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July 10, 2023

Information for the Oklahoma Nursing & Health Care Professional

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Self-assurance and knowledge are hallmarks for Erica Jones, RN, a radiology nurse at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital-Midwest.

Story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Erica Jones, RN, serves in the radiology Midwest. Jones is the only nurse working in said. her capacity at the hospital, she said.

"My biggest thing in nursing is always standing unit at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital- up for yourself, standing up for your patient," Jones

Effective patient-centered care is the goal of her

work, so she dismisses any fears about advocating for herself and her patients' needs. Her role necessitates in-depth skill with an innate sense of

See JONES Page 2

JONES Continued from Page 1



SSMHealt

being honest and open. Nurses must be willing to ask questions about things that do not seem right, she

"Self-assurance is important and being knowledgeable about your patient and their history," she said.

Patients with tendencies to become claustrophobic are identified by the nurses who screen them. A family physician may have ordered for them a prescription to lower their anxiety. Once the patient is ready for the MRI, Jones assures them they are safe and will be monitored a cared for throughout the imaging process.

"It's very common. I was surprised how many patients are monitored for claustrophobia," Jones said.

Jones works with every modality in the radiology department, including CT-scans, MRI, ultrasound, X-Rays, mammograms, paracentesis, while closely following safety guidelines.

She also monitors patients having an MRI with intravenous sedation or with pacemakers. They also offer fluoroscopy and nuclear medicine.

SSM Health Interventional Radiologists board-certified are physicians with advanced training in delivering minimally invasive therapies.

Jones enjoys the closeness with her patients on a one-on-one shorter time frame while monitoring and taking care of them. She works with different physicians allowing her curious nature to learn about diagnostic conditions patients have.

"I really wanted to be a nurse to take care of people," Jones continued. "I felt like it was a profession where I could use my intelligence to really provide great care. I'm really big on enhancement, learning, and I want to use those tools I have to provide the best care for my patients, and to care for them the way I would want someone to care for me."

A nurse for nearly 10 years, her nursing education began at Rose State College in Midwest City. Jones went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, located in Weatherford. Her first job was on a med/surg unit. Her background involves about two years of radiology,

with additional time in a cauterization lab, and emergency department.

Jones had a series of training opportunities for her role as a radiology nurse to learn about the set-up at SSM Health St. Anthony-Midwest. She already had experience in her field before she came aboard. So, she built upon what she already knew about conventional radiology with specialized updates and continuing education offered by SSM Health.

"Also, there are groups that you can join and organizations you can join to make sure you're staying up-to-date in radiology nursing," Jones said. "In the 10 years since I got into nursing it has changed so much, and it doesn't even seem like that much time."

A nursing career has galvanized her to believe she can accomplish anything in life she puts her mind

have the patience, the perseverance. I have the will, the guts to do anything I put my mind to. Some of the things that I've done, some of the cases I've seen, some of the patients I've taken care of -

when I look back, I can't believe I did that or that my team did that," she said. "We did that together. It just lets you know that you are capable of so much more."

Indelible moments have touched her life. She vividly remembers her first patient when she was a medical surgical nurse a decade ago — even his name and face.

"I remember really being upset because I couldn't get their pain under control," Jones said. "I was just really talking to him and his daughter, working and trying to get that under control. That was something that really changed my life because it let me know that I was doing the right thing, that this is where I needed to be. And that these patients impact my life just as much as I impact theirs."

She stays active when not working to rejuvenate her energy and spirit.

"I love to go to Disney World. I love to spend time with my son, my husband and our three dogs," she said. "I'm a homebody unless I'm traveling. But I just love to hang out in my hot tub and just relax."

To learn more about SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital-Midwest, visit https://jobs.ssmhealth.com/us/en.

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ANA Responds to SCOTUS Ruling Against Affirmative Action Programs

Association (ANA) is appalled by the Supreme Court's ruling against race conscious admissions. This detrimental decision will have unfortunate consequences and signals the continuation of systemic and structural racism which has inflicted generational discriminatory trauma in terms of lack of access and academic and professional Inevitably advancement. decision will impact the admissions process for schools of nursing, a necessary pipeline for diversity within the profession to provide culturally competent and equitable health care. All members of society deserve an optimum environment for human flourishing. For equity to exist, equality must first exist. This ruling ignores the reality of inequality and discriminatory practices and policies.

Just last month, ANA issued statement opposing legislation that would prohibit universities

Nurses and institutions of higher learning from implementing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs. Affirmative action was intended to overcome the effects and impact of practices, policies, or barriers to equal opportunity and to achieve the full and fair participation of women, ethnic and minoritized people and individuals with disabilities.

> Race conscious admissions and affirmative action were intended to be a small part of a broader solution to mitigate harm which continues to be perpetuated on marginalized and disadvantaged groups. This ruling is a setback to decades of efforts to address harms, lack of access and inequality for professional opportunities and advancement. ANA will continue to call on Congress, policymakers, and health care leaders to reject any legislation or policy that seeks to reverse progression toward diversity, inclusion, equality, and equity.

OU College of Nursing Faculty Named to 2023 Class of AWHONN Fellows

Assistant Professor Joyce Tow, Ph.D., APRN-CNP, WHNP-BC, RNC-OB, from the Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, was inducted as a Fellow into the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses June 19 at the 2023 AWHONN National Convention in New Orleans. Tow is one of 33 nurses selected to join the association's inaugural class.

The Fellow of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses recognizes nurse leaders who have made substantive and sustained contributions to the health of women and newborns beyond the expectations of their role. They have demonstrated outstanding contributions to clinical practice, research, education, Ziegler College of Nursing. advocacy or policy at the regional, national or global level that is reflective



Assistant Professor Joyce Tow, Ph.D., APRN-CNP, WHNP-BC, RNC-OB, from the Fran and Earl

of the organization's mission and vision. Becoming an AWHONN Fellow demonstrates a commitment to the profession and to the highest standards of nursing care in the specialty of women's health, obstetric or neonatal nursing. "Dr. Tow has been heavily involved in AWHONN throughout her career in nursing in addition to other professional and community service organizations. She has been a member since 1994 and has served in a variety of roles,

including on the Nebraska Chapter Educational Planning Committee and

National Advisory Panel and, most recently (2023) as the AWHONN Oklahoma

professional development coordinator," said Karina M. Shreffler, Ph.D., chair for Child and Family Health Sciences with OU College of Nursing.

Join us for a VA Benefits Seminar at Acclaim Living Independent Retirement Community on July 19th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, 12525 N Pennsylvania Ave, OKC, OK. Steve will speak about, "Three missteps of military retirees." Staff members from the VA Hospitals Community Engagement Team will also be present to answer your questions...

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Steven and Christina Sibley are licensed, independent Insurance Brokers. Their focus is finding the best products to insure their client's Life, Health, Long Term Care and Medicare insurance needs are fully and affordably met, both now and in retirement. With her 20 years of healthcare experience and his 20 years of financial services experience, they are ready to offer you the information and personalized service you expect and deserve. There's never any pressure, or any charge, just help.



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Wells Selected to be Inducted as a Fellow of American Academy of Nursing

Northwestern Oklahoma State University is pleased to announce that Professor Emerita Shelly Wells, Ph.D., MBA, APRN—CNS, ANEF has been selected to be a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Induction into the Academy is a significant milestone in a nurse leader's career in which their accomplishments are honored by their colleagues within and outside the profession. Fellows are selected based on their contributions and impact to advance the public's health.

"My selection as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing is humbling," Wells said. "It is the preeminent honor in nursing and one that I am proud to have accomplished in my career. My work with the Charles Morton Share Trust Division of Nursing has played a big role in this accomplishment. Leadership at this level is afforded to less than 1% of

Northwestern Oklahoma State the nursing profession, and I am Fellow versity is pleased to announce proud to represent nursing on that review to Professor Emerita Shelly Wells, international stage."

The Academy is a policy organization and an honorific society that recognizes nursing's most accomplished leaders in policy, research, practice, administration, and academia to advance equitable solutions to the nation's most complex healthcare challenges. Academy Fellows, from over 40 countries, hold a wide variety of influential roles in health care.

Induction into the Fellowship represents more than recognition of one's accomplishments within the nursing profession. Fellows contribute their collective expertise to the Academy, engaging with health leaders nationally and globally to improve health and achieve health equity by impacting policy through nursing leadership, innovation, and science.

Through a competitive, rigorous application process, the Academy's

Fellow Selection Committee reviewed nearly 400 applications to select the 2023 Fellows. The 2023 Fellows represent 40 states, the District of Columbia, and 13 countries.

Dr. Wells and the 2023 inductees will be recognized for their substantial, sustained, and significant contributions to health and health care at the Academy's annual Health Policy Conference, taking place on Oct. 5 – 7, in Washington, D.C., during the Induction Ceremony on the evening of Oct. 7.

This is a historic year for the Academy as the organization is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Once the newest Fellows are inducted, the Academy will be comprised of more than 3,000 leaders who are experts in policy, research, administration, practice, and academia that champion health and wellness, locally and globally.

"I look forward to spending the



Professor Emerita Shelly Wells, Ph.D., MBA, APRN—CNS, ANEF, Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

continued next page



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WELLS **Continued from Page 4**

remainder of my career working with world-renown nurse leaders to advance evidence-based innovations in nursing and health care delivery while exploring the health needs of populations, including diverse rural populations, through policy and research at the national and global levels," Wells said.

Wells, who retires from Northwestern in July 2023, began her career 40 years ago at Graceland College in Iowa. After she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing, she completed at Northwestern for 11 years and her Master of Science, Master served as the chair of the Charles of Business Administration, and Morton Share Trust Division of

from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

She has experience working in emergency rooms, intensive care units, and cardiac units. She has also been a product line manager of the Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Specialties at a Level I trauma center. Before coming to Northwestern, she served as associate dean for the graduate programs at Graceland University and assistant dean for clinical and community affairs for the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing Tulsa campus. She worked as a professor of nursing Doctor of Philosophy in nursing Nursing for nine years (2013-2022)

For more information about the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Nursing program, visit

https://www.nwosu.edu/school-of-professional-studies/nursing

Northeastern State University ranked Top 10 for Most **Affordable Online Master's Degrees in Education**



College planning website OnlineU has ranked Northeastern State University as No. 7 in their list of Most Affordable Online Master's Degrees in Education for 2023. NSU is the only university in Oklahoma to make the site's top 10

"This recognition is a testament to NSU's commitment to making highquality education accessible and affordable," Dr. Sarah Ramsey, associate professor of curriculum and instruction at NSU, said.

NSU's education programs combine rigorous academic standards with a flexible learning format to empower current and future educators to make lasting impact on student learning.

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction at NSU offers master's degree programs in early childhood education, reading and special education - autism spectrum disorders.

"This ranking further reflects NSU's dedication to being the educational partner of choice, one which provides exceptional education opportunities that are both affordable and valuable," Ramsey said.

NSU is proud to provide exceptional online programs for students seeking degrees in education. To learn more about education programs at NSU, including online master's degrees, visit

https://nursingonline.nsuok.edu/degrees/rn-to-bsn/.



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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2023 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

Stillwater

Changing the Landscape for Healthcare for Moms and Babies in North Central Oklahoma

In 2019, construction began on a state-of-theart addition to the main hospital at Stillwater Medical. The new three-story addition would add much needed surgical suites, an updated labor and delivery unit to include 14 birthing suites, and expansion of the Intensive Care Unit.

In early 2022, the original plans were updated when Stillwater Medical President & CEO Denise Webber announced that the hospital would also be elevating newborn care by adding a Level II NICU in partnership with Oklahoma Children's Hospital as part of the Women's Health Center expansion. This addition would allow Stillwater Medical to care for babies born as early as 32 weeks and those that require extra care, such as breathing and feeding support and IV medications. The NICU will include 10 beds, a nursery, 2 family sleep rooms, a waiting area, hospitality room, and bereavement room.

"Not only will the addition of a newborn intensive care unit at Stillwater Medical help keep babies closer to home, it will also allow Oklahoma Children's Level IV NICU to have room for the most critical cases. This is important for families in Stillwater and surrounding areas," said Pediatrician Melinda Webb M.D. "The addition means that families can stay together and be closer to home. And we know that this increases positive outcomes for babies and mothers. Bonding, breast feeding rates, and healing all improve when families can be together."

Trent E. Tipple, M.D., F.A.A.P., chief of neonatology at Oklahoma Children's Hospital and chief of neonatal-perinatal medicine at OU College of Medicine explained that premature babies often must be sent out of state because there are simply not enough NICU beds to keep Oklahoma families together. The 98-bed Level IV NICU at Oklahoma Children's Hospital is frequently operating at maximum capacity.

Level IV NICUs offer the most comprehensive care to the most seriously ill newborns needing complex medical and surgical care. Tipple said Oklahoma Children's Hospital receives many patients from Stillwater Medical and surrounding hospitals who need Level II care, underscoring



how the creation of a Level II NICU at Stillwater Medical makes perfect sense.

The Stillwater Medical Foundation quickly jumped to the task of assisting the hospital with the funding of the new NICU. Understanding the need and the funds required to make a Stillwater NICU a reality, Stillwater based OnCue knew they wanted to help and contributed the single largest gift in history to Stillwater Medical of \$1,000,000.

OnCue President, Laura Aufleger said, "We knew our gift would make the NICU a reality and our commitment would have an impact on children and families in Oklahoma for decades to come. Our stores have been serving the Stillwater area for 55 years, and I am beyond grateful that we can make this investment to save lives in our community."

Michal Shaw, Stillwater Medical Foundation Executive Director explained that along with the historic gift, OnCue will have the sole naming rights to the NICU.

"Stillwater Medical and the Stillwater Medical Foundation are grateful for OnCue's vision and generous investment in Stillwater and all of north central Oklahoma," said Shaw. "We are excited to say that the OnCue Neonatal ICU is scheduled to open in the spring of 2024."

For more information about Stillwater Medical, visit https://www.stillwater-medical.org/





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COMPLETED

- + Heart & Vascular Institute (2019)
- + Stillwater Cancer Center (2017)

Stillwater Medical

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No Tuition and Fee Increase at WOSC

Western Oklahoma State College is excited to announce there will be no tuition and fee increase for the upcoming fall 2023 semester. Western's Board of Regents voted to approve this request at their June meeting. Providing an affordable education is vital to Western and helps ease the minds of families.

"At Western, we never want the cost of an education to keep an individual from reaching the goal of obtaining a degree. Due to the leadership of our board of regents, conservative spending habits of

the entire campus and the financial support of our state leaders, tuition and fees will remain the same for the upcoming academic



year. We know our students and their families have experienced dramatic increases in almost everything over the last few years so we are pleased to keep the cost of a high quality education stable" said Western President, Dr. Chad Wiginton.

Western Oklahoma State College is the oldest original municipal two-year college still in existence in the State of Oklahoma. Its mission is to provide high quality education while ensuring equity, supporting student success, and empowering individuals to become productive members of a diverse local, regional and global communities. Western offers high-quality associate degrees and certificates to students in its five-county service area and beyond. For more information, visit https://www.wosc.edu/nursing.

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Community Hospital South "We're all a big family. We all help each other and support each other."



Grace Smith, CNA

"I just admire their flexibility to adapt to different changing situations and their compassion towards our patients."



Jina Kilpatrick, RN

"Everybody's helpful. We all work as a team, it's a family atmosphere. It's a small hospital and we all work together well."



Michael Roy, ER paramedic





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NRHF Celebrates Many Milestones, Strong Community Support

The Norman Regional Health Foundation celebrated many milestones at its 16th Ambassador Ball on Friday, June 9.

In addition to raising more than \$200,000 that evening to support community health and wellness initiatives, the Foundation began its 40th Anniversary celebration.Norman Regional Foundation 40 years.jpg (96 KB)

The Foundation Chair-elect Dr. Kate Cook announced the launch of the Foundation's \$4 million "Equipped for Tomorrow" capital campaign in support of Norman Regional's Inspire Health strategic plan that is transforming our health system.

Thank you to the Foundation team for throwing a great party for a great cause! And a special thank you to Dr. James Bond for serving as this year's emcee.

The Equipped for Tomorrow campaign aims to transform medical technology and treatment services across four vital domains at Norman Regional: Cardiovascular Care, Cancer Care, Perinatal Care, and Physical Rehabilitation.

In addition, a fifth vitally important project will breathe new life into the Education Center on the Porter campus, incorporating leading technology and



advancements to help educate and empower healers, as well as activate and engage with our community through various meetings and educational opportunities.

An incredibly generous grant of over \$900,000 from the NRHS Auxiliary will make this renovation a historic reality!

We're thrilled to share that we have already raised an impressive \$2.7 million toward our ambitious campaign goal of \$4 million. Impressively, we are nearly two-thirds of the way to our goal!

Congratulations to the Norman Regional Health Foundation for reaching a momentous milestone of

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40 years of steadfast support of our health system and community!

"This remarkable achievement is a testament to their enduring dedication and the positive impact made on the lives of countless individuals," Richie Splitt, Norman Regional's President & Chief Executive Officer said. "The Foundation has been a beacon of hope, transforming lives and fostering a healthier future for all."

The tireless efforts of our staff, volunteers, and donors exemplify the power of collective compassion and generosity. Thank you for making a difference and for being an invaluable pillar of support within our health system and community.

Here's to 40 years of remarkable achievements, and to the countless lives that have been touched and forever changed by your efforts. The Foundation has created lasting, sustained growth and improvement in our community. Please watch this video that shows the amazing work they have accomplished.

We hope you will join in investing in enhancing community health care and educational excellence.

To learn more about Equipped for Tomorrow visit https://nrhfoundation.org/. To learn about ways to give to the Norman Regional Health Foundation visit the foundation's website under Ways to Give.



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