Oklahoma's Nursing Times

OCTOBER 23, 2023 | VOL. 24 ISSUE 42

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Circle of life Hospice Nurse Values Patient Care

Read her story on page 2

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LIAMA

RECRUITER SHOWCASE Stillwater Medical

Award-winning Patient Care Culture



NURSING LEADERSHIP OPPORTUN CHECK OUT OUR OPENINGS ON PAGE 5 Stillwater Campus

Gabriel Worthy, RN Valir Hospice Nurse loves hiking and music festivals

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Gabriel Worthy recalls her budding desire to become a nurse.

field and my grandfather was on hospice. So, I watched his dying process when I was about 16," said Worthy, RN, Valir Hospice, located in Oklahoma City.

She was intrigued and grateful for the nursing care provided to her grandfather.

"It made me want to ensure I was giving my patients the dignity that they deserve. I think that keeps me going. I get a lot of gratitude by going in and providing comfort to somebody," she said.

Her experience propelled her to enroll in LPN school at age 18 after graduating from high school in Chickasha.

Worthy worked her way up

from being a CNA, CMA, and a restorative aide in a Chickasha nursing home.

She was an LPN for six years. "My dad was in the medical At age 22, she enrolled in nursing school at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. In July, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree when completing her online course. She has been with Valir Hospice for eight years.

> "I really love going into my patients' homes and being there for them, advocating for them, providing the most important care at the most important time of their life," Worthy said.

> She not only provides palliative care but helps families by answering questions about what to expect in the dying process.

> "I try to make it a little bit easier for them because probably the most difficult thing they will go through is losing a loved one,"

she explained.

Employee longevity adds a consistency to the nursing staff that is extremely important when running a functional hospice, Worthy continued. She appreciates that her supervisors will work with them in the field whenever needed. Patient care is their No. 1 goal.

"Everything else will fall behind that," she said. "Having those values in our administration flows down to us," she added. "And it makes it really easy to work for Valir"

Worthy reassures patients that Valir Hospice is there to help them live each day to the fullest by providing comfort and compassion. Hospice nurses, nurse aides, volunteers, chaplains, and social workers assist in meeting their goals and to fulfill wishes.

"We are there for the patient. I really don't see anybody here that is just ready for their paycheck. They are doing this job because they love this job," Worthy said.

Seeing expressions of relief on the patients and their family's faces reinforces for Worthy that she is

helping people. In fact, she will often see families return to Valir Hospice when another loved one's health is terminal and in need of palliative care. She attends funerals whenever possible. Valir Hospice does not forget.

Once a year, Valir Hospice provides a luncheon for family members. It is a time to reminisce as the nurses and nurse aides all come to the luncheon because families know them as the biggest part of their loved one's care.

Valuable Wishes is another program Valir provides. One of the participants was a lady who had loved horses since growing up with them. Her valuable wish was to go back to a horse stall. Valir Hospice provided transportation and staff to accompany the patient to be with a horse again.

"She came, she brushed the horses and was able to pet them. It was really a nice way to bring her family together, and create some positive memories for after she passed," Worthy said.

Another patient was a man

See WORTHY Page 3

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Gabriel Worthy, RN, believes each patient she meets as a Valir Hospice nurse is given the dignity and compassion they deserve.

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WORTHY Continued from Page 2

whose wish to visit a museum became a reality. Worthy also recalled a lady who liked to shop. So, they created a store for the woman to shop at.

Worthy said hospice nurses also experience sadness and grief when a patient dies.

Being in hospice has made her a stronger nurse, she said. Hospice has made her calmer.

"I don't react as quickly to stressful situations," she said.

In her early days as a nurse, https://valir.com/join-our-team/

she would exhaust herself trying to save everybody, she said. Now she feels more confident knowing she's with a productive team.

"I feel they have my back if something is to happen," she said. "I have that support. All around it has made me a better nurse."

Worthy understands the circle of life. She cherishes each moment with her family and 5-year-old son who keeps her busy on her toes. She loves hiking and music festivals.

To learn more about Valir Hospice or to join the team visit https://valir.com/join-our-team/



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SSC Nursing Program Receives Million-Dollar Grant

Seminole State College's nursing program was recently awarded a congressionally directed grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the amount of \$1,050,000. The grant, to be distributed over the next three years, is set to bring transformative changes to SSC's Nursing Department, particularly focusing on the development and expansion of simulation labs.

Crystal Bray, Chair of the Health Sciences Division and Nursing Program Director, said, "This grant will give students the opportunity to work on a variety of clinical skill sets and work with a variety of patients through simulation that they may not always see in a hospital setting when they're doing their clinicals."

This multi-faceted initiative will involve the reconstruction of SSC's existing nursing laboratory, converting it into a cutting-edge simulation lab. Four specialized rooms, designed to

Seminole State College's nursing replicate hospital environments, will gram was recently awarded a provide students with a realistic gressionally directed grant from setting for hands-on learning. Two of Health Resources and Services these rooms will feature audio and ninistration (HRSA) in the amount video capabilities, enabling students \$1,050,000. The grant, to be to

> engage in real-time patient care simulations, complete with one-way mirrors and interactive technologies.

> "Students will be able to make decisions on their own on a mannequin in a safe environment," Bray said.

> A significant portion of the grant will be directed towards the acquisition of high-fidelity mannequins that simulate various medical conditions, delivering a lifelike and immersive learning experience. The mannequins will perform actions ranging from walking to having seizures, providing students with an array of potential patient scenarios.

> Bray highlighted the grant's significance in bridging the gap



Seminole State College's nursing program recently awarded \$1,050,000 grant.

between training mannequins and real-world patients, "This shift aims to better prepare students for the challenges of the healthcare field, where they will encounter patients of various sizes and conditions."

SSC is also exploring the integration of virtual reality (VR) technology into its nursing programs. VR-based clinical simulations would allow students to experience complex medical situations and scenarios, enriching the learning experience.

The grant will also fund

the purchase of advanced medical equipment, such as medication dispensing systems and computerized charting systems, to help students familiarize themselves with the exact technologies they will use in their future careers.

The grant award marks the culmination of a two-year effort by SSC's dedicated team, spearheaded by Crystal Bray, alongside former Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller, current VPAA Dr.

See GRANT Page 5



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GRANT Continued from Page 4

Amanda Estey, and Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Melanie Rinehart.

SSC President Lana Reynolds said, "We are so grateful for the team that worked so hard on this grant, and we're appreciative of former U.S. Senator James Inhofe for his initial invitation to apply for these funds

and his efforts to direct these funds to our campus. As SSC continues its mission to enhance nursing education, the support of HRSA and the grant's implementation will significantly contribute to preparing future nurses for the diverse challenges of healthcare."

For more information about Seminole State College's nursing program visit https://www.sscok.edu/

41st Annual EPIC Educational Conference Set, 6 Continuing Education Hours Provided

The Epidemiologists and Professional in Infection Control (EPIC) conference will be held Friday, November 3rd, 2023 at the Petroleum Club Event Center, 4040 N Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK. 73105.

Nurses will be provided 6 hours of continuing education credits by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

The 2023 EPIC Conference Speakers: Bryan Spradley, training director, Arkansas Oklahoma Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Program ICRA Awareness. Kathleen McMullen, MPH, CIC, FAPIC, Mercy Health Director of Infection Prevention Critical Access Hospital IP Program Standards. Dr. Izzy Justice, Chief Neuroscientist, NEURO580, Mental Health in Healthcare Workers. Jolianne Stone, MPH, OSDH State Epidemiologist, State Disease Update.

Registration Deadline is October 15th, 2023. REGISTER HERE:

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OKLAHOMA VETERANS SALUTE



TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. -- Karisa Washington carefully studies Maj. Nancy O'Connell's face during the 10-month-old's exam in the pediatric clinic here. Clinic workers provide health-care services for about 3,000 of the youngest members of military families through well-baby appointments, vaccinations and physicals. Major O'Connell, a reservist, is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner at the 72nd Medical Group. (U.S. Air Force photo by Margo Wright) - Thank you for your service.



(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2023 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

Nursing Pioneets WOSC a leader in SW Oklahoma

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

Visit http://www.wosc.edu/nursing for more information.



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TWO TOP OKLAHOMA PHYSICAL THERAPY COMPANIES JOIN FORCES Valir PT and Northern Therapy & Rehabilitation Unite

Valir Physical Therapy officially welcomed Northern Therapy & Rehabilitation into its practice Monday, further expanding Valir's growing practice which now encompasses 25 locations throughout Oklahoma.

"We are very excited to join forces with such a well-respected and talented group of physical therapists," said Kelli Adams, Chief Administrative Officer of Valir Health. "We welcome these clinics in Blackwell, Perry, Ponca City and Stillwater to our growing physical therapy outpatient practice."

Adams added that like Valir, Northern Therapy is committed to delivering high quality physical therapy and rehabilitation care to people where they need it most – close to home.

"We are excited to be working with our new colleagues at Northern Therapy at Valir Health," said Valir Physical Therapy President Jeff

Jankowski, PT, DPT, ATC, "When you need physical therapy to help you overcome one of the many challenges life can throw your way, we know you want to be able to rely on experts who have the knowledge and skills to help you achieve your goals. We also know you don't want to have to drive long distances to do that. That is why we continue to grow our practice to bring our knowledge and expertise as physical therapists to more communities throughout Oklahoma."

Valir PT is the largest locally owned physical therapy company in the state with locations in North Oklahoma City, South Oklahoma City, Choctaw, Deer Creek, Edmond, Midwest City, Moore, Norman, Piedmont, and Yukon, as well as in these other Oklahoma communities: Altus, Blackwell, Chickasha, Duncan, Elgin, Enid, Frederick, Guthrie, Lawton, Mustang, Perry, Ponca City,

Jankowski, PT, DPT, ATC, "When you Purcell, Shawnee and Stillwater.

"Physical therapy is our practice, but people are our passion. We strive with each of our clinics to create a warm and welcoming environment where healing can happen," Jankowski said. "We have long admired the team at Northern Therapy because they share the same commitment to those we serve. I couldn't be more pleased to have them as part of the Valir team."

The clinics in Blackwell, Perry, Ponca City and Stillwater will now be known as Northern PT at Valir. Although the clinics' names will change, the therapists who people in these communities have come to know and respect are not changing.

"Our name may be changing, but our commitment to providing high quality therapy and rehabilitation care for patients in our local communities remains unchanged. We are excited to be a part of the Valir team," said Northern Therapy's Todd McAreavy, RPT.

Valir Physical Therapy is the largest locally owned physical therapy company in Oklahoma. Valir PT was voted the 2023 Community Choice Award recipient, having also been named People's Choice in physical therapy nine times. The practice includes 25 clinics in the Oklahoma City metro and across Oklahoma, offering skilled therapy and rehabilitation services. Valir's talented team of skilled therapists strive daily to help people overcome pain, and regain strength, balance, and mobility so they can get back to doing the things they love most. Valir PT is the outpatient practice of Valir Health, which also includes Valir Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital, Valir Hospice and Valir PACE (Program of Allinclusive Care for the Elderly). To learn more about Valir Physical Therapy, visit https://valirpt.com/.

EPIC 41st Annual Education 41st Annual Conference Educational Conference Ohlahama **OKLAHOMA!** Friday, November 3rd, 2023 Petroleum Club Event Center 4040 N Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK. 73105 NURSES! Continuing education of 6 hours is provided by Oklahoma Board of Nursing. Registration Deadline is October 15th, 2023.



October 23, 2023

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What is the importance of becoming an organ donor?

Health



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Kaye Gadd, RN

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Lindsey Farley, RN



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ANSWERS ON PAGE 16

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Dean Recognized With Honors for Outstanding Commitment



Cindy Weston, founding dean of the HSC College of Nursing, is recognized on Oct. 7 as a member of the 2023 Class of Fellows of the American Academy Nursing by Ken White, AAN immediate past president and dean of the MGH Institute's School of Nursing. Photo credits are to read "Photo Credits: EPNAC.com"

The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth is proud to announce that the founding dean of its College of Nursing, Cindy Weston, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CHSE, FAANP, recently received three prestigious nursing honors in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the profession.

Weston was honored with the following awards and accolades:

American Academy of Nursing Fellow - Weston was inducted into the academy's 2023 Class of Fellows for her substantial, sustained and outstanding impact on health and health care. With more than 3,000 fellows, the academy represents nursing's most accomplished leaders in policy, research, administration, practice and academia. The academy's inductees are selected after a rigorous and competitive application process.

Texas Nurse Practitioners 2023 Nurse Practitioner of the Year - This award recognizes a nurse practitioner who demonstrates excellence and serves as a role model for the nurse practitioner profession. As the former TNP president, Weston has demonstrated unrelenting dedication to improving the health and well-being of all Texans through her work as a nurse practitioner, and advocacy for all nurses and the next generation of health care professionals.

University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing Alumni Association 2023 Hall of Fame Award - The award goes to UTMB alumni who have made contributions to nursing through a commitment to excellence in patient care, research, published work, education, community service and leadership. Weston earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the university.

"We are incredibly proud of Dr. Weston's achievements from these highly respected organizations," said Charles Taylor, PharmD, HSC provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "Her commitment and dedication to advancing the nursing profession is a testament to why we are so fortunate to have her as our founding dean of the College of Nursing."

Dr. Weston's commitment to nursing excellence and passion already has impacted HSC's College of Nursing. Her achievements and awards reflect the university's mission of creating solutions for a healthier community and dedication to providing high-quality education.

The UNT System Board of Regents approved the creation of the HSC College of Nursing in February to help address the shortage of nurses in Texas. In August, it approved the college's first two degree offerings, a Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Nursing Practice Innovation. The degrees are slated to be offered in fall 2024, when the college's first students will start classes. Before enrolling students, the degrees also must be approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

For more information about HSC's new College of Nursing, visit https://www.unthsc.edu/college-of-nursing/.

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UCO Launches Doctorate in Forensic Science, First in School History

The University of Central Oklahoma recently received approval from the Higher Learning Commission, UCO's accrediting body, to launch the Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) in forensic science, the first-ever doctoral degree offered by the university.

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Housed within UCO's W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute, classes for the doctoral program will begin fall 2024.

"This is a landmark moment for the University of Central Oklahoma. I thank former UCO Forensic Science Institute Director Dwight Adams for building the premier forensic science program in the nation. His efforts, alongside the FSI faculty and the Academic Affairs team, positioned UCO for this recognition and achievement," said UCO President Todd G. Lamb.

"UCO is now unquestionably the destination for forensic science education at every level, leading the way in developing the workforce in this important area."

The Doctor of Science in forensic science is an interdisciplinary applied science degree designed to provide students with the critical-thinking ability, problem-solving skills and advanced discipline-specific knowledge to allow them to advance into leadership positions. It will provide students with an additional 60 hours of graduate courses and research beyond a master's degree. The program is designed to produce graduates for forensic science and management positions at all levels of government and private industry where there is currently great demand.

Central's unique program will offer a balance of internships, seminars and management leadership training as part of the curriculum.

Coursework in the doctoral program will be offered on a flexible schedule to serve working students who hold full-time day jobs. Students can expect to finish the program in approximately three to four years.

"This new doctoral program marks a significant milestone for UCO and the W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute solidifying our position as one of the nation's leading institutions for forensic science education. At UCO, we are committed to workforce development,



The University of Central Oklahoma Forensic Science Institute.

and the Doctor of Science in forensic science stands as a testament to that dedication," said Mark McCoy, Ed.D., interim director and dean of Central's FSI.

"Through this program, we envision a future where our graduates will occupy leadership positions in Oklahoma and across the country playing a pivotal role in shaping policy and driving advancements that make a lasting impact on the field of forensic science."

Prospective students interested in the program must apply for admission by April 15.

The doctoral degree is the latest in a string of successes for the institute that

included national rankings for programs and historic Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) accreditation for all graduate degrees offered through the institute.

The institute has overseen the undergraduate and graduate forensic science programs at Central since 2009. The UCO FSI has seen significant growth from its inception—from fewer than 100 students in 2009, to nearly 1,000 forensic science majors. It is the largest forensic science education program in the country.

To learn more about UCO's FSI, visit https://www.uco.edu/fsi/.



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AAN Announces 2023 Election Results

President-Elect, Treasurer, Board of Directors, and Committee Members will Assume Leadership Positions Following Academy's Annual Business Meeting

The American Academy of Nursing (Academy) announces its election results for President-Elect, Treasurer, Board of Directors, Fellow Selection Committee, and Nominating Committee.

"The Academy is pleased to announce the following Fellows, elected by their peers, will assume leadership positions within the organization following the Annual Business Meeting on October 7 taking place at the 2023 Health Policy Conference," said Academy President Kenneth R. White, PhD, AGACNP, ACHPN, FACHE, FAAN. "Throughout my term as President, I have been inspired by the expertise within the Fellowship as well as our



Academy President Kenneth R. White, PhD, AGACNP, ACHPN, FACHE, FAAN.

collective ability to impact health policy. I applaud the Nominating Committee for their exceptional work to slate individuals for this election that are dedicated to the Academy's values of equity, diversity, inclusivity, inquiry, integrity, and courage. I am confident our newly elected leaders will continue to champion the Academy in pursuit of these values and the advancement of health equity."

Debra J. Barksdale, PhD, FNP-BC, CNE, FAANP, ANEF, FAAN, Dean & Professor, University of North Carolina Greensboro, will assume the role of President-Elect. She has remained a staunch advocate of the Academy's commitment to excellence since her induction in 2012. Dr. Barksdale has served in many capacities, including as a member of the Board of Directors, and as a previous Co-Chair of the Policy Conference Planning Committee. In her role on

the Board, she served as the liaison to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Committee and several Expert Panels as well as on the review committee for the National Academy of Medicine's Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence program, supported by the Academy, the American Nurses Association, and the American Nurses Foundation.

"I am honored to have been voted President-Elect by my peers within the Academy," said Dr. Barksdale. "I look forward to serving and collaborating with our Fellows as the organization continues to dedicate its work to advancing equity through evidencebased health policies. The timing is particularly exciting as the Academy will undertake its strategic planning process for 2025-2028 during my term and I intend to build off the excitement and energy that has been demonstrated throughout our 50th anniversary year to create a stronger, more inclusive Academv."

Bernice Coleman, PhD, ACNP-BC, FAHA, FAAN, Director, Nursing **Research and Quality Improvement** Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, will assume the role of Treasurer. She is committed to advancing the financial strength of the organization while striving to uphold the Academy's focus on innovation, research, and leadership. Since her induction in 2012, Dr. Coleman has engaged in several volunteer leadership positions including most recently as a member of the Finance Committee, where she served a pivotal role in vetting the Academy's investment firm and providing fiduciary oversight of the implementation of the organization's Strategic Plan.

"Serving as Treasurer of the Academy is in an incredible responsibility and privilege," said Dr. Coleman. "I intend to continue our organization's strong fiscal management while furthering our policy impact to promote health and wellness within the communities we live and serve."

Ronald Hickman, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC, FNAP, FAAN, Ruth M. Anderson Endowed Professor and Associate Dean for Research, Case Western Reserve University Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors. An innovator known for his work promoting technologybased solutions to improve end-of-life decision-making and chronic disease self-management, Dr. Hickman has demonstrated his passion for advancing nursing innovation and science through his numerous roles within the organization. Inducted in 2015, Dr. Hickman is a member of the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science's (CANS) National Advisory Council and Program Committee.

"I look forward to my service on the Academy's Board of Directors and to advancing our organization's mission to improve health and achieve health equity by impacting policy through nursing leadership, innovation, and science," said Dr. Hickman.

Eun-Ok Im, PhD, MPH, CNS, FAAN, Dean, University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors. Dr. Im is a dedicated researcher and advocate for diversifying the nursing profession. She has served in numerous equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) roles, including as a Board member of the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations and member of the AARP EDI Steering Committee. Dr. Im is also a past president of the Asian American Pacific Islander Nurses Association. Since her induction into the Academy in 2005, Dr. Im has sponsored over 15 nurse leaders for Fellowship and has remained an active member of CANS and the Nursing Theory-Guided Practice Expert Panel.

"It is a great honor to be elected to serve on the Academy's Board of Directors," said Dr. Im. "I will strive to bring new perspectives and partnerships to the forefront of the organization's work during my term so that the Academy can continue to lead our profession forward."

John Lowe, PhD, RN, FAAN, Joseph Blades Centennial Memorial Professor at the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing (UT Austin), has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors. As Director of the Indigenous Global Research Alliance in Nursing at UT Austin, Dr. Lowe strives to elevate and congregate Indigenous nursing researchers worldwide. He was inducted into the Academy in 2007 and has since been awarded an Academy Edge Runner and served on both the Academy's EDI and Fellow Selection Committees.

"It has been a privilege and honor to be involved in the Academy since my induction and am thrilled to have been elected to serve on the Board of Directors," said Dr. Lowe. "I hope to continue to elevate the Academy's EDI priorities and commitment to innovation during my term to create a more inclusive, equitable organization."

Continuing Board Members Include:

• President-Elect Linda D. Scott. PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FNAP, FAAN, Dean and Professor. University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing. (Dr. Scott will assume the Presidency following the October 7, 2023 Annual Business Meeting of the Academy.) • Angela Amar, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean & Professor, New York University, Rory Meyers College of Nursing • Ching-Min Chen, DNS, RN, FAAN, President, Taiwan Nurses Association • Secretary Karen N. Drenkard, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Senior Fellow, AARP Public Policy Institute • Rebecca Patton, DNP, RN, CNOR, FAAN, Chair, Lucy Jo Atkinson Professorship in Perioperative Nursing & Assistant Professor, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University

This year's election ballot also included positions for the Fellow Selection Committee and the Nominating Committee. The following individuals will join these committees at the conclusion of the policy conference.

Newly Elected Members of the Fellow Selection Committee:

 Natalia Cineas, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Senior Vice President, Chief Nurse Executive, New York City Health & Hospitals
Mario R. Ortiz, PhD, RN, FNAP, FAAN, Dean and Professor, Decker Endowed Chair in Community Health Nursing, Binghamton University Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences (Dr. Ortiz was re-elected to serve a 2nd term.)

Newly Elected Members of the Nominating Committee:

 Anne H. Gross, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Senior Vice President for Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Wendy
A. Henderson, PhD, CRNP, FAASLD, FAAN, Professor, University of Connecticut
Alicia Gill Rossiter, DNP, FNP, PPCNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, Associate Professor, Chief Officer of Military and Veteran Affairs, University of South Florida

For more information about The American Academy of Nursing go to https://www.aannet.org.



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INTEGRIS Health Opens New Clinic in Newcastle



INTEGRIS Health is excited to announce the opening of our brand-new clinic in Newcastle. INTEGRIS Health Medical Group Newcastle offers a full range of primary care services for people of all ages, from infants and children to adults and seniors.

Julie Utley, PA-C, is the dedicated provider for this facility. She has been practicing medicine for over 27 years. "My passions in medicine are disease prevention and helping patients make positive lifestyle changes to improve their health," says Utley. "I enjoy the feeling of partnering with a patient to get better."

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Oklahoma Christian University and attended the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center where she received her Bachelor of Science as a Physician Associate.

INTEGRIS Health Medical Group Newcastle is located at 2191 North Main St., Suite E. Please call 405-633-9105 for more information or to make an appointment.

We look forward to getting to know you and your family and are excited to help improve the health of our neighbors, friends and the Newcastle community.

OKNT Puzzle Answers: What's Fun about Pediatrics																							
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Over \$1 Million Awarded in Student Scholarships for Academic Year 23-24

The Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center has awarded more than \$1.1 million in student scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year. Awardees include students from undergraduate and graduate programs. "Having the ability to focus on my education and worry less about my family's financial needs being met at the same time is a gift like no other. I am so grateful to receive this gift, thank you," says Kali DeYager, Frances E. & A. Earl Ziegler Accelerated Nursing Scholarship recipient. The funding for these scholarships came from private donors, foundations, and grants targets to provide financial support to advanced practice nursing students. "We appreciate the generosity of all our donors, first and foremost Fran and Earl Ziegler, whose generosity and leadership paved the way for many others to follow," stated dean Julie Anne Hoff.

This much-needed scholarship funding builds on the College of Nursing's momentum of recently expanded admissions. OU is home to the largest nursing program in Oklahoma. For the last two fall semesters, the OU College of Nursing has admitted all qualified applicants to its Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, resulting in a 73% increase in enrollment, compared to fall 2020.

FRAN AND EARL ZIEGLER COLLEGE OF NURSING The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



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