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Nurse Practitioner Creates Career Path, Continues Education Goals

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EDUCATION SHOWCASE



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OSU-OKC
NURSING

Nicole Harris, APRN-CNP

Nurse Practitioner at Nerve Renewal Clinic, located in Midwest City.

story by Van Mitchell, Staff Writer

Nicole Harris, APRN-CNP, a Nurse Practitioner at Nerve Renewal Clinic, located at 8121 National Avenue, Suite 105 in Midwest City, grew up in a nursing family, but nursing was not her first career choice.

"I actually wanted to be Barbara Walters," she said. "In my mind I wanted to be a journalist. I wanted to join the Peace Corps and travel the world. My first two years were actually in journalism school at St. Gregory's University and I wrote for the school newspaper. After two years of doing that, I ended up switching and going to nursing school."

Harris got an early jump on her nursing career.

"I was a nursing assistant from the time I was 16, and I worked in long-term care assisted living,"

she said. "My mother was a nurse and she was a director of nursing, it was almost genetic because I felt called to it. I really started pretty young."

Harris received her bachelor's degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, and her master's degree from Chamberlain University in Chicago in 2017.

She is finishing up her Doctorate of Nursing degree from Frontier University in Kentucky, and has served as an adjunct nursing professor at Oklahoma City University, SWOSU, and Rose State College.

"The goal is that I can continue teaching and being a professor," she said. "What I'm doing right now is fabulous. It just sort of opened up more potential opportunities. Continuing education helps you because

when you're confident in your role, you generally have a better feeling about what you're doing."

Harris worked in several hospital settings working in oncology, palliative care, and ICU.

"Those experiences led me to want to become a nurse practitioner," she said. "Initially I worked in internal medicine at St. Anthony's Hospital, well, a clinic at St. Anthony's, and then in internal medicine. I just really felt called to go back into working with seniors and geriatrics."

Harris also has experience in palliative care and hospice work.

"Most all of my experience is with adults and geriatrics because not only am I fulfilled professionally, but I feel like it's just where my best fit is," she said. "My degree is family practice, so I can kind of do a little bit of all ages."

Harris said her career path recently led her to Nerve Renewal.

"I've been with the Midwest City Clinic for a few months," she said. "They advertised to add another nurse practitioner to this clinic. Nerve Renewal just sort of fits all of my prior experience."

This clinic allows me to still work with adults and geriatrics and help them. Everything I've done in the past with helping people in their homes, helping people in long-term care, it's sort of seeing that long-term reward."

Nerve Renewal treatments are FDA-approved and use a drug-free treatment which involves electrical stimulation combined with a vitamin B-12 complex nutrient blend that helps reduce neuropathy-related nerve pain and does not require recovery time after treatment.

Harris said it's enjoyable watching patients get pain relief from their neuropathy.


"The most enjoyment I get is seeing people improve and seeing that I am helping them with their daily lives," she said.


Harris is no stranger to hard work. It is a work ethic she learned from her mother and grandmother.

"My mother and my grandmother were both nurses," she said. "My grandmother was a psychiatric nurse and my mother started out in labor and delivery."

Seeg HARRIS Page 3

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Nicole Harris, APRN-CNP dreamed of becoming Barbara Walters - ended up in Nursing School.

HARRIS

Continued from Page 2

We all had different paths, but it was interesting growing up because you could hear how hard they worked, but how much joy they got out of helping people in their lives. I just had a lot of respect for both of them, and I just got a different viewpoint. I had a realistic view of nursing because I got to see the hard work, the effort they put into it. But, also you got to see all of the joy and the positive from helping the care people. It's been very rewarding."

Harris is married to her husband Chris, a graphic designer. The couple have two sons, one at Oklahoma State University majoring in business and finance. Their younger son is a high school senior, and has been accepted at Missouri Science and

Technology, where he will major in chemical engineering and biomedical engineering.

Harris said she likes to spend her time away from work with family, friends and her two dogs. "I have really great family and friends, and I play with my dogs every day," she said. "I have a miniature Australian Shepherd named Merlot, and then I have a mixed breed dog named Libby, who is kind of goofy and high maintenance herself."

Harris said she also enjoys reading, and taking hiking trips. "We're going in October to the Grand Canyon and we're doing a two-day hike in the Grand Canyon," she said. "I just love it. It really does. It's a stress reliever, it's great exercise and just getting outside when you can. To me it's so important to physical health and mental health."

For more information about Nerve Renewal visit <https://nerverenewalnow.com/>



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OU College of Nursing Faculty Member to Advise Federal Agency on Health System Resilience

ARPA-H Focuses on High-Risk, High-Potential Research

Leremy Colf, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences, has been named a senior adviser to the newest agency in the federal government, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, or ARPA-H. He will focus on health system resilience, a concept of critical importance as the world faces crises like climate change and emerging infectious diseases.

ARPA-H, which was launched in March 2022, is innovative among government agencies. It is modeled after DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which invests in projects with the potential for transformative change rather than incremental advances. Notably, DARPA invented the network that gave birth to the internet. ARPA-H takes the same approach by investing in health research projects that face a high risk of failure but will be life-changing if they succeed.

Colf will serve in the ARPA-H Office of the Director. The role is designed to bring in outside expertise for short periods of time, working with agency personnel and researchers to think big and tackle pioneering projects.

"This is a great opportunity to help ARPA-H in its mission of revolutionizing health care systems," he said. "I think it says a lot about the status of OU Health Sciences that the federal government would reach out to us. It also provides me with opportunities to talk to our students about the future of health care. We aren't just educating future nurses; we're educating future leaders of the health care system and empowering them to create the future they want to see."

The advisory role leverages Colf's education and noteworthy career experiences in both government and academia. After earning a doctorate in microbiology and immunology, he completed a post-doctoral fellowship and a

fellowship with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where he worked in bioterrorism defense. He had been there only two weeks when the first case of the Ebola virus arrived in the United States. Because of his virology background, he coordinated efforts with laboratories around worldwide to inform the operational response to Ebola, and he served as a science and technology adviser to the White House Ebola Task Force.

When his fellowship ended, he began working at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to improve disaster response. That role coincided with the arrival of COVID-19, which concentrated his efforts on deploying federal medical teams and helping hospitals as they struggled under the stresses of the pandemic response.

For nearly two years, he has been a faculty member at the OU College of Nursing, where he conducts research, teaches doctoral students and engages them in research experiences. He holds the Donna L. Wong Professorship in Pediatric Nursing at the college. He also serves as a senior adviser and research liaison to OU Health, the clinical partner of OU Health Sciences, bridging the college and the health enterprise on research projects.

His distinctive expertise makes him ideal for advising ARPA-H on the resiliency of health systems, particularly in climate disasters. Recent history has demonstrated the concerns: In 2017, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria devastated large areas of the Caribbean, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Texas. In 2020, Lake Charles, Louisiana, was hit by two hurricanes six weeks apart. Numerous hospitals shut down, and when people evacuated and sought care elsewhere, they often didn't have their prescriptions and medical histories, nor did hospitals have access to them.

"Health resilience is about determining how we can have continuity of care, how we can identify the populations who need the most care - addressing these major concerns before we even know what the next disaster will be," Colf said. "What are the creative ways of addressing these issues and making hospitals and health systems more resilient?"

Colf said his experience as an ARPA-H



Leremy Colf, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the OU Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing in Oklahoma City.

adviser will only enhance his ongoing interactions with students at the OU College of Nursing. Although he is not a nurse, his career in both government and academia illustrates that health careers don't always look like they did in the past.

"Historically, people with science and health professional degrees went into a laboratory, worked in industry, or provided patient care in a hospital," he said. "Today, the options have expanded dramatically. We need people in health policy roles who have scientific expertise and health care skills in order to shape those roles appropriately. It is wonderful to expose our students to all of these options and to discuss their future opportunities."

OU College of Nursing Dean Julie Hoff, Ph.D., MPH, RN, agreed that Colf's advisory role with ARPA-H will benefit both the college and health care more broadly.

"This opportunity is a shining example of the caliber of our faculty in the OU College of Nursing," Hoff said. "We are excited for what Dr. Colf will do to revolutionize health care systems, working in collaboration with ARPA-H and talented researchers across the nation. We are also excited to share his experiences with our students. Not only do we provide our students with a solid education and high-quality clinical experiences, but we also connect them with opportunities to learn about health policy and global affairs."

Founded in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a public research university located in Norman, Oklahoma. As the state's flagship university, OU serves the educational, cultural, economic and health care needs of the state, region and nation. OU was named the state's highest-ranking university in U.S. News & World Report's most recent Best Colleges list. For more information about the university, visit <https://www.ou.edu/>.



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NURSE TALK



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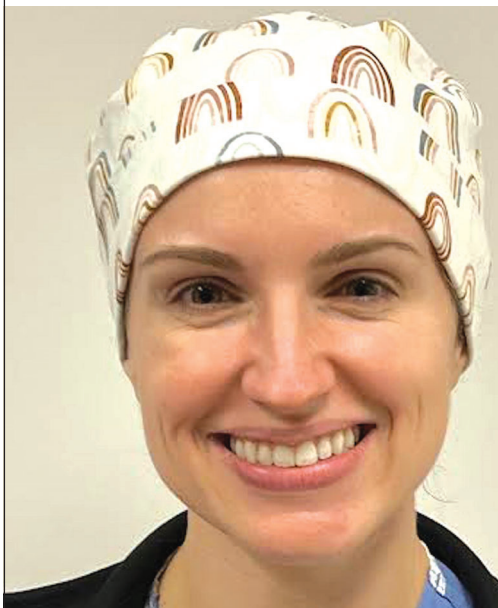
OU Health
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"Travel. I like to go to Major League Baseball games. I read a lot and do hiking, anything to get me out and about."



Erica Gattis, RN

"I spend time with my family. I've got a 3-year-old daughter, and then read and workout. I'm in school right now."



Jade Birdsong, RN

"Hang out with my wife and watch TV, play with the pooches — my two boxers."



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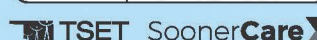
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2023 Jim Thorpe Award Recipient Trey Taylor Visits with Patients During Hospital Tour

2023 Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Winner Trey Taylor of the United States Air Force Academy paid a special visit to Jim Thorpe Rehabilitation recently at INTEGRIS Health Southwest Medical Center.

He toured the facility and signed autographs for patients and staff. It was a much-needed boost to those recovering from injury or illness.

The Jim Thorpe Award is given annually to the top defensive back in college football based on performance on the field, athletic ability and character.

Taylor is the first-ever Thorpe Award recipient from the Air Force and only the second Falcon to win a major college football award, joining Chad Hennings.

Paycom and Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame will honor Taylor at the 38th Anniversary of the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Banquet on Feb. 6, 2024, in Oklahoma City.

To learn more about the visit and the Jim Thorpe Award, visit <https://integrisok.wistia.com/medias/oa4uc9t1ws>



Jim Thorpe Award Winner Trey Taylor recently toured the Jim Thorpe Rehabilitation.

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Career Ladder & Traditional

OSU-OKC welcomes LPNs and Paramedics looking for a pathway to being eligible for Registered Nurse licensure. With proof of active, state licensure and required prerequisite courses, LPNs and Paramedics will complete a transition course, then the final two courses in the program. Upon successful completion of the transition course, students are awarded 17 credit hours of advanced standing credit for their licensure. The coursework for this pathway is provided online. Students come to campus for testing, simulations, and laboratory experiences on Fridays. Students will complete clinical experiences on the weekends. This hybrid design was at the request of our program advisory committee to meet the needs of working adults.

Simulation Center

OSU-OKC boasts having one of the largest and most sophisticated simulation facilities in the metro area. Students will experience realistic hospital environments with simulation mannequins that can mimic human patients. The goal was to make the learning environment as close to an actual hospital as possible to increase students' comfort when they enter our partners' facilities and begin to take care of patients. This decreases student anxiety and boosts student confidence in their ability to care for patients.

Interprofessional Simulation

OSU-OKC nursing students, OSU-OKC paramedicine students, OSU-OKC diagnostic imaging, and OSU-Center for Health Sciences resident physicians come together to rescue, triage, and treat patients with a variety of injuries and illnesses. The goal is for these different groups to learn to work together as they will in the actual healthcare arena. Student volunteers and staff take on the role of patients and may simulate suffering anything from a traumatic injury requiring being rescued by our paramedic students to a mental health crisis and any other healthcare emergency in between. Not only do students learn to work together as a team, but they will also learn to prioritize care based on the severity of the simulated patient.

APPLICATION TIMELINES

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SPRING ADMISSION July 1 - Sept 1 • Traditional Students | Sept 1 - Dec 1 • Career Ladder Students

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— OSU-OKC —
NURSING

Mercy Celebrates Leap Day with Onesies for New Babies, Co-worker Recognitions

Of 50,000 Mercy co-workers, fewer than 40 born on Feb. 29

For leap day 2024, Mercy's labor and delivery departments across four states will welcome the newest members of the community with a tribute to their ultra-rare birthdays: Newborns will be gifted a white onesie, featuring a cheerful green frog and the playful declaration, "Leap Day Baby 2024." This gesture celebrates these unique births and warmly wraps the new arrivals in the spirit of Mercy from their very first day.

"While every baby is special, this is a fun way for us to help these families mark a unique birthday for their little ones with a keepsake they can treasure forever," said Laura Beck, director of nursing for women and infants at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City.

In addition to celebrating leap day babies, Mercy is also highlighting

the special stories of its co-workers with Feb. 29 birthdays. Among them is Chloe Vidal, an emergency department nurse technician at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City, who joked that she enjoys receiving cards reflecting how many true birthdays she has had, as opposed to her actual age.

"I find it fun to get kids' birthday cards, like 'Happy 6th birthday!' Even though I'm turning 24," she said.

"It's fun being born on leap day because it's a great conversation starter," Vidal said. "It also makes birthdays more meaningful when it's a leap year because this day only happens once every four years. I typically just spend time with my family; it's nothing special or out of the ordinary, but I find it fun to receive kid birthday cards for my non-leap

year age." Vidal said that in non-leap years, she has always celebrated her birthday on March 1 rather than Feb. 28, at the insistence of her mother.

"My mom refused to let me celebrate early because she was in labor all day on Feb. 28, 2000," she said with a laugh.

Hailey Wolski, a Mercy patient service agent in Fort Smith, Arkansas said her leap day birthday is often a source of curiosity and celebration, incorporated into her life with special traditions and a deep connection to her family. From enjoying a king cake sent by her family in South Louisiana to coincide with Mardi Gras each year to creating lasting memories with her children on her "extra day" every four years, Wolski's experience captures the essence of what it means to celebrate a birthday that comes around just once every four years.

"Having a leap day birthday adds an interesting wrinkle to my life," Wolski said. "It gives me a chance to explain the fascinating reasons behind the extra day in our calendar and embrace the special traditions that come with it. It's about making the most of this unique day and cherishing the moments with loved ones."

Ashlea Sullivan, a central scheduler with Mercy Hospital



Southeast, in Cape Girardeau, Mo., immediately recalled her most memorable birthday; it was one for which she received a cake and a Barbie doll.

"My daughter and I got to turn 10 in the same year," she said. As fun and interesting an experience as that was, Sullivan admitted that she's "looking forward to a real birthday this year!"

With fewer than 0.1% of the world's population born on Feb. 29, Mercy recognizes and celebrates its distinct group of co-workers who share leap year birthdays. Out of nearly 50,000 co-workers, fewer than 40 can claim the distinction of having a leap day birthday.

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OU Health Lists First Patient for Pediatric Heart Transplant

A Major Milestone in Launching the State's Only Pediatric Heart Transplant Program

Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health has added its first patient to a national waiting list for a donor heart after getting approval from the nonprofit organization that oversees organ sharing in the United States, a milestone meaning Oklahoma children and families no longer must leave the state for heart transplants.

This is the first time a pediatric heart transplant patient at Oklahoma Children's Hospital has been added to the organ transplant list with the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), which manages the allocation of organs from deceased donors across the country. Oklahoma Children's Hospital Heart Center will be the only pediatric heart transplant program in Oklahoma and fill a great need for the state and region's pediatric heart patients, becoming a destination center for this care. The team includes experienced pediatric cardiothoracic surgeons, cardiologists and advanced practice providers who use the latest in treatment protocols and advanced techniques as well as clinical trials that have resulted in medical breakthroughs in the field of pediatric cardiac care.

"With the first pediatric patient listed for a heart transplant in Oklahoma, this is the final step in ensuring that all the children of Oklahoma will have access to all cardiac care without having to leave the state," said OU Health pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon, Harold Burkhardt, M.D. "We are poised to perform this life-saving procedure once a suitable organ is found for our listed patient. This is incredibly important and it's a milestone that was 10 years in the making."

Oklahoma Children's Hospital Heart Center has seen dramatic growth in recent years, with Burkhardt arriving in Oklahoma in 2014 to build the surgery program, followed by an increase in surgery cases and improved outcomes. Now, the pediatric cardiac surgery team performs more than 500 surgeries each year and the number of children who survive open-heart surgery — 98.8% — stands above the national average, regardless of the surgery's complexity. U.S. News & World Report has recognized the program as a

Top 50 Best Children's Hospitals in the nation for Pediatric Cardiology & Heart Surgery for its 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 rankings. In addition, Oklahoma Children's Hospital received the 2021 Mended Hearts International, Regional, Divisional, and National Hospital of the Year awards.

In preparation for the new transplant program, Oklahoma Children's Hospital opened the state's only pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) in 2022. The 25-bed unit is dedicated solely to the care of children with heart conditions, including comprehensive care for children who are heart transplant patients. Pediatric heart transplant patients will not only be able to have the transplant surgery in Oklahoma, close to home, but they will also receive post-operative care and follow-up in the state-of-the-art CICU.

"The state of Oklahoma now has a comprehensive pediatric heart transplant center and we are able to coordinate and implement the most comprehensive care for our pediatric transplant patients," said OU Health pediatric cardiologist R. Erik Edens, M.D., Ph.D. "This new program fills the last gap in care of pediatric aged patients with congenital heart disease in Oklahoma and will allow such patients to receive comprehensive heart care right here in Oklahoma."

Heart failure in children is caused by either heart muscle conditions known as cardiomyopathy or congenital heart defects. Some medical conditions can also cause children to develop heart defects or can seriously damage a child's heart. Regardless of the cause, children with serious heart problems sometimes won't survive without a heart transplant.

On average, about 450 pediatric heart transplants are performed every year in the United States. Children with congenital heart disease usually have between 1 to 3 open heart surgeries prior to receiving a heart transplant. A heart transplant can prolong their lives and improve the quality of life for these children.

Pediatric heart allocation in the United States follows an algorithm that prioritizes candidates based on three tiers of medical urgency, as well as



OU Health pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon, Harold Burkhardt, M.D.

blood type, and distance between the donor and recipient hospitals. This means that sicker children will receive higher priority. It can take days, weeks, months, or even years before a suitable donor organ is available.

OU Health is aggressively pursuing improved health outcomes for Oklahomans, with focuses like infant mortality and maternal-fetal health. Offering programs like pediatric heart transplant pushes that commitment to Oklahoma's health to the next level.

"Our unique role serving Oklahoma is to be the destination of

choice for patients with severe and life-threatening conditions that are best served in an academic milieu with access to teams of experts armed with the latest technology and knowledge," said Richard Lofgren, M.D., MPH, president and CEO of OU Health. "We aggressively work to better the health outcomes of all Oklahomans and it is a major clinical achievement to have listed our first pediatric patient for a heart transplant."

The first pediatric heart transplant will be conducted when an appropriate donor is available for an appropriate patient on the list.

Daryle Voss Named to National American Hospital Association Board

Daryle Voss, president of Mercy Hospital Ardmore, was elected to a major national health care board and will represent Mercy during his two-year term.

Voss was chosen as a delegate for the state of Oklahoma to the American Hospital Association (AHA) regional policy board (RPB) for region seven, which covers Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma. David Argueta, president of Mercy Springfield Communities in Missouri, was also named to the AHA board as a representative of region six. They will serve through Dec. 31, 2026.

The AHA represents hospitals and health care systems at a national level and works to ensure members' needs and perspectives are heard in health care policy debate and development.

Representatives on the AHA's regional boards foster communication between the AHA, its members and state hospital associations. The boards provide input on public policy issues, identify health care needs unique to each region and assist in



Daryle Voss, president of Mercy Hospital Ardmore.

developing programs to meet those needs.

"I love being an Oklahoman and serving the health care needs of our neighbors, and I'm honored to represent our community and the great state of Oklahoma on a national level," said Voss. "I view this opportunity as a chance to make a meaningful impact on the well-being of our community. Sensible policy is a necessity in making sure health care is accessible for everyone."

Voss previously served on the Oklahoma Hospital Association board of directors from 2019 -2023.

UNT System Board of Regents Approves Fall 2025 HSC College of Nursing Degree Programs

The University of North Texas System Board of Regents voted Thursday to approve two additional undergraduate and graduate nursing degree programs expected to be offered starting in fall 2025 at The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

A traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner will be the College of Nursing's third and fourth degree offerings, pending approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.



Dr. Cindy Weston, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CHSE, FAANP, FAAN, founding dean of the college.

"The UNT System Board of Regents' approval of the pre-licensure BSN and the MSN in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner marks the next step in expanding the HSC College of Nursing," said Dr. Cindy Weston, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CHSE, FAANP, FAAN, founding dean of the college. "By adding two new degree programs to our College of Nursing, we are strengthening the nursing profession for our most critical areas of need in Texas."

HSC's BSN will be a 20-month undergraduate program. Students will complete two years of pre-requisite courses at a university or community college prior to admission to the HSC program. Students will take focused courses at HSC's College of Nursing, along with hands-on clinical experiences, in order to earn their BSN.

The MSN in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner will be a 47-credit-hour, graduate-level program for nurses with a BSN who want to become a mental health nurse practitioner. Students may opt for a full-time program, completing the program in six semesters. A part-time option also will be available, extending the program to eight semesters.


Texas has a critical mental and behavioral health care workforce shortage, Weston said. As of October 2022, more than 160 counties in Texas had no psychiatrist or psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner providing services. The need for access to mental health care services, coupled with the opioid epidemic and the limited supply of psychiatric care providers, has created an urgent need to prepare advance-practice registered nurses to fill these gaps.

The college already is planning to offer its first two degrees this August, when its first students will start classes. The two degrees are the Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) and the MSN in Nursing Practice Innovation. They also are pending approval from the THECB and SACSCOC.

In February 2023, the UNT System Board of Regents approved the creation of the HSC College of Nursing to help address the shortage of nurses in Texas. The state has the eighth lowest nurse-to-population ratio in the U.S. In North Texas alone, there is a gap of nearly 7,000 nurses. By addressing the nursing shortage demand with the creation of new degree programs, HSC will produce knowledgeable nurses with its well-rounded curriculum, community-based focus and whole-health approach to educating its students, said Charles Taylor, PharmD, HSC provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

"We want to create nurse innovators and leaders by training new nurses and building upon current nursing professionals' education," he said. "These nurses will benefit from HSC's interdisciplinary approach to education and will learn how to improve health care systems and solve challenges in the nursing profession."

More information about the HSC College of Nursing, including information about applying, is available <https://www.unthsc.edu//nursing>.



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Alabama Supreme Court's Ruling: A Harmful and Dangerous Decision for Access to Reproductive Rights

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is deeply concerned by the implications of Alabama Supreme Court's recent decision which asserts that embryos are the legal equivalent of minor children and are protected under the state's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act. ANA is considering the negative impacts this ruling will have on access to essential reproductive health in Alabama, particularly for families working to overcome infertility with methods like in-vitro fertilization (IVF). An IVF clinic is the only place where embryos can exist outside of the human body, and because of fear of potential legal repercussions posed by this ruling, many clinics have begun halting operations.

"Not only does this decision further restrict the rights of all people to access high-quality reproductive health care, but it has a negative impact on nurses and their relationships with patients and


families" said Director of the ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights, Liz Stokes, PhD, JD, RN. "Nurses at IVF clinics play an essential role in patient care, from conducting patient interviews, discussing treatment options, patient education, and supporting procedures like intrauterine insemination and embryo transfers. This ruling puts these nurses at direct risk of legal consequences for providing services that support their patients in determining their reproductive options."

As the largest group of health care professionals, nurses have for decades assisted their patients with weighing available options, including the choice of IVF, when discussing sexual health issues and pregnancy. ANA firmly believes that no nurse should be subject to punitive or judicial processes for upholding their ethical obligations to their patients and profession. ANA advocates for reproductive access and sexual health that supports a patient's decision and

rights in a just society.

"ANA will continue to advocate for the right to reproductive care. While we are disheartened that Alabama's Supreme Court ruling further restricts decisions that should only ever be between a patient and their health care provider, we will use this as momentum to continue advocating for access to care and reproductive rights," said ANA President Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN. "ANA is also considering the impact this ruling will have on patients with cancer as, for many who have gone through chemotherapy, their only option for building a family may rest on their access to IVF and the nurses who work in these clinics."

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation's more than 5 million registered nurses. ANA advances the profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting a safe and ethical




Liz Stokes JD, MA, RN, is the Director of the American Nurses Association Center for Ethics and

work environment, bolstering the health and wellness of nurses, and advocating on health care issues that affect nurses and the public. ANA is at the forefront of improving the quality of health care for all. For more information, visit www.nursingworld.org.

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