

Oklahoma's Nursing Times



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All things family LPN turns challenges into success

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Cynthia Bennett, LPN

1995 nursing school graduate of the US Army, works at Bellevue Rehab & Rehabilitation Center in Oklahoma City

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

The family oriented owners of Bellevue Rehab & Rehabilitation Center in Oklahoma City are the why Cynthia Bennett, LPN, has not ventured from her nursing career there since 2005, she said. She appreciated the compassion she felt there when her mother died.

"They care about the patients; they care about the staff. It makes it welcoming," Bennett said. They treat them like family; they don't treat them like patients.

Everything about Bellevue Rehab & Rehabilitation Center is about family, compassionate care. Profit is not the priority. Bellevue is in the business of humanity and celebrating life, she said.

"You can tell that the staff from housekeeping, dietary and nursing care about the patients and they

develop relationships with them," Bennett said.

This makes the patients and residents of skilled nursing or long-term care more comfortable. A caring environment eases their transition from home.

"You can tell that everybody loves their job. They love taking care of their patients," Bennett said. "If they don't, they don't stay."

Bellevue Health & Rehabilitation Center is a 150-bed facility that is often at capacity. Seven charge nurses work on day shift, evening shift, and night shift. For Bennett, nursing is a calling that transcends the thought that it's just a job.

An aptitude test during high school scored high for Bennett in healthcare and science, specifically being a nurse. She was ready to leave home in Illinois to

establish a new, fulfilling journey in life.

Bennett is a 1995 nursing school graduate of the US Army. After serving in the Army, she came to Oklahoma to work in home health and assisted living. Long-term care soon became her major career focus when joining the Bellevue nursing team in 2005. All types of people with different histories and backgrounds have touched her life.

A few actors' family members and actors themselves with names the public would recognize have chosen Bellevue Rehab & Rehabilitation Center. Bennett's most memorable patient was a German lady who survived the holocaust that swept through parts of Europe during World War II.

"She lived through all that holocaust and camps," Bennett said. "And every time you'd go in there, she'd tell you a story and it would just break your heart. She looked a lot like my grandma because my grandma was German. She's probably got to be the most interesting person that I've met here. She was just a

darling and her accent — it was awesome."

The woman found a friend she could trust to share her dark memories of the Nazi genocide.

Bennett said that the nursing staff makes a point to make new residents and patients feel at home when first meeting them.

"It's hard when they come in here for the first time," she said.


However, new residents learn that someone is always available whenever they need anything and have the administrator's cell phone number as well.


"They've never been to a nursing home. And you know, nursing homes have that big stigma that when you go there, you die. And it's not like that anymore. You just have to treat them like they're your own family," Bennett explained. "There is an adjustment period because they're learning how to trust us. We're learning how to take care of them. And it just takes a little bit of time. Eventually it works out."

Young people come in as patients for therapy in the skilled

See BENNETT Page 3

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Cynthia Bennett, LPN, embraces life by caring for others at Bellevue Rehab & Rehabilitation Center in Oklahoma City.

BENNETT
Continued from Page 2

unit. A young 22-year-old woman found it easier to adjust by identifying with many of the staff who were near her age.

“She was able to relate. They were able to have more conversations that had to do with the same things that they liked,” Bennet said. “It’s not all peaches and cream. But it’s the ones that are peaches and cream that make you come back, continue the next day and do everything all over again.”

Bennett has learned not to take stress home to her family. Her husband is in the medical field, so they are empathetic to one another.

Nursing has given her tolerance, she said.

“You have to learn how to

deal with so many different people’s personalities, attitudes, and feelings,” she said. “Actually, I think the military helped me to deal with that as well.”

Her career has taught her not to take anything people say personally. She said if a patient hits her while helping them to put a shoe on, it’s not because they’re angry at her. They may be scared, live with pain, or have dementia.

“As a nurse, you don’t react the way you would if you weren’t a nurse,” Bennett explained.

She balances life as a member of a dart league. Or she will color and hang out with friends, go camping and relax her mind without having to make decisions.

Her dog and friendships are great company, too.

For more information about Bellevue Rehab & Rehabilitation Center or to join the team, visit <https://bellevueokc.com>.

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CAREERS IN NURSING:

FLEXIBILITY AND COMMITMENT - RN CASE MANAGER SUPPORTS NURSES

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Stephanie Collier's experience and flexibility has made her highly adaptable to accepting new challenges as a registered nurse at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital, located in midtown Oklahoma City.

She helped start the regional float pool and the nurse extern program there. And she is nearing her second month as nurse manager of the progressive care unit.

"I think you have to be (flexible) if you're a nurse," said Collier, who was an ICU charge nurse in the COVID unit during the pandemic. Her acuity for a high learning curve associated with the pandemic has propelled her to enter nurse management administration. The best way to provide good patient care is to take care of the nurses and take care of people at the bedside, she said.

"Seeing how flexible they could be and seeing how hard they worked through all of that together — it was like, 'Man, there is just no other place for me. I'd rather be taking care of the nurses,'" Collier said.

Collier's nursing journey began in the US Air Force in 2003. She trained to be an LPN and worked in a level-1 trauma center, at first as a cardiac medic. Afterwards, she served as a medic assigned with a registered nurse in a cardiac ICU.

"When I got out, that equated to an LPN license," Collier explained.

She began working at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital's ICU in 2007. Three years later Collier graduated with her RN credential. And she earned her bachelor's degree in business administration and health care management in 2021. Collier plans to finish her MBA degree.

She has high praise for Western Governors University (WGU). She earned her Bachelor of Healthcare Administration degree through WGU and intends to earn her Master of Science in Nursing from them as well.

"It's so nice, you do it on your own time — they don't pressure you," Collier said. "You have all the access to professors and mentors."

Collier is grateful for the nursing staff's culture at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital. She walks through

the hallways sensing that everyone on staff cares for each other and their patients from the top down.

"I have never felt unsupported in this organization, and I've been here for 17 years," she continued.

Longevity among the nursing staff is high within the progressive care unit. One of the nurses has been with the unit for more than 30 years.

"You can't replace that with a new grad because of the things he knows about the unit. And so, what made me want to come down here, was if I could take care of these nurses in a way that would retain them, then that's the best service I could do for this hospital," Collier noted. "Especially after starting this extern program this summer, it doesn't do us any good to have a funnel of new nurses coming to this hospital if we don't have anyone to train them," she added.

Experienced staff train new nurses to learn about the SSM culture and set them up for success.

Studies have proven that new career nurses who are supported substantially during their first year are more apt to be retained in their careers within the same organization.

"That in the end is really the goal," Collier said.

She plays close attention to ensure the progressive care unit is staffed, and audits charts to make sure they're on budget.

Collier's background in ICU is helpful when she makes rounds on patients in the progressive care unit.

"I feel that my strength is my assessment skills, so I can go in and assess these patients with my nurses and do teaching and talk to families" she said.

Good listening skills are important in patient care because it's scary to be hospitalized thinking nobody is listening to concerns, Collier said. Otherwise, patients will feel lost in the shuffle. The same lesson was apparent when she was educating nurses when the pandemic erupted. Nurses who showed fear on their faces came out of the room showing fierceness,



Stephanie Collier, RN case manager knows that supporting her unit's nurses translates to effective care of patients at the bedside.

Collier said.

"The next day, nurses from all over the hospital had volunteered to come into the unit that we knew nothing about," Collier said. "And for me that solidified what I'm supposed to do and my purpose in being the one to take care of those nurses. And I literally went home and decided to go back to school in health care administration that next day."

Being empathetic comes so

naturally to Collier. That is a gift that nursing has instilled in her. She's not indifferent when seeing homeless people walking on the roadside on her way to work.

"Being able to see people that are vulnerable and angry when everyone else is thinking they are trash, I'm thinking that is the person that probably needs help the most. That for me is something I never planned on feeling. And it's the best thing that I got from being a nurse."

For more information about SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital visit <https://jobs.ssmhealth.com>.



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Registered Nurse - OB - PRN

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APRN PMHNP - Arcadia Trails Center for Addiction Recovery

Edmond, OK, United States • Posted on 01/12/2024

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RN - Hospice House - PRN Nights

Oklahoma City, OK, United States and 1 more • Posted on 01/11/2024

INTEGRIS Health, Hospice House, Oklahoma's largest not-for-profit health system has a great opportunity for a Registered Nurse in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. In this position, you'll work PRN nights in our Hospice House providing exceptional care to those who have entrusted INTEGRIS Health with their healthcare needs. If our...

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Stillwater High School Raises Funds for OMRF Cancer Research

Stillwater High School students recently donated more than \$14,000 to benefit cancer research at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

Their check presentation represented proceeds from the school's "Pink Out Week" fundraiser. Since designating OMRF as the beneficiary of the annual event in 2011, Stillwater students have raised more than \$128,000 for the foundation's cancer research. Every dollar has gone directly to research.

Following each Pink Out Week, the event's organizers tour OMRF labs. Eighteen students visited the foundation in January and interacted with OMRF scientists, including Executive Vice President & Chief Medical Officer Judith James, M.D., Ph.D., and Jake Kirkland, Ph.D., who explained his work involving a chemotherapy for breast cancer. Kirkland's lab focuses on doxorubicin, nicknamed "red devil" for its distinctive

color and toll on the body.

"Only half of the women who are put on doxorubicin benefit from it, but 100% get really, really sick," Kirkland told the students. "My goal is to better predict which patients will get better from doxorubicin so the others can be spared from the side effects and maybe improve from another type of chemo."

His message hit home for several Stillwater students, who lost beloved teacher and girls basketball coach Kendra Kilpatrick to breast cancer at age 36 in November 2022.

"The doctors tried that same chemo drug with Coach K, and she felt horrible, but if her condition improved at all, it wasn't much," said Stillwater senior Callie Campbell. "For that reason, I'm glad that the scientists here are trying to figure out why it works for some but not for others."

The bake sales, silent auction, T-shirt sales and other events comprising Pink



Stillwater High School seniors Callie Campbell, left, and Jordan Whitekiller, right, flank OMRF's donor relations coordinator, Katherine Jackson, while presenting a check for \$14,017.06, representing the proceeds from the high school's annual "Pink Out Week" fundraisers.

Out Week benefit OMRF studies like one that led to an experimental drug called OKN-007, which is undergoing clinical trials to treat patients with glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer. The drug has also shown promise in a fast-growing pediatric brain cancer called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG).

For Jordan Whitekiller, a senior, the tour confirmed the choice of OMRF as Pink Out Week beneficiary. "It's very organized here," she said. "I know exactly where the money's going, and I know it's being used well."

Katherine Jackson, OMRF's donor relations coordinator, called the annual visit by Stillwater students "one of our favorite events of the year."

"These students put in so much effort toward Pink Out Week, and when they visit OMRF, it's both a pleasure and a responsibility to show them specific research projects that benefit from their work," Jackson said. "It also gives us a chance to make connections with young people who may someday intern with us or choose biomedical research as a career path."

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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2023 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

Stillwater Medical

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

In 2019, construction began on a state-of-the-art 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



State of the art OnCue NICU layout at Stillwater Medical.

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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A Local African American Icon Shares Her Cancer Journey as part of National Black History Month

Joyce Jackson has accomplished many great things in her 79 years of life. She was A person with braided hair wearing glasses Description automatically generatedthe first African American female broadcast journalist in the state of Oklahoma; she was recently inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, earning a lifetime achievement award; and she is the founder and editor of the Shades of Oklahoma magazine.

But perhaps the distinction and blessing she is the most proud of is that she is a cancer survivor!

Jackson first discovered kernels in her breasts back in high school. A biopsy determined they were not cancerous and she was encouraged to receive annual breast exams as well as conduct regular self-exams at a very young age. She did not experience any issues for the majority of her adult life. Then in 2022 at the age of 77, she felt a tiny bump in her left breast while conducting a self-breast exam in the shower. "I wondered if the kernels were coming back," she remembers. "I had no idea what was in store for me."

As luck would have it, Jackson's next breast exam was scheduled for just a few days after she discovered the lump. She told the examiner at the INTEGRIS Health Comprehensive Breast Center of her concern, and a 3D ultrasound was ordered in addition to the regular mammogram. These tests uncovered more than the one lump Jackson felt while showering. A biopsy confirmed it was cancer. "No woman wants to hear that," admits Jackson. "I was stunned. After all these years of never having a problem, one tiny little bump changed my world."

JaNae Clapp, M.D., at the INTEGRIS Health Cancer Institute, was Jackson's oncologist; and Mary Lindemuth, M.D., with INTEGRIS Health Medical Group Breast Surgery, was her surgeon.

A person holding a bell Description automatically generatedJackson underwent a mastectomy, six cycles of chemotherapy and 15 radiation treatments. She is doing well with no signs of cancer recurrence. "When I got to ring the bell signifying the end of



Joyce Jackson.

my treatment, it was an overwhelming experience," she declares. "I cried all the way home, happy tears."

Jackson wanted to share her story in February as part of National Black History Month. She knows that compared to members of other races, black and African American people have higher rates of getting and dying from many kinds of cancer.

African Americans have a higher cancer burden and face greater obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, treatment and survival. Research has shown that black women are 40% more likely to die of breast cancer than white women and are twice as likely to die if they are over the age of 50.

Conversely, prostate cancer death rates in black men are more than double those of every other racial/ethnic group. It is for these reasons that African Americans need to be extra vigilant about receiving their annual exams.

Jackson knows firsthand that early detection saves lives. "I hope that all people, but especially those in the African American community, educate themselves on their inherent risk and follow the recommended screening guidelines. I did, and I believe that is the reason I am alive today."

OCU Gains More Students From Fall To Spring

Increase Has Been Driven Largely By Gains In The Accelerated Bachelor of Science In Nursing Program

Oklahoma City University's strong enrollment momentum has continued in the spring semester, with the school's student count reaching an impressive milestone this semester.

With the number of students starting class in January hitting 2,755, university enrollment has exceeded numbers recorded at the start of the fall semester, which is a rarity in higher education.

"A spring enrollment coming in at 95% of the previous fall semester enrollment is considered good," said Kevin Windholz, vice president for Enrollment Management at OCU. "A 101% rate like we have achieved this semester is remarkable."

This marks the first time in records dating back to 2010 that OCU spring enrollment has equaled or surpassed the previous fall enrollment, Windholz said.

The 2,755 enrolled students represent an increase of 331 compared to the spring semester in 2023, a year-over-year increase of nearly 14%.

The increase has been driven largely by gains in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program; the Master of Science in Computer Science program; and the Leadership, Data Analytics and Financial Analytics concentrations in the Master of Business Administration program.

The existing Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program was modified in the fall to reduce program duration from 16 months to 12 months, creating the state's first and only 12-month, in-person accelerated BSN program. In addition, the program price was reduced in order to make the offering more competitive in the marketplace.

The Master of Science in Computer Science and the two analytics-related MBA concentrations have delivered strong interest and enrollment by international students from India, Nigeria and Pakistan.

The Leadership MBA has offered a boost in domestic enrollment thanks to a new corporate partnership with the Oklahoma Blood Institute.

Almost half of the spring growth has occurred in the Meinders School of Business, which has increased spring enrollment by nearly 61% year over year. The Petree College of Arts & Sciences and the Wanda L. Bass School of Music each recorded increases of 15% or more, while gains were also seen in the dance, nursing and theatre schools.

The strong spring enrollment builds on impressive numbers from the fall semester, when OCU recorded a nearly 8% climb in total enrollment year over year and its largest class of first-year students in more than a decade.

OCU President Kenneth Evans said the enrollment progress should be celebrated by the campus community.

"These numbers shine the spotlight on our efforts to deliver new programming that is relevant to the community and cognizant of broader industry and workforce needs," Evans said. "We are now playing an important role not only in our city and state, but in the global workforce conversation."



Kenneth Evans, OCU President.

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FRIDAY
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Choreographed by **Becca Walker**

Musical Directors **Sohailah Stout & Stephanie Easley**

Reserved seating. Doors open at 6:15pm.
Inclement weather dates: Feb. 19-22



OSDH Announces Statewide, Required Long-Term Care Administrator Training

Prior to taking the state examination - The Oklahoma State Department of Health's (OSDH) Long-Term Care (LTC) Administrator Licensing Program has updated the LTC administrator state standards exam to reflect the current requirements in **Oklahoma statute**.

The test revision occurred after the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners for Long-Term Care Administrators (OSBELTCA) was transitioned to be within the OSDH effective Nov. 1, 2023, required by **HB2824**.

Roles include providing assistance with initial licensure, oversight of training, licensure/certification renewal and approval of continuing education for licensure.

"We are here to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of some of our most vulnerable Oklahomans," said Quality Assurance and Regulatory Deputy Commissioner Dr. LaTrina Frazier. "We have to do our due diligence when executing our responsibilities that Oklahomans are trusting us to do."

The 2024 training will be held from March 4 – 15, 2024 at the Taenbaum Aerospace and Cybersecurity Center on the Rose State College campus.


"Taking over these processes and duties from OSBELTCA was no small feat," said Dr. Frazier. "I am proud of my team for rising up to the challenge and quickly getting our LTC administrators in the state the information and tools they need and expect to work to obtain their licensure."

State standard testing is available on the fourth Wednesday of alternating months beginning Feb. 28, 2024.

Dates included are April 24, June 26, Aug. 28, Oct. 23 and Dec. 18.

Testing applicants must meet all requirements and must have applied two weeks prior to test dates.

If administrators have questions, they should email longtermcareadminlicensing@health.ok.gov or call 405.426.8970.



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NNU Report Shows Increased Rates of Workplace Violence Experienced By Nurses

Survey results reveal majority of nurses have experienced workplace violence, with nearly half seeing a rise in rates in the past year

Health care workers are experiencing a surge in workplace violence rates nationally, which has been exacerbated by the health care industry's actions during the Covid-19 pandemic. A nationwide survey conducted by National Nurses United (NNU), the nation's largest union and professional association of registered nurses, found that the majority of nurses have experienced workplace violence and nearly half have seen a rise in rates in the past year.

NNU's report, released today, analyzes new data gathered from nearly 1,000 nurses working in 48 states and the District of Columbia. (Jan. 1, 2023 to Dec. 31, 2023), regarding nurses' recent experiences of workplace violence and shows that health care employers' failure to implement effective prevention strategies is exacerbating the staffing crisis: 6 in 10 RNs report having changed or left their job or profession or considered leaving their job due to workplace violence.

NNU's major findings on workplace violence include:

- Eight in 10 nurses (81.6 percent) have experienced at least one type of workplace violence within the past year.
- Nearly half of nurses (45.5 percent) reported an increase in workplace violence on their unit in the previous year. In contrast, only 3.8 percent of nurses reported that workplace violence has decreased on their unit in the previous year.
- Nurses experience multiple types of workplace violence on a daily basis, ranging from physical abuse to verbal threats. The three most common types of violence reported were being verbally threatened (67.8 percent), physically threatened (38.7 percent), and being pinched or scratched (37.3 percent).

To read the full report, including statistics and sources, [go here](#).

Safe staffing is essential to workplace violence prevention.

Only 29.5 percent of nurses report that their employer has staff available at all times to respond to workplace violence and a mere 17.0 percent of nurses report that their employer places additional staff to reduce the risk of violence.

When employers fail to safely staff units, it increases the risk of workplace violence due to increased wait times, unmet patient needs, and increased stress and moral distress of health care staff. In NNU's surveys and focus groups, nurses regularly noted the role that short staffing plays in increasing the risk of workplace violence.

Employers fail to implement proven measures to prevent workplace violence

Scientific research has documented that unit-specific workplace violence prevention plans created with employee input, safe staffing, and other engineering and administrative controls, work to reduce workplace violence. But NNU's analysis of the survey results found that many health care employers continue to fail to implement these essential protections:

- Only 62.8 percent of nurses reported that their employer provides training on workplace violence prevention. While training by itself is insufficient, it is an essential element of an effective workplace violence prevention plan.
- To effectively identify and correct workplace violence hazards, employers must have a method to track and investigate violent incidents. However, **only about 1 in 3 nurses (31.7 percent) reported that their employer provides a clear way to report incidents.**
- Nurses shared in NNU's survey and focus groups that they often do not report workplace violence incidents due to unclear reporting mechanisms, lack of action from the employer, fear of employer retaliation, and perspectives that violence is part of the job.

NNU strongly supports a comprehensive workplace violence

prevention standard.

The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (S. 1176/H.R. 2663) is aimed at protecting nurses, other health care workers, and their patients from workplace violence. These federal bills would mandate that federal OSHA create a standard that would require health care and

social service employers to create, implement, and maintain effective workplace violence prevention plans. Under S. 1176/H.R. 2663, such a standard would include all the elements that effectively protect nurses and other health care workers.

To read the full report, including statistics and sources, [go here](#).

Enrollment Increase Continues at Redlands Community College

After a historic Fall enrollment, Redlands Community College is experiencing continued growth during the Spring semester with an 11.3% increase in total enrollment.

"We are thrilled to see our enrollment numbers on the rise, but more importantly, we are excited to be a part of more students' educational journey" said Redlands President Jena Marr. "The dedication of Redlands faculty and staff is evident in our level of student success and enrollment. Not only is our advising team providing outstanding personalized assistance to current, concurrent and prospective students alike, but our student support programs continuously evolve to cater to the changing needs of students, offering invaluable academic and personal assistance."

The college leverages more than \$2 million in federal funding each year to administer student support programs dedicated to providing technology assistance, mental health and wellness resources, tutoring and other means of academic support.

"We recognize the critical importance of offering a diverse range of student support programs," said Annie Pearson, vice president of Academic Affairs. "These programs not only complement our academic offerings but also play a pivotal role in ensuring that every student has the resources and assistance they need to thrive. By providing comprehensive support services, we empower our students to overcome challenges, achieve their goals, and ultimately succeed in their academic and personal endeavors."

In addition to the on-campus resources the college provides, Redlands faculty and staff provide critical support and learning opportunities to high school students who are getting a jumpstart on their college education. A leading provider of concurrent enrollment to high school students for more than 30 years, Redlands offers college classes tuition free to high school juniors and seniors, so the only expense is fees or textbooks. And as an additional cost-saving measure, many of the general education courses at Redlands use free e-textbooks. Students in numerous school districts are being instructed either online or on the Redlands campus, ensuring flexibility and convenience in learning environments.

The second session of eight-week classes begins March 11. Contact the Admissions and Advising office at 405.422.1417 or email Admissions@redlandsc.edu to enroll. [The schedule of classes is available online HERE.](#)

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