



Dr. Heather Fenton and Dr. Diana Mashburn are helping Northeastern State University create tomorrow's nursing leaders.

by Bobby Anderson, RN, Staff Writer

As a nurse, it's something we all crave in our daily lives.

As students trying to advance our careers, it's something we have to have.

Dr. Heather Fenton is a Northeastern State University bachelor's program nursing graduate.

Nearly a decade ago, word got back to her the school was hiring for the master's program and she couldn't help but come back to the school that had given her so much.

With previous experience teaching in a practical nursing program, Fenton was working on her doctorate when she found her employer wasn't going to compensate her for getting her

doctorate.

At the same time, Fenton needed flexibility in her career while taking care of her mother on her journey with Alzheimer's.

"Coming to Northeastern was perfect," she said. "The program was online which gave me the flexibility and that's where it started."

Fenton has been at Northeastern State since 2011 and the offerings have only expanded as nursing has changed at a rapid pace.

See NSU Page 2

## College of Medicine Departments Rank Nationally

Three departments in the OU College of Medicine -- Obstetrics and Gynecology, Family and Preventive Medicine, and Ophthalmology -- have ranked in the top 20 medical school departments in the United States for research funding from the National Institutes of Health in federal fiscal year 2019. The rankings are compiled by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, considered the gold standard for medical school research metrics.

The Department of OB-GYN, which conducts a broad range of research across its seven sections, ranked No. 8 among its peer departments with \$5.7 million in NIH grants. In the Section of General Obstetrics and Gynecology, researchers are studying the effects of iron deficiency in women who have gone through menopause. In the Section of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, researchers are investigating whether the Zika virus can be passed from mother to baby if the female becomes pregnant by a male infected with Zika.

Research in the Section of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility includes an exploration of the mechanism of newborn obesity in obese mothers, as well as a project that is investigating whether there are health risks associated with frozen embryo transfers in which a woman's uterus is prepared for implantation with estrogen and progesterone compared to transferring an embryo in a woman's natural cycle.

Led by faculty members in the Section of Gynecologic Oncology, Stephenson Cancer Center is advancing patient treatments in gynecologic cancers through multiple NIH grants. Stephenson Cancer Center also has major NIH grants across other clinical areas, conducts clinical trials for experimental therapies and cancer prevention, and leads in dissemination and implementation research. It is a Lead Academic Participating Site for the National Cancer Institute's National Clinical Trials Network and is currently No. 1 in the nation for enrolling patients to those trials.

"Our mission as an academic medical center is not just offering the standard of care to our patients, it's defining the next standard of care," said Karl Hansen, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Department of OB-GYN. "Our research and teaching missions are an important element of continuously improving our patient care now and in the future."

The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine

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## NSU

Continued from Page 1

"It's going to be very important," Fenton said of advancing nursing education. "Covid will not be the only pandemic we experience. As we become a more global world and the ability to travel very freely we're going to have more disease outbreaks. Nurses are definitely needed."

"The higher the education the nurse has the better the patient outcomes are."

Northeastern State offers multiple ways for nurses to advance their careers no matter where they are in their profession.

### RN to BSN

As the first RN to BSN program in Oklahoma, NSU is committed to a bold vision and a culture of learning and discovery.

The next application date begins December 28 with classes starting January 11.

NSU offers an online RN to BSN program that can be completed in as few as 10 months. There are no prerequisite courses, and you can apply while you are completing your associate's degree or nursing

program.

The curriculum consists of 30 upper-division credit hours and is designed to build on your previous education and experience and prepare you for a professional nursing career. The program will also provide a strong foundation for graduate education in nursing.

Major areas of emphasis include family nursing, community health, leadership, and research. Graduates are prepared to provide primary health care in diverse settings; to provide education to individuals, families, and community groups; and to continue lifelong learning.

### MSN Administrative Leadership

NSU offers an online Master of Science in Administrative Leadership in Nursing program that can be completed in as few as 12 months. The program has six start dates offered each year and 7-week, 100% online courses.

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### MSN Nursing Education

The Master of Science in Nursing Education online program at Northeastern State University can be completed in as few as 12 months through 7-week courses and six start dates each year. Coursework is 100% online, and the program will give you the knowledge and credentials you need to plan curriculum and facilitate learning.

You will learn to not only teach in diploma, practical nursing, associate, and baccalaureate degree nursing programs, but to also provide continuing nursing education (CNE) in academic, clinical and healthcare settings.

### MSN Nursing Informatics

The online Master of Science in Nursing in Nursing Informatics program offers six start dates each


year with 7-week courses and prepares you for opportunities to work as a consultant in public, private or corporate settings. The coursework for this online program is delivered 100% online and can be completed in as few as 12 months.

"It's a program where nurses are working more with the technical aspects of nursing and the electronic healthcare record and helping nurses meld with IT," Fenton said. "Students learn how to data mine and dig into large data repositories and pull out information that will be meaningful and useful for whatever project they're working on."

Fenton said it was the flexibility that NSU offered that saved her. But it's just one of the advantages.

"Our connection and engagement with students," she said. "We are very flexible. We understand the online students' needs because we ourselves have been online students. Nurses typically work full-time jobs so when it's time to take time out for our education sometimes things come up."

"Our faculty is very flexible, especially with Covid 19."



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## RANKING

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is ranked at No. 11 in the nation with \$2.2 million in NIH funding, which is especially notable given that family medicine departments typically receive less funding from the NIH and more from other agencies, such as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The department is also a leader in funding from those other agencies, said Director of Research Zsolt Nagykaladi, Ph.D.

Research projects in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine often include collaborators in the community, as well as researchers from other disciplines of medicine and from other colleges at the OU Health Sciences Center. Three current NIH-funded projects address cancer by assessing and improving the processes involved in a patient's screening and treatment. In a partnership with the Choctaw Nation, researchers are designing and testing a new care delivery process to improve the rate of lung cancer screening using low-dose CT. In this type of community-engaged research, members of the Choctaw Nation are deeply involved in the design and creation of the intervention, in addition to their

patients benefiting from an improved care delivery system.

Another grant involves collaborations with several tribal nations across Oklahoma and the United States, all working to improve the rate of colorectal cancer screening and follow-up care. Screening rates in tribal nations are lower than rates in the general population, and there are challenges to follow-up care. If a polyp or malignancy is discovered during a colonoscopy in a tribal health system, for example, patients face hurdles related to the referral process or because of the next stage of treatment would require travel to another community.

Another grant focuses on cancer survivorship, specifically facilitating communication between the patient's oncologist and primary care physician once active cancer treatment is complete. Communication barriers remain among medical disciplines that traditionally do not work together, and too often the patient is caught in the middle and feels overwhelmed at having to navigate both areas of healthcare, Nagykaladi said.

"We also need to better understand the most effective content of a survivorship plan so that a primary care physician can resume monitoring the patient, but still communicate

with the oncologist," he said. "The treatment of chronic conditions like heart disease or diabetes, for example, should be viewed in a new light following cancer treatment."

The Department of Ophthalmology, which is housed within Dean McGee Eye Institute, ranked No. 19 in NIH funding with \$6.4 million. Most researchers in the department have one or more grants from the National Eye Institute, and several grants also support training for early-career investigators and acquiring state-of-the-art equipment.

Researchers bring deep expertise to their investigations of the mechanisms that underpin blinding diseases. One researcher focuses on autoimmune uveitis, and his grant supports the generation of a novel line of genetically altered mice whose ocular cells can be easily visualized and tracked. This will allow him to better understand the dynamics of the immune response during autoimmune uveitis and develop therapeutics for that disease.

Another researcher studies how the cells of the retina communicate with one another, which is fundamentally important for the regulation of their functions. The insulin-like growth factor 1 receptor is a key factor

in several cellular functions of rod and cone photoreceptors, cells whose functionality is critical for vision.

The body's immune response to viral infections of the central nervous system is another well-funded area of ophthalmology research. Currently, researchers are focusing on the genesis of lymphatic and blood vessels into the cornea during herpes simplex viral infection, as well as identifying mediators that drive these events. These mediators can be inhibited with novel therapeutics, which may prevent recurrence and preserve vision.

The Department of Ophthalmology has a P30 Core Grant for Vision Research, which supports training, expertise and equipment for 24 vision research labs at the OU Health Sciences Center and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

"This core support has undoubtedly been a driving factor in recruiting new vision researchers to the OU Health Sciences Center and new non-vision researchers to vision science," said Michelle Callegan, Ph.D., Director of Vision Research and director of the core grant. "It also has kept OUHSC at the forefront of vision research and vision as one of the most highly funded groups on our campus."

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# CAREERS IN NURSING

## FOLLOWING YOUR DREAMS: THE PIEDMONT CLINIC

Vickie Jenkins, Staff Writer

When you enter The Piedmont Clinic, you will be greeted by a friendly staff. One of the nurses that you will see is Cassie Chapman, Clinical Nurse Specialist. Cassie is a resident of Piedmont, who has worked in health care since 1995. She is a Licensed Practical Nurse who has experience in radiologic technology, phlebotomy and direct patient care in both inpatient and outpatient settings. She joined The Piedmont Clinic in 2018 and plans to complete an LPN to NP bridge to become a provider at the practice.

Cassie grew up in Elkhart, Kansas, a small town north of Guymon, Oklahoma. Asking Cassie what she wanted to be when she was a little girl, she replied, "I always wanted to be a

cosmetologist but as I got older, I knew that I wanted to take care of people. I wanted to be a nurse. I set that as my goal and knew that someday I would reach it. I attended Seward County Community College in Liberal, Kansas and continued to reach my goal."

"My grandmother was a grandfathered in CAN/nurse on med/surge for forty plus years, my mother was a CNA, physical therapy assistant and administrative assistant to DON. At sixteen years old, I started at the hospital on the med/surge as a ward clerk, CNA. I floated to nursing homes, and clinics until 2004. As an LPN, I worked med/surge, ER until 2011 when I moved to Oklahoma City and have been in the clinic setting

ever since," Cassie commented.

"The hospital was a rural hospital so as an LPN, I did most everything an RN did aside from cardiac ICU, thiamine drip and start blood. I assisted in the ER, assisting when needed, seeing burn patients, cardiac patients, all disease processes and many MVA with multiple system trauma. I am IV certified and continue to administer IV fluids in clinic settings when needed. I love working for Dr. Corman and enjoy getting to know the patients.

Asking Cassie if she had any mentors in nursing school, she replied, "As far as mentors throughout school, the nurses that were around me while working at the hospital in Kansas were my mentors and they influenced me to move forward,

supporting me in my nursing career. Even though I have moved away, those nurses still support me. They taught me everything I know and I appreciate each one of them. Most of those nurses have moved on to become director of nurses in hospitals or nursing instructors. I still stay in contact with some of them."

"Here at the office, we stay busy. We see about five hundred patients a month. My day starts out as a phlebotomist. I draw anywhere from two to fifteen labs every morning in between procedures. I stay busy with working on patients medication refills, phone calls, prior authorization for medications and referrals to specialist. I will also do injections or anything

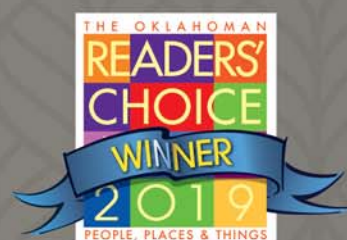
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## DREAM

Continued from Page 4

that is required during an office visit if ordered by the physician and an occasional x-ray," Cassie said.

What is your biggest reward as a nurse? Cassie replied, "The biggest reward as a nurse is a patient being satisfied with the care they receive. On the other hand, the biggest challenge or disappointments has been the lack of LPN's in the hospital setting."

Cassie recently remarried in 2019. Her ex husband was killed in a car accident August of 2004. It was one day before Cassie was to take her LPN NClex. That is the reason that Cassie did not continue to the RN program the next year. That is when Cassie knew that it was the time to stay at home and raise her kids, spending time with them, giving them lots of love and attention. "As of May 2020, I decided to be a stay-at-home mom. I delivered a little girl in November. With two little boys at home, five and six years old, I decided that I would enjoy spending time with her family. She considers that precious time as her favorite hobby!

"As of May, I started taking more prerequisites to complete my nursing career. My goal is to become a Nurse Practitioner



Finding a friendly staff at The Piedmont Clinic, one exceptional nurse is Cassie Chapman, Clinical Nurse Specialist. Cassie has been a nurse for sixteen years and continues to further her career.

and practice in Florida. My retirement plan," Cassie said with a smile. As Cassie continues to set goals and reach them, I am sure that someday, Cassie will be in Florida, knowing that she accomplished what she set out to do.

# The Piedmont Clinic

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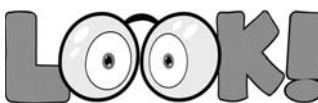
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# OU Health Sciences Center Receives \$5 Million Federal Grant to Broaden COVID-19 Testing Statewide

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center has been awarded a \$5 million federal grant supplement to deploy COVID-19 testing sites in underserved and rural areas of the state, and to work with primary care clinics across Oklahoma to test more patients as the pandemic enters the winter months.

The supplement to the Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translational Resources grant is from the National Institutes of Health and will leverage the OU Health Sciences Center's extensive network of relationships and partners throughout Oklahoma. As cases of COVID-19 surge in Oklahoma, quick and accessible testing is more important than ever, said family physician Steven Crawford, M.D., Senior Associate Dean at the OU College of Medicine.

"This grant, and the outreach it will allow us to do, is especially

important in Oklahoma right now as more and more people are being infected by COVID-19, and as we enter the traditional season of flu and other respiratory illnesses," Crawford said. "Increased testing will play a critical role in slowing the spread of this coronavirus, and it is important that we differentiate COVID-19 infections from the flu and other respiratory infections." For one component of the project, the OU Health Sciences Center is partnering with the Oklahoma State Department of Health and Public Health Institute of Oklahoma to hold approximately 250 mobile testing events across Oklahoma, in areas where testing has not been widely available. Other partners in the effort include the Latino Community Development Agency, the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, the Chickasaw Nation, County Health Improvement Organizations, and the Oklahoma

Primary Healthcare Improvement Cooperative.

Another component of the grant is to work with up to 50 primary care clinics across Oklahoma so that they can immediately test for COVID-19 in their practices. The grant will provide testing materials and personal protective equipment, along with any assistance needed for clinic personnel to integrate the process into the ongoing demands of their daily work.

"By increasing rapid testing opportunities across the state, we hope that more people are able to

be tested," said Timothy VanWagoner, Ph.D., administrative director of the Oklahoma Clinical and Translational Science Institute, the OU Health Sciences Center program directing the grant. "Along with testing efforts, we are conducting surveys – of healthcare providers and people who get tested -- to gain insight into the testing barriers that may exist for various populations of people. For example, we know many people cannot afford to take off work for days while they wait for results of the test.

"We are part of the national Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics – Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) consortium trying to better understand what affects a person's acceptance of testing, which will also be important when vaccines are available," VanWagoner added. "Furthermore, that data will also help us respond more quickly and efficiently in the future if another pandemic occurs."

## Have yourself a Covid-free holiday season

For the holidays during a pandemic, you can't beat home, sweet home.

But if opening gifts over Zoom doesn't sound sufficient, experts at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation have recommendations to ensure cheer is all you spread this holiday season.

**1. Timely testing:** "This is not the year to dismiss something as a common cold or allergies. The only way to rule out coronavirus is with a test. Even if you feel well, a test will show whether you're asymptomatic," said OMRF President Stephen Prescott, M.D.

But don't proceed without other precautions if a test is negative, Prescott added. "Viruses build over days, and a test only tells us what viral load was at the moment a swab was inserted into your nose."

**2. Quarant-team effort:** End-of-year holidays traditionally include longer stays, close quarters and indoor activities. That's a family recipe for virus transmission, said OMRF immunologist Eliza Chakravarty, M.D., but those gathering can make it safer for one another with advance planning.

"If you're attending extended in-person holiday events with people who don't live with you, strictly avoiding contact with people outside of your home for two weeks before the event is the safest way to do so," said Chakravarty.

**3. Wheels over wings:** "Studies have shown airplanes themselves are relatively safe because of air filtration," said Prescott. "But a busy airport presents a significant risk with the potential for long lines and crowds."

Driving is the best option for virus-free travel. If you must fly, Prescott suggests minimizing contact with others: Check in for your flight at home, bring your own food and stick to a carry-on bag.

**4. Wearing is caring:** "We'd get coal in our stockings if we didn't remind everyone — one more time — to wear a mask," said Chakravarty. "Any time you're with people who live outside of your household, everyone should mask up."

**5. Stay ho-ho-home:** With virus numbers surging across the country, the safest bet is to enjoy the holidays at home. And, says Prescott, remember that this is temporary. "Santa's cookies might need to go on the front porch in 2020, but life will return to normal. Vaccines are on the horizon. Sacrificing traditions this year may ensure your whole family can gather next year."



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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2020 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

# Health Care Training is a Core Area of Francis Tuttle

Among the most highly regarded of the many career training programs offered at Francis Tuttle Technology Center are those in the health sciences. From programs for adults looking for a new career, to those designed to prepare high school students to earn a living while exploring other health career options, there are many available to choose from to help people who are considering pursuing a career in the helping professions of health care. Francis Tuttle has experienced faculty who have worked extensively in the industry, with state of the art equipment used in health and medical facilities throughout the metro area and around the country, and a dedicated focus to help fill a looming skills gap. Below is a brief description of each of Francis Tuttle's program offerings.

The **Pre-Nursing** program for adult and high school students is an exciting opportunity to begin exploring a health care pathway and see what careers

are available with additional training. Students gain knowledge about the broad spectrum of health professions. Through the program, students can obtain certification as a Nurse Aide (CNA) and an Advanced Unlicensed Assistant (AUA).

The unique **Respiratory Care** program for adult students works cooperatively with Oklahoma City Community College, whereupon completion, students receive a Certificate of Completion from Francis Tuttle and an Associate of Applied Science degree from OCCC. Students are trained to assist with the treatment of individuals with pulmonary and cardiac disorders, and obtain eligibility to take the national examinations to earn a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential and apply for an Oklahoma Respiratory Care Practitioners License.

The **Practical Nursing** program prepares adult students to provide quality health care in a variety of settings.

Three enrollment options are available to best fit student needs: full-time, blended online, and the 1+1 program. Upon completion, students are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

The unique **Orthotic & Prosthetic Technician** program, along with certification in Pedorthics, each for adult students, is a hands on program to prepare students to assist the disabled by fabricating the orthopedic braces (orthoses) and artificial limbs (prostheses) necessary for their rehabilitation. Pedorthics offers specialized training to manage comprehensive pedorthic patient care for all injuries and pathologies involving patient feet. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the American Board of Certification (ABC) national certification exam to be recognized as a Certified Technician in Prosthetics and Orthotics (CTPO). After training and one thousand hours of work experience, students may take the Pedorthic Certification Exam (ABC or BOC) to be a Certified Pedorthist (C.ped).

The **Dental Assisting** program prepares adult students to become



members of the dental health care team. Dental assistants have the opportunity to enhance the efficiency of the dentist in the delivery of oral health care. Upon completion of the program, students can obtain certification as a Dental Assistant (CDA).

Each program offers the potential for a high paying career and Francis Tuttle is dedicated to serving the growing demand for a highly qualified workforce in the health care industry. If you're interested, or know someone who is looking to expand their horizons through the expanding field of medical care, check out these and other programs at [www.FrancisTuttle.edu](http://www.FrancisTuttle.edu) and get started on your future today!

Visit [www.FrancisTuttle.edu](http://www.FrancisTuttle.edu) for more information.

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## ANA President Responds to False Claims

The following statement is attributable to Ernest J. Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN, President, American Nurses Association (ANA):

"To claim that health care professionals are inflating the number of COVID-19 cases or deaths to make more money is outrageous, baseless, and dangerous.

Nurses, physicians, and other frontline health care workers have endured brutally long shifts covered in stifling personal protective equipment (PPE). Others have faced long days and weeks caring for COVID-19 patients, working without sufficient PPE, or forced to reuse PPE multiple times, increasing their risk of infection, or bringing the virus home to those they love, illness and even death.

More than 350 nurses in the United States have died as a result of COVID-19, many others have been infected and hospitalized. All have faced extreme stress and mental anguish.

As cases and hospitalizations surge across this country, our nation's leaders have a responsibility to call for and model public health measures to stem the spread of the disease. They should follow science and the guidance of health care professionals.

Nurses, physicians, and other frontline health care workers have demonstrated courage, commitment, and grit in responding to this pandemic, risking their own health and safety to care for others. To try to slander or place blame on these dedicated health care professionals is a shameless, blatant lie."

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Laura Thompson, RN

*If you were  
one of Santa's  
elves, what  
would your  
name be?*



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Tiffany Smith, RN

Glitsy  
Sassypants



Diana Cruz, Unit  
Coordinator

## Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health Launches Platform for Kids to Give to Kids

Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health has unveiled Kids Club, an innovative and exciting way for kids to give back to kids. The program is part of the newly launched Oklahoma Children's Hospital Office of Philanthropy.

"At Oklahoma Children's Hospital, our highest priority is to provide exceptional patient- and family-centered care and to improve the lives of children throughout the region," said Jon Hayes, President of Oklahoma Children's Hospital. "It is through gifts of every size that we are able to provide this type of care."

Oklahoma Children's Hospital Kids Club offers easy-to-use, online tools for kids to create their own fundraising projects, track them, and celebrate their progress as they pursue their passion for philanthropy to help other kids in the community. Club membership benefits include a special T-shirt, stickers, gift certificate to local small business for a sweet treat and internal celebration of their meaningful philanthropy.

Fundraising efforts may be inspired by a special birthday or holiday, sponsored by civic or religious groups, athletic clubs, homeschool or public school cohorts, to name a few. Instructions for establishing individual or group fundraising activities can be found at [ouhealth.com/kidsclub](http://ouhealth.com/kidsclub). "Something magical happens when one child gives to another," said Anne Clouse, OU Health hospitals Chief Development Officer. "Their desire to share and give back is a gentle reminder of the miracles we can infuse if we simply create a bridge that connects kids at the hospital with kids who want to make a difference."

While Clouse anticipates a large percentage of gifts to be in-kind donations such as toys, games, art supplies and other amenities for hospitalized children, monies raised through Kids Club will be administered by Oklahoma Children's Hospital Office of Philanthropy. Cash donations will be reinvested into existing programs such as the hospital volunteers' Toy Cart, special events, technology and items for The Zone, a community-funded 6,000-square-foot play-and-learning haven with programming directed by Child Life services.

Clouse shared the genesis behind the club's inception. "Oklahoma Children's Hospital Office of Philanthropy wanted to wrap a formal program around this movement that empowers children to practice the art of empathy and giving at an early age. We believe in the healing power of philanthropy, and there's no better way to foster that notion than by providing a pathway for children to give to their peers."

To learn more about Kids Club and become involved, visit [ouhealth.com/kidsclub](http://ouhealth.com/kidsclub) or contact Oklahoma Children's Hospital Office of Philanthropy giving@[oumedicine.com](mailto:oumedicine.com). The website also features stories of a few charter members of Kids Club, visit [ouhealth.com/kidsclub](http://ouhealth.com/kidsclub) to learn more

Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health is a part of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit OU Medicine, Inc., providing state-of-the-art healthcare services for children throughout the state and surrounding region. Donations to Oklahoma Children's Hospital, Kids Club and OU Health are tax deductible.



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# SITUATION UPDATE: COVID-19

Cases	229,353
*Total Cumulative Negative Specimens to Date	2,091,366
*Total Cumulative Number of Specimens to Date	2,328,039
Acute Care OSDH Licensed Facility Hospitalizations	1,547
Other Types of Facilities Hospitalizations	120
Total Cumulative Hospitalizations	13,969
Total Cumulative Deaths	2,007

- This week, 77 Oklahoma counties are in the “orange” risk level for the COVID-19 Risk Level System. OSDH continues to monitor closely the statewide hospitalization trends for COVID-19.
- The COVID-19 Risk Level System will be updated every Friday in the Situation Update at 11:00 a.m. This week’s map can be seen in this update below the test results chart.
- As OSDH continues to meet with stakeholders across the state, the COVID-19 Risk Level System is subject to further revisions as science and public health guidance advances with the ongoing pandemic.
- As of this advisory, there are 229,353 cases of COVID-19 in Oklahoma.
- 2,925 is today’s 7-day rolling average for the number of new cases reported.
- \* There are 27 additional deaths identified to report.
- \* One in Canadian County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
- \* One in Comanche County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
- \* One in Kay County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
- \* Four in Muskogee County, one female in the 50-64 age group, two females in the 65 or older age group, one male in the 50-64 age group.
- \* Five in Oklahoma County, one female in the 65 or older age group, four males in the 65 or older age group.
- \* One in Osage County, one female in the 50-64 age group.
- \* One in Payne County, one male in the 65 or older age group.
- \* Three in Rogers County, one female in the 50-64 age group, two females in the 65 or older age group.
- \* One in Sequoyah County, one male in the 65 or older age group.
- \* Eight in Tulsa County, five females in the 65 or older age group, three males in the 65 or older age group.
- \* One in Wagoner County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
- There are 2,007 total deaths in the state.
- For more information, visit <https://oklahoma.gov/covid19.html>.

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

\*\*\*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. \*As of 2020-12-11 at 7:00 a.m.



# Leading Organizations Partner to Announce American Nurse Heroes Campaign



The American Nurses Association (ANA), Al Roker Entertainment, and HealthCom Media, publisher of American Nurse Journal, have joined forces to produce a multi-channel campaign to celebrate the heroic work of nurses and the positive impact they have on our nation in this time of crisis—and beyond. The American Nurse Heroes campaign will present true stories of nurses on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic in the journal, online, and through a network television event.

The campaign will highlight the magnitude of nurses' impact on society and the American healthcare system. Numbering more than 4.2 million strong, nurses are the largest group of healthcare professionals in the country. They are with patients and families in all settings where healthcare is delivered, and they touch people's lives from birth to the end of life. American Nurse Heroes has just released a public service announcement (PSA) that highlights this work: American Nurse Heroes PSA.

Globally, the nursing profession

marks a milestone in 2020, as the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife in honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. ANA joins with WHO and global colleagues in extending the Year of the Nurse and Midwife into 2021 because of the impact of the pandemic. The recognition will build on the increased visibility of nurses' contributions from 2020, and the expansion of National Nurses Week to the month of May as Nurses Month.

"I'm honored that ANA and HealthCom Media have selected Al Roker Entertainment to tell these amazing stories," commented television personality Al Roker. "As a New Yorker, I am well aware and appreciative of the heroic actions nurses perform daily, let alone during this global pandemic. Their first-person stories are real, authentic, and vital—and give much-needed insight into the frontlines of healthcare."

"The campaign will inspire viewers to share their own stories

of how nurses have made a lasting impression on their lives, make the case to policymakers about the importance of investing in nursing, and inspire young people to choose nursing as a career," said ANA Enterprise acting-CEO Debbie Hatmaker, PhD, RN, FAAN.

The public will have an opportunity to support the American Nurses Foundation's non-profit efforts to show their appreciation and support for nurses who are caring for patients during this pandemic, despite significant risks to their well-being and safety. You can donate here: [www.thanknurses.org](http://www.thanknurses.org)

"It's long overdue to tell stories of these selfless professionals and their positive impact on society," said Greg Osborne, president and founder of HealthCom Media. "We are pleased to bring nurses' stories to life."



ANA Chief Nursing Officer Debbie Hatmaker, PhD, RN, FAAN.



Our black belt angel. No amount of words can describe the love that Austin gave to our lives. Shortly before he died, we were discussing a friend's little girl that was on the heart transplant list. I asked Austin and his 16-year-old brother if they wanted to be donors. Austin's response was, "I won't be needing them any more, so sure!" That conversation gave us the courage to honor his wishes a few months later. Working out with friends, he collapsed with a heart condition we never knew he had. At 12 years old he left this world too soon, but showed us how to live every day to the fullest. After 4 years in karate he had just received his red belt, and after his death his instructor honored him with his black belt. We are so grateful to be able to call him our son. He will always be our "black belt angel." Love, Dad, Mom and Dillon

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