Greetings to all! Two years ago, you elected me as your next President-Elect. I promised to continue being an active member and leader in addressing current and future issues/challenges, advocating for Oklahoma nurses and their practices, and moving Oklahoma nursing and ONA forward to new levels! I have further built a base, adding ANA & ONA knowledge, opting into new ventures and experiences, developing new contacts and relationships, and generally gaining from a number of mentors. But the big key to these next years is that WE work together, collaborating, sharing, and partnering.

So here is a quick snapshot of what I see. The Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation Grand Challenge will be an overall umbrella. According to ANA (2015), “a grand challenge is a bold goal, a socially beneficial goal that addresses a systemic and embedded problem through collaboration and joint leadership. This national movement is designed to transform the health of the nation by improving the health of the nation’s 3.6 million RNs.” Each nurse can work on one or more of the following areas: activity, rest, nutrition, quality of life, and safety. I see ONA, the Board, Regions, Chapters, and individual nurses committing to the challenge and identifying at least one goal and subsequent action. You have a bit of time to explore and determine what you will do before ANA Enterprise’s official Grand Challenge in January. All of us can improve in at least one area as none of us are perfect … yet!

Our growing Membership is a state and local level focus. With the previously approved revisions and guidelines, Chapters can now emerge and grow. In fact, the first is the Green Country Chapter in Muskogee, Region 3! The new Membership Development Fund Committee will assist the novice and growing Chapters that are elected, particularly new legislators. This next session will again challenge lawmakers in terms of budget, core needs, and new issues. Nurses need to step up and share information, personal and professional experiences, and solutions! This past session, lawmakers passed the interstate nursing compact. Next year we hope to begin work on the National Nursing Compact. I challenge each of you to look at your region, work, and compete a short survey related to any boards and share information and support! Part of the focus on membership includes various related areas, such as Registered Nurses being members of boards and being visibly active at local sites. Did you know that you can go the ANA website and compete a short survey related to any boards that you may already be on, as well as sharing your interest or desire to be appointed to a board? Sharing updated position statements and opportunities to join focus committees are other areas. Nurses by the Numbers is a new annual report that looks at nursing employment statistics. What about the latest webinars? How to Expertly Manage Students with Unsafe Behaviors in the Clinical Setting is offered on November 29, 2016. Missed it? Find it at ANA’s website, along with many other resources.

Another important area for members is legislative. I expect you to form relationships with those who are elected, particularly new legislators. This next session will again challenge lawmakers in terms of budget, core needs, and new issues. Nurses need to step up and share information, personal and professional experiences, and solutions! This past session, lawmakers passed the interstate nursing compact. Next year we hope to begin work on full practice authority, which every nurse needs to support. Join ONA’s Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC), collaboratively form goals and plans, and keep updated during the session. And look ahead to being Nurse of the Day at the Capitol! Remember, this is only a snapshot! The possibilities for the next two years are endless. TOGETHER, we will move Oklahoma nursing and ONA to new levels!
The Oklahoma Nurses Association (ONA) is a statewide organization established to empower nurses to improve health care in all specialties and practice settings. The ONA mission statement is to be working in the field of Public Health! Join our team as a Public Health Nurse and make a difference in the lives of Oklahomans.

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- **Region 3 President** – Angela Martindale
- **Region 4 President** – Viki Saidleman

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**ONA Mission Statement:**
The Mission of the Oklahoma Nurses Association is to empower nurses to improve health care in all specialties and practice settings by working as a community of professional nurses.

**Region 1:**
- **President**: Lucas Richardson-Walker
- **Region 2**: President - Brenda Nance
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**ONA Mission Statement:**
The Mission of the Oklahoma Nurses Association is to empower nurses to improve health care in all specialties and practice settings by working as a community of professional nurses.
Over the last year, we have implemented a lot of changes. These are changes members adopted at the 2015 House of Delegates, changes the Board of Directors embraced and implemented. These changes are evident in the Oklahoma Nurse and the ONA website; we have worked to communicate them to each member.

The 2016 House of Delegates is bigger this year because of those changes and the 2016 – 2017 Board of Directors will also look different with just one representative from each Region and the New Membership Development Director.

Last year I shared a quote by French author and winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1947 Andre Gide, “Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.” We are at the point where we can see the shore! It is now time to start building the Regions that are not functioning, as well as create Chapter development. The Membership Development Fund Committee also has work to do.

This year we have worked to build our membership benefits. We have joined with ANA’s Personal Benefits program that provides ONA/ANA member rates or discounts on Professional Liability Insurance, Auto Insurance, Life Insurance, Long-Term Care Insurance and Financial Planning. In addition to these programs, ONA has also signed agreements with First Bank Card for a new ONA Credit Card, OneMain Financial for a financial loan program and LendKey, a company working to refinance and consolidate student loans with lower rates. These programs benefit ONA with non-dues revenue and offer ONA Members better interest rates.

The ONA Board is committed to strengthening benefits to you, the member, in any number of ways beyond these kinds of personal benefits programs. We are also working to create professional development and leadership opportunities.

Another change we have embraced is updating our logo. This change allowed ANA’s rebranding, but a structural change creating the ANA Enterprise. The ANA Enterprise leverages the combined strength of ANA, ANF and ANCC to drive excellence in practice and ensure the voice and vision of nurses everywhere are recognized. You are still members of ANA, which is one part of the ANA Enterprise.

Several years ago I started Barre3 workouts. Every barre3 class works strategically to build strength and flexibility for optimal body balance and improved posture.

During class, instructors talk about finding your “shakes and quakes” a sign that your body is becoming stronger. ONA is working to find its “shakes and quakes” to continue to build membership, develop its communities and grow stronger financially.

Empowering nurses to improve healthcare, be the Leading Voice for the nursing profession and Connecting Nurses to make a difference.

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Published by: Arthur L. Davis Publishing Agency, Inc.
Mrs. Payton is a proud member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, as well as she is of Cheyenne, Arapaho and Hopi descent. She is a strong supporter of aiding underserved Indian populations, and is passionately dedicated to a career in Indian health, as well as with the Cherokee Nation. Mrs. Payton was born in an Indian Hospital and has depended on Indian Health as her primary means of healthcare throughout most of her life. Cherokee Nation has made her educational dreams possible with their continued aid and support. Mrs. Payton is dedicated to the betterment of health for the Native American population and it has become the focus of her professional life.

Mrs. Payton graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing in May of 2012. She is currently attending Oklahoma State University, finishing up her Masters of Science Degree in Health Care Administration. Mrs. Payton was selected by the National Congress of American Indians to be a 2015 Native Graduate Health Fellow & is on target to graduate in December 2016.

Mrs. Payton maintains an active membership in the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, as well as the American Nurses Association and the Oklahoma Nurses Association. In 2014, Mrs. Payton was selected to serve on the Board of Directors for Region II of the Oklahoma Nurses Association, where she is still serving. In 2016, Mrs. Payton was selected to serve as the President Elect for Region II of the Oklahoma Nurses Association. Mrs. Payton currently resides in the Owasso, Oklahoma area.

The Oklahoma Nurses’ Association Oklahoma Campaign for Action Coalition (OCAC) made nursing leadership a priority to increase the visibility of nurse leaders across the state and underscore the inclusion of nursing knowledge to foster change. In a series of feature articles in The Oklahoma Nurse, the OCAC

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Insight from a Nurse Leader on Board!

Mrs. Payton was recently selected to be the Clinic Administrator for the Cherokee Nation Coweeescoowee Health Center in Ochelata, Oklahoma. Before taking on the role of Clinic Administrator, Brandi was the Quality Management Nurse for two of Cherokee Nation’s Health Centers: the Will Rogers Health Center in Nowata, Oklahoma and the Bartlesville Health Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Prior to working within the Cherokee Nation Health Services, Mrs. Payton briefly worked at the Claremore Indian Hospital; prior to that she was employed within the Integris Health System for several years, focusing much of her time on the care of critically ill patients and cardiovascular disease. Mrs. Payton graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing in December 2016. She has been a member of the Oklahoma Nurses Association since 2008, where she is still serving. In 2016, Mrs. Payton was selected to serve as the President Elect for Region II of the Oklahoma Nurses Association. Mrs. Payton currently resides in the Owasso, Oklahoma area.

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Q4: Why do you think it is important that a registered nurse is serving in Oklahoma on this board?

I feel that Registered Nurses serving in Oklahoma on this board are crucial and the reasoning is twofold. First, nurses work the front lines and are often known to spend more physical time with patients as opposed to other members of the interdisciplinary healthcare team. This is of significance as nurses on a board can act as translators for the board, as far as bringing the perspective from the frontline or the trenches if you will. Second, nurses have long been regarded as the “most trusted profession.” Nurses are known as patient advocates and have long been recognized by their patients as honest and trustworthy, which is another great thing that a nurse could bring with them as a member of a board.

Q5: What specific challenges or barriers do you see for nurses who want to serve as leaders on boards in Oklahoma?

I feel like nurses have the level of commitment that is required, no question. I feel the barriers include lack of recognition in the role of Registered Nurses in quality of patient care, as well as in patient outcomes. I think it is easy for nurses to be viewed as a sort of assistant that assists patients, as well as that lacks professional leadership qualities required in board positions.

Q6: How do you see the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) recommendations influencing the growth of nursing leadership in Oklahoma?

I see the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) recommendations having a positive impact in the growth of nursing leadership in Oklahoma. I feel that the IOM’s recommendation will give nurses the confidence they need to believe that they can make a difference in these roles. Further, I feel that this confidence will further give nurses extra drive in working hard to obtain these positions in order to satisfy their inherent objectives as nurses, being the patient’s advocate & positively impacting patient outcomes.

Q7: The Institute of Medicine and Campaign for Action have focused on nurses serving on hospital boards as a priority. What challenges do you see for nurses wanting to serve on hospital boards in Oklahoma?

I feel like the lack of recognition of nurses as leaders that have the ability to positively impact outcomes on a bigger level is often overlooked. I also feel there is a big challenge in nurses not knowing that this is something that they can do. I think there is a common perception among nurses that boards are for “important people like doctors and business partners.” I think one of the biggest challenges is nurses not recognizing serving on a board as a viable option in impacting patient care/outcomes. Nurses must embrace the unique voice, as a frontline line healthcare provider, that only they possess in our healthcare system. This voice will give them the confidence to realize that they are strong contenders for these sorts of positions.

Q8: What specific advice do you have for nurses who want to explore a leadership position?

First and foremost, follow your passion. Second, always know that you are capable, so do not limit yourself and/or your potential. I think that when you follow your passion and work hard, opportunity almost always presents itself. Lastly, do not be afraid to reach out: join a professional organization that aligns with your interests and be an active member. This helps develop your voice, as well as your understanding of issues on a broader level. Plus, the networking and learning from others is invaluable. For more information about getting involved in the Oklahoma Campaign for Action, contact: Jane Nelson, Oklahoma Executive Director, Oklahoma Nurses Association/Oklahoma Nurses Foundation at 1111 N. Lee, Suite 243, Oklahoma City, OK 73103, P: 405.840.3476 | F: 405.840.3013, E-mail: ona@oklahomanurses.org or access this website: http://campaignforaction.org/state/oklahoma

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Highlights from the 108th Annual ONA Convention

This year’s Convention, Dreaming in Color: Creating a Culture of Health, was a great success! This two-day convention focused on ways to build a Culture of Health in Oklahoma that enables all in our diverse society to lead healthier lives, now and for generations to come. Our panel participants examined existing programs, emerging projects and trends that exist or are in development in our state. Sessions highlighted the power nurses can have on state and local policy makers as well as state health initiatives and the impact of health care providers working to create a culture of health in Oklahoma. Over twenty-five nurses presented posters and attendees had the opportunity to visit twenty four exhibitors offering nursing resources.

Thanks to a dedicated Convention Committee led by ONA Vice President, Liz Diener, nurses from throughout Oklahoma enjoyed a great Convention! Be sure to mark your calendar for the 2017 Convention, which will be held on October 18th & 19th at the Embassy Suites in Norman, OK.

Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected ONA Officers: President-Elect Karen Taylor, MSN, RN; Secretary/Treasurer Polly Shoemake, BSN, MBA, RN; Membership Development Director Shelly Wells, PhD, MBA, MS, APRN-CNS; Education Director Amy Hutchens, MS, RN, CNE; and newly appointed Emerging Nurse Director Jennifer Booms, RN.

New Nominating Committee Members include: Teresa Gray, RN; Jessica Johnson, MSN, BSN; Linda Merkey, RN

ONA Welcomes New Board Members
Karen Taylor, DNP, MSN, RN, was elected as the ONA President-Elect. Taylor is currently serving as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner-Certified Nurse Practitioner-Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health, Outpatient Behavioral Health, Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina, OK. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, vortex Delta CAL, Choctaw Nation Medical Reserve Corps, Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corp, American Psychiatric Nurses Assn. as well as a member ANA-ONA Region 3.

Polly Shoemake, BSN, MBA, RN, was elected as the ONA Secretary/Treasurer. She is currently working as the Director-Clinical Systems, St. John Health System, Tulsa, OK. She is a member of ANA/ONA and serves on the nominating committee for MRC. Shoemake also serves as the Muskogee County 4-H Leader Association-secretary, Active member of Porum First Baptist Church and ACHE member.

Shelly Wells, PhD, MBA, MS, APRN-CNS, was elected at the ONA Membership Development Director. Wells is currently the Division Chair and Associate Professor at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva OK. She is an active ANA/ONA Member and Region 2 Rep to the Board, NLN Member, OLN Member, OACNS Member, Sigma Theta Tau Member, AACN Member - Leadership Tulsa -Parish Nurse, Fellowship Christian Church, Current Chair and Treasurer of the Oklahoma State Council of BSN and Higher Degree Programs Deans and Directors.

Amy Hutchens, MS, RN, CNE, was elected as the ONA Education Director.

Hutchens is the Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing, Oklahoma City, OK.

She has been an active member of the American Nurses Association/Oklahoma Nurses Association since 2009 and has served as an ONA Region 1 delegate. Hutchens participated as a 2013 ONA task force member for educational initiatives.
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Each year, we have the privilege to honor and be inspired by leaders who have impacted the nursing profession. These leaders are instrumental in Creating a Culture of Health in Oklahoma. They have been faced with changes and challenges and have risen above them. We honor the leaders who have displayed excellence and have advanced our profession and industry.

We begin with the Excellence in Nursing Award, which honors an ONA member who has developed an innovative, unique, and creative approach utilizing nursing theory and knowledge/skills in any practice setting: administration, education, and/or direct patient care.

These individuals are recognized by peers as role models of consistently high quality in their nursing practice and as one who enhances the image of professional nursing by creating an environment promoting professional autonomy and control over nursing practice.

The Excellence in Nursing Award – Education was presented to owner and Nurse Planner of HFenton & Associates and Northeastern State University’s MSN Program Chair, Heather Fenton, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE. Fenton offers innovation and excellence through providing continuing education units while cruising around the globe. She has taken her love for traveling and created an opportunity for nurse educators to experience different destinations while getting continuing education units. She has developed programs on cruises with nationally and internationally recognized nurse leaders and educators.

Her colleague said, “She is an inspiration to the nursing profession for creating her own niche in nursing. She inspired me to take the step of faith into entrepreneurship and start my own business. This type of inspiration is unique and innovative. She provides nurses an example of viewing their role as a nurse through a different way. Thinking outside the box of the typical venue for continuing education hours and allowing imagination to inspire work creates an amazing adventure for nurse educators to relax and learn simultaneously. I cannot think of a better way to see the world and get CEUS than on a cruise ship.”

The second recipient of the Excellence in Nursing Award – Education APRN, Melissa Craft, PhD, RN, AOCN, is from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center’s Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing. She was recognized for consistently demonstrating an innovative and creative leadership approach, using nursing theory and knowledge/skills, in her role as educator at the Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Craft has been a role model of excellence in implementing evidence-based content and strategies in the classroom and clinical education of students in the Clinical Nurse Specialist and Doctor of Nursing Programs. She is recognized by her colleagues as a “true leader and champion for nursing, and has worked tirelessly to create an environment where education of advanced practice nurses emphasizes professional autonomy and control over nursing practice.”

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She has addressed the health care needs of Oklahomans by increasing the number of highly qualified nurses prepared to provide advanced practice services. At the beginning of her career at the health clinic, the majority of care provided was treating minor health issues and deferring clients to larger and more complex health systems. Clinic records were all on paper, making it difficult to track clients’ needs and also to articulate the need for increased support to the center’s funding sources.

Under her leadership, the clinic has become integrated into electronic health charting and tracking, is now able to care for and track complex and chronic care situations and more effectively work with ancillary agencies to increase the continuity of care.

Funding sources for the center have increased dramatically. By providing a higher level of triage and direct care, more patients are diverted from the emergency rooms across the city.

The Excellence in Nursing Award for Direct Patient Care practice setting was awarded to Leslie Petty, MS, ARNP, from the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless. She is the sole prescriptive provider at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless caring for thousands of homeless and indigent persons each year.

Her wound care training from earlier in her career became a major asset in this setting, which sees a multitude of complex and chronic wounds and pushed her to seek an advanced practice certificate in wound care.

Beginning her Family Nurse Practitioner role at the center in 2011, she has managed to transform the health clinic of the center into a thriving hub of connections between the homeless and indigent population it serves and the myriad of healthcare resources across the city.

The Nursing Impact on Public Policy was awarded to Dr. Jan Figart, MS, RN. This award honors the nurse whose activities are above and beyond those of the general nursing community to further the political presence of nursing and/or to accomplish positive public policy for the nursing profession.

Desires to make a difference and to help people came early in the life of our Figart. She chose to fulfill these desires by becoming a registered nurse. As Associate Director of the Northeast Oklahoma Area Health Center at Rogers State College, she was promoted to the Director position to assume program responsibilities, financial development, and resource management. From this role, policy analysis on deinstitutionalization of Hissom chronicled in The House the Community Built, the development of the University Affiliate Program at Oklahoma State University, establishment of a health care student-run Osage Hills Health Center, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse’s funding of a geriatric model of depression intervention were hallmarks of her leadership.

Next, she became the Executive Director of the Margaret Hudson Program addressing the education, health, and social needs of pregnant and parenting teens. For eight years she oversaw provision of program services and the structures required to maintain viable services.

As she left Margaret Hudson Program, she assisted in preparing the Health Resource and Services Administration grant to reduce the high rate of infant mortality in Tulsa County. The grant funded Healthy Start, a community case management mode.

She also served as a consultant for the Office of Juvenile Affairs Delinquency Prevention Award Recipients continued on page 10

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  - Phone: 405-610-8101
  - Email: Jessica.wray@myalliancehealth.com
- Visit: http://www.alliancehealthmidwest.com/about/careers/hospital-opportunities
located at the Tulsa City-County Health Department by coordinating eight programs to reduced adolescent entry into the juvenile system.

In 2000, she became the Senior Planner, Maternal and Child Health for the Community Service Council.

In collaboration with Liz Reece, and Phil Dessauer, she staffed the Governor’s Task Force on early childhood development. Governor Henry accepted the findings from and established the policy body for early childhood known as Smart Start Oklahoma.

As a charter board member of the Greater Tulsa Health Access Network, she assisted in writing a $12 million grant to establish a statewide system of health information exchange among medical providers. Through the Trust, over 500 rural physicians and nurse practitioners, 65 hospitals, 27 mental health facilities, 50 optometrists, and 50 pharmacies were added to the exchange as well as a statewide private and security framework established.

Commissioned research and evaluation, expert legislative testimony, 70 public presentations per year, and a weekly data e-newsletter are public hallmarks of the scope of policy and data analysis she houses in her portfolio. Frequently sought after for her presentation on the State of Health in Oklahoma, she has been characterized as a “...cross between a Harvard professor and a Las Vegas lounge act.”

Her dissertation, Crisis Leadership in Nonprofit Health and Human Service Organizations During the Economic Recession is one of the few real times studies of leadership during a crisis. This study has spurred the opportunity for publications and presentation on leadership response in economic crises including an analysis of the Oklahoma budget shortfall impact on Tulsa’s nonprofit organizations.

In 2014, she was chosen for a post-doctoral fellowship through the U.S. State Department, and served in Kyrgyzstan providing evaluation and technical assistance in the development of early care and learning environments. She held a 3-year term on the Department of Human Services, Administrative Citizens Advisory Panel and has been recently named to the Medicaid Rebalancing Act as a client advocate.

She has touched multiple aspects of the local, state, and national communities.

The Nursing Research Award was presented to Candida Barlow, MSN, RN. This award honors a nurse who has made a significant impact on nursing practice through the use of research as a basis for practice innovation. Significant impact on nursing practice means that the nurse has contributed to the creation of new nursing knowledge through research findings; and has improved or created a plan for improving clinical nursing practice and/or patient outcomes in response to the findings.

This year’s recipient is a recognized leader in her field. She is currently the only director of a Clinical Research Institute in Oklahoma with a graduate degree in Clinical Research Trials in Nursing from Drexel University. She is one of the few masters prepared registered nurses serving in this role across the United States.

A lifelong learner, her impressive curricula vitae lists five distinct clinical research certifications, four institutional certifications, and regular honors from prestigious organizations.

As early as 2008 and before obtaining her graduate degree she championed a practice guideline change in the intensive care unit, became active in the leadership of the clinical ladder committee, and served as a clinical unit educator. These activities prepared her for her current service as a leader, content expert, educator and administrator.

During her graduate degree in clinical trial research nursing she became a leader in several professional organizations for clinical research professionals. She acquired a leadership role in the International Association of Clinical Research Nurses and developed an Oklahoma chapter. Her activities in this organization included articulation of the role of the registered nurse in clinical trials research. The efforts contributed to the recent recognition of this as a specialty by the American Nurses Association (ANA). This recognition is especially to the development of practice guidelines, establishment of a certification process and advocacy on the part of the ANA.

The Nightingale Award of Excellence was presented to Dr. Shelly Wells. This award recognizes an ONA member who during their career has demonstrated innovative strategies to fulfill job responsibilities in her professional role and within the community. It recognizes a nurse that consistently surpasses expectations of a professional nurse; thus enhancing the image of the nursing profession. As well as someone who demonstrates sustained and substantial contribution to the Oklahoma Nurses Association and has served as a role model of consistent excellence in their area of practice.

Wells developed the state’s first BSN to DNP curriculum in her current position at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. In this position, she has provided oversight, leadership, and administration of nursing programs at 4 sites.

She depicts a sustained and active support of ANA and pertinent state and regional nursing associations. Her most recent contribution to ONA is her participation in the development of the 2015 Code of Ethics at the ANA level, and a willingness to share that knowledge with a number of nursing audiences. She has consistently made excellent, well-received presentations at the ONA Convention.
She has courageously addressed the health policies of candidates for elected offices. Her role as Region Representative to the ONA Board has increased the Region’s understanding of the issues and politics involved in this relationship.

She exemplifies the belief that anything attempted demands to be done well. She continues to use evidence for any decision, which further attests to her role modeling excellence. Although she is very busy at developing programs, advocating for her program and for nursing, she maintains a connection to the clinical practice side of nursing.

The Excellence in the Workplace Environment was awarded to Cherokee Nation Health Services. This award is presented to organizations that have developed positive work environments. These organizations must have developed an innovative and effective program, approach or overall environment that promotes excellent nursing care, creating a positive environment for nurses to work and supports nurses in their practice.

Our first recipient of the Excellence in the Workplace Environment Award recognizes the importance of preventative medicine in their Native American population. This organization truly recognizes the teamwork approach to healthcare.

They recently received a grant for the testing, diagnosing, and treatment of Hepatitis C in the Native American population. This has offered their nursing staff a unique opportunity to educate, promote, support, and reach a population that has many times been neglected. This approach has provided a once in a lifetime opportunity for nurses to see firsthand the difference they are making in a patient’s health. Their nurses can now see a patient’s Hepatitis C viral load reduced from several million to undetectable within a 4-6 week time frame. Nurses can see a potential terminal illness literally be eradicated right before their eyes.

One employee said, “Many times we in the healthcare field establish an ongoing relationship with our patients, but never before have we been able to see such a positive impact on so many people’s lives as with the Hepatitis C program. It has been an extremely rewarding program that allows us to see such a positive impact on so many people’s lives...”

The second Excellence in the Workplace Environment Award went to Mercy Hospital Ada, a 156 bed Acute Care Hospital. In 2014-2015, the facility reached an all-time high of 36 agency nurses; RN turnover was at 32% and coworker engagement had reached an all-time low.

Recognizing a need for significant changes in the workplace environment, Nursing Leadership collaboratively agreed to a strategic plan that outlined the process to achieve better nursing retention, reduce agency utilization, and improve coworker engagement.

The plan addressed several areas that needed improvement within the organization, including: Agency Nurse Utilization, Bedside Hand-off, Specimen Labeling, Nurse Executive Rounding and Pain Control Action Team.

Through evaluating processes in these areas, addressing inefficiencies, and implementing new programs and processes, their team produced significant positive outcomes. Increased employee morale, reduction in expense, improved quality of care, and improved patient satisfaction were results of this plan.

The Friend of Nursing Award was presented to Oklahoma State Senator Frank Simpson and Oklahoma State Representative Pat Owney.

This award is conferred on non-nurses who have rendered valuable assistance to the nursing profession. Their contributions and assistance are of statewide significance to nursing.

Our recipients are not only outstanding leaders in the state legislature, but also exceptional frontline forces in improving the welfare of Oklahoma citizens. They have authored significant legislation for the Oklahoma Board of Nursing over the years addressing criminal background checks, discipline, equitable compensation and borderless practice allowing Oklahoma to become known as a practice leader across the country. The successful passage of these initiatives in Oklahoma can be directly attributed to their self-preparation, education of their peers, and the confidence their fellow legislators have in them.

The Friend of Nursing Award was presented to Oklahoma State Senator Frank Simpson and Oklahoma State Representative Pat Owney.

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December 2016, January, February 2017
The Oklahoma Nurse • Page 11

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Specialty Practice of Clinical Research Nursing Recognized

by The American Nurses Association
Pittsburgh, PA, August 8, 2016

Clinical research nursing is the specialized practice of professional nursing focused on maintaining equilibrium between care of the research participant and fidelity to the research protocol. This specialty practice incorporates human subjects protection; care coordination and continuity; contribution to clinical science; clinical practice; and study management throughout a variety of professional roles, practice settings, and clinical specialties. (IACRN, 2012).

The International Association of Clinical Research Nurses (IACRN) is proud to announce that the American Nurses Association (ANA) Board of Directors now recognizes clinical research nursing as a specialty nursing practice. In addition, the scope of practice statement for clinical research nursing was approved and the standards of practice have been acknowledged for a five year period. The scope and standards for clinical research nursing will be co-published by the ANA and IACRN and will be available in the Fall of 2016. The publication will contain up-to-date information for nurse leaders, educators and registered nurses (RN) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) caring for patients participating in clinical research.

Through specialty practice, the clinical research nurse (CRN) makes important contributions to the clinical research process, quality of the research outcomes and most importantly the safe expert care of research participants. Members of the IACRN have recognized the special contributions and unique needs of clinical research participants along with the specialty training necessary for the CRN to deliver high quality safe care to all research participants.

CRNs practice globally; their unique body of knowledge consists of specialized training in nursing care, research regulations, scientific process, human subjects protection and data collection, analysis, and interpretation. CRNs care for a wide range of research participants throughout the life span and across states of wellness and disease, in all settings. CRNs are integral members of the research team contributing to high quality research outcomes and are essential to the safe expert care of research participants.

About the International Association of Clinical Research Nurses
IACRN organized in 2008 for the purpose of defining, validating, and advancing clinical research nursing as a specialty practice and to support the professional development of registered nurses who directly or indirectly impact the care of clinical research participants across all clinical specialties. Current membership represents 11 countries on 4 continents. IACRN holds an annual meeting each fall.

If you would like more information about IACRN please go to www.iacrn.org or email us at iacrn@iacrn.org.
Aiden is seven-years-old, has cerebral palsy, and is a happy, friendly child. Zane, his six-year-old brother, is a curious little boy, always wondering about the world around him. Their foster mother, Susan Oliver, was a nurse at the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) Pauline E. Meyer children’s shelter when the boys’ biological parents dropped them off. Aiden was two-years-old at the time, had no hair, had never been fed food by mouth and his cerebral palsy had not been addressed, so he was very constricted. Zane, too, was small for his size. “He was about one-and-a-half years old and we suspected he was completely deaf because he made no sounds at all. Both boys looked rough,” said Oliver. The boys became permanent residents at the shelter, and Oliver said it was heartbreaking.

“As they sat there day after day, I watched other children come in and go out but these boys stayed and stayed,” she said. “I hurt my heart that nobody wanted them... I wanted them.” Oliver says she talked to her husband and they made the decision to become foster parents.

“It has been an amazing experience watching Aiden and Zane grow,” she said. “We do the normal things like school and T-ball. The impossible things in life aren’t impossible. Aiden is a child who, at birth, had no hair, had never been fed food by mouth and his cerebral palsy had not been addressed, so he was very constricted. Aiden also had no medical background.”

“We simply have denied lifesaving transplants because their social situation does not have the stability it requires to have a successful recovery,” said Oliver.

Five years ago, Oliver adopted a child with profound disabilities who had been fostered.

“I have never been more proud of my ability to meet his medical needs while others couldn’t,” she said. “We simply have denied lifesaving transplants because their social situation does not have the stability it requires to have a successful recovery,” said Oliver.

As a medical community we have to step up and provide for these children with skill sets we already have. I’ve never had a greater blessing!”

Children with disabilities and those with medical needs are in dire need of people who are willing to open their homes and become foster parents. DHS will provide for all of the child’s medical needs as well as extra supports for foster and adoptive parents. For more information about how to become a foster parent or adopt through DHS, call 800-376-9729 or visit www.OKFosters.org.

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Oklahoma Department of Human Services

December 2016, January, February 2017

The Oklahoma Nurse • Page 13
To apply, please visit:

Sage Memorial Hospital is located in northeastern Arizona, Ganado, Arizona 85921. The hospital is part of Navajo Health Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. To learn more about Sage Memorial Hospital or the Navajo Health Foundation, visit www.navajonurse.org.

Laura Gamino, RN, MPH, MCHES, Outreach and Injury Prevention Coordinator, Trauma One Injury Prevention Program at OU Medical Center

When an older adult falls, tragic consequences often follow. A hip fracture can lead to a long hospital stay or even death. Tripping over a step can cause a traumatic brain injury. Even the fear of falling can restrict a person's physical activities, making him or her more vulnerable to falling.

One out of every four adults over age 65 will fall each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2016). In Oklahoma, healthcare providers have embraced a respected program to prevent falls. The Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance (TCMBB) program is a modified form of Tai Chi, an ancient martial art that promotes physical strength and balance. This cost-effective, community-based program to prevent falls was developed with federal grant funding by Dr. Fuzhong Li, a research scientist at the Oregon Research Institute.

Moving for Better Balance (TCMBB) program is a key component of injury prevention in Oklahoma.

In the six years since, TCMBB has become a popular activity in many venues across the state, including Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative centers, branches of the Metropolitan Library System, Rose State College, the University of Central Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Association of Area Agencies on Aging's senior nutrition sites, county health departments, faith-based nursing homes, home health agencies, retirement centers, the YMCA, the Veterans Administration, tribal nations, rehabilitation facilities, yoga studios, Oklahoma City parks and many more.

The injury prevention office for the Trauma One Injury Prevention Program at OU Medical Center has taken a lead role in teaching instructors in Oklahoma. More than 500 people in Oklahoma have been trained as certified teachers of TCMBB. Of those, OU Medical Center has trained more than 300. According to Avy Redus, a project coordinator for the Injury Prevention Service of the OSDH, Oklahoma currently has 100 active classes across the state representing 50 towns and cities.

How did Tai Chi become a key component of injury prevention in Oklahoma?

In 2009, the city of Shawnee, Okla., was working to become a World Health Organization certified “Safe Community.” This is a prestigious designation that is administered by the National Safety Council. As part of that effort, Shawnee’s senior center began offering TCMBB classes. After Shawnee earned its Safe Community designation, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) wanted to share the Tai Chi program’s success around the state. So, in October 2010, the OSDH invited Dr. Li to Oklahoma City to train twelve instructors to teach the Tai Chi classes statewide.

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- Outpatient Clinic Nurse

Sage Memorial Hospital is located in northeastern Arizona, Ganado, Arizona. For more information contact: Errnasha McIntosh, RN, BSN, IDON, 928-755-4901, ernnasha.mcintosh@sagememorial.com.

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Nursing Opportunities Available

ER / Medical-Telemetry Unit Nurse Supervisor
- Electronic Utility Room Nurse
- Medical / Telemetry Unit Nurse
- Outpatient Clinic Nurse

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December 2016, January, February 2017

The Oklahoma Nurse
What are the benefits of a prevention program for falls by older adults?

According to the CDC, falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries in older adults. Falls are the primary cause of traumatic brain injuries in older adults. In addition, falls cause more than 95 percent of hip fractures. Additionally, fall injuries cost $31 billion annually in direct medical costs (adjusted for inflation) (CDC, 2016).

In Oklahoma, more than 7,000 older adults are hospitalized after a fall each year. More than 450 Oklahomans a year die from fall-related injuries. This is about eight deaths each week. There has been a dramatic increase in fall-related deaths in Oklahoma over the last few years, and that rate is expected to increase substantially each year as Oklahoma’s population ages. Oklahoma’s death rate from falls is 33 percent higher than the national rate (Oklahoma, 2013).

**Falls do NOT have to be a normal part of aging!**

Teaching the slow, steady movements of Tai Chi to older adults helps them develop better balance, muscle strength and flexibility. Participants learn the importance of shifting their weight, proper posture alignment and smooth, coordinated movements. The Tai Chi movements include ankle rocking, trunk rotation and eye-hand coordination. A chair may be used if extra support is needed. Classes are held usually once or twice a week. TCMBB instructors in Oklahoma report that participants experience improved balance and strength but also gain mobility confidence, too. Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance is making Oklahoma safer for older adults, one flowing movement at a time.

To find a class near you, please visit: falls.health.ok.gov.

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