# **Example 1** Recruiter Showcase **Coffee with a Recruiter Event Nursing Times**

March 6, 2023 Vol. 24 Issue 10 Information for the Oklahoma Nursing & Health Care Professional

**Recruiter Showcase** 

7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 9 3408 36th Ave NW Suite 124 Norman, OK 73072 Norman Regional Health System See our ad on page 9

www.oknursingtimes.com

# **Restoring Vision** PACU nurse has a servant's heart

Opportunities to help others, says Yolanda Berry, RN. She has found her niche at the McGee Eye Surgery Center in Oklahoma City.

#### story and photo by James Coburn, staff writer

No matter how great or small the work of a nurse seems, their caring spirit often filters in Oklahoma City often compliment the into humanity with love.

someone's life or what impression you're leaving," Yolanda Berry said. "But I always feel like I'll do the best that I can."

Patients at the McGee Eye Surgery Center nursing staff for working well together, said "You don't know how you're touching Berry, a registered nurse. A team of nice people works wonders.

"We have an atmosphere here that See BERRY Page 2



Coleman



Stacy Coleman, President of the health ministry.

SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital - Midwest is recently announced Stacy Coleman as President of the health ministry. Coleman is SSM Health Oklahoma's current Regional Vice President of Strategy and Business Development.

As President, she will lead strategy and operations to help expand high-quality health care services in eastern Oklahoma County and surrounding areas. She will also maintain her responsibilities for strategy and business development for SSM Health's operations in Oklahoma.

"I have had the privilege of working with Stacy Coleman for 28 years, and I have seen the passion with which she expands our healing ministry to as many Oklahomans as possible," said See COLEMAN Page 3

## BERRY **Continued from Page 1**

intertwines with a spiritual aspect that was important for me being a Christian to have that liberty and freedom to exercise," Berry said. "So sometimes I'll see nurses and physicians praying with the patient. That really touches me and soothes the patient."

Berry has been with the McGee Eye Surgery Center since 2016. She is grateful that that the McGee Eye Surgery Center agreed to provide her a flexible schedule that has worked well in raising her son, who lives with high functioning autism.

She spends her days preparing patients for surgery and exiting surgery as a nurse in the post anesthesia care unit. Patients receiving general anesthesia require care until the lines are removed.

"When they go out of phase I to phase II, they're more awake and alert," she explained. "Their families are able to come back, and they're able to eat and drink and get ready for home."

Nurses see a lot of patients with eye problems caused by diabetes. Procedures often involve surgeries for cataracts, retina,

plastic surgery, pediatric surgery and injuries including dog bites and other treatments. They also serve the Oklahoma City Thunder players.

Patients don't remember going under anesthesia, Berry said. Some of them are surprised at the outcome when waking up from surgery.

"We have patients that have been totally blind from a cataract and then it's removed. You were blind and you wake up and then you can see," she said. "They were totally blind and now they can see everything. I've had them wake up and they were crying. They couldn't see before but now they can see."

Berry said her nursing career has been a good one. She will soon be inducted into the Sigma Phi Kappa International Honor Society of Nurses ceremony to be held at Southwest Oklahoma State University.

Patients have motivated her steppingstones of success. She recalled receiving a phone call a patient's home in 2015. Her patient began crying when hearing the conversation.

"They were so excited and overwhelmed with the news I was

receiving," Berry said. "But I got a call for the March of Dimes. I became a finalist for the Nurse of the Year."

She only wants her best to be put forth in life because her in the nursing field. It's been a example is what patients see. Berry felt God's calling early in life. It was during her childhood that sparked her inevitable road to of good health. becoming a nurse. Her mother would take her on rounds to help the elderly. Young Yolanda began caring for family members when they were sick.

"My first job, I was a housekeeper, but I was at the bedside helping the patients. A nurse came in and said, 'Why don't you take a class," Berry said. "So, the desire was always there, and it's just been a continuum of that for me."

She began her nursing career 22 years ago when she was a certified nurse aide graduating from LPN school at Francis Tuttle. Once again, a nurse encouraged her to become a registered nurse. Berry graduated from nursing school at Oklahoma City Community College in 2007. She was able to attain her RN status while working as a coordinator at OU Medical Center.

Today, she is working toward earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Southwest Oklahoma State University.

"I have respect for everybody journey, and that's why I can appreciate it so much," she said.

Her personal life is a reflection

"I love to walk out at the lake," she said. "I love music. I'm in the choir at church and I teach Sunday school for the youth. I love the youth."

Berry said her own youth brought the hardest years of her life. But she feels if she can shine the light for others with little nuggets of kindness and inspiration then her time spent has been great.

"Those are the things that I do, spending time with family and taking care of my son with high functioning autism. He's doing great now," she said.

For more information on McGee Eye Surgery Center, visit: https://dmei.org/



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## COLEMAN **Continued from Page 1**

Joe Hodges, Regional President, serving central and SSM Health Oklahoma. "I know she will bring the 'digging in infrastructure and building up" spirit to eastern Oklahoma County and create the business strategy and plans the best possible experience for for the transition of two hospitals our patients, employees and the to SSM Health during the last community as a whole."

Coleman received a bachelor's degree in marketing from Oklahoma State University before completing a Master of Health with Administration at the University of Oklahoma. She has served in multiple roles within SSM Health during the past 28 years. She created a strategic plan that included the redevelopment of the

St. Anthony Hospital campus Midtown Oklahoma in City, bolstered the number of physicians eastern Oklahoma and has led significant improvements. Additionally, Coleman developed two years, including St. Anthony Hospital - Midwest, where she will serve as President.

Coleman has been recognized the Journal Record's "Oklahoma's 40 under 40" and OKCBusiness.com's "Forty under Forty" awards. She has served on numerous professional and community boards during her time with SSM Health.

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# NRH gives students a boost

#### by Bobby Anderson, RN - staff writer

unfair shot at nursing education. Student nurses trying to learn clinical skills were all but locked out of health care facilities around the country.

But as devastating as the pandemic was to nursing education, it did afford an opportunity for nursing leaders to rethink opportunities for students to not only learn but earn as they continued their education.

Normal Regional Health System's student nurse partnership is one of those success stories and Chief Nursing Officer Brittni McGill, MSN, RN, CCRN says the program is on its way to becoming a state model.

Student nurse partners work as a patient care tech for a minimum of 48 hours during the program, but find why they came into the career could choose to work more.

"My favorite part is it's truly innovative and super organic," McGill said. "We built it from the ground up and it's been so successful the Oklahoma Nurses Association has

The Covid pandemic took an reached out to us. It's a big deal for us but it's something we want to be able to teach others to do because the results speak for themselves."

> The student nurse partnership allows final semester nursing students to get paid for their clinical hours while working on the floor as a patient care technician.

> Kelia Crabbe, MSN, RN RDMS, is the transition to practice specialist for Clinical Education at Norman Regional. In addition to her role at Norman, Crabbe also serves as a clinical instructor for students.

> She said the partnership gives her students access to the entire health system, allowing her to tailor each student's educational experience.

> "It's exhilarating to watch them field, and find their niche," Crabbe said. "Their confidence just soars. We have documentation showing how they start out and quickly build on all their skill sets. I think the best part is just when they come to you



Oklahoma City Community College Student with Norman Regional Health System Clinical Education Specialist Nurse Kelia Crabbe, MSN, RN, RDMS.

and say 'I can work with these people."

employees' willingness to help student nurses in their roles provides a safe

Crabbe said the health system's community feel coupled with

See BOOST Page 5

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Oklahoma City Community College Student with a Norman Regional Health System RN.

## **BOOST** Continued from Page 4

environment for them to grow their nursing practice.

When Covid shut down most clinical nationwide, students were denied a key component of their nursing education.

"When people graduated there was a clinical competency deficit because they didn't have hands-on experience," McGill said. "Some graduated without having a true in-person, clinical experience. Facilities worked on enhancing their simulation but there's a difference there."

During that time, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing allowed for students to be paid for clinical time, effectively removing the barriers that most hospitals put in place barring nonemployees onsite.

"What we did is we took that exemption and created a program that would be sustainable post-Covid," McGill said. "When that exemption went away we were able to continue."

Crabbe said the retention rate from the first-year group was 94 percent. Only one student has yet to not complete the program.

"Just a few weekends ago one of the students texted me after her shift was over that day and said everyone worked together so well on the unit even though it was chaotic and they all helped each other," Crabbe said. "I think when they see the culture in action that we talk about that reinforces to them that that is the most important part in picking your position in the nursing profession." McGill said the ONA's Academic Clinical Partnership Committee has requested Crabbe and the health system to share the same facilitator model for use statewide.

McGill noted the program has also been cost effective given that upon passing the NCLEX, student nurse partners hired on require significantly less orientation time.

"(Covid) forced us to collaborate and think about things like this and determine how we can partner," McGill said. "When you look across the industry, it's programs like this that are going to help us produce more students and more licensed professionals. When you do that it helps increase your staffing levels which helps reduce burnout on those that are established. It's a way to help get us out of that staffing hole."

Norman Regional Health System student nurse partners and externs have consistently passed the NCLEX at a rate of 96 percent since the program began in March of 2021.

Those numbers are impressive, especially considering the state pass rate average is 83 percent. Nationally, those taking the NCLEX have dropped to an 81 percent success rate.

"We feel like this is on-the-job training," Crabbe said "It's a real key component in satisfying that missing link between classroom and clinical practice. I feel like with this experience we speak directly to clinical objectives and what they need to know to come onboard."

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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2022 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

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With a history of over 40 years of academic excellence, RSU's nursing program provides academic rigor and a reputation that gives RSU graduates an edge in the competitive job market. Upon graduation, RSU nursing graduate NCLEX pass rates exceed the state and national average. Approximately 95% of students report having obtained an RN position before graduation. These outcomes are credited to a quality curriculum, caring and dedicated faculty. RSU's nursing faculty have more than 130 years of experience in both academic teaching and practical experience. Several low and highfidelity laboratories are utilized to provide hands-on learning so that students are well-prepared to deliver safe, high-quality nursing care in a variety of settings.

Students interested in attending medical school, complete their undergraduate studies in medical/ molecular biology. RSU's biology program has seen more than 150 students move on to professional schools pursuing medical and healthcare careers.

RSU consistently earns national recognition for affordability, both for traditional classes and its online programs. The university is consistently recognized for having one of the region's lowest student debt load with nearly half of its graduating class earning a diploma without any student loan assistance.

The Traditional BSN and the RN2BSN online programs received full accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) last year. Being the only public residential university in the metropolitan Tulsa area, RSU gives



students a traditional college experience. With the university's proximity to Tulsa, RSU is strategically positioned geographically, fiscally and reputationally to be Oklahoma's first choice in BSN education.

legacy of compassionate and virtuous nurses who advocate for their patients and serve the community for years to come. For more information about RSU's nursing programs or to schedule a campus tour, visit www.rsu.edu/ nursing or call 918-343-7631.

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March 6, 2023

Page 9

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A

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## For: RN, LPN, RN students, LPN students

Interested in a nursing career at Norman Regional? Stop by our Coffee with a Recruiter event to learn what it's like to be a healer! The event will take place at the Westside Beanstalk Coffee and Sno from 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 9. Enjoy free refreshments and find out why Norman Regional is a special place to work.







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# •klahoma's Nursing Times

# Foundation donates \$1.5 million to OMRF to expand MS care, research

Oklahoma City's Stark Family Foundation on Tuesday announced a \$1.5 million challenge grant to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. The gift will fund patient care and research at the OMRF Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence.

The grant requires the foundation to raise a matching \$1.5 million. OMRF will use the funds from the \$3 million campaign to recruit a new physicianscientist to the MS Center, expand psychosocial care for its patients and grow the center's technological infrastructure.

"The Stark family is making an indelible mark on the future of MS care in Oklahoma and on research worldwide," said Gabriel Pardo, M.D., a neurologist and neuro-ophthalmologist who has led OMRF's MS Center since it opened in 2011. "Their generous gift will

our patients, but it will also help us achieve our ultimate goal of stopping this terrible disease."

MS is an autoimmune condition that affects nearly 1 million Americans. It occurs when the body's immune system attacks the insulating layer that protects nerves in the brain and spinal cord. The resulting inflammation can cause vision issues, muscle spasms, tremors and paralysis. In its most common form, the disease includes periods of stability and relapse.

Stark Family Foundation founders Jack and Mary Stark made the challenge grant in honor of their daughter, Kelsey D'Emilio, who was diagnosed with MS in 2013 at age 24. Despite aggressive treatments, D'Emilio experienced rapid disease progression until finding OMRF's MS Center of Excellence in 2017.

D'Emilio, an opera singer and not only improve the lives of chair of the Division of Music



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Stark Family Foundation cofounders Jack and Mary Stark (center) with Gabriel Pardo, M.D., (left), director of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation's Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence, and OMRF President Andrew Weyrich, Ph.D. (right).

at Oklahoma Baptist University, not have been able to pursue credits Pardo with stopping her my doctorate, serve as a college disease progression and enabling professor or become a mother," her to have a career and a family. "Without Dr. Pardo, I would

Continued on page 12

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## **DONATION** Continued from Page 11

said D'Emilio.

Pardo, OMRF physician-scientist Chelsea Berkley, M.D., and their team at the MS Center care for more than 3,000 patients from Oklahoma and surrounding states. In addition to receiving comprehensive MS care, patients may participate in clinical trials or join cohorts that allow OMRF scientists studying MS to advance the global understanding of the disease.

"Dr. Pardo and his outstanding team gave Kelsey her life back. There can be no greater gift," said Mary Stark. "We want everyone facing MS to have access to the same life-saving care and treatment our daughter found at OMRF." Jack Stark added, "These funds will allow Dr. Pardo to expand his resources to meet the needs of his growing patient base. We are honored to help and we encourage others to join us so more stories of success like Kelsey's can be told."

The gift was announced during OMRF's MS Advocate Award Dinner, which raised more than \$410,000 for MS care and research at the foundation. The Chickasaw Nation and Stark Family Foundation were lead sponsors of the event chaired by Lou and Jim Morris.

Also during the dinner, OMRF honored Burns Hargis with the foundation's MS Advocate Award. Hargis, a member of OMRF's Board of Directors, is the former president of Oklahoma State University. He has been an OMRF supporter for nearly 40 years.

"Dr. Pardo and his team are remarkable, but it's clear that the demand for MS patient care and research exceeds the current capacity to provide it," Hargis said. "You solve that by raising awareness of the need for additional medical and scientific resources, and I'm honored to be a part of that."

To learn more about MS care at OMRF or to donate, visit www.omrf.org/ms.



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# Topping Out Ceremony for New INTEGRIS Health Heart Hospital INTEGRIS HEALTH

INTEGRIS Health held a topping out ceremony on Thursday to celebrate another significant milestone towards the completion of the new INTEGRIS Health Heart Hospital, currently being built on the INTEGRIS Health Baptist Medical Center campus.

A topping out ceremony is a longstanding construction tradition that typically occurs when the final or highest structural beam is raised into place.

Before the beam was ceremoniously placed using a crane - donors, hospital leaders, cardiovascular physicians, construction team members and other A group of people shaking hands Description automatically generated with medium confidencedignitaries were invited to sign the beam for posterity.

"We are excited to mark this meaningful moment in the construction of the INTEGRIS Health Heart Hospital," said Tim Pehrson, president and chief executive officer of INTEGRIS Health. "Many of those who played an integral part in making this facility possible, will now be forever memorialized within the hospital's

future walls."

A group of people standing outside a building Description automatically generated with low confidence

INTEGRIS Health Baptist Medical Center has long been known as the only hospital in Oklahoma to offer a full spectrum of advanced cardiac care, and the new heart hospital will allow us to continue to offer the best heart care available anywhere in the world.

The 209,000 square foot building will include 64 ICU beds, multiple cardiac catheterization labs, cardiovascular operating rooms, hybrid operating rooms, electrophysiology heart labs, and cardiac diagnostic testing areas - all conveniently located in one easy to navigate location.

We remain committed to Oklahomans who rely upon INTEGRIS Health to care for them in their greatest time of need. We are a forever organization with a mission of partnering with people to live healthier lives!

The anticipated completion date for the new INTEGRIS Health Heart Hospital is 2024.





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