



Heather Schenck, LPN, director of nursing at Golden Oaks Village has deepened her wisdom while serving the senior population as they share their seasons of life.

by James Coburn - staff writer

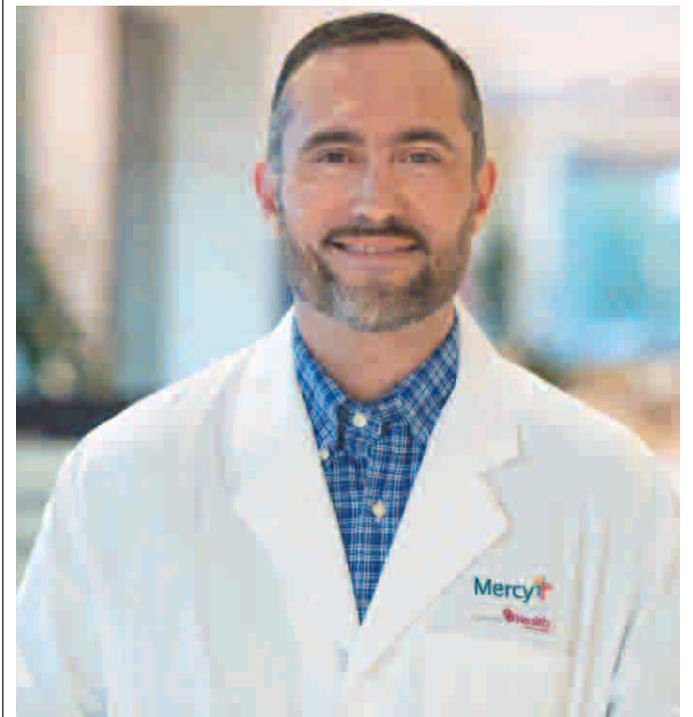
Heather Schenck was looking for a hometown nursing position close to home in Stillwater. Golden Oaks Village stood out to her from other places as being very family oriented, said Schenck, LPN, director of nursing. She found that a life of serving seniors is mutually beneficial. It helps

Schenck to be centered in her own life.

"Not only do I feel like being a nurse, I'm making a difference," she said. "Not just making a difference when they are very ill but being able to invest in their daily lives

See SCHENCK Page 2

## Mercy, OU Health Team Up to Expand Neurosurgical Services



OU Health neurosurgeon Dr. Nathaniel Stetson.

OU Health and Mercy in Oklahoma City have launched Mercy Clinic - Neurosurgery, a collaboration that provides patients with advanced medical and surgical treatments for disorders of the brain and spine.

OU Health's existing practice of nine neurosurgeons have been performing surgeries and providing 24-hour neurosurgical coverage at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City since May. The opening of Mercy Clinic - Neurosurgery is a new addition to the growing relationship and will be

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## SCHENCK

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by being part of their lives and love them and care for them."

Golden Oaks Village is located on 40 acres in Stillwater in a wooded country setting that is filled with ponds and wildlife. A peaceful view accompanies a paved walking trail. Independent and assisted living facilities serve more than 100 seniors and the elderly every day.

Her affinity for working with the senior population began in nursing school. Schenck earned her education at Shelton State Community College, located in her hometown of Tuscaloosa, Ala. At first, she thought she would enter the field of labor and delivery. She had already married at age 18, started a family with three children, and went into nursing at 25.

"Then I did my preceptorship in a nursing home. I had one patient that was mine that I took care of," Schenck said. "I got to sit and talk with her. I had never really got to visit nursing homes. I had never been in that environment, and I just realized it's not a very glamorous part of nursing — long-term care.

But they just need people who care."

Her patient in Alabama related that she was at the end of her life as they looked through photographs of her children. Some of the woman's children had already died. She was a picture of peace while telling stories about her life and had accepted that her life would end.

"I realized that they all need someone who can care for them and love them and be kind to them at that end stage of life," Schenck said. "I felt the calling."

Seniors also share their life story at Golden Oaks. By doing so, the residents share a similar time of their life that Schenck currently enjoys in her 30s.

"And so, it helps me to go home to love my husband and love my kids, and appreciate the moments every day, because they're fleeting," Schenck explained. "I think sometimes you forget that in life. So, I think it's grounded me about how precious life is, because I get to work with seniors all the time."

The nursing staff forms loving relationships with residents and their families. Her work teaches her the value of patience, empathy and

kindness — all the things she wants in life. Schenck said nursing is more than just a job for the Golden Oaks staff members. Compassionate nursing is what the staff chooses to do every day.

"It's a tight-knit group that loves their residents fiercely," she said. "That's what attracts me with the staff here. I feel we are like-minded in that way."

It's normal for a change in residence to be a bit stressful when leaving one's home for assisted living, Schenck said. She recalls one man who was a little grouchy. So Schenck set her course to help him adjust and win him over.

"The girls are like-minded. And we did, we had won him over. We'd go in there and he would pat our hands and pat our face. He loved that. We loved him, wanted to care for him and support him as he was going through what he was going through," she continued. "He did pass away, but it was very special. As he was declining, he almost craved our touch as we went in there."

There are many couples living at Golden Oaks. Whenever a spouse becomes very ill, the nursing staff

comes to their side to nurture both spouses. Being a nurse is not just taking care of a sick person, but supporting both spouses, Schenck said.

"If their spouse is acutely ill, then their heart is hurting, so I see the staff rally around that person and offer support and love," she said. "It's a great group here."

After work, Schenck goes home to be with her family that has grown to nine kiddos, she said. She and her husband play with them outside or sit in their chairs and watch them.

"We like to binge-watch shows like *Downton Abbey*."

Her oldest daughter is 19 and already has nurturing qualities. Naturally she feels like a nursing career is in her future, too.

"I come home and talk about the things that touch me and share it with my kids," Schenck said. "I feel like it is so important every day to realize how precious moments are."

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## EXPAND

Continued from Page 1

the first clinic staffed by OU Health neurosurgeons exclusively dedicated to patient care at Mercy.

The new neurosurgery practice is located at Meinders Neuroscience Institute at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City. OU Health neurosurgeon Dr. Nathaniel Stetson has already begun seeing patients at Mercy. A second neurosurgeon will join the clinic in the spring bringing the total number of OU Health neurosurgeons to 11.

"OU Health and Mercy have enjoyed a growing successful collaboration in caring for patients with neuroscience problems, and we are really excited to create a broader platform that will, together, elevate the care of Oklahomans. Dr. Stetson has an excellent reputation in the community, and we are delighted that he has joined the OU-Mercy team," said Ian Dunn, M.D., Chief Physician Executive at OU Health and Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery in the OU College of Medicine.

"For years we've had a strong neurology program at Mercy offering

the most advanced stroke treatment and an excellent movement disorders program, but the addition of two dedicated neurosurgeons helps us expand our program," said Jim Gebhart, president of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City. "We're grateful to join OU Health to provide around-the-clock coverage for patients experiencing neurological trauma."

Stetson, a board-certified neurosurgeon, brings significant expertise to Mercy Clinic - Neurosurgery. He has practiced in the Oklahoma City area for eight years. He holds memberships with the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons and the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association.

"There's a real need in our community for additional neurosurgery offerings in the emergency and outpatient setting," Stetson said. "Quality of life is a huge factor for these patients; we're talking about restoring their ability to function and enjoy life again and I think this joint effort will help expand those options for many more patients."

Stetson earned his medical degree from the University of New

England College of Osteopathic Medicine, followed by an internship at Peninsula Hospital in Far Rockaway, New York, and residency training at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County in Chicago and at Northwell Health Neuroscience Institute in Manhasset, New York. He also earned a master's in Healthcare Improvement and Innovation from The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Also joining Mercy Clinic - Neurosurgery is Jenna Taylor, an advanced practice registered nurse. The team will diagnose and treat a complete range of disorders of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, spinal column, skull and peripheral nerves. Stetson and his colleagues have advanced training in numerous neurosurgical techniques, including complex and minimally invasive spinal surgery; skull-base surgical approaches; advanced techniques for glioma surgery; endovascular approaches

for aneurysm and stroke; and many others.

Stetson and his colleagues will only see patients at Mercy but will remain on faculty and teach students at the OU College of Medicine. Plans are also underway for residents to train at Mercy.

"If we've learned anything as a health care community over the last year and a half it's that we serve our community and our patients best when we work together instead of competing against each other," said Matt Wright, chief operating officer



of Mercy Clinic. "We're leveraging the strength of OU Health with the mission of Mercy to create an even better program together."

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# Oklahoma Hospital Association Presents Awards to Outstanding Leaders; Hosts Annual Meeting

By Susie Wallace, DOC, Oklahoma Hospital Association



Health care professionals from throughout the state attended the Oklahoma Hospital Association's (OHA's) 102nd annual convention, Connect 21, Nov. 17-19, at the Oklahoma City Convention Center in Oklahoma City. In addition to the educational sessions and an exhibit hall, other convention highlights included the presentation of several awards to Oklahoma's outstanding health care leaders.

During the convention, **Charles L. Spicer, Jr., FACHE**, special advisor to the board, OU Health, received the Association's highest award, the W. Cleveland Rodgers Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of his outstanding service to the health care industry. Spicer has been president

and CEO of OU Medicine since 2012. He transitioned into the role of special advisor in July of 2021.

Prior to his time with OU Medicine, Spicer served in executive leadership positions within the University of Texas Health System and with Texas Health Resources in Dallas. He received a master's degree from Trinity University in San Antonio and a bachelor's degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Since 2016, Spicer has served as Oklahoma City region chairman on the OHA board of directors, as well as chairman of the Greater Oklahoma City Hospital Council. He has also served on the OHA Council on Policy and Legislation and the Council on Education. In 2016, he was the recipient of OHA's Advocacy in Action award. In 2017, he received the American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion Award.

Spicer has served on the boards

of United Way of Central Oklahoma, Allied Arts, Oklahoma Health Center Foundation, and Young Presidents Organization. He also serves on the advisory boards of the Children's Hospital Foundation and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oklahoma City. Spicer was the 2015 recipient of the Red Shoe Award in recognition of his contributions to Ronald McDonald House Charities. He was also voted among Oklahoma Magazine's Best of the Best CEOs in 2015 and 2016.

The Oklahoma Hospital Association's Advocacy in Action Award was presented to **Tammy Powell, FACHE**. Powell has been president of SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital - Oklahoma City since 2013. She has more than 30 years of health care experience in nursing and administration. Prior to her current leadership role, she served as president of Bone & Joint Hospital at St. Anthony. She has also served as chief



Charles L. Spicer, Jr., FACHE, special advisor to the board, OU Health

operating officer at Bone & Joint, and chief nursing officer at St. Anthony Hospital.

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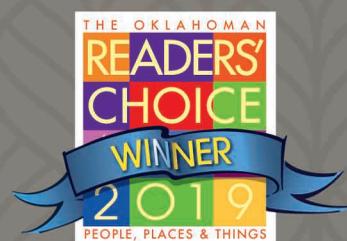


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**SCHOLAR**  
Continued from Page 4



Tammy Powell, FACHE, president of SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital.

Powell was elected to the OHA board of directors in an at-large position in 2018. She became chair-elect in 2019 and will be installed as OHA board chair this week at the association's annual business meeting. She also has served on the OHA Council on Quality & Patient Safety since 2018.

Powell graduated with a Master of Public Health and Bachelor of Science, Nursing from the University of Oklahoma. She is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. She serves on the boards of numerous organizations including Leadership OKC, YWCA, Oklahoma National Memorial and Museum, and Downtown OKC. She is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City Class XXV, the 2021 Journal Record Woman of the Year Award winner, and 2012 OKC Friday Rising Star.

She is frequently involved in OHA's advocacy efforts by making numerous phone calls and personal visits to state legislators. She participates in OHA's Advocacy Day at the Capitol each year and her strong involvement with the OHA-PAC has helped Oklahoma hospitals to support candidates who support health care causes.

Madison Rhodes received the David J. Falcone Award, presented each year to a health administration student for outstanding achievement. The award was renamed in 1996 in honor of the late Dr. Falcone, who served from 1992-1996 as professor and chair of the Department of Health Administration and Policy for the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health.

Rhodes earned her bachelor's degree in business administration from Mississippi State University in May 2018. She will graduate with both her JD and MHA degree from the University of Oklahoma in December 2021. She has served in student leadership positions at both the University of Oklahoma College of Law and College of Public Health, further building on her health law education beyond the classroom setting. She plans to utilize her education in both law and health administration to increase and improve health care access in her community.



Madison Rhodes.

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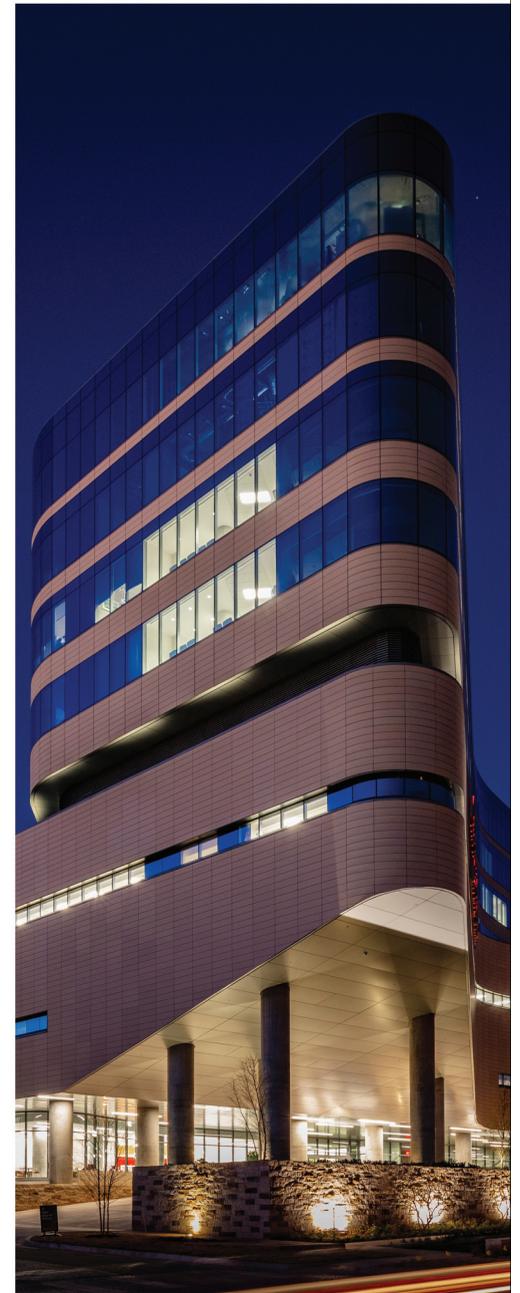
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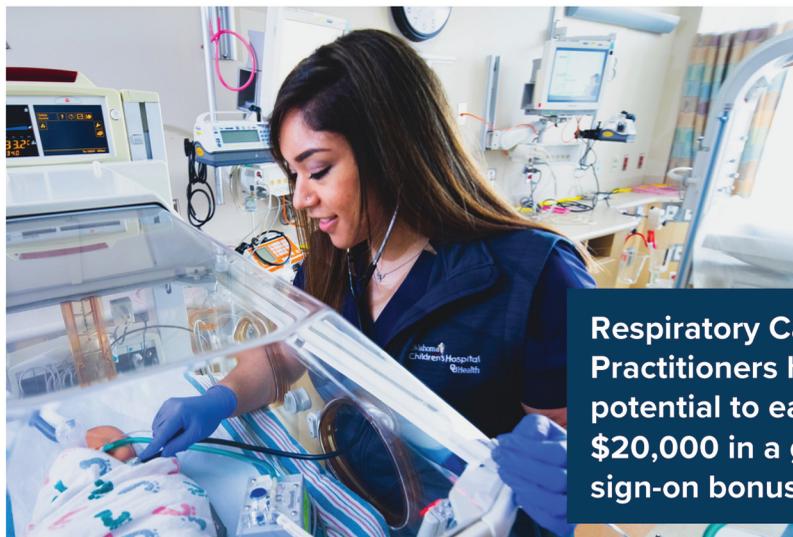
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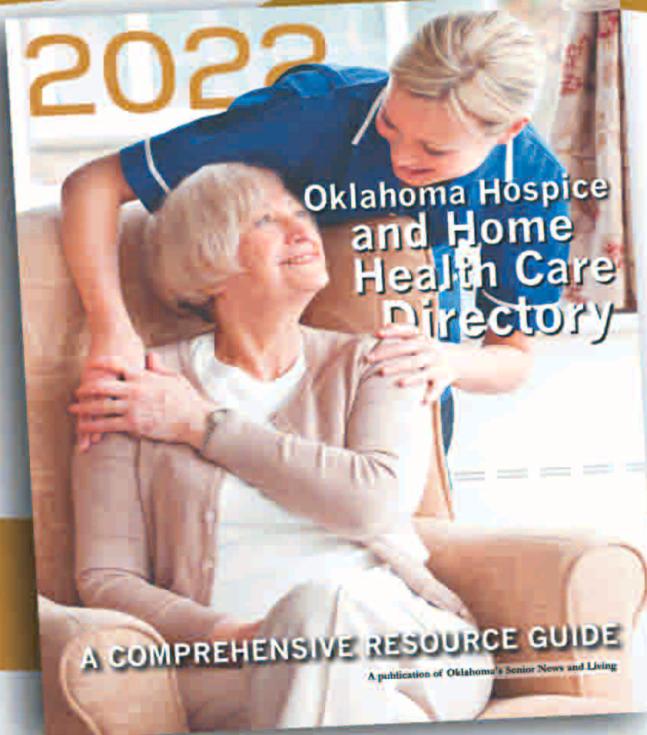


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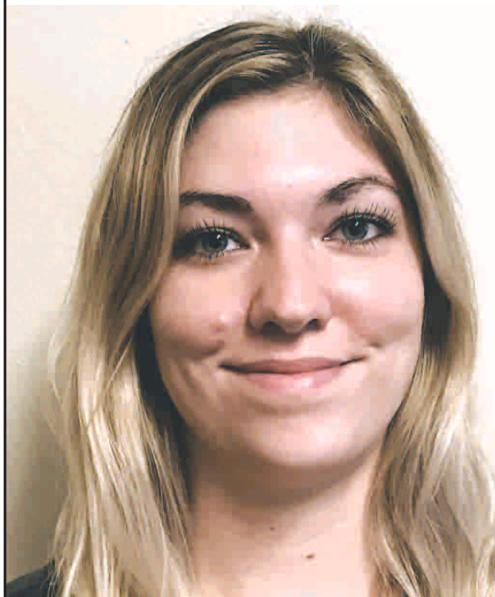
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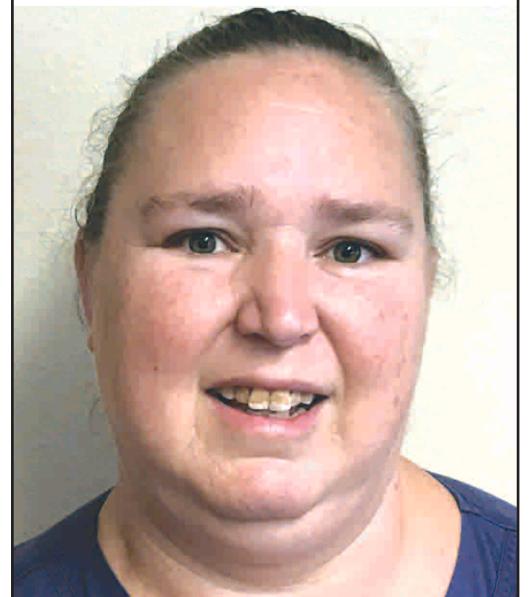
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# OCU continues to lead



As a preeminent nursing program, Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing continues to innovate its offerings to produce some of the most highly skilled nurses in our region. The school fosters a learning environment where students are challenged to think critically and holistically, encouraging them to use their passion and knowledge to advance the profession of nursing. With students consistently exceeding the national licensure pass rates for the traditional Bachelor of Science degree and certification pass rates for the Doctor of Nursing practice family nurse practitioner, and high job placement rates after graduation, it's not a surprise to see that OCU's Kramer School of Nursing was included in the Nursing Schools Almanac's 2020 rankings of the best U.S. nursing schools.

The fall of 2020 brought additional career advancement opportunities for OCU's Kramer School of Nursing students. LPNs now have the option of an LPN-BSN degree track. Nurses who want to pursue their master's degree, but need flexibility, can choose the MSN-HyFlex program. Nurses who work within the context of population-focused care have the option of getting an MSN in the Community Based Public Health (CBPH) track, which is also offered as a DNP Completion track. In addition to the programs, OCU's KSN enrolled their first cohort in the BSN-DNP, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track, the first BSN-DNP PMHNP program in the state.

The Meinders Simulations Center offers a seven-bed high-fidelity laboratory mirroring the hospital environment, allowing students to practice with realistic patient care scenarios.

Crystal Westmoreland, PhD, MSN, RN, Chair of Traditional BSN Education at Kramer, states, "I love the collaboration between faculty, staff and students. The mentorship program allows faculty and staff to really get to know students as individuals, helping them through life's obstacles as they pursue their degree. As with all of our programs, Kramer doesn't have wait lists and offers students a variety of full-time and part-time options."

KSN offers an outstanding RN-BSN program in which RNs can complete their BSN in just two semesters, with no prerequisites required. "We have small, individualized classes taught by a group of amazing faculty, who love working with practicing nurses" said Pam Tucker, MSN, RN, Chair of the RN-BSN program. "The RN-BSN program continues to be an excellent career advancement path for nurses." The program features the best of both worlds with nursing courses meeting face-to-face half day per week and the remaining elective/general education courses offered online. The program is currently offered at OCU, Mercy Hospital-OKC, and Norman Regional Hospital. No nursing exams, care plans or clinical hours are required. RN-BSN students are awarded a discounted tuition rate from the standard OCU tuition.

## ADVANCING PRACTICE

Vanessa Wright, PhD, MSN,



RN, Associate Professor and MSN Program Coordinator notes the MSN program is now offering Hy-Flex program delivery options where students may choose to attend face-to-face, synchronously using video conferencing, asynchronously fully online, or some combination of the three based on their life schedule and preferred learning modality. The MSN currently offers tracks specializing in Education and Leadership, and Community Based Public Health.

Elizabeth Diener, PhD, RN, PNP, CNE Chair of Graduate Education discusses the Doctor of Philosophy degree. "The PhD degree prepares expert nurses in the roles of nursing education, research, and leadership to serve the community, state, and nation," she said. Students meet on campus for 2-3 days at the beginning of each semester and then complete courses online over the remainder of the semester.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Completion program is for nurses with careers in all types of health care settings who already hold a master's degree in nursing, advanced practice, or a related field. The program is 30-32 credit hours, post-masters. Focus areas include clinical, community

based public health, and executive leadership in organizational or educational settings. Post master's certificates are also available for advanced practice nurses who seek additional certification in an advanced practice role.

Gina Crawford, DNP, APRN-CNP, FNP, CNE, Assistant Dean and Chair of Advanced Practice Programs points out, "Kramer School of Nursing was the first to offer a post-bachelors Doctorate of Nursing Practice program in the state of Oklahoma. It's been very fulfilling to see this program grow and see the success of our alumni who are now working in a variety of clinical settings and some who own their own clinics." Kramer School of Nursing is the first in Oklahoma to offer the BSN-DNP Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner option.

OCU'S KSN is offering a virtual information session for the Community-Based Public Health programs monthly from 5:30-7 pm. Prospective students can join an informative webinar and then participate in a breakout session to meet with program advisors and faculty for information specific to the program of their interest. For more information, visit:

[www.okcu.edu/nursing](http://www.okcu.edu/nursing).



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## RN-BSN

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- Complete in two semesters

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- Post Master's Certificates: Education and Leadership
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## Doctoral Programs

- Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN-DNP): FNP, AGACNP, and PMHNP
- Doctor of Nursing Practice Completion (MSN-DNP): Executive Leadership, Clinical, and Community-Based Public Health
- PhD and BSN-PhD



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**SITUATION UPDATE: COVID-19**

<b>COVID-19 Cases:</b>	<b>658,600</b>
<b>New Cases Today</b>	<b>970</b>
<b>New Cases 7 day Average</b>	<b>838</b>
<b>Active Cases</b>	<b>8,801</b>
<b>CDC/NCHS Provisional Deaths</b>	<b>11,772</b>
<b>Acute Care OSDH Licensed Facilities/Location**</b>	<b>Recent 3 day Ave. Hospitalizations</b>
	<b>Cases (ICU)</b>
Region 1 (NW)	17 (4)
Region 2 (NE)	30 (10)
Region 3 (SW)	48 (15)
Region 4 (EC)	20 (7)
Region 5 (SE)	17 (4)
Region 6 (Central)	33 (12)
Region 7 (Tulsa)	148 (53)
Region 8 (OKC)	111 (38)
<b>Total</b>	<b>424* (143)</b>
<b>Other Types of Facilities</b>	
Focus Facilities	14 (3)
Rehabilitation Facilities	0 (0)
Tribal Facilities	11 (2)
<b>Other Facilities Total</b>	<b>25 (5)</b>

\*Includes 15 hospitalizations in pediatric beds.

\*\*Focus, Rehabilitation and Tribal Facilities numbers are not assigned to a specific region as their patient populations reside across the state. Information provided through survey of Oklahoma hospitals as reported to HHS as of the time of this report. Response rate affects data. Facilities may update previously reported information as necessary.

Data Source: Acute Disease Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health. \*As of 2021-11-19 at 7:00 a.m.

## FROM OUR FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK

From Oklahoma Nurses Association

### November is Native American Heritage Month!

Highlighting Rachel Mack, another Native ONA member.



**Rachel Mack, Ph.D., DNP, APRN, C-FNP, CNE**

Dr. Rachel Mack is a certified family nurse practitioner, certified nurse educator, a Gallup certified Strengths Coach, and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Frontier Nursing University (FNU). She is the National League of Nursing AARP representative for the American Indian/Alaska Native workgroup. She is also a committee member for the National League of Nursing Taking Aim series which is focused on developing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging workshops and webinars. Dr. Mack is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society and many other professional organizations. Her doctoral research was focused on prescription drug abuse, which opened many doors, including assisting in the development of the Oklahoma State Plan to decrease prescription drug abuse and she continues to be actively involved with this committee. She has traveled as a consultant for government hospitals in the Middle East with American Gulf International Consulting and has taught the Certified Professional in Infection Control course in the Middle East with the American Institute of Healthcare Quality. Dr. Mack continues to work a few days each month in a family practice setting and full-time at FNU. Dr. Mack earned an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (RN) from Oklahoma City Community College, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Oklahoma City University, a Master of Science in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Frontier Nursing University, a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Oklahoma City University, and a Ph.D. in Nursing Education from Oklahoma City University.

You can also find many Native Resources on the OINA Chapter webpage: <http://bit.ly/3EDch50>. Friend ONA at: <https://www.facebook.com/OKNurses>

## FROM OUR FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK

From Oklahoma Nurses Association

### November is Native American Heritage Month!

Highlighting Sonya Frazier, a Native ONA member.



**Sonya Frazier, BSN, RN, USPHS**

November is Native American Heritage Month! This week we are highlighting Sonya Frazier, a Native ONA member.

Sonya Frazier is Choctaw and Chickasaw. She has been a registered nurse for 19 years and an officer in the United Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS) for 14 years. She helped create the first Oklahoma Indigenous Nurses Association (OINA), a chapter of Oklahoma Nurses Association and elected to be their first President. She has created Indigenous cultural educational training for nursing programs to address the health and social disparities and health equity in Indigenous populations.

As a descendant of a boarding school survivor, she is also the founder of the Regalia Making Relatives organization that envisions thriving Indigenous communities through networking, collaboration, mentoring, and regalia making. This organization works closely with local Johnson O'Malley programs and the Oklahoma State Department of Health to encourage, educate and assist Native American children in foster care and adoptees to stay connected to their Indigenous heritage.

Sonya was recently selected for her expertise in Indigenous health care to the National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing. This committee involves the American Nurses Association (ANA), National Black Nurses Association (NBNA), National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN), and the National Coalition of Ethnic and Minority Nurses Association (NCEMNA) and Oklahoma Indigenous Nurses Association (OINA). The Commission created to help advance the work and achieve the vision of a nursing profession that exemplifies inclusivity, diversity, and equity creating antiracist praxis and environments. Her goal in life is to lead the way for healing by reconnecting to our Indigenous ways.

You can also find many Native Resources on the OINA Chapter webpage: <http://bit.ly/3EDch50>. Friend ONA at <https://www.facebook.com/OKNurses>



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