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**Health care professionals and educators to
gather for statewide clinical simulation best-practices conference**

Workshop is one of many efforts to explore ways to ease health care workforce shortage

Oklahoma City – Around 300 health care professionals and educators will explore ways that clinical simulation can be used to train nursing and allied health students and health professionals during “Using Clinical Simulation in Nursing and Allied Health Education & Staff Development,” a best practices workshop 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, at Oklahoma City Community College.

Bonnie Driggers, RN, MS, MPA, assistant professor emeritus at the Oregon Health Sciences University, Schools of Nursing and Medicine, Portland, Ore., will deliver the keynote address showcasing simulation best practices. Driggers is a founding member of the Oregon Simulation Alliance, a statewide network of simulation facilities.

In addition, the conference will include hands-on clinical simulation equipment demonstrations on shock, obstetrics, basic nursing assessments, CODE/Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and post-operative care. Simulation demos will be led by *Monica Holland*, MS, RN, professor of nursing, Oklahoma City Community College; *Deborah K. Myers*, MS, RNC, assistant nursing program director, Oklahoma City Community College; *Alice Morrow*, RN, BSN, nursing simulation laboratory instructor, Tulsa Community College; *Elena Cuaderes*, PhD, RN, assistant professor, simulation instructor, OU College of Nursing; and *Darlene Barnard-York*, MS, RN, faculty instructor, OU College of Nursing.

Educational breakout sessions will include *Elizabeth C. Poster*, PhD, RN, dean, UTA School of Nursing, Arlington, Texas, on “Finding funding and partnerships for simulators and simulation labs”; *Cheryl Feken Dixon*, RN, MS, assistant professor of nursing, clinical simulation coordinator, Tulsa Community College, on “Resources available for developing and implementing scenarios”; *Tim McClelland*, medical education specialist, Laerdal, on “Recipes and how-to’s for bringing simulation to life”; and *Judy Johnson-Russell*, RN, EdD, clinical educator, METI Education and Training Services, and professor emerita, Texas Woman’s University, Dallas, on “The how-to’s of participant debriefing and staff evaluation.”

According to a 2006 report by the Governor’s Council on Workforce and Economic Development, if current trends continue, Oklahoma is expected to have a shortage of more than 3,000 nurses, 500 lab technicians, 400 physical therapists, 300 surgical technologists and 200 occupational therapists by 2012. Other clinical workers in short supply include pharmacists, imaging technologists and respiratory therapists. While efforts to address the shortage are multi-faceted, the issue of increasing educational capacity is a top priority.

This event is a collaborative effort of the Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center and the following sponsors: Laerdal Medical Corporation, METI, Oklahoma Organization of Nurse Executives, INTEGRIS Health, University Nursing Consortium, St. John Health System, Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma Health Careers Education Teachers Association, Institute for Oklahoma Nursing Educators, Oklahoma League for Nursing, Hillcrest HealthCare System, OU MEDICAL CENTER, and the Oklahoma Hospital Association.

Registration is \$100 prior to May 10 and \$125 after May 10 and includes lunch. For more information or registration materials, go to www.okoha.com, upcoming events.

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The Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center is a 501(c)(3) organization established in 2006 by Oklahoma legislation to serve as the coordinating entity for the state’s efforts to meet supply and demand needs for Oklahoma’s health care workforce. Goals of the Center include: ensuring Oklahoma’s current education and training systems have the resources and support necessary to produce the number of health care workers needed; increasing the job satisfaction and retention rates of current health care workers; and increasing the level of awareness among young people and adults of the opportunities available in health care. For more information about the Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center, visit www.ohcwc.com.