

For immediate release

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Healthcare and Western Oklahoma State College

ALTUS, Okla. -- In a recent opinion article, Gary Davidson of the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges highlighted the growing need for nurses in rural Oklahoma. Answering that call is the staff and faculty of the Nursing program at Western Oklahoma State College.

Western has offered an associate degree program for nurses since 1981. Last year, over 100 students graduated from Western with a nursing degree, including 28 students who completed the online LPN to RN program. The online program began in 2019 thanks to funding from a Telligen Community Initiative grant and is available to license practical nurses. Since it began, it has had great success. This year, Learn.org recognized Western's program as one of the top online associate degree in nursing programs.

When students graduate from an accredited nursing school with an associate degree in nursing, they are fully prepared to provide high-quality care while having received the education needed to pass the registered nurse licensure exam.

In 2019, over 80 percent of Western's nursing graduates successfully passed the professional nursing exam, the NCLEX, the passage of which is a requirement to become a registered nurse in Oklahoma. Beyond that, 97 percent of graduates are actively licensed RNs.

We are extremely proud of our nursing program," said Chrystal Overton, Western vice president for academic affairs. "Through partnerships with local hospitals and various grants, Western is working to secure additional funding to support this high cost program. Western feels it is part of our mission as a community college to meet the workforce needs in healthcare for southwest Oklahoma."

For more information on the Western nursing program or to apply today, contact Nursing Director Stacey Machado at Stacey.machado@wosc.edu.

Western Oklahoma State College is the oldest original municipal two-year college still in existence in the state of Oklahoma. Its mission is to provide high quality education, support student success, and empower individuals to become productive members of local, regional and global communities. Western offers high-quality associate degrees and certificates to its five-county service area and beyond. For more information, visit wosc.edu.

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