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Encouragement Along the Way



Summit Medical Center

Kenny Wythe, RN, BSN works in Med-Surg at Summit Medical Center.

by Vickie Jenkins, Staff Writer

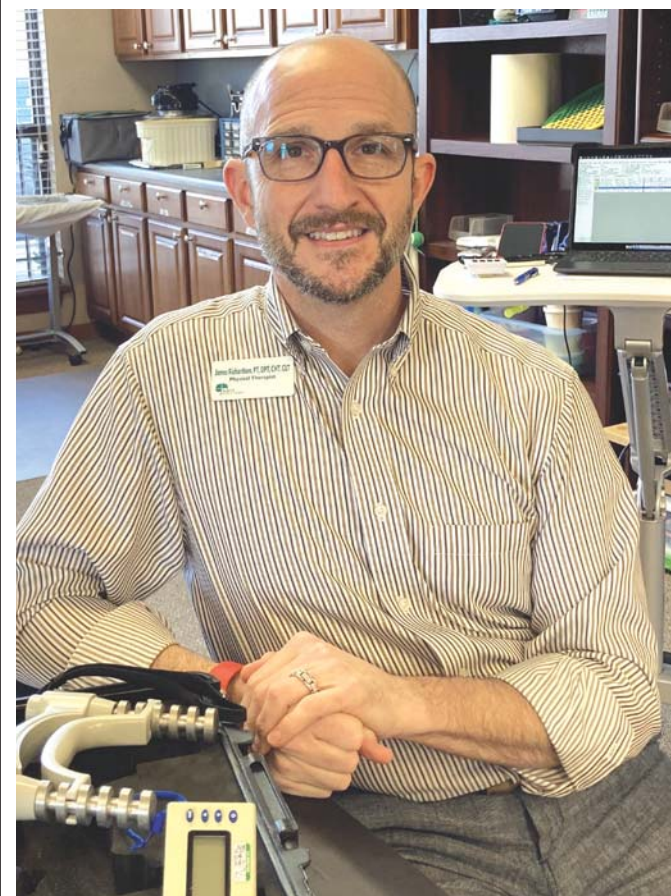
Summit Medical Center is located in Edmond, OK. Here, you will receive quality care for inpatient and for patients undergoing surgical procedures. One of the exceptional nurses that you will find here is Kenny Wythe, RN, BSN.

Growing up in OKC, graduating high school in Yukon, OK, Kenny's path in the medical

field began when he attended Canadian Valley Vo-tech where he earned his LPN. He continued his education at OSU-OKC to obtain his RN Associates degree and then attended SWOSU where he received his BSN.

Kenny was influenced to be a nurse by
See WYTHE Page 2

Virus survivor pays it forward as research volunteer



Oklahoma City physical therapist James Richardson still feels the effects of Covid-19 nine months after testing positive for the virus. He is participating in OMRF's Covid-19 antibody study, helping researchers understand the body's immune response to the virus.

When Covid-19 hit James Richardson, it hit him hard. Now, the 45-year-old physical therapist is using his experience with the virus to help others.

A distance runner who also regularly lifts weights, the Oklahoma City resident didn't fit any of the traditional risk factors associated with Covid-19. But shortly after a work exposure at his clinic in March, the virus had him fighting for his life.

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WYTHE

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his family. He grew up in the Y2K age, also known as the end of the world. At the time, he was working on diesel trucks and going to EMT school. His great grandmother had crippling Rheumatoid Arthritis and needed help at home. "I would go to her house everyday after school and help with her daily activities until my grandmother got home," Kenny explained.

Kenny decided to be a nurse twenty years ago when he finished his EMT. "I enjoyed being an EMT but I wanted to do more to help patients," he said. Kenny has worked in many areas of nursing from Geriatrics, Med-Surg, ER, ICU, PACU and Hospice. "I have enjoyed traveling around Oklahoma as an agency nurse working in rural medicine. I chose to work at SMC not only is it close to home, allowing for more time with my wife and kids, but also allows me to use my skills that I've learned in smaller rural areas hospital settings and able to lend my ICU, MED-

Surg and ER skills." Kenny feels like the setting of SMC is that of a close family and all disciplines of healthcare work closely together. This allows for a more direct and expedient care given to patients from the time they are referred to the facility to the time they are discharged and followed upon.

Sometimes, going through nursing school can be tough and one feels like they are all alone and not sure where to turn. That is when encouraging words are needed. Perhaps, from a professor or a co-worker and that person soon becomes your mentor; someone that believes in you. While Kenny was attending school in the evenings and working night shift at Kingfisher Hospital, he met his mentor; Becky Pratt, RN. "Since I had just received my nurse license, the management didn't really want a new nurse working for them. Becky knew my work ethic as a CNA and my passion for healthcare. She took me under her wing and showed me the ropes. I was able to continue my education to become an RN," Kenny commented.

Kenny has been with SMC for two and half years. He possesses the qualities of a good nurse; caring, compassion, empathy, effective communication, problem solving skills and a willingness to continue education to meet patients needs. He usually sees about sixty patients a month, using all of these qualities.

The Coronavirus has taken quite a toll on all of us. To a frontline worker, it has changed their lives in many ways. "As a nurse, many are social isolated, killing the soul, mind and spirit. We all fear that our family or friends will become a victim of this nasty virus. Another concern is whether we will stay employed or be able to care for our families. I am thankful that Summit Medical Center took care of every employee, making sure our personal needs were met so we could continue providing quality care to our patients," Kenny said. "This virus has changed daily lives; missing out on traveling, family gatherings and visiting friends. All of this can be very challenging. Personally, this virus has also


changed me in a positive way too; by bringing me closer to my faith and family. It truly makes me grateful for each day the Lord has given me," Kenny added.


"As a nurse, we need to take a few extra precautions as far as our home life goes. My wife is an early childhood development teacher and teaches from our home. I face an even greater challenge now ensuring the safety of not only my family but now her students and their families as well. Increased precautions include a decontamination area in my garage from when I get home from work and we continually monitor the children's temperature and health of the family as well.

Summing up Kenny's life in three words, he replied, "Awaken, enjoy, repeat."



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VIRUS

Continued from Page 1

Following his recovery, he's now participating in antibody research at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

"It was such a miserable experience. If there's anything I can do to help others avoid that or experience it less severely, that's what I'm going to do," he said.

Infected by a patient in his physical therapy clinic, Richardson soon developed a fever of almost 103 degrees and blacked out repeatedly. He was admitted to the emergency room at Integris Baptist Medical Center and moved to isolation in the hospital's Covid unit.

"It felt like my chest was tightening more with every breath, like I had a constrictor snake wrapped around me," he remembered. For a week in the hospital, he cycled in and out of consciousness.

The low point came when his oxygen levels crashed, and the ventilator team was called. "I was able to muster the word 'no' when

they asked to vent me," he said. "I was afraid of the long-term consequences."

Fortunately, Richardson pulled through without the ventilator. But nine months later, he continues to feel the lingering effects of the virus.

"I'm still dealing with things that don't feel right. I can't breathe well, and some of the cognitive effects are scary," said Richardson. "I find myself trying to explain something to a patient or a colleague and can't find the words; I just want to slap myself on the back of the head and yell, 'Spit it out already!'"

Once he'd cleared the virus from his body for a sufficient period, Richardson began donating plasma to the Oklahoma Blood Institute for use in treating other Covid-19 patients. He also volunteered for research at OMRF, where scientists are studying his antibodies as part of a two-year federal grant.

"Our goal is to understand people's differing immune responses to the virus," said Linda Thompson, Ph.D., one of the leaders of the

project at OMRF. Using blood donated by volunteers, the scientists are looking for biological clues that might identify those individuals most likely to experience a severe response to the virus.

This information can be used to develop potential treatments and to inform vaccine design and improvement over the coming years.

"Someone like James volunteering isn't just valuable," said Thompson. "It's crucial in helping us understand

the effects of antibodies in fighting this virus."

When Richardson learned what taking part in the OMRF research entailed, he says the decision to participate was easy.

"All I need to do is show up to help and give a little blood?" he said. "Count me in!"

If you've recently recovered from Covid-19 and are interested in volunteering for OMRF's antibody research study, please call 405-271-7221

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CAREERS IN NURSING

SMALL FACILITY: BIG COMPASSION

Vickie Jenkins, Staff Writer

Heritage Manor Nursing Center is located on Barr Ave. off of 39th street. As though tucked away, it is a small facility consisting of fifty-two residents, but big in compassion. With a friendly and loving staff, Kyla Barnes, LPN, IP, ADON keeps things moving along in a professional manner. Kyla has been a nurse for thirty-four years and has always had a desire to care for others.

Growing up in Fort Smith, Arkansas and Woodward, OK, Kyla had dreams of being her father's assistant in the construction business. Later, she knew that she wanted to be a teacher. Being a nurse entered the pictures when she was fourteen years old and her brother was sixteen. Her brother

became a diabetic and that is when she knew being a nurse was the career for her.

"One reason I became a nurse was a way to support my son after my divorce. I enjoy working with the seniors. Just visiting with them each day is my reward from them. Sharing conversations with them does us both some good. Seeing their face light up from a simple smile, or hug is amazing," Kyla said. "Sometimes, just being a listening ear for them can mean the world to them," she added.

"My first job was at Moorland Nursing Center in Mooreland, OK. It was a long term care facility and I enjoyed working with the elderly. I worked there for eight months until I moved to OKC. My father was my

greatest influence in my life. He always stood beside me with encouragement and support. I feel like it was those strong, encouraging words that set me on the path to being a nurse," Kyla said.

Asking Kyla what qualities make a good nurse, she replied, "I think a good nurse needs to have plenty of flexibility and be ready for anything at the last minute. A nurse needs to think outside the box. Empathy, commitment, sense of humor, communication skills, being respectful, and being organized are all important. Also, being able to learn a little more each day makes for a good nurse."

"The biggest challenge that I see in the medical field is trying to figure out a way to care for

my patients, giving them what they need although being told that it can't be done because there is no pay source. In my opinion, I feel if a person needs nursing home care, that their age should not be a deciding factor. Anything medical should be covered by Medicare and Medicaid. Perhaps, someday, things will get better regarding care for seniors," Kyla stated.

What advice would you give to someone going into the medical field? Kyla replied, "I would tell them to be sure their heart is ready. Remember, this is no eight to twelve hour day. There are times when things happen and the shift becomes longer. You have to be flexible! Be prepared; you will not be able to turn off

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BARNES

Continued from Page 4

the nurse in you when you get home. You will always be trying to solve problems from work, no matter what. Just know that nursing is what you want to do. I'll have to admit, it gives you a feeling of accomplishment, knowing that you have cared for so many lives and it is the best reward that you will ever receive. The resident's smile means more than anything. There's nothing else like it."

When Kyla was in nursing school, she received an award for state level on a project on child abuse with HOSA. "I traveled to the national HOSA in Philadelphia as one of Oklahoma's representatives," Kyla said.

Asking Kyla to describe herself, she answered, "I am a down-to-earth person and family oriented. I love animals! I like cultural events, reading and movies. I have lived in several states and consider South Carolina my favorite, as my home. I am a nurturing person and consider my job as the perfect job for me. I am both a leader and a follower. I am told that I am a good leader, yet, will follow a good leader. I believe in working as a team."

"Like everyone else, the Coronavirus has changed my life. I stay home more and miss going to the movies. I practice social distancing, wash my hands frequently and wearing a mask



Kyla Barnes, LPN, IP, ADON knows the importance of talking and listening to the residents as she cares for them at Heritage Manor Nursing Center.

are all important factors."

Summing up Kyla's life in four words, she replied, "Workaholic, determined, colorful and rewarding."



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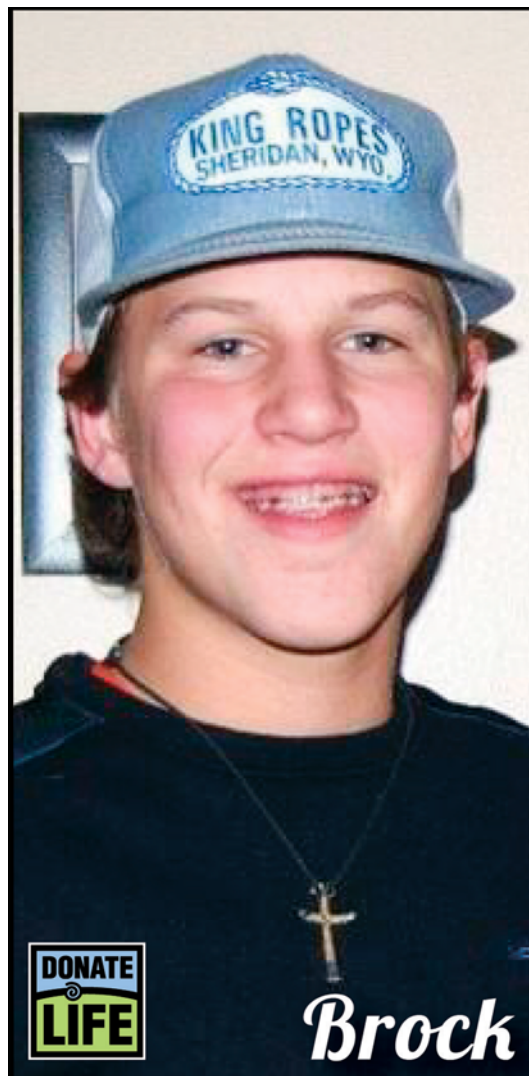
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This initiative began two years ago, when the FNP program's director, Sheryl Stansifer, learned that many students at Will Rogers were returning to school in August without a completed sports physical. The lack of such a physical, which typically costs \$20 or more, means a young person cannot participate in school sports.

The first year Stansifer and her FNP students went to Will Rogers, they completed 160 physicals. The next year, that figure climbed to 200. The school's athletic director, Krystel Markwardt, enthused about the impact of "this wonderful program," noting that "our students come from diverse economic backgrounds, and their families couldn't afford to pay for physicals. The FNP students work quickly and efficiently, and their efforts mean our athletes are able to compete in the summer and be prepared for early fall sports." As Stansifer pointed out, the issue is "bigger than playing basketball or joining the swim team. For many kids, getting involved in sports means they will stay in school and graduate."

The benefits of this service-learning project are tangible for both the young athletes and the FNP students. Sports physicals are a common component of primary care, and all of TU's FNP students must complete pediatric assessments and be checked off on sports physicals. Providing sports physicals to the Will Rogers students enables the future FNP's to satisfy that requirement. In addition, Stansifer commented, delivering these physicals "enables faculty members to assess FNP students' interactions with the patients/athletes and their

ability to complete the forms accurately. Because so many health care teams comprise a variety of professionals, having an opportunity to collaborate with the school's athletic trainer adds a critical interdisciplinary component to their development."

Two of the FNP students who participated in service learning are Alejandra Paredes and Vicky Cha. Originally from Peru (she moved to the United States when she was 13), Paredes has been a registered nurse (RN) since 2014. Cha is a first-generation

Hmong-American who grew up in California. She has been an RN since 2015.

"I always knew my career end-goal was to become a nurse practitioner (NP)," Paredes said. "But I wanted to gain experience as an RN so I could become a better NP. I am looking forward to having more autonomy in the care that I deliver to my patients, and it's important to me to be able to help them focus on health maintenance and disease prevention, while being mindful of individuals' emotional, physical and spiritual health." Cha has her gaze set on working as an FNP in urgent care. "Seeing NPs' selflessness, commitment and integral role in patient care both inspired me and solidified my determination to pursue an advanced practice degree."

For Paredes, one of the benefits of TU's FNP program is the "huge relief" of not having to find a preceptor. She also cited the diverse network of clinical sites, which "serve as a great way for students to learn and implement their knowledge." Paredes recently spent a semester at a clinic caring for a largely underserved population where most of the patients spoke Spanish, which is her native language. Cha has a similar interest in bringing health care to people who are often on the margins. "I admire the TU School of Nursing's mission to not only cultivate students to become leaders in health care, but also to give back to their communities."

This is something Cha experienced first hand with the Will Rogers service-learning initiative, and which resonated on a personal level. "My parents were Hmong refugees and I grew up with minimal resources. One of the biggest struggles was not being able to take part in sports because my parents couldn't afford the fees and transportation. Providing free sports physicals for Will Rogers students, many of whom have a background similar to mine, exemplifies one of the most rewarding aspects of nursing: making a positive impact on another person's life." Reflecting on her experience providing physicals for these youth, Paredes arrived at a similar conclusion: "I believe that caring for others, regardless of social, racial or economic background, is a core value of nursing."



Family nurse practitioner students Alejandra Paredes and Vicky Cha demonstrate skill and compassion during a pediatric exam.

Public Continues to Rank Nurses as The Most Honest and Ethical Professionals

Nurses Still Rate Highest for Honesty and Ethics

Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields -- very high, high, average, low or very low. (% Very high/High)

	2019	2018	2017
	%	%	%
Nurses	85	84	82
Engineers	66	--	--
Medical doctors	65	67	65
Pharmacists	64	66	62
Dentists	61	--	--

he American public once again ranks nurses as the most honest and ethical professionals in Gallup's annual poll for the 19th consecutive year. This consistent ranking directly reflects the trust the public has in nurses and underscores the urgent need to continue to support and protect the nursing workforce. In addition

to practicing the precautions that prevent the spread of COVID-19, we must all seek out reliable sources of information to increase our confidence in COVID-19 vaccines as they are made available. This notable achievement in Gallup's annual poll takes on even more significance this year as nurses respond courageously

to the COVID-19 pandemic. "I am extremely proud of my fellow nurses," said ANA President Ernest Grant, PHD, RN, FAAN. "Nurses have been tested in every way imaginable during 2020. The world watched as nurses lost numerous patients and colleagues to a highly communicable, deadly virus while trying to protect and preserve their communities with limited resources and support. Nevertheless, through it all, nurses have consistently proven they are resilient, selfless, and compassionate, risking their health and safety for the common good. Therefore, nurses are undoubtedly deserving of the public's unwavering trust," said Grant. The American public rated nurses the highest among a host of professionals, including doctors, pharmacists, and grade schoolteachers. According to the poll, 89% of Americans rated nurses' honesty and ethical standards as "very high" or "high." The second highest-rated professionals, medical doctors, placed 12 percentage points behind nursing. "As we congratulate nurses, we must remember their tremendous sacrifices as they continue to serve on the frontlines of this pandemic, which has taken a heavy toll. ANA's top priority will remain ensuring that the nursing workforce is prepared, protected, and supported. For doing so is vital in the nation's ability to effectively respond to this virus, so we can all successfully recover better, faster, and stronger."

ANA Welcomes Passage of Critical COVID-19 Stimulus Bill; Will Provide Needed Support to Nation's Nurses

Passage of this year-end legislation is extremely welcome as our nation's nurses on the frontline of this pandemic need additional support. We are pleased to see an increase in funding for Title VIII programs and the National Institute of Nursing Research, as these are critical programs for the profession and our country. ANA is also pleased to see more funding for COVID-19 vaccines and testing. We will continue to work with Congress and the incoming Administration as the nation's nursing workforce will play a critical role in education and administration of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines to

the public. In addition, the Strategic National Stockpile will receive critical funding to ensure it is stocked, and incoming Administration officials will now provide a monthly report to appropriators on the inventory of personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators. This is a critical provision to ensure that the shortages and reuse of PPE experienced this past year never happens again. ANA also applauds Congress on finding a solution to end surprise billing. Specifically, we are pleased to see inclusion of the provider nondiscrimination implementation provision, which

will ensure that patients have access to quality care regardless of where they live by requiring insurers to treat providers fairly and prohibiting discrimination on the basis of provider type. We thank Congress and the Administration for the new and supplementary support and relief this bill will provide to our nation's nurses. However, we believe more must be done as we continue working to combat this pandemic. We welcome the opportunity to help ensure there is a robust public health infrastructure in place and our frontline health care workers have access to the PPE they need to keep themselves and their patients safe. We look forward to working with the 117th Congress and the incoming Administration in 2021 to ensure nurses have the resources and support needed to meet care demands and help end this pandemic.



NURSE TALK



I would watch my husband on his days off as he moved about the house.



Cassie Chapman, LPN

I would watch my roommate and her dog.



Shakena Powell, MOA

If you were an elf on the shelf, who would you be watching the most?

The Piedmont Clinic

I would watch Chloe, my dog.



Amber Meiwes, PAC

I would watch the Steelers, Browns, or Kansas City Chiefs football.



Pam Hernandez, MOA

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SITUATION UPDATE: COVID-19

Cases	306,771
*Total Cumulative Negative Specimens to Date (As of 12/31/20)	2,394,318
*Total Cumulative Number of Specimens to Date (As of 12/31/20)	2,691,172
Acute Care OSDH Licensed Facility Hospitalizations (As of 12/31/20)	1,750
Other Types of Facilities Hospitalizations (As of 12/31/20)	160
Total Cumulative Hospitalizations	17,493
Total Cumulative Deaths	2,552

- As of this advisory, there are 306,771 cases of COVID-19 in Oklahoma.
- 3,455 is today's 7-day rolling average for the number of new cases reported.
- There are 5 additional deaths identified to report.
 - * One in Cherokee County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
 - * One in Custer County, one male in the 65 or older age group.
 - * One in Garfield County, one male in the 65 or older age group.
 - * One in Garvin County, one male in the 65 or older age group.
 - * One in Oklahoma County, one male in the 50-64 age group.
- There are 2,552 total deaths in the state.
- Additional hospitalization data can be found in the Hospital Tiers report, published evenings Monday through Friday.
- For more information, visit <https://oklahoma.gov/covid19.html>.

*The total includes laboratory information provided to OSDH at the time of the report. As a result, counts are subject to change. 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 2021-1-04 at 7:00 a.m.

Norman Regional Names Providers, Nurse of the Year

Norman Regional Health System honored multiple providers with provider of the year awards for 2020.

Each year Norman Regional awards three physicians, an advanced practice provider and a nurse special awards voted on by members of the medical staff – the Physician Peer Award; Harold R. Belknap Jr., MD, Heart of Gold Service to Community Award; Outstanding Physician Award; Advanced Practice Provider of the Year, and Nurse of the Year. This year, all six Nurse of the Year finalists were honored during the ceremony for their dedication to their patients and their families during a difficult year.

This year's award ceremony was all virtual due to COVID, with only a select few leaders and honored providers in attendance.

Farhan Jawed, MD, Norman Regional's medical director of behavioral health services and chief of staff, led the presentation, starting off by thanking all healers for all they've done this year.

"This has been a very difficult year and probably if we all look at our medical careers, everyone would probably say this is the most difficult one. Lots of people have stepped up and they've done an amazing job with taking care of their patients and at the same time taking care of themselves and their families. No matter how much we express our gratitude or thank all of our healers, nothing is enough. If it was up to us, we would give an award to everyone who has been working so hard with us, but as tradition goes – we give it to a selected few. Congratulations to all of you," Dr. Jawed said.

Physician Peer Award

Aaron Boyd, MD, intensivist and chief medical officer for Norman Regional, was the recipient of the Physician Peer Award. The Physician Peer Award is voted on by physicians and the winner is defined by his compassionate care of patients, the building of collegial relationships and the pursuit of professional excellence.

Dr. Jawed said that Dr. Boyd was the perfect recipient for this award, as it is difficult enough to be a physician, but even more difficult to be an administrator as well.

"When you're giving 100% as a

physician on top of giving 100% as an administrator, especially in this COVID situation, it takes a lot of courage and effort. That was certainly recognized and noticed by his peers," Dr. Jawed said.

Dr. Boyd wanted to thank everyone working alongside him.

"I really appreciate all of you," Dr. Boyd said. "This recognition is very, very meaningful. It has been a challenging year. I'm not sure if I want to win an award for 2020 or not, but it's been an exceptionally challenging year and I appreciate everybody's awareness of what we're doing. I thank all of you."

Harold R. Belknap Jr., MD, Heart of Gold Service to Community Award

Shrilekha Parikh, MD, an internal medicine physician at Norman Regional Primary Care – Waterview, was honored with the Harold R. Belknap Jr., MD, Heart of Gold Service to Community Award. This award is in recognition of the life of Dr. Harold R. Belknap, Jr. and is for recognizing a physician who promotes a sense of community pride and continuity, dedicates significant time to the development of our next generation of leaders in healthcare providers, and exemplifies a volunteer spirit by offering their services to individuals and groups in need.

Dr. Parikh has been with Norman Regional since 2015 and said she originally saw herself retiring this year. She said although she thought she'd be retiring in 2020, when COVID came, she knew her patients needed her now more than ever.

"I'm very thankful to Norman Regional because I was burning out – with all of the computer work and charts and this thing and that thing – and they really helped me out and I'm actually enjoying what I'm doing," Dr. Parikh said. "I love my patients. I love my clinics. I love my staff. My staff is my life. I tell them every morning that they're my sunshine. They help me. I'm very thankful for this award. I'm very thankful I'm a part of this institution. Thank you so much."

Outstanding Physician Award

Rebecca Eagle, an intensivist at Norman Regional, was recognized as this year's Outstanding Physician. This award is voted upon by the entire

organization.

"This physician must be liked by all of the physicians and the nursing staff and the medical staff. This goes to somebody who is very deserving. I've seen her in the room working with the patients and have been very impressed with the command in which she leads. It's like a general leading her troops. She gets very fiery, she gets very passionate. I've told her if I ever have to go to the ICU (Intensive Care Unit), I would like her to take care of me, so that's how amazing she is," Dr. Jawed said.

Dr. Eagle joked that she was about to give what would be like an Academy Awards speech because of all the people she had to thank.

"There is just an army of people that I can't thank enough. Besides my partners, all the hospitalists, every ICU nurse, CDU nurse, 5North nurse that have been involved with this, Laura (ICU manager), Denny (CVICU manager) who have suited up and helped us, and Liza – the best housekeeper ever, she needs an award. All the RT (respiratory therapists). It's just been this army of people and kind of an isolated army, but a unified army. I've just been grateful that they were there to help me do all this and I can't thank them enough," Dr. Eagle said.

Advanced Practice Provider of the Year

Jordan Shuart, PA-C, was awarded this year's Advanced Practice Provider of the Year. This award is chosen by the physicians. Shuart has been with Norman Regional since 2008 in the hospital medicine department.

"Thank you so much everyone. It is a pleasure and a privilege to get to do what I do every day and to work with the people I work with. I feel like I'm able to do my job well because of the nurses, physicians, specialists, pharmacists, and all the different disciplines at Norman and how we all work together," Shuart said.

Nurse of the Year

"I wanted to say a special thanks to all of our nursing staff," Dr. Jawed said. "I can tell you that one day I had four COVID patients and I just saw four of them once each. By the time I was done with all the procedures,

I was exhausted. So I cannot imagine how one nurse is taking care of one, two or three COVID patients. Risking their own health on a daily basis, knowing the fact that they have family and kids at home – it takes a big heart and a huge amount of courage.

"We as physicians are very lucky that we have you all. Without you, we wouldn't be able to do this. Thank you so much to all of you who are receiving awards and to all of you watching – you are all great healers and we are proud of you."

Lana Nelson, DO, a bariatric surgeon at Norman Regional's Journey Clinic, started this award and coordinates with the Norman Regional Health Foundation to make it possible. This award is voted on and funded by the physicians and advanced practice providers to recognize those who go above and beyond to deliver compassionate care, enhance the patient experience with passion and respect and exemplify The Norman Way.

Nate Foster, RN, was honored as the 2020 Nurse of the Year.

"He's responsible, thorough, a team player. In this COVID effort, he has really gone above and beyond," said Brittni McGill, chief nursing officer. "One of our physicians said, 'although there are so many great people to give this award to, this one truly stands out. He's caring of his patients and his peers and he truly is an outstanding nurse that has displayed immense courage during this pandemic.'"

Foster wanted to thank everyone, on behalf of all nurses.

"On behalf of everyone who is sick of wearing masks or gowns and having to call family and empathize and explain why they can't visit. On behalf of everyone who has had to pray for patients because chaplains aren't allowed in rooms. There seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel here – I believe that's true. Thank you so much. I really appreciate everyone here."

Other Nurse of the Year finalists honored at the ceremony included Kenny Tyler, CVICU; Margie Holman, rehabilitation; Katie Gilmore, Women's and Children's; Jessie Douglas, endoscopy lab, and the runner-up Kristi Dilley, emergency department.



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