

Improving healthy outcomes



The Love Family Women's Center opens in 2023

At left, Laura Beck, RN, director of women's services at Mercy Hospital, and Shawnie Hunt, RN, Family BirthPlace, are excited about improving women's health and birthing experiences when the The Love Family Women's Center opens.

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Mercy Hospital is expanding to meet the needs of a growing metroplex. The Love Family Women's Center is expected to be completed in the late fall of 2023 on the campus of Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City.

The last decade has brought a 34 percent increase in babies born at Mercy Hospital's Family BirthPlace. The hospital delivered more than 4,000 infants annually last year, said

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OCU earns Latino nursing workforce development grant



Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing.

Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing was awarded a grant to implement an initiative intended to increase Latino representation in the health care industry.

Funds provided through the \$37,000 Telligen Community Initiative grant will be used to increase academic support for Latino students in the nursing program, with the goal of retaining and graduating more Latino nurses to enter the workforce in Oklahoma.

"Members of the Latino community are under-represented in health care settings, including in the Oklahoma City metro area," said Gina Crawford, interim dean of the Kramer School of

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LOVE

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Laura Beck, RN, director of women's services. The \$98 million women's center will offer 73 patient rooms, increasing the capacity for deliveries by 40 percent.

The 175,000-square-foot, four-story building will feature an obstetrics emergency department (OED) for mothers, said Beck, in her ninth year with Mercy.

Mercy currently has a triage department that is set-up only as an extension of the labor department, run by nurses with obstetricians available when needed at the Family BirthPlace.

"It's also going to be structured much like our ER to make for a quick nursing response. Currently we go down a hallway," said Shawnie Hunt, RN, Family BirthPlace. "So, it will be high tech and upgraded for our moms who need an emergency response."

Registered nurses who are midwives will collaborate with the input of obstetricians will Oklahoma's first hospital-based low intervention birthing unit.

"It's going to be the first of its kind in Oklahoma," Beck continued. "It's not going to be the first birthing center that we've had in Oklahoma, but it's going to be the first one that we have in a hospital. There will be four birthing rooms. And, in there a mom can come who wants to have that natural childbirth experience."

The mother may go home two hours after her delivery if she and her baby meet Mercy's healthy guidelines. She and her baby will return to The Love Family Women's Center in 24 hours for a "well baby and mom check-up," Hunt said.

"The great thing about being in the hospital is should something happen, whether the mom isn't progressing appropriately, or she feels it's time for an epidural or time for a little bit higher care, we can just move her on up to the labor and delivery unit."

The midwife would follow her to labor and delivery, followed by an obstetrician to make the delivery.

Hunt has returned to nursing school at Texas Tech to become a midwife. She will be working in the midwife department, Beck said.

The thought of empowering mothers to have a safe space when having a natural birth experience also motivates Hunt's career. She loves having created bonds and making connections.

"I have been a labor nurse here for almost eight years," Hunt said. "Watching how well our OB physicians do with our patients in allowing them to have a lot of autonomy that other hospitals don't necessarily do all the time — that's inspired me."

Beck and Hunt also look forward to the three spacious Caesarean section suites on the first floor that will connect to the existing hospital. Postpartum rooms on the third floor will connect to the hospital via a skybridge. There will be a neonatal intensive care unit on the fifth floor of the women's center.

A dedicated area for women of all ages will serve women recovering from surgeries, outpatient therapy services, and pelvic floor therapy. Also, a large conference center holding up to 150 people will host women's support groups, classes focusing on childbirth, infant care, CPR and more. And the education room will accommodate 25 people.

"We're going to have it built to expand lactation services, and seminars and educational classes," Beck said.

The Family BirthPlace currently has about 170 coworkers, and expectations are to hire more staff. Beck said it's amazing how the team works together. Respect for each other and the families and the moms who come to give birth is at the core of teamwork, Beck said. A huge goal for Beck will be to expand Mercy's community outreach for women.

"Our African American community and our Native American Community's mortality rates among them is astronomical when compared to what a white woman goes through," Beck said. "And we have got to do a better job of bringing that to light in supporting those women, and supporting those communities, too."

Mercy wants to make sure that all women in Oklahoma have the opportunity to have a healthy pregnancy, healthy birth, should they so choose."

The Mercy team wants to give



Oklahomans a lot of love with the best experience and healthiest outcomes possible, said Hunt, who has learned a lot about the fragility and enduring qualities of life.

"Especially in labor and delivery, you get to see life being born. But there are difficult times when you get to see life you anticipate or not happen at all," Hunt said. "Some families celebrate life, but you also help families grieve a life that has been lost. A lot of us are moms here and we see that through our perspective, but also help our grieving patients."

The building design is just the beginning of The Love Family Women's Center. The women's center will allow the services to flourish beyond the one floor of the Family BirthPlace.

There is a lot of need for women's services in the state, Beck said. According to a 2020 ranking by the Kaiser Family Foundation, Oklahoma ranks sixth in the nation for infant mortality rates.

"There's something about Mercy, and I give it all to God," Beck said. "We are always striving to improve."

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KRAMER

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Nursing. "This award is a major step toward improving this situation. Not only do we need more health care professionals, our overall system would be much stronger with a more diverse representation."

OCU based its grant proposal on information gleaned from focus groups of Latino students, alumni and community members.

Through the use of grant funds, university officials plan to increase recruitment efforts at high schools with higher percentages of Latino students. Counselors will work with high school students to help ease the transition from application to college acceptance, including for

those who classify English as their second language.

Once enrolled, students seeking bachelor of science in nursing degrees will receive additional support throughout their studies. Some classroom instructional materials and sessions will be focused on preparing students to work in hospitals and clinics in areas with more concentrated Latino populations. The nursing school is also implementing a living-learning community to begin in the fall semester, offering an additional level of support to nursing students. "The quality of care is greatly improved when nurses can speak the language and are familiar with the cultural practices of the communities they serve," Crawford added.

INTEGRIS Canadian Valley Hospital Hiring Event

INTEGRIS Canadian Valley Hospital is hosting a hiring event for all open positions including sign-on bonuses for qualified positions including nursing, Jim Thorpe Rehabilitation nursing, patient registration, food services and housekeeping.

The hiring event will be held from 1 to 7 p.m. on **Thursday, June 16** at INTEGRIS Canadian Valley Hospital located at **1201 Health Center Parkway in Yukon.**

Participants may view positions and save time by applying online ahead of time at [integrisk.ok.gov](https://integrisk.ok.gov/jobs). Applicants will have the opportunity to interview with hiring managers, tour departments and possibly walk away with a job offer.

For questions, please email HRRecruitment@integrisk.com.

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CAREERS IN NURSING

BONDING WITH PATIENTS: ADON BUILDS CONFIDENCE

by James Coburn - staff writer

Bradford Village in Edmond is where DeKeria Coleman, LPN, wants to be serving others. As a charge nurse in the skilled unit since November, she strives each day to make skilled nursing patients feel comfortable, she said. Coleman's smile goes a long way in reinforcing a sense of confidence,

"Most of my patients come in from the hospital, so I try to make it home away from home," she said.

Patients in the skilled unit are there for rehabilitation. However, Bradford Village will welcome skilled nursing patients to long-term care whenever a patient's needs change, and they choose Bradford Village.

"I try to go above and beyond to make sure they feel all their needs are being met," Coleman said.

Nurse managers make a point to introduce themselves to all the new long-term care residents and the skilled nursing patients. This builds trust in knowing they can count on

the staff at any time.

Coleman learns about their lives, how they grew up and the families they raised. The elders represent a cross section of daily life.

"They always tell me stories," she said

The staff makes Coleman's job easier by creating an atmosphere that makes her want to come to work each day at the top of her performance skills. The result is a high standard of patient care. Bradford Village is a place where nurses need not worry of feeling burned-out, she said.

"It's always good for me. Everybody plays their part here. If I ever have a question, they are willing to assist me. My aides make it easier for me to perform my job," she continued. "Administration is great. People who make my job easy is always a plus for me."

She always wanted to be a nurse.

"When I was a kid, I wanted to

be a doctor. I always wanted to do something in this field," she said. "All of the work that I've done in my adult life has been in nursing."

She's been a nurse since 2015 when she graduated from Canadian Valley Technology Center, located in El Reno. She was a CMA and a CNA at Accel at Crystal Park nursing home in Midwest City before becoming an LPN.

"When I was in nursing school, my director and my instructors really mentored me," Coleman said. "They motivated me from day 1. When I first started, they molded me into the nurse I knew I could be. And I still talk to them."

Coleman said she loved the program at Canadian Valley Nursing Home.

There is nothing Coleman regrets about her career choice.

"I'm actually going forward in my nursing career to do other things," she said.

She plans to enroll at the OU College of Nursing at the OU Health Sciences Center campus in Oklahoma City.

"I would tell anybody interested in becoming a nurse to go for it. There's nothing to regret. All we can waste is time."

She could work in a clinic or other settings, but Coleman said geriatric care has always been her calling. She has always worked in nursing homes.

"I build a family type relationship with the residents. We are sometimes their only family. I build bonds with them, and like coming in and being a light for them. It keeps me around to staying in the profession," Coleman said.

Patients get to know her as well. They ask how her children are doing. She's usually spending time with her kids when she is not at work.

"They are into a lot of

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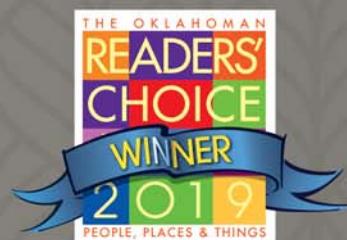


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COLEMAN

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extracurricular activities, so they keep me busy," she said.

She is grateful to know her work is not in vain at the nursing center. Her challenges result in Coleman knowing she has done something worthwhile in a patient's life.

"It touches my life when they give good compliments about the care I provide," Coleman said. "I'm doing something I love and I'm making them happy at the same time. When they say thank you, it just makes me feel good on the inside. I always come in with the mentality that I want to make these people happy. So, when they give me those compliments, I feel like I'm doing the right thing. My needs are met and theirs."

She always encourages patients by giving them a pep talk that their efforts to regain strength will pay-off.

"You can do it," she says, while pushing forth their best effort. "It's always been a joy to work with them."

Patients look forward to a familiar face, she said. They become comfortable in knowing the care she will provide.



DeKeria Coleman, LPN, has a heart for serving others at Bradford Village, located in Edmond.

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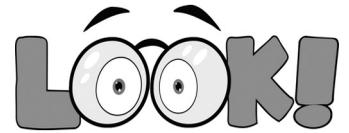
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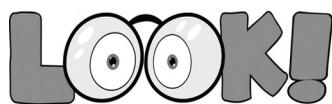
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* Eligible to sit for NCLEX-RN exam upon program completion

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What sets Harding trained nurses apart? The undergraduate nursing program has a 98.8% first-time NCLEX-RN pass rate since 2017 and has been ranked the No. 1 Nursing Program in Arkansas by RegisteredNursing.org for four years in a row. This ranking is

Continued on page 11



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RETURN

Continued from Page 5

based on how well a program supports students toward licensure and beyond.

Harding's nursing graduates are well-equipped to enter the field, with high job placement rates and a 97.5% first-time Family Nurse Practitioner National Certification pass rate since the program's first graduates in 2017.

The first of its kind in Arkansas, the master's entry into professional nursing program prepares graduates for eligibility to take the national licensing exam to become Registered Nurses. The program provides on-campus, state-of-the-art simulations and diverse clinical experiences in Searcy, Little Rock and surrounding areas to aid students in understanding patient clinical skills, administration and leadership in nursing. Applicants with any undergraduate degree can apply. There are Arkansas nursing prerequisites.

What if I have a degree in another field but have decided healthcare is my passion? The Master of Science in nursing - master's entry into professional nursing option is a great path for students who already have

a bachelor's degree in another area of study. The accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing in Northwest Arkansas is a good option as well.

How do the programs interact with the community? Students assist in a variety of community clinical settings that serve diverse patient populations. They also provide health screenings at area churches and various University-sponsored events.

Does Harding offer a study abroad program? For more than 40 years, Harding has been training nurses for careers not only in traditional healthcare settings but also in health missions.

Medical mission opportunities exist locally and abroad in short-term and long-term options.

Opportunities are open to graduate and undergraduate students.

For more information visit:
<https://www.harding.edu/academics/colleges-departments/nursing>



Children With Recent Concussion Diagnoses Sought for Clinical Research Study

Researchers at Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health are conducting a clinical research study to determine if children who have had concussions may experience permanent changes affecting their blood cells.

"Prior research done on the OU Health Sciences Center campus has shown that adults who have had concussions have permanent changes affecting their platelets," said Robert Johnson, M.D., FAAP, a pediatric emergency medicine physician at Oklahoma Children's Hospital, lead investigator of the study. "We are looking to see if this might also be happening in children."

Johnson explained that the short term goal of the study is to see if concussions affect blood cells and cause inflammation in children. "Long-term research may involve assessing whether these changes affect clotting or other biologic dysfunctions in the future."

Children, ages one year to 18, who have recently been diagnosed with a concussion, are being sought for the study. Participants must have had a normal CT Scan and be able to give a blood sample.

Qualified participants may receive examinations from concussion experts at Oklahoma Children's Hospital, guidance on returning to school and play and compensation for time and travel.

This study is funded by the Pediatric Trauma Society. For more information, call (405) 271-2429.

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EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE






Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientist Julie Crane explains the role of the foundation's Core Imaging Lab to middle school math teachers on June 7, 2022. OMRF hosted a field trip for the teachers, who are participating in the Sarkeys Foundation Summer Math Institute at the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics.

OMRF hosts teachers for afternoon of research

Nearly 40 Oklahoma middle school math teachers became students again this week, receiving a glimpse into the medical research that results from the passion they instill in students.

OMRF on Tuesday hosted teachers from the Sarkeys Foundation Summer Math Institute at the Oklahoma School for Science and Mathematics. The weeklong program includes teachers from Inola to Mangum and Madill to Sayre.

Scientists at the nonprofit foundation showed them, among other things, research samples from arthritic knee joints of mice and explained how the regenerative qualities of flatworms might someday apply to humans.

OMRF President Andrew S. Weyrich, Ph.D., welcomed the teachers, calling them "the unsung heroes" behind the minds that shape OMRF's research.

Throughout the year, OMRF hosts students from elementary school through college for various education and outreach programs, Weyrich noted. "We do that in part because we know Oklahoma students are paramount to the future of research."

OMRF Vice President of Government Affairs Lisa Day, an OSSM board member, helped organize the event.

"It's gratifying to connect these teachers with a real-world application of the skills they develop in students," Day said. "Much medical research requires a mastery of math. Their skill and passion for teaching make what scientists do at OMRF possible."

During their afternoon at OMRF, the teachers split into small groups to visit lab stations staffed by scientists.

Using a microscope and oversized monitor, David

Forsthoefel, Ph.D., demonstrated how quickly the flatworms he studies can completely regenerate their organs. He hopes the clues he learns from the tiny worms might lead to new help in treating conditions ranging from bowel disorders to paralysis.

"We study the flatworms because we hope to learn their secrets," Forsthoefel told the teachers.

Beggs Middle School teacher Carol Creason called her trip to OMRF "tremendously helpful. It shows how important mathematics is to all sorts of jobs outside of the traditional math field of study."

Creason was so impressed with Forsthoefel's presentation that she plans to include flatworms in future lessons.

"I normally use bean plants so they can chart growth, but now I'm going to have them chart regenerative growth in flatworms," she said. "They'd have a blast."

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LOCAL JOBS FOR LOCAL NURSES

Situation Update: COVID-19

New Cases 7 Day Average	437
New Cases Week of 5/29/22 - 6/4/22	3,056
Active Cases	5,738
Total Cases	1,054,953
CDC/NCHS Provisional Deaths	16,145
Acute Care OSDH Licensed Facilities/Location**	Recent 3 day Ave. Hospitalizations
	Cases (ICU)
Region 1 (NW)	7 (3)
Region 2 (NE)	5 (0)
Region 3 (SW)	5 (0)
Region 4 (EC)	7 (1)
Region 5 (SE)	2 (1)
Region 6 (Central)	6 (0)
Region 7 (Tulsa)	41 (16)
Region 8 (OKC)	45 (2)
Total	118* (23)
Other Types of Facilities	
Focus Facilities	2 (0)
Rehabilitation Facilities	1 (0)
Tribal Facilities	1 (0)
Other Facilities Total	4 (0)

*Includes 24 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 2022-06-09 at 7:00 a.m.

OU Health Sciences Center Clinic Earns Approval from National



COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

The John W. Keys Cleft Palate Craniofacial Clinic at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center has once again received approval from the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association. The clinic, which was established in 1959, is the only cleft palate-craniofacial program in Oklahoma continually approved by ACPA since the inception of its program.

Seven thousand children are born in the U.S. every year with a cleft lip and/or palate. Children born with cleft lip, cleft palate or craniofacial conditions may require individualized treatment from infancy into adulthood.

The John W. Keys Clinic utilizes an interdisciplinary team of professionals from OU College of Dentistry and OU College of Allied Health - where the clinic is located -- to care for these children. The cleft lip and palate team has members from oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, speech pathology, audiology, pediatric dentistry, otolaryngology, genetics and social work. Shelly Geddes, M.S., CCC-SLP, a speech-language pathologist in the College of Allied Health and Kevin Smith, DDS, FACS, FACD, a clinical professor in the College of Dentistry Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, are co-leaders of the team.

"We believe, as does the ACPA, that a team approach, which combines the efforts of many specialists, is the best way to treat a child with a cleft and/craniofacial condition," Smith explained.

"The John W. Keys Cleft Palate Craniofacial Clinic is a unique interprofessional training opportunity for OU Health Sciences Center students, providing them with the opportunity to improve health outcomes for the families they treat, now and in the future," said Andrew John, Ph.D., director of the Keys Center at the OU College of Allied Health. "We are proud of the longstanding relationship between professionals in our college and the College of Dentistry that has built this program and kept it continuously nationally accredited for more than 60 years."

Additional information about the John W. Keys Clinic is available on the clinic's website, <https://alliedhealth.ouhsc.edu/Keys-Clinic> or by calling (405) 271-4214

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| American Fidelity | BancFirst | INTEGRIS Health | First Fidelity Bank | Jasco Products Company |

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