

# Oklahoma's Nursing Times

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## GIFT OF GRACE

*Returning patients  
request RN*

*Read Danielle's story on page 2*



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# Gift of Grace

## Returning patients request RN

By James Coburn, staff writer

A workday that might be normal for nurses may also be the first time a patient has experienced surgery.

Danielle Williams, RN, prepares patients for surgery at the Oklahoma Center for Orthopedics and Multispecialty Surgery (OCOM), located in south Oklahoma City.

Williams’ diligence, teamwork and compassion earned her the 2025 DAISY Award at OCOM.

“I was surprised, and it made me feel like what I’m doing here matters even more,” Williams said.

The DAISY Award is destined for a nurse that exceeds their normal duties in the profession and deserves special recognition. Guests, patients, nurses, providers, and employees are invited to nominate a deserving nurse who has made a meaningful difference in patient care.

“It’s so easy to forget how they might feel — the nerves they might have — how anxious they might be,” Williams said. “And I just never want to forget what it’s like to be on the other side.”

She tries to give grace whenever possible, she said. Some patients might be perceived as unfriendly, but Williams said nobody knows what their home life is like or what situation causes their need for surgery.

“So, I always try to have patience for everybody and find something that we can relate to outside of medicine,” she added. “And then use that to then relate to them at a personal level.”

Williams came to OCOM in 2024 after being a clinical research nurse for OU Health in Oklahoma City and a floor nurse at Norman Regional Hospital. Williams earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

The first thing that stood out for her when coming to OCOM was its high level of community. Williams could feel it. She knows faces, attitudes, and personalities that personify excellence.

“It makes working across units so much easier, and it just feels like a true community and a family here,” she explained.

Most patients she sees in pre-op ask about the process, how long they will be in surgery, anesthesia, and if the doctors and anesthesiologist will come speak to them. They ask about medications and if they will be transferred to another room. Loved ones ask if someone will call them following the surgery to answer more questions.

Curiosity at an early age steered Williams to a nursing career. In high school she questioned how lifestyle affects the human body and how it works.

“But I didn’t know that I cared so much about the patient side until I started going to hospitals and doing clinicals, seeing what’s going on outside of textbooks,” Williams said.

Faces, families, stories, and the inner workings of different types of relationships formed a broader sense of humanity.

“Being here, I get to see a lot of the same patients come back,” Williams said.

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Danielle Williams, RN, is winner of the 2025 DAISY Award at the Oklahoma Center for Orthopedics and Multispecialty Surgery (OCOM)

One of her patients talked about how her surgeons had previously performed multiple operations on her. She told Williams that they had become family friends beyond the patient/doctor roles.

“Their families have gotten together, and she said, ‘You never know when you come into something like this, and you just assume they don’t care about you, and they just want your money. But I’ve never been treated like I have here. And I’ve never been treated by a doctor the way he’s treated me. I come here because I feel like I matter to this place. I matter to my surgeon.

That made me feel like I can be that for somebody and I can be that for an institution as well.”

Nurse Manager Danielle Kendall, RN, said Williams comes to work every day with a smile. Her coworkers and doctors love her. And Williams is asked for by both coworkers and patients coming for surgery.

Nursing has made an impact on Williams by not taking responsibilities such as work and activities for granted, she said. Nurses need to work in an area they most care about. When they find it, they will know, Williams said.

“There’s so many people that want to do those things and they can’t because they’re in a hospital, and they can’t,” she continued. “And they’re praying for the life they used to have. They might be praying for the life they’re living now.”

Family, health, and relationships are the things that matter, Williams said. She and her husband have two boys, ages 13 and 9. They play outside, play video games together, and discuss the books she likes. They play board games or watch documentaries once a week, especially nature films.



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# JOY OF NURSING

## Caring for mothers and newborns

by James Coburn,  
staff writer



The Love Family Women's Center is one of only three childbirth centers statewide listed in U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals for Maternity Care for 2025.

Services include:

- Perinatal psychiatrist Dr. Kaylee Woody started at Mercy in August as Oklahoma's first perinatal psychiatrist, according to Mercy.
- Pelvic floor therapy: The women's center has a physical therapist who specializes in pelvic floor therapy. The therapy services clinic has a wide range of services designed for women that includes Oklahoma's first obstetrics emergency department.
- It also has Oklahoma's first hospital-based midwifery birthing center.
- A registered dietitian services clinic for women, but also of course for prenatal, postnatal, and pediatric nutritional information.
- The Lactation Club ("TLC"), a weekly and free support group for breastfeeding mothers regularly brings about 10 mothers and babies together for mutual support to help breastfeeding. There are numerous free and low-cost classes and events.

"I feel I had a situation recently that really worked my heart. We had a mother come in who had a drug problem who decided to give the baby up for adoption," Cronister said. "The baby was going through withdrawal symptoms. That was hard and really sad to see."

She had abnormal vital signs and was fussy, but completely calmed down when the adoptive family entered the room and took over her care. Cronister began to see a change in the newborn's demeanor as the baby's vital signs began to stabilize. It was a night and day experience.

"It was such a sad situation. But the baby was going to go home with people who loved her and obviously that made her feel safe," Cronister said. "It's just touching to see a newborn feel love and safety with somebody that really cares about them."

Being a nurse has made Cronister more grateful for life, she said. She's gone from dealing with patient mortality while experiencing the COVID pandemic to seeing new life blossom in newborns.

"It has really impacted how we live our lives. Every moment is such a blessing. Every time a baby enters this world and it's a healthy pregnancy and delivery, it's a miracle," she continued.

Her life is balanced when gathering with family and people she lives. Cronister and her daughter take walks every day. She begins her day moving her body with exercise to make sure she's taking good care of herself. This way, she can take good care of her patients.

She recalled when one of her former patients returned to the women's center. The woman's first experience had been an emergency cesarean section.

"I remember we had a bonding experience when she was emotional. It was the middle of the night, and I was helping her," Cronister said.

Cronister received a report during the woman's second delivery. She remembered the woman's name and went to visit her.

"I could just see this relief wash over her face because she knew who I was as well. And she goes, 'I'm so happy to see you.' I got to take care of her for about three days. I think it was really cool. I think there are a lot of patients like that. If I was to see them, I would definitely know them."

Lauren Cronister's commitment to provide a gratifying and healthy environment for mothers and their newborns shines in her journey as a nurse. Cronister is a pre-op LPN serving mother and baby at the Love Family Women's Center located on the campus of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City. Cronister is a nursing school graduate of Francis Tuttle who is earning her Associate of Nursing degree within the next six months at Oklahoma City Community College.

Cronister's first year at Mercy was spent working in long-term acute care during the COVID pandemic. She has been with the Women's Center going on four years.

She plans to transfer from pre-op nursing to labor and delivery once she becomes a registered nurse. Cronister has been encouraged along the way by labor and delivery nurses that she works with at the hospital.

"I have always enjoyed health. When I was a kid, I wanted to deliver babies whenever I grew-up. The whole process of birth and delivery is fascinating. I knew it was what I wanted to do," Cronister said. "I feel like it's one of the most beautiful things I've experienced. With any delivery I've kind of gotten tearful because it's so beautiful to see life come into this world."

After the delivery, she cares for the mother and newborn during their recovery with basic care doing vital signs, giving the newborn a bath, and helping the mother learn about motherhood through education.





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## Launches Groundbreaking Hybrid Nursing Model to Enhance Care Coordination

*Partnership with Nexus Bedside integrates virtual and bedside nursing teams to strengthen patient care delivery.*

OU Health has launched an innovative hybrid nursing model combining virtual and in-person nursing teams to enhance care coordination and strengthen the nursing workforce at the state's flagship academic health system.

Working with Nexus Bedside, a company that specializes in hybrid nursing solutions, OU Health nurses at the bedside provide direct patient care with support from virtual nurses who handle patient education, medication review and care coordination, creating a cohesive team that allows each nurse to focus on their clinical expertise while expanding overall patient support.

"This partnership represents the kind of innovation that defines academic healthcare," said Dr. Richard P. Lofgren, M.D., president and CEO of OU Health. "As Oklahoma's flagship academic health system, we have the responsibility and capability to implement care delivery innovations and technologies that elevate care beyond what's possible in traditional community hospital settings. Our commitment to our nursing teams and our patients drives us to find better ways to deliver exceptional care."

The hybrid model is designed to help nurses by streamlining workloads, enabling more focused patient interaction. The initiative kicked off with a focused rollout in the neurology and neurosurgery unit at OU Health University of Oklahoma Medical Center with plans to expand based on success of the effort.

"This is a significant step toward innovation in nursing practice," said OU Health Chief Nurse Executive Stefanie Beavers, DNP, R.N., NEA-BC. "We're focused on improving the work environment for our nursing teams while ensuring patients get the best possible care. This innovation strengthens our team

support and ensures high-quality care is delivered where and when patients need it most."

### Partnership with Nexus Bedside

Nexus Bedside has developed the first fully integrated hybrid nursing solution purpose-built for hospitals. Founded by experienced healthcare leaders, Nexus offers flexible, technology enabled care models to support nurse well-being, increase time for focused patient care, and build a more sustainable care environment.

Its intelligent technology and workflows are designed by nurses, for nurses, tailored to meet the real-world needs of hospital staff and the patients they serve.

"We're incredibly excited about our partnership with OU Health," said Dr. Akram Boutros, M.D., Co-Founder & CEO of Nexus Bedside. "Their leadership team sets a remarkable standard, not just in strategy and execution, but in how they engage and empower their frontline teams. You can see the difference in culture, collaboration, and commitment to excellence across the organization."

"With OU Health we are providing safer care and developing the future of nursing," Boutros added. "Together, we're building a model that's more resilient, more human, and more effective."

This initiative reflects OU Health's continued dedication to enhancing nursing practice and advancing the nursing profession.

"Our nurses are the heart of patient care," said Beavers. "This model gives them the tools and support they need to provide the best possible care while taking care of themselves."

## New Cancer Center in Norman Opens, Transforming Cancer Care in South-Central Oklahoma

OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center and Norman Regional Health System proudly celebrated the grand opening of OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center at Norman Regional, a new 50,000-square-foot facility bringing medical and radiation oncology services under one roof. The center began seeing patients on June 16, 2025, and is significantly improving access to advanced, research-driven cancer care for residents of Norman and south-central Oklahoma.

The American Cancer Society estimates that approximately 24,000 new cancer cases will be diagnosed in Oklahoma in 2025 — slightly higher than the state's recent annual average of about 23,000. While the state's overall cancer incidence is comparable to national averages, mortality rates remain alarmingly high, particularly in rural and underserved communities. In Cleveland County and south-central Oklahoma alone, more than 2,000 people are diagnosed annually, underscoring the urgent need for expanded access to high-quality, multidisciplinary care closer to home.

Located on the Norman Regional Hospital campus, the new facility leverages the expertise of OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center, Oklahoma's only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Center, to provide increased access to patient-centered, research-driven cancer care.

"This new facility represents our mission of providing our community personalized and compassionate care," said Norman Regional Health System President and CEO Dr. Aaron L. Boyd, M.D., MBA, FACHE. "We are thrilled to partner with OU Health to bring these advanced services to Norman. They share our passion for treating each patient as a unique and special individual. Part of that treatment is ensuring close-to-home care especially during difficult times such as a cancer diagnosis."

University of Oklahoma President Joseph Harroz Jr. highlighted the importance of expanding access to NCI-level cancer care for all Oklahomans.

"The expansion of Stephenson Cancer Center to Norman is a proud

milestone in lifting the health of our state," Harroz said. "It reflects our unwavering commitment to deliver world-class, research-driven cancer care across Oklahoma through a growing statewide network. As part of Oklahoma's flagship academic health system, Stephenson Cancer Center is bringing advanced treatments and life-saving clinical trials closer to home — helping patients receive exceptional care while staying connected to their families and communities."

Stephenson Cancer Center's NCI status means patients have access to innovative, research-based treatments available nowhere else in Oklahoma, and expanding this reach across the state is one of the University of Oklahoma's highest priorities. This growth directly supports a bold goal of OU's Strategic Plan to reduce cancer mortality in Oklahoma by 10% over the next five years — bringing life-saving care to more communities and improving outcomes for countless families.

OU Health President and CEO Dr. Richard Lofgren, M.D., MPH, FACP, emphasized the impact of access to local care.

"No Oklahoman should ever have to leave the state to receive world-class cancer care. With the opening of this new facility, residents of Norman and south-central Oklahoma will have access to the most advanced treatments and clinical trials — right in their own community. This isn't just about convenience; it's about delivering hope, improving outcomes, and ensuring that every patient receives the highest standard of care, close to home where support systems are strongest, and the impact is most profound.

The new facility doubles the capacity for infusion services, ensuring timely and efficient patient care. It also features dedicated spaces for research coordinators and nurses, enhancing patient engagement in clinical trials and enabling timely assessment for eligibility and enrollment.

For more information, visit [StephensonCancerCenter.org](http://StephensonCancerCenter.org).



# 48th Annual Senior Day

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Free admission for Seniors 55+ (ID required)

10 a.m - 6 p.m.



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## Schedule of Activities

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Exhibitors, Photo Booth & Free Health Screenings..... | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  |
| Registration & DOOR PRIZES                            |                   |
| Session 1.....  | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. |
| Session 2.....  | 12 - 2 p.m.       |
| Session 3.....  | 2 - 4 p.m.        |
| Session 4.....  | 4 - 6 p.m.        |
| Out & About: World Tour.....                          | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  |
| Rhythms: Seniors Unite   Viewing & Voting.....        | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  |
| Ms. Oklahoma Senior America.....                      | 10:05 a.m.        |
| Jim Garling .....                                     | 10:25 a.m.        |
| Global Grooves.....                                   | 10:55 a.m.        |
| Okie Stompers.....                                    | 11:20 a.m.        |
| World of Colors.....                                  | 11:50 a.m.        |
| CommUNITY TEAM.....                                   | 12:15 p.m.        |
| King & Queen of the World Couples Challenge.....      | 1:05 p.m.         |
| Vocal Sounds of Oklahoma.....                         | 1:45 p.m.         |
| Karaoke Contest.....                                  | 2:15 p.m.         |
| Minute to Win It Game Show.....                       | 3:15 p.m.         |
| Irving Senior Center .....                            | 4:25 p.m.         |
| Global Hoopla.....                                    | 5:05 p.m.         |
| Elvis.....  | 5:35 p.m.         |
| Shawn Klush - Tribute to Elvis with Horns.....        | 7:30 p.m.         |

(Chickasaw Country Entertainment Stage)

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





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1. Disease of the retina.
7. Location of cells of the pancreas which produce and secrete insulin.
9. Type of diabetes usually diagnosed in older people who are often overweight or obese. Characterized by insulin resistance and may have reduced amounts of insulin produced by the pancreas.
11. Frequent urination.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ diabetes has no determinable cause.
13. Damage to the nervous system.
16. Extreme potassium depletion in the circulating blood.
20. Endocrine gland responsible for the production of insulin
21. A hormone which assists the entry of blood glucose into the cells.
22. Condition caused by excess bilirubin in the blood.
23. \_\_\_\_\_ diabetes: carbohydrate intolerance of variable severity with onset or first recognition during

pregnancy.

24. Another name for metabolic syndrome.

25. An intermediate product of fat metabolism.

27. After a meal.

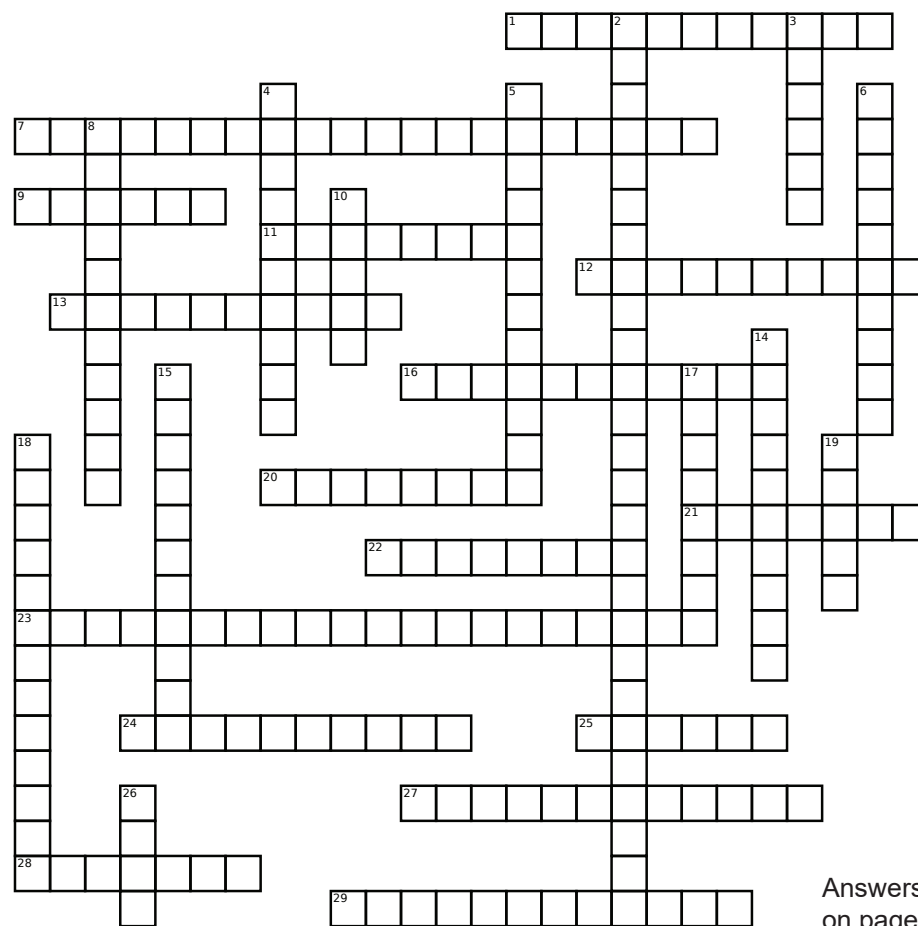
28. A type of ketone found in the blood and urine in diabetes. Has a characteristic fruity smell.

29. Abnormally low blood calcium.

2. Metabolic stage between normal glucose homeostasis and overt diabetes.
3. Type of diabetes usually diagnosed in the young, the pancreas cannot produce enough insulin.
4. Increased hunger.
5. The accumulation of ketones in the blood.
6. Increased thirst.
8. Formation of fat.
10. Islet cells of pancreas that synthesize glucagons.
14. Unusually large size.
15. Disease of the kidneys.
17. Diabetes \_\_\_\_\_: A disease characterized by a

high level of glucose in the blood.  
18. High blood sugar.

19. cells that synthesize somatostatin.  
26. Islet cells that synthesize insulin.



Answers  
on page 14



16TH ANNUAL

# *The Santa Market*

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# SERVING WITH HEART

by Vickie Jenkins, staff writer

At The Gardens at Quail Springs Assisted Living and Memory Care, they believe staying connected isn't just a service, it's part of who they are. Their community is a place where older adults feel valued, empowered, and truly cared for. It's where familiar smiles greet you and where each day holds purpose and meaning.

Wendy Brown, a dedicated LPN with 25 years of nursing experience, serves as the Director of Health and Wellness at The Gardens at Quail Springs. With a strong background in compassion care and a passion for serving seniors, Wendy brings expertise and heart to her role. She joined the team a year ago and has quickly become a trusted leader, known for her hands-on approach and commitment to ensuring the health, safety, and happiness of every resident. Her presence has made a meaningful impact on the community, and she continues to inspire those around her with her professionalism, warmth and dedication to wellness.

Wendy Brown's journey into nursing began long before she even wore scrubs. From an early age, she knew she wanted to become a nurse, something that seemed only natural, growing up surrounded by caregivers. Her mother was a nurse, her aunt a nurse and her uncle worked in a nursing home. "I fondly remember referring to myself as a 'nursing home kid', tagging along with my mother on special visits, where I got to know the residents and staff who would become early influencers in my life," Wendy commented.

Her first official job as a nurse was at Bethany Children's Health Center, a place where she gained hands-on experience and developed a deep understanding of patient care. It was there that she also earned her certification as a CNA, continuing to build the skills that would shape her nursing career.

Wendy graduated from the nursing program at Mid-Del Technology Center and has since devoted over 25 years to the field of nursing. Her roots in caregiving, both personal and professional, have helped shape her into the compassionate and dedicated nurse she is today.

When asked what qualities make a good nurse, Wendy didn't hesitate. "Compassion and understanding," she said. "A nurse has to be well rounded, every person is different, and a nurse needs to understand that." Wendy credits much of her inspiration and guidance to her family, who played a major role in mentoring her throughout her journey. She also speaks highly of the teachers who supported her during nursing school.

Wendy admits that her path into nursing wasn't something she had planned in detail. It unfolded naturally. She shared her hand-on experience at Bethany Children's Health Center. It was there that she truly discovered her calling. After earning her degree, she returned to Bethany Children's Health Center for about a year, bringing her journey full circle with a deeper understanding and renewed purpose.

Raised in Spencer, Oklahoma, a place Wendy lovingly called "God's country." "I loved growing up in a small town," she said. Surrounded by beautiful countryside, wooded areas and open skies, Wendy cherished her small-town upbringing. The simplicity of peace of rural Oklahoma left a lasting impression on her, shaping the compassionate and grounded person she is today.

When asked what advice she would give someone entering the medical field, Wendy's answer was simple but meaningful. "Don't give up. Find something you truly enjoy." It's advice she follows herself, having devoted her career to making a difference in the lives of others.

Today Wendy serves as the Director of Health and Wellness at The Gardens of Quail Springs, where she oversees the care of 71 residents, including

## Leading with Purpose



Wendy Brown, LPN is the Director of Health and Wellness at The Gardens at Quail Springs, Assisted Living and Memory Care. Her love and compassion are just a few of her outstanding qualities. Nursing is definitely her calling, leading with her heart.

those in assisted living and memory care. She considers leadership to be one of her strongest qualities and takes great pride in truly knowing each resident. "I know all their names," she said with a smile. "It's that personal connection and sense of purpose that makes my job so rewarding."

Outside of work, Wendy enjoys a well-rounded and fulfilling personal life. Her hobbies include shopping, singing in her church choir, and teaching Sunday School, activities that reflect her joyful spirit and strong faith.

One of Wendy's greatest joys is spending time with her five-year-old grandson, Jayce, who lovingly calls her his best friend. Wendy treasures every moment they spend together.

Wendy is more than a nurse-she's a leader, a caregiver, and a friend. Her presence brings comfort, connection, and confidence to residents and families alike, making her a truly valued part of the community.



NURSE

TALK

If you could be famous for something, what would it be?

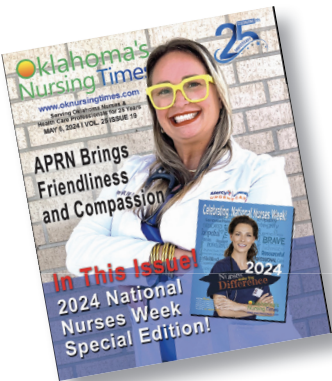


The Gardens at Quail Springs  
Assisted Living and  
Memory Care

"I would be famous for revolutionizing elder care and advocating for dignity and respect for seniors."



Sarah Martin, DSM



"I'd be known for working hard and loving all the residents and employees."



Tarzar Nickelberry, RN

"My gift from God is hospitality. I would be famous for serving others."



Johnetta Lane-Williams,  
Community Coordinator

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# INTEGRIS

## HEALTH

### ECMO Survivor Celebrates Home Run for Life

March 26, 2023, was a normal day for Lloyd Vines and his girlfriend, Katrina, until a pain in his gut wouldn't go away. "It just kind of escalated," Vines said. "It was some of the most excruciating pain I've ever had."

Lloyd went to a local hospital, and it turned out he had a twisted bowel. He was rushed to surgery and unfortunately aspirated before going into septic shock. "My lungs were basically folded on themselves, and they said my heart was functioning at about 10 percent."

Lloyd would end up being in a coma for five long weeks, spending that time on a life support technique called Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO).

"The last thing I remember is waking up from the surgery and very clearly not being able to breathe at all. And then I was out," Vines recalls. "Luckily, the hospital I was at when I started to crash had reached out to the ECMO team at INTEGRIS Health and they came over and saved me."

#### ECMO to the Rescue

Once alerted to Vines' life-threatening condition back in early 2023, the INTEGRIS Health ECMO team mobilized to transport Lloyd to the Nazih Zuhdi Transplant Institute at INTEGRIS Health Baptist Medical Center, the headquarters of the INTEGRIS Health ECMO program.

ECMO is a life support system which can externally take over the function of the heart and lungs. It is typically used as an emergency measure and often considered a "last hope" for patients in critical condition. ECMO is used to oxygenate blood when the body cannot do so on its own.

After five weeks on ECMO, Vines' body started to respond, bringing him back from the brink of death. However, the life-saving work of ECMO was only the beginning of his long, painful road to a full recovery.

Vines' original gastrointestinal issues returned, and he spent most of May and June in the ICU as a result. Additional surgeries came thick and fast. All told, he hopes his seventh surgery, coming later this year, will be his last.

#### Home Run for Life

Vines will be honored Friday, Aug. 1 as the INTEGRIS Health "Home Run for Life" series continues during the 2025 Oklahoma City Comets baseball season at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark.

"Home Run for Life" recognizes individuals in the Oklahoma City community who have overcome a significant medical event with the help of their families, physicians and health care professionals. To symbolize the end of their battle against adversity, honorees take a home run "lap" around the bases during an in-game ceremony.

#### New Life, New Perspective

Lloyd says the entire experience gave him a new perspective and a deeper appreciation for the present. "Even before I got sick, I was starting to practice gratitude a little bit more. But now, every morning I take five minutes to just cuddle my dog, kiss my girlfriend and [say], 'In this moment right now, today, things are good,'" Vines said.

The Classen SAS High School graduate and local small business owner maintains a special thankfulness for the presence of INTEGRIS Health in his hometown when he needed it most. "If there's no ECMO, there's no Lloyd, truly," he declares. "And I know it's helped many others in similar situations as me."

INTEGRIS Health was the first in Oklahoma to establish a specialized life support program solely devoted to adult patients facing imminent death. The system has a 24-hour ECMO hotline: 844-436-ECMO (3266). ECMO physicians are available 24/7/365 for consultation with other hospitals and doctors throughout the state.

### INTEGRIS Health Southwest Medical Center Earns 2025 Patient Safety Excellence Award™ from Healthgrades

INTEGRIS Health Southwest Medical Center recently achieved the 2025 Patient Safety Excellence Award™ by Healthgrades. Patient safety measures how well a hospital safeguards patients from injuries, infections and other complications based on 14 serious, potentially preventable adverse events during their hospital stay. Only four Oklahoma hospitals received this distinction – and INTEGRIS Health Southwest Medical Center was the only full-service hospital in the Oklahoma City metro area to earn the honor.

The Patient Safety Excellence Award recognizes hospitals in the top 10% in the nation for patient safety.

"This distinction reflects the unwavering commitment of our caregivers to prioritize patient safety at every level of care," says Phil Harrop, the chief hospital executive at INTEGRIS Health Southwest Medical Center. "Our medical staff's expertise, compassion and vigilance are also central to earning this honor."

We're proud to be recognized for the high-quality, safe care we provide."

Harrop adds, "We're grateful for the steadfast support of our board members as well, who continuously advocate for clinical excellence and patient-centered care. Their leadership reinforces our mission and helps us maintain the highest safety standards across the organization."

Healthgrades also named INTEGRIS Health Southwest Medical Center a Five-Star Recipient for the treatment of stroke and pneumonia in 2025.

Every year, Healthgrades evaluates hospital performance at nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide for 31 of the most common inpatient procedures and conditions. This analysis shows that patients treated at hospitals receiving a 5-star rating have a lower risk of mortality and a lower risk of experiencing one or more complications during a hospital stay than if they were treated at hospitals receiving a 1-star rating in that procedure or condition.

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- + ICU Expansion (2025)
- + Surgery Expansion (2025)

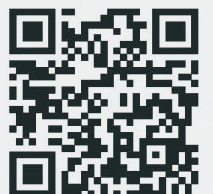
### COMPLETED

- + NICU (Level II) (2025)
- + Women's Health Center (2024)
- + Stillwater Surgery Center Expansion (2023)
- + MR-Linac (2023)
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# Bringing AI to the Classroom

Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) is proud to announce a new collaboration with Amazon-Machine Learning University (MLU) Educators Consortium and Amazon-Machine Learning University Transformation Alliance, a nationwide initiative helping college faculty integrate artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) into their curriculum, and work with executive leadership to build capacity for engaging AI in teaching and learning.

Through this collaboration, faculty from OCCC’s Social Sciences, Business and IT, and Community Outreach and Education divisions are receiving access to training, curated curriculum resources, and ongoing support designed to prepare students for careers in the fast-growing field of AI/ML.

“The collaboration with the Amazon MLU Educators consortium allows OCCC to integrate industry-aligned machine learning curriculum into our programs, empower faculty through shared resources, and equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence, said Sara Mathew, department chair and professor of computer science at OCCC. “Through this collaboration, OCCC continues to advance its mission to provide accessible and practical machine learning resources that connect academic learning and industry needs.”

OCCC is one of several institutions participating in this effort. The initiative aims to build inclusive AI education pathways. OCCC is honored to be among the few community colleges selected to participate in this groundbreaking program.

“The Machine Learning University - Educator Consortium & Transformation Alliance represents a pivotal step in democratizing AI education and shaping

the next generation of tech innovators. By collaborating with educators and executive administrators at Oklahoma City Community College, we’re not just sharing knowledge - we’re building a more inclusive and dynamic future for technology education. This collaboration empowers faculty to deliver cutting-edge AI and machine learning curriculum, ensuring students across varied communities have access to the skills that will define tomorrow’s innovations,” said LaDavia Drane, Director of Inclusive Experiences & Technology at Amazon.

Launched in February 2025 with the Inaugural MLU-HBCU AI/ML Teaching and Research Symposium, this extensive program provides ongoing support, training, and activities, including two 4-day summer bootcamps covering machine learning and generative AI, intensive technical training in AWS AI/ML services, curriculum development resources and materials, access to AWS resources and programs for education, and an invaluable connection to an industry-academic AI/ML community of practice.

“This collaboration with Amazon-Machine Learning University strengthens our institutional capacity to lead in emerging technologies,” said Dr. Mautra Staley Jones, President of OCCC. “It not only equips our faculty and our Information Technology staff members with cutting-edge resources, but also positions OCCC as a nexus for accessible, high-impact AI education that empowers students from all backgrounds to thrive in the workforce of the future.”

This collaboration provides valuable resources and establishes Oklahoma City Community College as a leader in accessible, workforce-driven education. Equipping faculty, staff, and students with tools to navigate and shape the future of artificial intelligence, reaffirms OCCC’s commitment to innovation and economic opportunity for the communities it serves.

To learn more about OCCC, visit <https://www.occc.edu/>.

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# Epidemiologists and Preventionists in Infection Control

## Elect New Officers for 2025- 2026



The Epidemiologist and Preventionists in Infection Control (EPIC) is a non-profit association. We exist to provide a collective voice for epidemiologists and preventionists in infection control regarding issues related

to infection for improving and maintaining quality patient care and safety. We promote and foster networking and educational endeavors for all disciplines with common interests in infection control and prevention activities.

As a unique organization, we have a diversified membership group which includes epidemiologists, nurses, medical technologists, pharmacists, physicians and more. Having such a diverse network allows us to gain knowledge from the

experience and expertise of each other.  
Please welcome our new officers for 2025-2026.

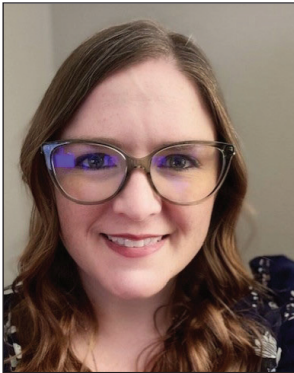
For more information on EPIC, please contact:  
[EPIC.okla@gmail.com](mailto:EPIC.okla@gmail.com)



April Summerlin, President



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**STAY UNITED** invites members to continue investing in United Way's mission in a variety of ways.

**STAY UNITED** programming is a benefit companies may offer their pre-retirees and retirees.

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For more information, contact us at (405) 236-8441 or [stayunited@unitedwayokc.org](mailto:stayunited@unitedwayokc.org)





# Welcome Dr. Waller

Advanced Orthopedics of Oklahoma proudly welcomes Garrett W. Waller, MD, a board-eligible orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine, joint replacement, orthopedic trauma, and surgical care of the shoulder, elbow, hip, ankle, and knee.

Dr. Waller is committed to helping patients—from athletes to active adults—return to peak performance and quality of life through advanced, personalized orthopedic care.

A Tulsa native and former football standout at Cascia Hall, Dr. Waller played Division I football at Villanova University, where he earned his undergraduate degree in Comprehensive Sciences.

He went on to earn his medical

degree and completed his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Oklahoma, serving as Chief Resident.

He then completed a prestigious fellowship in orthopedic sports medicine at the Andrews Institute in Florida, training under renowned surgeon Dr. James Andrews and working with elite athletes across all sports.

Dr. Waller will see patients at Advanced Orthopedics of Oklahoma’s Tulsa – CityPlex and Owasso clinics.

### About Advanced Orthopedics of Oklahoma

Advanced Orthopedics of Oklahoma is the largest orthopedic practice of fellowship-trained

orthopedic and sports medicine experts in northeast Oklahoma. From expert diagnoses and nonsurgical solutions to surgery, rehabilitation, and everything in between, our team has the advanced medical and surgical skills to keep you doing what you love.

We offer treatment options that work for you and your family, providing care for everyone, from pediatric patients with scoliosis to older adults with chronic joint pain. Our orthopedic surgeons use state-of-the-art technology for surgery and the latest in evidence-based medical protocols for recovery and rehabilitation.

Through our combined expertise in orthopedic surgery, nonsurgical medicine, and comprehensive,



whole-patient treatment, we are trusted by more patients, athletic programs, and peers than any other practice in the area. For more information about Advanced Orthopedics of Oklahoma or to schedule an appointment, visit [www.aook.com](http://www.aook.com) or call us at (918) 494-2665.

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