Oklahoma's Nursing Times

Recruiter Showcase

Bellevue Health & Rehab is Hiring! 3-11 Charge Nurse



August 21, 2023 Vol. 24 Issue 33

Information for the Oklahoma Nursing & Health Care Professional

www.oknursingtimes.com



Rachel Eudey, RN, is a clinical education specialist at Oklahoma Children's Hospital instructing nurses how to be a cardiac pediatric ICU nurse.

The cardiac ICU at Oklahoma Children's how to be a cardiac pediatric ICU nurse. Hospital OU Health has always been a passion and first love for Rachel Eudey, RN, a clinical education specialist. As a clinical education specialist, Eudey teaches the nurses in her unit producing and facilitating.

Story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

time. She focuses on resource making, video

Nurses will be learning through their entire career because technology evolves all the

"We're in the process right now of getting our pediatric heart transplant program off the ground," Eudey said. "It's huge for the state of Oklahoma and for these patients and their

QHealth Recruitment Event

Hiring All Positions — Clinical, Administrative and Professional

Wednesday, Aug. 30 4 – 7 p.m.

Samis Family Education Center, First Floor 1200 N. Children's Ave. Oklahoma City, 73104

Parking: Please park in the Events lot in front of Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health.



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- Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health
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Can't make it? Join us on September 27, 2023 for our next hiring event at Samis Family Education Center.

EUDEY Continued from Page 1

families.

Adults across the US get more transplants because the availability of those organs is much more common. The transplant program will make it easier on families by preventing them from traveling out of Oklahoma for services.

"That's incredibly difficult for families because they are leaving their support systems and leaving their normal physician teams that have been following these patients for a long time," she said.

Children's Hospital's transplant cardiologist arrived in 2021. Eudey assists him in teaching classes on the subject.

Eudey has earned several nursing degrees beginning with her Associate in Nursing degree from OSU/OKC and then her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Southwestern State University. In June she graduated with her Master of Science in Nursing Education degree from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah. She became a nurse in 2014 and came to Children's Hospital in 2014. So, she has always been immersed in pediatric critical care.

"Probably the biggest part of what I do here at the hospital is onboarding new graduate nurses. We do have a pretty robust nursing program here at the hospital," Eudey said.

Her unit onboards 10-15 nurses a year. She also works closely with the other pediatric educators. Children's Hospital onboards 100-125 nurses a year. As they advance through their orientation process, Eudey will break off for the ICU nurse education. Education for tenured nurses is also on her agenda.

"I do a lot of continuing education. I make a lot of educational resources. I also occasionally make resources for the whole hospital and share that with different groups that I'm a part of," she continued.

When practices were updated this year, she collaborated by producing a video with voice-overs and editing on how to provide sterile central line dressing changes and sterile catheter changes that were distributed throughout the whole hospital.

New technology alters practices at Children's Hospital. Education for

nurses include updated ventricular assist devices, coordinating and planning. Eudey is at the frontend of changes by making sure the nurses are prepared for the challenges. The hospital focuses on competency for nurses working in specialized areas.

Eudey provides resources for certifications. She recently created a resource for being a certified pediatric care nurse by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. Another common certification is for critical care nurses. Nurses are enthusiastic about moving forward in their careers. They also receive a monetary bonus after they have earned a national certification.

"So, it's a good incentive for staff to be able to get those as well," Eudey said.

Students in nursing school barely get any pediatric education, she said. Usually, a couple of weeks is spent covering obstetrics and babies, she added. And the little bit that nursing school teaches about pediatrics seldom includes pediatric children, Eudey explained.

"Nurses that come in to work in either the pediatric ICU or the pediatric critical care or the cardiovascular ICU are at a disadvantage because they don't receive any education about that."

Children's Hospital mitigates that by giving recent graduates a robust education and orientation process. The pediatric ICU has a 20-week orientation process.

"It's always a constant learning process," Eudey said.

Self-discipline is imperative to grasp the range of knowledge and learning.

"Being with their preceptor and actually caring for these patients in the unit also helps," she said.

Eudey said it makes her happy knowing she influences new nurses beginning their careers at Children's Hospital.

"When I was still at the bedside I precepted a lot. I was always very enriched by that," she said. "There's something very endearing and satisfying about knowing I'm helping to shape this future nurse who is going to become my coworker. It's basically humbling to know you are creating this nurse who is going to be looking up to you and learning from you."

For more informations about Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health, visit

https://www.ouhealth.com/careers/.

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CAREERS IN NURSING: SCHOOL NURSING - HEALTH AND WELL- BEING IS PRIORITY

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Amy Spiva, BSN, RN serves as the Elementary School Nurse for Stillwater Public Schools, but her role expands beyond that experience.

"Stillwater has six elementary sites and so there's only one licensed nurse for those six elementary schools," Spiva said. "We are very lucky to have Health Assistants at every site. I train, help manage, and prepare for known and unknown health needs, and the daily medical tasks that the Health Assistants can help carry out for me since I'm not able to be at every site all day."

Spiva received her Associates Degree from Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, and her Bachelor's Degree from Panhandle State University in Goodwell.

She said her duties also include creating healthcare plans for SPS elementary students.

"I create individualized healthcare plans for students who have health needs that may or may not need to be managed or intervened upon while they're at school every day," she said. "We work with parents and physicians to create plans for students that inform staff of health concerns and how to respond in the event they should occur at school."

Spiva said they train for various health concerns as well as chronic health conditions, which impact students who may need to take medication every day.

"A big one is diabetes," she said. "It's a major health condition that unfortunately affects more and more children every year and must be managed while at school. We do a lot of diabetic training as well as other emergent type healthcare needs and how to respond to those."

Spiva also oversees her school district's immunization compliance.

"We make sure that all of our immunizations are compliant according to the state regulations," she said. "Being available for health assistants and students, "It's not really the same thing every day," she said. "I enjoy helping our kiddos be successful at school; they need to feel good and be healthy." **Amy Spiva, BSN, RN**

traveling amongst the sites as needed for things that come up, medication administration, overseeing compliance, making sure that we're following policy and school law, and that we are administering our medications correctly to our students that need them every day is a large portion of my role. Another key piece of my role is connecting families to health care services, communicating with providers, and teaching students as well as their families about various health concerns."

After graduating college, Spiva worked from 2008 to 2011 as a Labor and Delivery nurse for Hillcrest Hospital in Cushing before coming to Stillwater, which has both an elementary and secondary nurse positions.

Spiva, a Ripley native, said she enjoys working as a school nurse.

"It's not really the same thing every day," she said. "I enjoy helping our kiddos be successful at school; they need to feel good and be healthy," she said. "When we are able to identify things that we can help with or needs that can be met for them to be successful, that's pretty rewarding."

Spiva said the health and wellbeing of students is a priority for continued next page



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Spiva serves Stillwater elementary schools as a school nurse.

SPIVA Continued from Page 4

her and the school district.

"Stillwater does an excellent job at maintaining health policies that are in accordance with school law, but also when we see things in nursing practice that need to be addressed, they do an excellent job of helping us create policies that give us great boundaries to work within to keep our students safe," she said. "We have planned for various stock medications in the event of unexpected health emergencies, or life-threatening situations. Stillwater Schools is incredibly supportive in giving us the tools that we need to keep all of our students safe."

Spiva said she knew early on she wanted to become a nurse.

"In high school, I thought I wanted to be a nurse," she said. "That was always kind of a draw for me. The medical field was intriguing to me."

Spiva said her desire to become a nurse was strengthened by two life expe

"I started college and then took a break for a couple of years," she



said. "And, then as a young mother, I had two experiences when I had each of my children. And, one was a good experience and one was not a good experience. And, I think that good experience gave me that passion, that drive, to be that nurse, to be that person that can give other mothers and other patients positive experiences when they are in those situations where they need their healthcare needs met. I wanted to be that person that could care for them well."

Spiva and her husband, Sean, have been married for 24 years, and have four children.

"We have four amazing kids, and we have made our home in the very area we both grew up in," she said.

2023 ONA ANNUAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCED

The Oklahoma Nurses Association will be hosting the 2023 annual convention in Oklahoma City September 27th through the 28th.

The goal of the convention is to focus on supporting nurses and building supportive structures for nurses' new normal as the work er



nurses' new normal as the work environment evolves and highlight the difference nurses make every day in the life of patients.

This year, the convention will take place at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest, 3233 Northwest Expy in Oklahoma City. Register for the convention here: https://www.oklahomanurses.org/event-5288406

TU Launches Online RN-to-BSN Degree

The University of Tulsa has announced a new online nursing program to create more pathways for prospective students to meet the growing nationwide demand for nurses. The first class begins Aug. 21 with a program for registered nurses to earn their bachelor of science in nursing, which equips working nurses to transfer their experience into leadership.

This modern course delivery method costs less per hour than a traditional full-time, in-person experience and creates more flexibility for working adults to access a top-tier health care degree. The RN-BSN program features TU's top-ranked curriculum offered in accelerated, eightweek courses and can be completed in as few as 12 months. Students can also choose to spread out their coursework to better accommodate their schedules.

"We are actively working to create more accessible ways for busy, working professionals to balance family and career advancement at a time when demand for nurses is approaching critical levels," said Ron Walker, interim dean of TU's Oxley College of Health & Natural Sciences. "Our online program is designed to be adaptable and exceptional; students can enter at any of five start dates throughout the year, pause, and then restart between sessions to fit the realities of their lives."

The University of Tulsa has a 50-year history of educating students in a pre-licensure nursing program. Since its first graduating class in 1973, TU's School of Nursing has graduated more than 1,400 students with a bachelor of science in nursing degree. The university prides itself on personalized attention, esteemed faculty, and dedicated academic support and career guidance. TU's School of Nursing has reported a 100% placement rate for the past five years.

"Our primary objective is to bridge the gap between the rising demand for nurses and the available workforce, contributing significantly to enhancing health care services in Tulsa and the surrounding region," said Cassy Eng, associate dean of Oxley College of Health & Natural Sciences and director of online programs. "TU is eager to be a partner for area hospitals so that their nursing professionals have the opportunity for advanced degrees and fulfilling careers."

TU's RN-BSN program is currently enrolling for fall 2023, with limited space still available for classes starting on Aug. 21. Financial assistance is available. For more information about TU's online nursing programs, visit https://online.utulsa.edu/.



(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2023 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

Nursing Pioneers: WOSC a leader in SW Oklahoma

Diane Fairchild, MSN, RN had a recent conversation with a former graduate.

A smile crossed her face as the graduate related heartfelt thanks for the learning opportunities he had received at Western Oklahoma State College.

And by the time the school's nursing program director finished the conversation, she had a volunteer for IV skills lab day walking down the hall to meet with their former instructor.

"He wanted to be a part of that because he felt like he had received an excellent education here and he loved nursing and wanted to give back to the students by letting them stick his arm," Fairchild said. "He appreciated the relationship that he had developed with his instructors and they were so caring and kind to him that he just wanted to give back."

"It's a wonderful feeling, very fulfilling."

It's stories like these that keep Fairchild and her faculty going.

Western Oklahoma State has one of the only ADN programs in southwest Oklahoma and has three campuses.

Established as Altus Junior College in 1926, it is the oldest original municipal two-year college still in existence in Oklahoma.

The Nursing Program at Western Oklahoma State College was established in 1981 and has an outstanding success rate for preparing qualified nurses.

The WOSC nursing program is offered at three campus sites: Altus, Lawton, and Elk City. Western's ADN program has several program tracks.

Face-to-face classes for both general and advanced standing entry students are available as well as online classes with a face-to-face clinical component for advanced standing students. Students in the face-to-face track are able to take daytime classes at all three campuses.

"One of our major goals is to meet the needs of Altus and the surrounding areas by having a high-quality nursing program and having nurses go into our communities and stay and help with the nursing needs of the people in that community," Fairchild said.

One of the school's most popular programs is the online LPN-to-RN track.

"We even have students coming from Texas and Oklahoma City," she said. "With this program and testing you can complete the program in one year and still be able to work as an LPN while you are completing the program."

NCLEX pass rates for the LPN to RN have exceeded the national average for the past two years.

"I feel like we have excellent support with our clinical sites, the different hospitals in the area that allow us to do clinicals there," Fairchild said. "We have excellent clinical adjunct instructors that provide very good clinical teaching to our students where they can really build on their bedside skills and bedside interaction with patients. They really build upon their ability to care and give compassion to patients."

Fairchild said oftentimes clinical instructors are employed at the facilities where clinicals occur which only adds to the learning experience.

"They know what they need and are able to teach that to the students. A lot of our hospitals do nurse intern programs during the summer and it's very beneficial to the student and it's beneficial to the school because they're continuing their education through work in the summer," Fairchild said. "The students are getting to know the nurses there and developing relationships and when they graduate and become nurses a lot of times they are hired in those facilities and help with the nursing shortage."

Springtime is always an exciting time for healthcare facilities in and around campus.

"I know they say it's very difficult to find RNs to come to southwest Oklahoma so they're always thankful when it comes to graduation time and they know some of those RNs are going to be able to stay in that area," Fairchild said.

And some even come back to their alma mater to pay it forward.

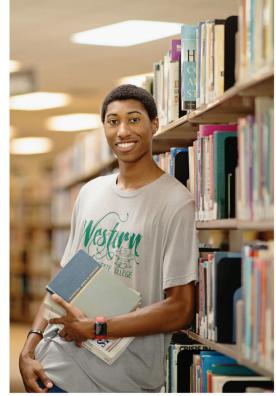
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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION RATES TO REMAIN SAME FOR 6TH YEAR

Agreement aligns with scholarship offerings made possible by OCU alum Herman Meinders

Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) continues to uphold its commitment to affordability and accessibility by keeping tuition rates unchanged for the sixth consecutive year.

While inflation continues to burden budgets across the nation, OCCC remains steadfast in its mission to provide quality education without adding additional financial strain on students and their families. By maintaining consistent tuition rates, OCCC continues to foster an inclusive learning environment that empowers individuals to pursue their academic goals and build brighter futures.

OCCC President Dr. Mautra Staley Jones said, "At

OCCC, we recognize the immense challenges that our students and their families face in today's economic climate. By not raising tuition for the past six years, we have made a tangible impact on the lives of our students, enabling them to focus on their studies and invest in their future without the added burden of increased costs."

OCCC's commitment to affordability goes hand in hand with its dedication to academic excellence. By keeping tuition rates stable, OCCC aims to attract and retain a diverse range of students, fostering a vibrant and inclusive campus community that encourages learning, innovation and personal growth.

In addition to maintaining affordable tuition, OCCC offers a range of financial aid options, scholarships and support services to ensure that students receive the assistance they need to pursue their educational aspirations.



Since its inception in 1972, Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) has been the heartbeat of the Metro, dedicated to empowering and strengthening learners communities. Serving nearly 18,000 students, we are committed to producing leaders. "Student Success, Community Enrichment" is our mission as we offer more than 60 degree and certificate programs that provide a steppingstone to further education or immediate career readiness. We remain dedicated

to providing accessible, affordable, high-quality education that equips students to achieve personal and professional goals. OCCC is more than an institution; we are a community catalyst, fostering growth and success in our city, our workforce, and the lives of our students. Discover your potential at OCCC, where your future is our purpose.

For more information about the OCCC Nursing program, visit https://www.occc.edu/health/nursing/.

OKNT CROSSWORD: Anti-Psycotics Across DULOXETINE 4. **ABILIFY** 6. 7. **ALPRAZOLAM** 9. AMITRIPTYLLINE 10. ZYPREXA REMERON 12. 15. BUSPAR 16. ZOLOFT 17. SINEQUAN 18. **ATIVAN** 19. DIAZEPAM Down **LEXAPRO** 1. 2. ATARAX 3. PAXIL 5. **EFFEXOR** 8. SEROQUEL 11. CELEXA 13. **RISPERIDONE** 14. HYROXYZINE PAMOATE

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

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What are you thankful for in life?



The Timbers Skilled Nursing & Therapy

Courtney Bowling, CNA

"I'm thankful for my life, my

family, and my job."

"I'm thankful for my job that can keep me going for my kids."



Courtney Flowers, CNA

"I'm thankful in life for being able to raise my three children and waking up today to provide for these patients."

A



Antwanette Overstreet, CMA

Canadian Valley Hospital Achieves Pathway to Excellence Re-Designation

INTEGRIS Canadian Valley Hospital

INTEGRIS Health Canadian Valley Hospital achieves Pathway to Excellence® re-designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the third consecutive fouryear term.

"This is such a great honor and a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire nursing staff led by Chief Nursing Officer Brandi Stewart," says Teresa Gray, the chief hospital executive of INTEGRIS Health Canadian Valley Hospital. "I want to congratulate all of our nurses on this major accomplishment."

The Pathway designation is a global credential that highlights INTEGRIS Health Canadian Valley's commitment to creating a healthy work environment where nurses feel empowered and valued. INTEGRIS Health Canadian Valley nurses are an integral part of the health care team, with a voice in policy and practice. Pathway nurses are engaged, resulting in higher job satisfaction, reduced turnover, improved safety and better patient outcomes.

As a Pathway organization, INTEGRIS Health Canadian Valley Hospital leads the effort to enhance quality of care, patient and nursing safety, and the future of health care delivery.

Click <u>HERE</u> for more information on the Pathway to Excellence recognition program.

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Chickasha's Palesano Brings Home National Silver Medal for CV Tech

Lindsey Palesano is not the typical student enrolled at Canadian Valley Technology Center. High school is 20 years in the rear view for her.

Still, dozens of adult students complete career programs each year and re-enter the workforce. Palesano, 39, of Chickasha, hopes to soon follow in their footsteps.

She admits to struggling with the choice to quit her job so she could pursue a dream of becoming a nurse.

"I knew I was starting over," she said. "I was terrified. I remember asking myself, 'OK, am I too old for this?"

Then she looked across the living room at her three sons.

"How can I tell them to follow their dreams if I do not do that myself?" she asked.

Palesano left behind a 15-year career in advertising to enroll in CV Tech's Practical Nursing program. The adults-only curriculum focuses on delivering high-quality patient care through advanced medical procedures. Graduates are prepared to take the exam for becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse, or LPN.

She has just a few weeks of class time remaining before completing coursework.

Palesano said she opted to get involved in leadership development only recently at CV Tech. She and classmates Terrie Clark, also of Chickasha, and Ashley Keeton, of Anadarko, entered a statewide contest in April for creative problem solving as it relates to the healthcare industry.

The team won the state championship and qualified for HOSA-Future Health Professionals nationals in Dallas. Each team member had to take a written critical thinking test. Teams who scored well enough advanced to the next round, a problem-solving speech session for handling nurse burnout and overcoming the nursing shortage.

"I gave an eight-minute speech in front of a panel of judges," she said. "Then I put it in God's hands."

The team was called to the stage at the awards ceremony and was awarded a national silver medal. Only a team



CV Tech students recently won a silver medal at the HOSA-Future Health Professionals national conference in Dallas. Pictured (left to right) is Ashley Keeton, Terrie Clark and Lindsey Palesano.

from Texas Tech University placed higher.

"It was very humbling," she said. "Our team is older. We came to school later in life. It was just shocking to do this well competing with students half our age."

Palesano plans to complete her state board exam and then work as an LPN while pursuing a registered nurse associate degree at Oklahoma City Community College.

Then, she wants to work in a hospital, possibly in labor and delivery.

"I cannot begin to describe how phenomenal an experience Canadian Valley is," she said. "I cannot rave enough about the culture here as far as teaching and programs and instructors. They are completely invested and our biggest cheerleaders."

CV Tech students are encouraged to become active participants. Co-curricular student organizations afford students opportunities for personal growth and development in the areas of public speaking, planning and organizing.

Members also work on various community projects and enjoy competitive events at the regional, state and national levels. More than 95,000 Oklahoma students are members of student organizations statewide.

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Mercy Names Dana Haynie of Oklahoma to Lead Cancer Services

Mercy has named a new leader to grow and transform cancer services for patients in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

Dana Haynie will serve as Mercy's service line president for cancer care. She has worked as an advisor on oncology projects in multiple Mercy communities over the last year and has more than a decade of experience as a senior leader in the field. Haynie was previously president and chief executive officer at Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) in Tulsa, Oklahoma, part of a national network of hospitals that specialized in the treatment of patients fighting complex or advanced-stage cancer. In her 13 years at CTCA, she also led marketing, business development, strategic growth and patient experience.

named to Mercy's new service line president role, part of the health system's focus on building an exceptional, consistent experience for patients receiving specialty care regardless of where they live. Service line presidents will also lead cardiovascular, surgery and GI, neurosciences, orthopedics, and women and children across Mercy.

"As an experienced, resultsoriented leader who has spent years helping people fight and treat this devastating disease, Dana has the expertise, skills and compassionate character needed to lead cancer care at Mercy," said Dr. Jeff Ciaramita, president of specialty service lines at Mercy.

Haynie was exposed to cancer early in life. Her grandmother was a nearly 40-year survivor of breast cancer, diagnosed years before today's testing and treatments Haynie is the second leader became available. She was able to experience her grandmother's first Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure event by her side.

"When you get a diagnosis like cancer, your whole life is turned upside down in an instant," said Haynie. "Our focus will be working together, across Mercy, to create the best possible experience for our patients during an already difficult time. The process of seeking health care shouldn't add any more stress for our patients. We want to remove every roadblock to care and create a cohesive patient experience whether they come to Mercy for an outpatient appointment with an oncologist, a visit for infusion therapy or an inpatient stay for a surgery."

Haynie will collaborate with Mercy physicians and leaders across Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma to align, further develop, and grow these services. She will lead strategic planning to build and grow services in the future with patient experience at the center of every decision.

Over the last several years, Mercy has expanded cancer care with new innovations and the latest technology, including precision medicine, collaborations with Mayo Clinic and Grail's Multi-Cancer Early



Dana Haynie, Mercy service line president of cancer care

Detection (MCED) testing.

"At Mercy, we have a core belief that patients need and deserve access to the best services, physicians and providers, research, innovation and technologies in a way that gives them the

best experience," said Dr. Ciaramita. "We know Dana is the right person to continue leading and growing Mercy's efforts to provide high quality, best-in-class cancer care for our patients regardless of where they live and seek care."



Puzzle Answers: Anti-Psycotics

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46TH ANNUAL SENIOR DAY

Wednesday, September 20

Free admission for Seniors 55+ (proof of age required) OF HAND STATE FAIR SENIOR DAY DU

Energized by

Session 3: 3:30 - 6 p.m.

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

OF THIS WOR

OUT & ABOUT: SPACE WALK
SENIORS IN MOTION VIDEO VOTING
OKIE STOMPERS
BLACK HOLE TOSS
THE MILKY WAY - EXPANSIVE UNIVERSE OR DELICIOUS CANDY 11:30 a.m.
YMCA COMMUNITY TEAM
LOVE YOU TO THE MOON AND BACK COUPLES CHALLENGE 12:50 p.m.
OUT OF THIS WORLD KARAOKE CONTEST1:20 p.m.
IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE
THE BIG BANG GAME SHOW
SAVE THE FROZEN PLANET
JIM GARLING
OKLAHOMA CITY SWING DANCE CLUB
ALIEN INVASION
VOCAL SOUNDS OF OKLAHOMA
ELVIS VISITS THE SPACE STATION
SHAWN KLUSH - TRIBUTE TO ELVIS

For more detailed information visit the Senior Day page on the Oklahoma State Fair website.

OU's Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing Awarded Two Federal Grants to Help Fill Oklahoma's Nursing Shortage

The Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma has been awarded more than \$2.7 million in two federal grants from Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Both grants are designed to help improve Oklahoma's critical nursing shortage.

"Together this federal funding provides Oklahoma nurses with the opportunity to advance their education as advanced practice RNs and/or nurse faculty," said Julie Hoff, Ph.D., MPH, R.N., dean of the OU College of Nursing. "Improving access to graduate nursing education addresses two critical nursing workforce needs in Oklahoma: 1) increases the number of nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists in rural communities, thus improving access to care, and 2) increases the number of nurses prepared to be faculty in Oklahoma nursing programs."

Over 59% of Oklahoma's population compared to 32% nationally - lives in a designated primary care Health Professional Shortage Area, according to the State Department of Health. Recruiting and educating nurses for advanced practice is critical - especially in rural communities - to improving access to primary care, women's health and mental health services, which subsequently improves health outcomes.

HRSA's Nurse Faculty Loan Program grant addresses not only the need for additional nurses with graduate degrees in Oklahoma, but also the Melissa Craft, PhD, APRN- Amy Costner-Lark, DNP, faculty needed to prepare the next generation CNS, AOCN, FAAN of nurses at all levels. The OU College of

Nursing curriculum prepares nurses to address health disparities, social determinants of health, health equity, and behavioral health integration. Loans from the NFLP will provide up to \$40,000 an academic year per eligible graduate student to help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, lab expenses and other reasonable education expenses.

Melissa Craft, Ph.D., APRN-CNS, FCNS FAAN, associate dean for clinical affairs, outreach and practice innovation in the OU College of

> Nursing, is principal investigator for the NFLP grant.

The second HRSA award -Oklahoma Workforce Innovations in Nursing - is a four-year grant to provide financial support to 24 advanced practice nursing students per year at the OU College of Nursing. The \$2.5 million award funds scholarships and stipends for 12 full-time and nine part-time advanced practice students annually in the family nurse practitioner, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and adult/gerontology clinical nurse specialist tracks of the college's Doctor of Nursing Practice program. These funds will allow students to earn an advanced degree, focus their efforts on their education without accruing large amounts of debt, increase their knowledge and skills and have a greater impact on patient care.

APRN-CNP, FNP

school to expand its curriculum, academic-clinical strengthen partnerships in underserved rural and urban areas, and provide professional development for preceptors and faculty.

Amy Costner-Lark, DNP, APRN-CNP, FNP, assistant dean for academic affairs and director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at the OU College of Nursing, is the principal investigator for this grant.

The Nurse Faculty Loan Program funding is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of an award totaling \$206,603 with 10% financed with non-governmental sources.

The Oklahoma Workforce Innovations in Nursing funding of \$2.5 million is supported solely by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The contents of these grants are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, This grant will also enable the HHS or the U.S. Government.

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