

RN Renfrow Running For Office



Gabe Renfrow is a Registered Nurse working for the Oklahoma Heart Institute in Tulsa, and is running for House District 66. He is married to his wife Gini, who is a nurse practitioner. Photo provided

by Van Mitchell, OKNT writer

Gabe Renfrow isn't afraid of taking on life challenges, and says his approach running for public office is no different.

Renfrow, who works as a Registered Nurse at the Oklahoma Heart Institute in Tulsa, is running as a Republican candidate for Oklahoma House District 66, which encompasses Tulsa and Osage counties.

A Sand Springs resident, Renfrow will face Mike Burdge, Wayne Hill, and Clay Staires in the June 28 Republican primary vying to replace Rep. Jadine Nollan, who is term-limited. A run-off, if necessary, will be held Aug. 23, with the winner taking on Democrat James David Rankin in the Nov. 8 general election.

"I like challenges," Renfrow said. "I am not one to back down from any life challenge whether it is a job or kids."

A 15-year veteran of a cardiovascular catheterization lab, Renfrow previously worked as an emergency medical technician. He is a graduate of Northeastern State University and Bacone College.

Renfrow's campaign platform includes; fighting

for election integrity, defeat illegal immigration, support a parent's right to choose, and rejecting government mandates.

Renfrow said the birth of his children helped inspire him to serve a greater good as a lawmaker.

"My daughter was born seven years ago, and I felt like I needed to be a voice to make sure she had what she needed to be successful in this state," he said. "It just snowballed from there. People are looking for somebody to do a good job, and make sure that their thoughts and feelings are heard at the state level. It is like being an advocate for a patient. You are an advocate for the people of your district, and for the state of Oklahoma."

Renfrow has been campaigning since last fall.

"It (campaign) has been really positive," he said. "I have been campaigning since last

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OBU Nursing Graduates Honored



Dr. Robbie Henson, chair of the OBU School of Nursing, speaks during the School of Nursing's Pinning and Lamp Lighting Ceremony.

Oklahoma Baptist University honored its class of graduating nurses during the School of Nursing's Pinning and Lamp Lighting Ceremony held Friday, May 20. The ceremony took place in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium on OBU's campus in Shawnee.

Dr. Robbie Henson, chair of the OBU School of Nursing, welcomed the graduates and guests to the ceremony. Dr. Larinee Dennis, dean of business, health science, and education, led the invocation. OBU President Dr. Heath A. Thomas offered opening remarks, sharing a brief word of congratulations with the graduating nurses.

Kerri Bayer, RN, senior vice president and chief nurse executive for Integris Health, delivered the address to graduates. She serves as the nursing executive in charge of leading the strategic direction

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RENFROW

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September. I have probably knocked on close to 6,000 doors. It has been a real eye-opening thing for me. I learned a lot about myself doing it."

Renfrow said if elected, will work part-time at the hospital. The Oklahoma Legislature meets in session every February through May in Oklahoma City.

"When the (legislative) session is out, I will be at the hospital," he said.

Renfrow said nursing has long been a calling for him to do.

"It (nursing) is something that I always wanted to do," he said. "I was in medical sales in Missouri, and I had this feeling that I wanted to be closer to the patient instead of in sales. I worked for a company doing orthopedic sales. I felt there was something more that I could do, so I decided to go to nursing school."

Renfrow's career direction was also influenced by an experience while doing clinicals in Tahlequah.

"I was in clinicals in Tahlequah, and they have a small Cath lab there," he said. "They had an emergency patient come in, and he was basically

dying. I was standing against the wall watching everything happen, and the guy went from grey to blue. They opened up the vessel, and he instantly changed colors and his breathing was better. That was something (to see). It was a very exciting moment. I thought this is what I want to do with my career. Saving someone's life is the best part of what I do. When you get to be a part of that, it is why you do the job."

Renfrow is married to his wife Gini, who is a nurse practitioner. The couple has two children, Sadie, 7, and Monroe, 4.

Renfrow said having a spouse who also works in the medical field, is beneficial for both of them.

"She is absolutely amazing," he said. "I tell people she is a much smarter person than I am. We bounce things off of each other all the time."

As a teenager, Renfrow cleaned churches at 4 a.m. before school to afford food and clothes. That experience helped instill in him a strong work ethic.

Renfrow said he still enjoys coming to work each day at the hospital.

"I have been doing it for 15 years,



Gabe Renfrow and wife Gini, a nurse practitioner.

and I don't think I have had a burnout day yet," he said. "There are days when I sit and think and pray about what I have dealt with that day. Most of the time, I can wash it off my back and come home

and enjoy my wife and children, and know that I did the best that I could for the patients that I had that day."

To support Gabe Renfrow visit: <https://gaberenfrow.com/>

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PINNING

Continued from Page 1

for clinical services throughout the health system, including all clinical excellence, quality and patient safety objectives. She earned a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Central Oklahoma. Her certifications include clinical nurse leader and critical care registered nurse, and she is a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. She has more than 20 years of Integris nursing experience, including front-line nursing in intensive care, regulatory compliance, quality, safety, nursing education and many clinical leadership roles.

Harriet Cooper, assistant professor of nursing, discussed the significance of the ceremony. Graduating nurses then received their pins from Henson, including Rilee Elizabeth Arey, Columbia, Missouri; Tess Marie Batchelor, Owasso, Oklahoma; Seth Dixon Berry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma; Ansley Lauren Biesiadecki, Bartlesville, Oklahoma; Sarah Jobeth Davidson, Oklahoma City; Lindsey Renee Dreadfulwater, Tahlequah, Oklahoma; Emily Lauryn Erwin, Elgin, Oklahoma; Olivia Dianne Eskew, Bethany, Oklahoma; Kenzi Elizabeth Ferguson, Mansfield, Texas; Abigail Marie Floyd, Gilbert, Arizona; Morgan Marie Friend, Edmond, Oklahoma; Margaret O'Neal Friesen, Lenexa, Kansas; Parker Hughes Gass, Puyallup, Washington; Grace Emilee Gillentine, Moore, Oklahoma; Maci Nicole Hall, Moore; Casie Rian Harper, Shawnee, Oklahoma; Franki Rose Hull, Tecumseh, Oklahoma; Abigail Lynn Kennedy, Oklahoma City; Morgan Paige Krispense, Owasso; and Emily Autumn Rose Ladner, Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Additional graduates receiving their pins included Emma Nicole Lang, Shawnee, Kansas; Mallory Mullins Locke, Arlington, Texas; Victoria Ann Mathews, Lee's Summit, Missouri; Mariah Jayne McLin, Wellston, Oklahoma; Hayden Grace Meiser, Norman, Oklahoma; Summer Nicole Moran, Shawnee, Oklahoma; Tyler Cole Morgan, Oklahoma City; Chloe Marie Mostek, Oklahoma City; Leann Elizabeth Mullendore, Harrah, Oklahoma; Nina Jessica Peveler,



ABOVE: Oklahoma Baptist University honored its class of graduating nurses during the School of Nursing's Pinning and Lamp Lighting Ceremony.

Henderson, Nevada; Tiana Nicole Phillips, Dallas, Texas; Laurel Ann Rosenthal, The Colony, Texas; Grace Caroline Rother, Choctaw, Oklahoma; Kinsey Leigh Rowell, Keller, Texas; Jessica Ruth Schoenecke, Branson, Missouri; Konner Alexis Shields, Owasso; Lauren Kathleen Smither, Owasso; Siara Nichole Snider, Meeker, Oklahoma; and Miranda Mackenzie Toland, Shawnee, Kansas.

Rebecca Coon, assistant professor of nursing, delivered the charge to the graduates, and Megan Smith, assistant professor of nursing, led the benediction.

Watch the nursing pinning and lamp lighting ceremony on the OBU YouTube channel.

For more information about the School of Nursing OBU, visit okbu.edu/nursing.

With its campus located in Shawnee, OBU offers nine bachelor's degrees with more than 60 fields of study and four master's degree programs. OBU has been rated as one of the top 10 regional colleges



Kerri Bayer, RN, senior vice president and chief nurse executive for Integris Health, delivered the address to graduates.

in the West by U.S. News and World Report for 30 consecutive years and Oklahoma's highest rated regional college in the U.S. News rankings for 28 years. OBU is one of three universities in Oklahoma and the only private Oklahoma university listed on Great Value College's rankings of 50 Great Affordable Colleges in the Midwest. The Wall Street Journal ranked OBU second in the nation for

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For more information about the OBU Nursing Program visit: <https://www.okbu.edu/nursing/index.html>

CAREERS IN NURSING

A CALLING IN LIFE: LPN LEARNS FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

by James Coburn - staff writer

Sherice Randle, LPN, needed to understand more about Alzheimer's Disease after her aunt was diagnosed with the most prevalent form of dementia.

"So, I got my CNA and CMA and worked in nursing homes for a while," Randle said.

"People with Alzheimer's have their good days and their bad days. So as a family member you must take that in stride," she said. "You have to know that they're in there somewhere. They know who you are, but sometimes they may not know who you are," said Randle, who serves as a case manager over long-term care and skilled nursing care at The Wilshire Skilled Nursing and Therapy, located in Oklahoma City. "You just have to take it how it is day-to-day. My aunt wasn't the only one. Alzheimer's runs in my family. You take your good days. Sometimes you might have more bad days than good days."

She found patience to be a valuable

component of living with somebody with Alzheimer's disease.

"You remember the good and how they were, and don't remember them like that," she continued. She learned how residents living with Alzheimer's respond well to music from decades ago.

"I used to have this one. He could forget anything there was except how to play dominoes," she said. "If you set some dominoes in front of him, that was it. He'd beat you in dominoes all day long."

Nursing has always been a learning opportunity for Randle. Her career pathway included being a home health aide while putting herself through nursing school. After graduating from nursing school, she worked in long-term acute care unit of a hospital.

"I did a lot of vents and learned a lot in an LTAC, but it wasn't my calling," she said. "A nursing home is where I feel more comfortable."

She joined The Wilshire in early

March. Randle earned her LPN license after graduating from Chisholm Trail Technology Center, located in Omega, 16 miles west of Kingfisher.

"It's smaller and I like their leadership and their structure," she said. "The staff works hard together, and I like that."

Everybody is willing to pitch in during times when they would otherwise have a staffing shortage, Randle said. There have been experiences that have moved her to persevere. When Randle was a CNA, she cared for an older lady who was part of a group of people who lived to be over 100. Randle would read to the group each day she was at work.

"She liked the comics, so I had to read her the comics. Another liked the classifieds. I would ask him, 'Why do you make me go over all of the classified stuff with you?' I started to read certain things out of the classifieds, and he was like, 'No, you have to read it all.' I really like them,

and when I left there, I really missed them a lot."

Another woman would tell her stories about her life in Europe. Randle enjoyed listening to older residents telling her stories about their lives. Each one of the residents at The Wilshire Skilled Nursing and Therapy come from different walks of life. One man ran a farm and one of the women worked in government.

Anyone working in long-term care and skilled nursing needs to have a lot of patience and organizational skills, Randle said. As the MDS coordinator, she documents all the information Medicare requires for reimbursement and audits. Medications are documented as well as if the resident requires more than one person for assistance. Vision and dental and whether the residents require total care is reported to the federal government.

"You put all that information in their care plan," she continued.

See PENROD Page 5



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PENROD

Continued from Page 4

The Easter Bunny passed out Easter eggs as a recent guest at The Wilshire Skilled Nursing and Therapy. It was part of the many activities that keep residents engaged in their community. Staff and volunteer organizations help with the activities that include putting together puzzles and involvement in holidays, among other events.

"It keeps them motivated and it keeps them busy," she said. "For some people it keeps them up-to-date."

The nursing staff spends a lot of time speaking to each resident in order to relate to their daily likes and dislikes. "It's hard work, but on the skilled side of it, I like seeing people accomplish their goals and send them back home," Randle said.

"We get them to their prior level of care so they can go back home. Some decline home health services because they don't need it. That's a goal that I set for myself — to try to get them back home. I like working with elderly people. I don't know how to explain it, I just like working with them."

Randle has her challenges as a nurse but said she would rather continue her work as a nurse than do something less enriching in life.

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Sherice Randle, LPN, engages with people where they are in life while keeping in mind their stories of long ago.

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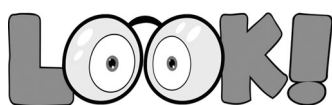
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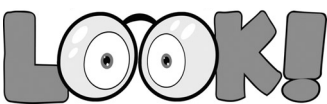
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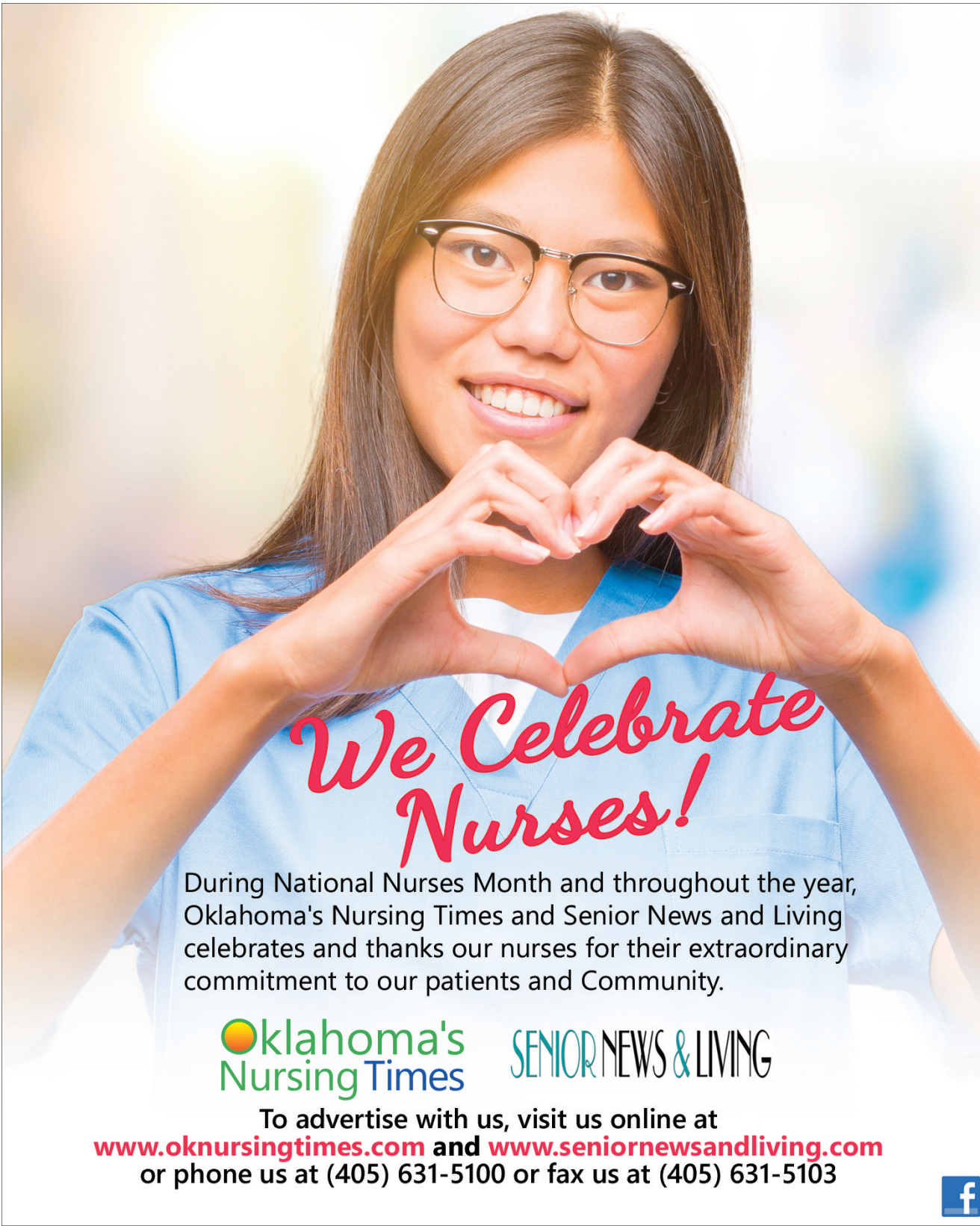
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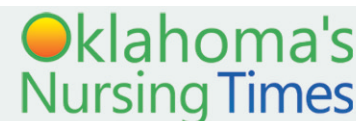
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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2022 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

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SWOSU also offers online professional programs in Health Information Management, Healthcare Informatics and Information Management (graduate).

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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2022 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

Eastern Oklahoma State College nursing graduates regularly exceed national NCLEX

Eastern Oklahoma State College's nursing program is often ranked one of the top nursing schools in the state based on the percentage of graduates who pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). The NCLEX is used by all state boards of nursing across the nation to assess a student's competency and graduates must pass the exam to become licensed registered nurses.

Gina Bullock, director of Eastern's Nursing Division, said the program consistently sees high pass NCLEX-RN pass rates that are well above the state and national averages. Most recently, Eastern's graduates achieved a 97.5 percent pass rate compared to the national pass rate of 88.18 percent for first-time test takers at the associate degree level.

"Our graduates' reliably high NCLEX scores speak volumes for the quality of nursing education provided at Eastern. This achievement is a direct reflection of our faculty's commitment to train and prepare the next generation of registered nurses and our students' dedication to providing quality care for patients," Bullock said. "We are extremely proud of our graduates and the impact their skills and knowledge will make in the communities they serve."

Eastern's nursing program offers an associate of applied science degree for students to become registered nurses. The program has two tracks - a basic licensure program and a LPN/EMTP transition program for students who have been practicing



as a licensed practical nurse or paramedic. For more information, visit eosc.edu/nursing or call 918-465-1794.

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Arcadia Trails INTEGRIS Health Center for Addiction Recovery Expands Payor and Outpatient Treatment

Arcadia Trails INTEGRIS Health Center for Addiction Recovery, Oklahoma's most advanced state-of-the-art addiction, mental health and trauma treatment center in Edmond, now offers a full continuum of care to include a more robust array of outpatient services for adults aged 18 and older.

In April 2021, Arcadia Trails INTEGRIS Health entered an affiliation agreement with the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, the nation's leading resource for individuals and families affected by substance use disorders. Under this agreement, Arcadia Trails

INTEGRIS Health gained access to Hazelden Betty Ford's enterprise-wide resources and support systems.

The result has been an increase in comprehensive treatment plans that span multiple levels of care: residential treatment, partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient services.

"Our collaboration with Hazelden Betty Ford is proof of our commitment to address the growing problem of addiction in Oklahoma," said Timothy Pehrson, the president and chief executive officer at INTEGRIS Health. "There is no easy answer and no quick



fix, but by offering evidence-based, truly individualized care – we are beginning to make a difference one person at a time."

"We are excited about the expansions Arcadia Trails has made to its continuum of care and look forward to building further upon our shared goals and commitment to high-quality, evidence-based care to treat addiction," added Joseph Lee, M.D., president and chief executive officer of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation. "Together, through our collaboration, we want to ensure Oklahomans and the region have access to the best possible options for life-changing addiction care and recovery support."

Every patient's journey at Arcadia Trails INTEGRIS Health begins with intensely comprehensive assessments that lead to a recommended level of care based on what is clinically appropriate for that individual. Such customized attention lays the foundation for

long term success.

"Developing a high-quality full continuum of care allows us to improve outcomes and access to much needed substance use treatment," said Javier Ley, executive director of Arcadia Trails INTEGRIS Health. "It provides the clinical framework for increased individualization of treatment that can meet each person's specific needs while offering a vehicle for patient engagement and recovery supports over an extended time frame."

Treatment programs at Arcadia Trails INTEGRIS Health have been approved by various health plans and health insurance companies, and a team of experts are available to help patients navigate benefits. To further meet patient needs, payor agreements are continually being added, and customized outpatient options have been expanded to allow greater access and more treatment options.



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Nurse-Led Pilots Aim to Address Nursing Challenges and Improve Health Outcomes

American Nurses Foundation awards \$14 million to reimagine nursing



The American Nurses Foundation (the Foundation) is awarding \$14 million over three years through its Reimagining Nursing Initiative to projects impacting 20 states. Housed at various universities, nonprofit hospitals, and startup companies that serve diverse communities across the country, the nurse-led pilots are sparking new ideas and testing solutions to address key challenges nurses face from nurse education models that “teach to the test” rather than validating the competencies nurses need to be successful to having to use technology not designed with their input.

The Reimagining Nursing Initiative selected ten bold ideas that lean into nurses’ knowledge and expertise to develop solutions that allow them to work more effectively in various care settings. The pilots share one vision: to transform health care by reimagining the nursing profession. The Foundation will support these ideas and determine how they can be scaled and broadly implemented. The pilots aim to create a future where nurses—in hospitals, schools, clinics, and communities—drive change, use their skills, and, most importantly, are valued and compensated for the care they provide.

“The Reimagining Nursing Initiative provides the solid investments nurses need to transform the education, regulation, and practice of nursing,” says American Nurses Foundation Executive Director Kate Judge. “Nurses are a natural catalytic force for accelerating the evolution of our health system because they have an unmatched perspective on prevention, wellness, and delivery of healthcare services.”

One pilot is using robots equipped with artificial intelligence that can predict and deliver what nurses need based on a patient’s electronic health records. Another pilot makes it possible for patients to receive

home-based, nurse-led primary care for people living with dementia. Yet another uses an off-the-shelf technology to deploy nurses to assist people returning home after being discharged from the hospital, allowing patients to request and pay for nurse care directly and on-demand.

“We received nearly 350 nurse-led projects to consider for this initiative, and we have selected those that have the potential to be most transformational. We look forward to enjoying the health care that nurses are creating,” Judge said.

“Having started my career as a nurse, I understand and am grateful for the commitment, expertise, and grace exhibited by the nurses of Kaiser Permanente and throughout the nation who are caring for our patients, families, and communities,” said Greg A. Adams Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Kaiser Permanente. “The pandemic has reinforced the critical and foundational role nurses play and has solidified how the health care system must change to meet evolving needs. There is no better time to reimagine the nursing profession to help lead this transformation. This initiative supports innovative ideas and solutions from the perspective of nurses that will make a difference in patient’s lives and improve access, care, and health outcomes for all.”

The Reimagining Nursing Initiative is made possible through the generous support of the Kaiser Permanente National Community Benefit Fund at East Bay Community Foundation, AMN Healthcare, Omnicell, and the Salka Impact Fund.

For more information about the RN Initiative and to explore each pilot, visit: <https://www.nursingworld.org/rninitiative>

Situation Update: COVID-19

New Cases 7 Day Average	264
New Cases Week of 5/15/22 - 5/21/22	1,845
Active Cases	3,437
Total Cases	1,048,017
CDC/NCHS Provisional Deaths	16,090
Acute Care OSDH Licensed Facilities/Location**	Recent 3 day Ave. Hospitalizations
	Cases (ICU)
Region 1 (NW)	3 (0)
Region 2 (NE)	4 (0)
Region 3 (SW)	5 (0)
Region 4 (EC)	5 (0)
Region 5 (SE)	0 (0)
Region 6 (Central)	6 (0)
Region 7 (Tulsa)	25 (14)
Region 8 (OKC)	37 (3)
Total	85* (17)
Other Types of Facilities	
Focus Facilities	3 (0)
Rehabilitation Facilities	0 (0)
Tribal Facilities	3 (1)
Other Facilities Total	6 (1)

*Includes 22 hospitalizations in pediatric beds.

Data Source: Acute Disease Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health. *As of 2022-05-26 at 7:00 a.m.



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In 2021, the United Way of Central Oklahoma and our more than 19,000 donors and 600 workplace campaigns selflessly contributed to the United Way Campaign. And to share the gift of a better life for thousands of Oklahomans.

And, as always, behind it all is your support. Your generosity is the heartbeat for us all. And we thank you.

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| Chesapeake Energy Corporation | Bank of Oklahoma | Ascent Resources | UPS | COSTCO Wholesale |
| American Fidelity | BancFirst | INTEGRIS Health | First Fidelity Bank | Jasco Products Company |

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- | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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- | | | | | |
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