizing many of our state's most outstanding nurses. The 10th annual event was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nurse of the Year awards were given out to 17 deserving nurses, and we are happy to announce that four of those nurses are caregivers at INTEGRIS!

Here is a list of those winners and the

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RAPHEL

Continued from Page 1

school nurse for the last seven years, I have to say, this is the most rewarding job that I have ever had. I wanted to work for OKCPS because of the diversity, cultured climate within the district."

Growing up in Oklahoma City, OK, Tijuana knew from the age of nine that she wanted to be a nurse. "I always had a desire to help people and care for others," she said. "I think being a nurse has to be an acquired career. Every nurse should have a caring heart, be compassionate, be attentive, paying close attention to detail. A nurse needs to be wise, knowledgeable and possess a great attitude. Last but not least, a nurse should have plenty of patience," she added.

"To me, being a school nurse is my reality. I have gained trusting rapport with my students. My heart sings to me when I am out shopping and hear, that's my nurse, or hi Nurse T. I have

open-door relationships with my students and there have been numerous times that students have come to my office to just vent or give high fives. I have a board in my office full of notes and drawings from my students. As a school nurse, I am a medically inclined individual in the building and the Administrators, staff and students are depending on me to care for them. A school nurse must hold the same standards and oath as it pertains to confidentiality as though working in a hospital. I am a listening ear to the student, without judgement or bias."

"As a nurse, I am not only taking care of patients, but also the family members as a whole. The qualities of a school nurse are the same if not more because I am assisting with and helping the youth. They are not as vocal about their needs therefore, I am doing a lot of assessing. School nurses must have great assessment skills because they are working solely autonomous. I've been a school nurse for pre-K

through fifth, and fifth through eighth grade. Right now, I am a school nurse for an OKC middle school."

Asking Tijuana to describe herself, she replied, "Not to sound cliché but I am smart, considerate, kind, loyal and compassionate. I am a quiet soul, loyal and trustworthy. I am a youth leader at my church. I am definitely a leader and have always been my own individual, going in my own direction," she said with a laugh.

Tijuana is single with three children and four grandchildren. "I love them all to the stars and back, infinity," she said. "I have a German Shepard named Koda. She is six months old and is a handful but she is a sweet pet. In my spare time, I like to read, shop and travel." Tijuana was recognized during Nurse Week and was featured in an article

while working at OKCPS.

How has the coronavirus changed your life? "During the coronavirus, it has caused everyone to make a life adjustment. Staying away from others, doing my work from the house has been a real challenge at times but it is so important that we do what is right. At school, we are distance learning. The school building is quiet and school shouldn't be a quiet place. Like everyone else, I will be glad to see our lives get back to normal, or is this our new normal?"

"I know all of the teachers, students and their peers will be glad to return to the school. Everyone is missing their friends."

Summing up Tijuana's life in three words, she replied, "Blessed, full and meaningful."

2020 Pandemic - Corona Virus Webinar

Join CMSA-OK and David Chansolme MD Infectious Disease Medicine, as he discusses and describes Corona Virus. Learn all the up to date information on Covid 19 and what has been happening within Oklahoma and across the country.

1 CEU approved for CM, CCM, Social Workers, RNs will use the certificate CM used and Certificate of Attendance for Administrators.

Dr. Chansolme is a physician, board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases. He has been in private practice since 2004 and sees patients in both a hospital and office setting. Dr. Chansolme is from Oklahoma City and graduated from Bishop McGuinness High School in Oklahoma City in 1989. He received

a bachelor's degree from Emory University in Atlanta, GA before matriculating through the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in 1997. He completed an Internal Medicine residency at Tulane University and was selected as a chief resident in the department of Internal Medicine. He then completed a fellowship in subspecialty training in Infectious Diseases at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, an internationally recognized institution for Infectious Diseases care. Dr. Chansolme performed research in syphilis, bioterrorism, yersinia pestis infections, transplant related infections and HIV associated malignancies.



Dr. David Chansolme

Register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QFqmPvTVTKy3so85Wv8lwA

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AWARD

Continued from Page 1

categories in which they won.

- Lauren Newell - Rising Star - INTEGRIS Canadian Valley Hospital

- Evelyn Radichel - Nursing Management - INTEGRIS Health Edmond

- Melissa Colbert - Critical Care - INTEGRIS Baptist Medical

Center

- Janae Baldwin - Women's Health - INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center

Also at the event, our very own Virginia Hubble, a labor and delivery nurse at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center for more than 40 years, took home the event's highest honor - the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Virginia Hubble, RN. - winner of the - Lifetime Achievement Award and friends.

PROMISE GARDEN Car Contest



Saturday, October 17, 2020

Drive-by Promise Garden Hours: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Bicentennial Park | 500 Couch Dr. Oklahoma City, OK 74119

1. Register your team

Sign up to be a Team Captain at okcwalk.com.

2. Receive your Promise Garden Car Contest Frame

We will send you the official frame so you can print it out and decorate it with your team name.

3. Decorate your vehicle and display your contest frame proudly!

Have some fun while you drive through our view-only Promise garden. Decorate your car purple, display your contest frame, and let everyone know that you are walking to #EndALZ!

4. Vote for which team has the best car decorations

We will post photos of each car to our Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/okcwalk.

Our group members will vote on which team had the best decorated cars, and the winner will receive a Grand Prize!

REGISTER TODAY at okcwalk.com



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Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care Names Maite Uribe Vice President of Palliative Education

Appointment Signals Continued Investment in Innovative Palliative Care Training and Clinical Care

Maite Uribe is the new Vice President of Palliative Education for Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care, one of the nation's leading end-of-life care providers. Uribe brings clinical, palliative care and educational experience to the newly created corporate Crossroads position.

As Vice President of Palliative Education, Uribe oversees the development, implementation and support of palliative care and hospice educational programs across 11 Crossroads locations in seven states.

"We are fortunate to have Maite join Crossroads," said Dr. Timothy Ihrig, Chief Medical Officer. "Her wealth of experience, coupled with the highest level of clinical acumen is invaluable in supporting Crossroads' mission. I look forward to working with and learning from Maite as we care for others,"

Before joining Crossroads, Uribe most recently served as a Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner for SA Health in Australia,

the government health service for citizens of South Australia, where she cared for patients with advanced illness and provided end-of-life care.

During her time at SA Health, Uribe also expanded the health network's palliative care capabilities with hospital-wide educational workshops and helped develop the network's Last Days of Life of-life care experience for patients and their loved ones.

"Maite's combined clinical and educational experience, as well as her passion for providing exceptional palliative care to patients and their families, will be a tremendous asset to our team," said Crossroads CEO Perry Farmer. "We look forward to working together as we continue to advance and expand our delivery of palliative care."

A graduate of Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia with a BS in Nursing and an MS in Palliative Care, Uribe is a member of the boards of the Laurel Hospice Foundation and Australasia Palliative Link International, and serves as

Pathway, a systematic framework for clinicians to improve the end-



See URIBE Page 5



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The logo for The Oklahoman Readers' Choice Winner 2019. It features the text "THE OKLAHOMAN READERS' CHOICE WINNER 2019" in a colorful, blocky font, with "PEOPLE, PLACES & THINGS" in smaller text below. A banner at the bottom says "Voted 2019 Best Memory Care Community".

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Maite Uribe, Vice President of Palliative Education for Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care.

URIBE

Continued from Page 4

an Executive Clinical Advisor to the General Practitioner Shared Care Program of South Australia. Uribe said, "I am delighted to be part of the Crossroads team where there is such a long tradition of providing the right care at the right time as we constantly strive to elevate the care narrative."

Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care is committed to being at

the forefront of the hospice and palliative care industries, continually shaping the way end-of-life care is viewed and administered. Crossroads' mission is to provide highly unique, comprehensive, and compassionate hospice services to persons experiencing a life-limiting illness and to their caregivers. For more information, please visit www.crossroadshospice.com or contact Lisa Simon at lsimon@sprytec.com or 215-545-4715 x22.

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SITUATION UPDATE:

- As of this advisory, there are 91,982 cases of COVID-19 in Oklahoma.
- There are three additional deaths identified to report. No deaths were identified in the past 24 hours.
 - *One in Beckham County, one male in the 65 or older age group.
 - *One in Muskogee County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
 - *One in Tulsa County, one male in the 65 or older age group.
- There are 1,055 total deaths in the state.
- For more information, visit coronavirus.health.ok.gov.

COVID-19 Oklahoma Test Results

Cases	91,982
*Total Cumulative Negative Specimens to Date (As of Oct 2)	1,157,074
*Total Cumulative Number of Specimens to Date (As of Oct 2)	1,262,313
**Currently Hospitalized (As of Oct 2)	655
Total Cumulative Hospitalizations	6,674
Identified Deaths in the Past 24 hours	0
Total Cumulative Deaths	1,055

*The total includes laboratory information provided to OSDH at the time of the report. Total counts may not reflect unique individuals.

**This number is a combination of hospitalized positive cases and hospitalized persons under investigation, as reported by hospitals at the time of the report. The data reflect a change in calculation and should not be compared to prior data.

***The purpose of publishing aggregated statistical COVID-19 data through the OSDH Dashboard, the Executive Order Report, and the Weekly Epidemiology and Surveillance Report is to support the needs of the general public in receiving important and necessary information regarding the state of the health and safety of the citizens of Oklahoma. These resources may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be used in any way that would determine the identity of any reported cases.

Data Source: Acute Disease Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Oklahoma's Nursing Times

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- Three years' experience working as an RN in assisted living or similar facility
- Achieve and maintain compliance for all Oklahoma State Dept of Health regulations governing long term care facilities
- Complete working knowledge of all applicable laws and regulations
- Experience performing routine assessments
- Strong managerial skills
- Implement recommendations to improve all facets of the Nursing department
- Active Oklahoma RN license
- Willing to re-locate and/or live in the Stillwater area

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140 GENERAL NURSING

We are seeking Aide to join our team.

Reports directly to the Director of Operations and function under the supervision of the Registered Nurse and/or Clinical Supervisor. New Century Hospice, 4111 South Darlington Avenue, Suite #650, Tulsa, OK 74135.

123 CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANT

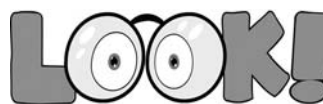
We are looking to hire a Certified Medication Aide 3 pm - 11 pm.

Apply at Beacon Ridge Senior Mental Health. 102 E. Line Ave. Sapulpa, OK 74067

We are seeking Certified Medication Aide (CMA) 7am - 3pm.

Apply at North County Assisted Living. 523 N 22nd St, Collinsville, OK 74021

140 GENERAL NURSING



We are looking to hire a Full-Time Receptionist.

Kiamichi Medical Clinic is looking to hire a Full-Time Receptionist. Must be hard working, friendly and eager to serve the public. 204 East Jackson. Hugo, OK.

124 CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT

Apply now! Certified Nursing Assistant - 7 am - 3 pm needed

at North County Nursing & Rehabilitation located at 523 N 22nd St, Collinsville, OK 74021. Apply now! Competitive Pay, Benefits, Bonuses, Supportive Leadership. Qualifications: Must be 18 years old, with a clean background, reliable transportation, active driver's license, auto insurance, and the ability to lift at least 50lbs. Ability to work flexible schedules and weekends is highly preferred. Required license or certification: Certified Nursing Assistant Required education: High school or equivalent.

We are seeking Nurse Aide, Certified Nurse Aide . All Shifts - Will Train.

The Village Health Care Center. 1709 S. Main St, Broken Arrow, OK

124 CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT

We are seeking Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

Apply at Heartsworth Assisted Living located at 821 N Foreman St, Vinita, OK 74301

140 GENERAL NURSING

Providers needed immediately for assistance to elderly and disabled persons in their homes in the Shawnee and Seminole areas.

Training requirements provided by ONHL Homecare Services. Come join a home care agency on the move. Direct deposit payroll, paid vacation after one year of service, employer sponsored insurance package. Call Patty Lambert or Cheryl Larson at: (405) 257-3003. 615 E 7th St, Wewoka, OK 74884

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140 GENERAL NURSING

We Are Seeking Minimum Data Set Nurse (Licensed Practical Nurse and Registered Nurse) Needed.

Apply at Beacon Ridge Senior Mental Health.
102 E. Line Ave.
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We are seeking PRN Home Health Aide/Certified Nurse Aide

Monterea of Tulsa, OK (6800 S Granite Ave, Tulsa, OK 74136) is seeking to hire a PRN Home Health Aide / Certified Nurse Aide to provide our residents one-on-one, valuable, and quality direct care that uplifts and supports their daily needs. Are you committed to valuing, supporting, and uplifting the lives of seniors and those who care for them?

Are you looking for a position where you can make a difference? If so, look no further! ARE YOU READY TO JOIN OUR TEAM? If you are a Home Health Aide / Certified Nurse Aide and feel that you would be right for this position, complete our application today! We look forward to meeting you!

140 GENERAL NURSING

We are Hiring a Medical Director/ Psychiatrist to provide inpatient and outpatient services.

St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, located at 305 S 5th St, Enid, OK 73701 is now hiring a Medical Director/ Psychiatrist to provide inpatient and outpatient services. Enjoy providing much-needed services in an attractive Midwestern location work while benefiting from the support of a progressive administrative team that values a strong work/life balance.

We are Looking To hire new staff who have a servants heart and are dependable. Openings for Certified Nursing Aides for all shifts and Certified Medication Aide for night shift.

We offer health insurance to full time employees and shift differential for evenings and nights. Apply today at 915 N. 7th Ave., Purcell, OK. Sunset Estates. EOE

140 GENERAL NURSING

We Are Looking To Hire Exceptional People That Have A Passion For The Senior Living Industry Current Positions Available:**Licensed Practical Nurse (Full-time) Certified Nursing Assistants/ Certified Medical Assistants, Dining Room, Cook, Servers.**

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161 LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING

We are looking for Licensed Practical Nurse

Care ATC Inc located at 9902 E 43rd St a, Tulsa, OK 74146. We are looking for someone who has an excellent patient/customer service skills and an outgoing, dynamic personality, and has the ability to work well on a close team environment. Min. Qualifications: HS diploma or equivalent. Graduation from an approved practical nursing program. One year LPN exp. required; clinical experience preferred. State licensed practical nurse. Current BLS/CPR certificate.

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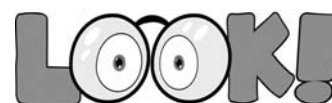
161 LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING

We are seeking Licensed Practical Nurse

at Angels Care Home Health 27 N Vann St, Pryor, OK 74361. Primary function of the LPN is to administer skilled nursing care, under the supervision of a registered nurse, for clients of all ages in their place of residence, coordinate care with the interdisciplinary team, patient/family and referring agency. Qualifications: Graduate of an accredited school of vocational nursing. Current state license as an LPN, Current State's Driver's License. Two year experience as an LPN, home health preferred. Proof of current CPR and Hepatitis profile.

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204 REGISTERED NURSE



We are looking for Registered Nurse.
OSAGE HOME HEALTH
721 Kihekah Pawhuska,
OK. 918.287.5645

Are you Reading This? So are more than 30,000 RNs and LPNs!**We are seeking Registered Nurse - Full-time Days (LTACH)**

at Post Acute Medical, LLC located at 3219 S 79th E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74145. In order to work at our facility, our RN's need: To hold a current license as a RN by the Board of Nurse Examiners of the State in which the facility is located. To have and maintain a current CPR and ACLS certification. *New team members will have 6 months from date of hire to obtain an ACLS certification if they do not currently have one.

204 REGISTERED NURSE

We are seeking Registered Nurses (ICU)- Full-time Nights - Sign-on Bonus! (LTACH)

at Post Acute Medical, LLC. 3219 South 79th E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74145. Qualifications: In order to work at our facility, our RN's need: Current RN license by the Board of Nurse Examiners of the State in which the facility is located. To have and maintain a current CPR and ACLS certification. *New team members will have 6 mths from date of hire to obtain an ACLS certification if they do not currently have one. Prefer requirements: Having prior experience in LTACH/Acute/Med-Surg/ ICU/HOU environments. Wound care and/or critical care experience. A higher comfort level working with vents/trachs/PICC lines, etc. Working knowledge of IV therapies including vasoactive drugs, antibiotics, heparin drips, insulin drips, and blood transfusions.

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OU Medicine Tobacco Regulatory Science Researcher Earns \$1.3 Million Grant to Study Role of Menthol in Smoking Habits

In 2009, the Food and Drug Administration banned numerous cigarette flavors, from chocolate to cherry to cinnamon, in an effort to decrease their attractiveness to young people. But it did not ban menthol flavoring. Now, the FDA is considering whether to ban the minty flavor, and a researcher at Stephenson Cancer Center at OU Medicine is conducting a study that will help inform that decision.

Tobacco regulatory science researcher Amy Cohn, Ph.D., received a \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health and the FDA Center for Tobacco Products for her study, which will investigate the role of menthol flavoring in smoking habits among young adults. The study will build upon on existing research as the FDA gathers evidence for its proposal to ban menthol flavoring in cigarettes.

"A lot of young people who initiate tobacco use with a cigarette

do so with menthol, and one of the hypotheses for this is that the minty, cool sensation of menthol masks the harshness of inhaled cigarette smoke," said Cohn, who is part of the TSET Health Promotion Research Center at Stephenson Cancer Center. "Young people who had their first cigarette with menthol flavoring reported a more positive smoking experience compared to young people who didn't smoke menthol as their first cigarette. That's important because an initial positive experience is linked to ongoing use of tobacco products."

Cohn's study will also help the FDA in another move it is contemplating: bringing very low-nicotine cigarettes to the market with the aim of helping people reduce and ultimately quit smoking. Low-nicotine cigarettes have approximately 0.4 milligrams of nicotine compared to the average cigarette, which contains 10 milligrams of nicotine. While

previous studies have shown that low-nicotine cigarettes help people stop smoking, Cohn will specifically investigate whether menthol flavoring in low-nicotine cigarettes contributes to that reduction in smoking, or if it has the opposite effect and entices people to continue smoking.

Cohn uses three primary methods to measure the appeal of different types of cigarettes. In her laboratory, she can analyze smoking behavior, which is a proxy for the influence of a particular tobacco product. She can measure how many puffs people take, the interval between puffs, the volume of the puff and the draw of the puff. Another method involves giving study participants cigarettes, both menthol and regular, to take home and smoke as they wish for a week. They will be surveyed to gather information about how satisfying each type



Tobacco regulatory science researcher Amy Cohn, Ph.D.

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A cartoon illustration of Santa Claus in a red suit, white beard, and red hat, pushing a shopping cart filled with wrapped gifts. The background is a snowy, blue-toned winter scene with stylized trees and falling snow.

Southern Nazarene School of Nursing: Traditional Undergraduate Program with a New Shine

The Southern Nazarene University (SNU) School of Nursing (SON) has been graduating nurses since 1982. SNU graduates have established a reputation for not only being well educated but having those most important qualities of caring, empathy, and sympathy towards their clients. SNU graduates embody the philosophy of the school of nursing, which can be summarized in the words THINK, DO, LOVE!

Many wonderful and outstanding individuals have worked as faculty members at the SNU School of Nursing over the years, each making a unique contribution to the profession through their teaching arts. The current faculty have

recently completed a major revision to the traditional undergraduate curriculum to ensure the courses meet the current required standards of education expected from the regional employers. In addition, the importance of recognizing the global health environment has been brought to the forefront. Nursing students at SNU have a number of outreach opportunities, both local and international. These opportunities are expanding with each year!

As far as the SNU campus, two well-known "faculty" may be seen at the SON. Tillie Mae and Baby Snookums, both Mini Australian Shepherds, are certified by the Human Animal Link of Oklahoma as Therapy Dogs. Students enjoy the dogs and often find a non-judgemental listening ear when nursing school becomes too stressful. The dogs often "work" the lobby, going from student to student to provide a happy greeting or visiting a classroom prior to an exams to bring a sense of calm.

SNU welcomes all inquiries about the program!

Learn more schedule a campus visit at snu.edu/campus-visit.



SNU

1899

SCHOOL OF NURSING



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GRANT

Continued from Page 8

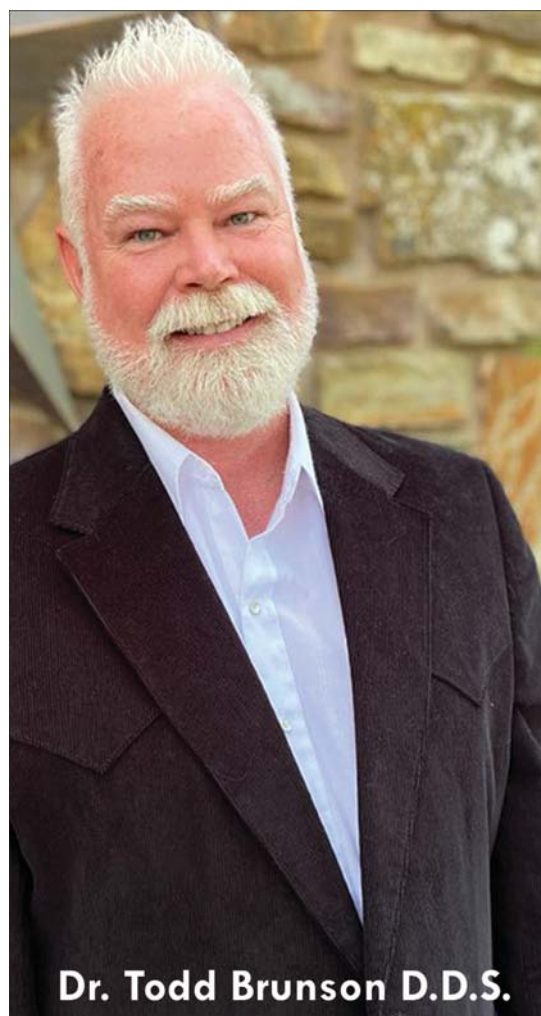
was in comparison to the other, and whether they choose to use other tobacco products instead, as a potential negative unintended consequence of bringing low-nicotine cigarettes to the market.

Study participants will also take part in an "experimental tobacco marketplace," similar to any online shopping experience, in which they shop online according to the availability of various tobacco products, including low-nicotine options. Researchers will manipulate the types of tobacco products available in the marketplace to determine what young people choose to buy when menthol is and is not available in cigarettes and other combustible tobacco products. The marketplace serves as a simulation of tobacco policies, allowing researchers to see how people react to policies before they actually go into effect.

"Menthol cigarettes are disproportionately used by several at-risk populations, including African Americans, young people, Hispanics and women," Cohn said. "There are

a lot of hypotheses that a ban on menthol would reduce the public health impact of cigarette smoking, which we know is a very strong risk factor for cancer and other diseases. Our research will help the FDA make decisions in its regulatory efforts."

Stephenson Cancer Center at OU Medicine was named Oklahoma's top facility for cancer care by U.S. News & World Report in its 2020-21 rankings. As Oklahoma's only National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center, Stephenson Cancer Center is one of the nation's elite centers, representing the top 2% of cancer centers in the country. It is the largest and most comprehensive oncology practice in the state, delivering patient-centered, multidisciplinary care for every type of cancer. As one of the nation's leading research organizations, Stephenson Cancer Center uses the latest innovations to fight and eliminate cancer, and is currently ranked No. 1 among all cancer centers in the nation for the number of patients participating in clinical trials sponsored by the NCI's National Clinical Trials Network. For more information, visit stephensoncancercenter.org.



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My favorite movie is Pretty Woman and I've seen it many times.



Toni Frazier,
Service Scheduler

I like watching the movie, Troy. I've seen it over one hundred times!



Codie Boyce, Lead
Medical Assistant

What is your all time favorite movie and how many times have you watched it?



I have watched, Remember the Titans, over thirty times.



Luis Reyes,
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My favorite movie is the Expendables! I've watched it a lot!



Jesse Hargis, Assistant.
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Walk to End Alzheimer's® - Oklahoma City October 17, 2020



9 a.m.

Log into okcwalk.com before the Ceremony to visit Mainstage, the event's new, interactive online experience. Livestream the Opening and Promise Garden Ceremony at 9 a.m.



9:30 a.m.

Walk in your neighborhood, on any sidewalk, track or trail. Download the Walk to End Alzheimer's mobile app to track your steps and receive messages of support along your route.



10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Drive through the planted Promise Garden, which is view only, to experience your community's reasons to end Alzheimer's. The Promise Garden will be located at Centennial Park.

For more information about this year's event, visit okcwalk.com

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OU College of Medicine Plans Mobile Classroom to Promote Diversity in Health Professions

A large RV, customized as a health education classroom on wheels, is among the new projects the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine plans with a \$2.8 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

The grant is a one-year supplement that augments an initial \$4.7 million award to the OU College of Medicine last year. The aim of the grant is to recruit, retain and admit students from rural, tribal and medically underserved areas, and to expand the primary care experience among current medical students. Data shows that students from those groups who attend medical school and residency in Oklahoma are more likely to return to their communities to practice medicine.

"Of Oklahoma's 77 counties, 76 have a shortage of primary care physicians, and the need is particularly great in rural areas, underserved communities and tribes. The ultimate goal of this grant is to reduce healthcare disparities among Oklahomans and raise the health of the state," said Steven Crawford, M.D., Senior Associate Dean of the College of Medicine and director of the Office of Healthcare Innovation and Policy. Crawford is leading the grant with James Herman, M.D., Dean of the OU-TU School of Community Medicine on the Tulsa campus.

The mobile classroom will allow the OU College of Medicine to introduce young people across Oklahoma to careers in health and to give them hands-on experience with activities like suturing, using a stethoscope or a microscope. The classroom will especially be geared toward smaller communities with fewer resources. Students from those areas may have the interest and skills to enter a health profession, but lack the opportunities to pursue it, said Robert Salinas, M.D., Assistant Dean for Diversity in the College of Medicine and a faculty lead for the grant.

"This mobile classroom will be a major asset in our outreach and in building long-term relationships with young people," Salinas said. "This is not a one-year event, but is part of our efforts to build a pathway to medical school in which we mentor

them over several years."

Current students from all seven colleges at the OU Health Sciences Center, as well as the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work on OU's Norman campus, will accompany the mobile classroom on trips around the state as part of their training to care for patients as an interprofessional team. They will not only introduce their chosen disciplines to the young people they encounter, but also see first-hand the challenges of life in underserved areas, where there are numerous barriers to good health.

The grant supplement will also allow the OU College of Medicine to launch the Medical School Readiness Program, an opportunity for students to be mentored as they prepare for the Medical College Admission Test, take part in mock interviews and job shadowing. This program is geared toward highly motivated students who traditionally have lacked the resources, because of time or money, to prepare for medical school.

The OU-TU School of Community Medicine, the college's branch campus in Tulsa, is expanding several parts of its curriculum designed to help students better understand the importance of primary care. A course on medical informatics will give students a deeper dive into telemedicine and using the electronic health record to analyze trends among patient populations. Two other courses, Lifestyle Medicine and Health Promotion I and II, have already been added to the curriculum to further educate students about the roles of food and exercise in promoting better health for their patients. This year, students will spend more time on culinary medicine, learning from a chef how to make healthy foods appropriate for specific medical conditions, like diabetes. They will then teach those skills during visits to high schools in the Tulsa area.

"Our medical students will teach culinary medicine concepts and healthy food options to high school students," said Frances Wen, Ph.D., Professor of Family and Community Medicine on the Tulsa campus and a primary faculty participant on the grant. "They will also talk about



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

what it's like to be in medical school. It has a powerful impact on high school students, who are not too much younger than they are, to see someone like them who is becoming a physician."

The College of Medicine's outreach and recruitment efforts are already starting to pay off, Salinas said. Several students who have been mentored over the past year are entering medical school or are preparing to apply.

"These efforts are relationship-centered, and to be successful, we need to work with students over a long period of time to help them overcome barriers to attending medical school or another health profession college," Salinas said.

"Studies show that health outcomes improve with a more diverse workforce," he added. "A person's ZIP code should not determine their health status, and we hope this initiative can begin to improve the health and quality of life of Oklahomans."

One of nation's few academic health centers with seven professional colleges — Allied Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Graduate Studies — the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center serves approximately 4,000 students in more than 70 undergraduate and graduate degree programs on campuses in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. For more information, visit ouhsc.edu.

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