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SCHOLARSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE FOR NURSE REFRESHER COURSE

Almost half of the nurse refresher course scholarships funded by the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma are still available to nurses who want to return to the field or enter it for the first time.

Each \$2,000 scholarship will pay for the course for a nurse who does not have an active license but who wants to return to work or who never took the board exams.

The statewide nurse refresher course is part of a partnership between the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education. Ten Oklahoma CareerTech technology centers offer the course.

As of Monday, April 12th, 56 scholarships had been awarded and 44 were still available, said Lara Morris, Oklahoma CareerTech health careers education state program manager.

“Recipients of the scholarships included a woman who

lost her job while caring for her husband, who had COVID-19,” Morris said. “She had planned to use stimulus money for the course, but because she received a scholarship, she was able to pay back rent and utilities.”

Oklahoma CareerTech and the OU College of Nursing worked together to streamline the course in response to the pandemic and the need for more nurses, both to work in hospitals and to replace nurses who moved to hospitals from clinics and other facilities, Morris said.

The program includes a self-paced, online nursing theoretical course, a nursing skills lab provided by Oklahoma CareerTech technology centers and a clinical experience that will show students’ clinical competency. The clinical experience may be virtual or in-person depending on the technology center. The revisions have lowered the number of hours required for students who achieve baseline competency. The fees have also been lowered, from \$2,599 to \$2,000.

The Masonic Charity

Foundation of Oklahoma donated \$200,000 to create 100 scholarships of \$2,000 each. MCFO Executive Director John Logan said he proposed it to the foundation because he was afraid that even the reduced cost might prevent some nurses from taking the course and returning to work.

Technology centers offering the course are Autry Tech, Canadian Valley Tech, Green Country Tech, Kiamichi Tech, Meridian Tech, Metro Tech, Moore Norman Tech, Pontotoc Tech, Southern Tech and Tulsa Tech. Scholarship applications are being taken at the participating technology centers.

More information about the nurse refresher course can be found on the Oklahoma CareerTech website, www.okcareerstech.org/

Information about reinstating an RN or LPN license can be found on the Oklahoma Board of Nursing website at nursing.ok.gov.



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		<h2>Woodland launches superintendent search</h2> <p>Members of the Woodland Board of Education have partnered with the Oklahoma State School Boards Association to assist with their search for the district's next superintendent. They are now seeking community input as part of the search process.</p> <p>Parents, community members, students and employees are encouraged to complete a brief, online survey by visiting the district's website at woodland.k12.ok.us. The survey is now open, and responses will be accepted through April 30.</p> <p>"Selecting a superintendent is one of our most important responsibilities as school board members," Board President J. Berry Harrison, III said. "We want to ensure we find the right person to guide our outstanding instructional team and to help us grow and improve in the future. With the right leader at the helm, we can achieve our district goals and provide additional resources and opportunities for students to be successful in the classroom and in life."</p> <p>Harrison invited community members to share their feedback about the future of the school district and the next school leader.</p> <p>"The community can support our efforts by completing a short survey and letting us know the attributes they would like to see</p>								
1		<p>in our superintendent," Harrison said. "The schools belong to the community. We want the next superintendent to help bridge and grow relationships with parents, staff members and local residents so we can all work together to make our schools the best they can be."</p> <p>Community members are also invited to be part of a virtual community meeting next Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. More information is available at www.ossba.org/woodlandcommunitymeeting.</p> <p>The district is currently accepting applications, and board members hope to select the successful candidate by June. Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Quinn will continue to serve in the position until the new superintendent begins this summer.</p> <p>OSSBA performs superintendent searches throughout the state for school districts of all sizes, including recent hires for Muskogee, Bixby, Chisholm, Clinton, Metro Technology Center and Autry Technology Center. The non-profit organization advertises the districts' openings, recruits potential candidates, furnishes an online application management system, and provides guidance and support throughout the search process.</p>								
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