



Established 1972

By and For the People of Love County

**Richard Barker,
Administrator**

**Ambulance Emergency
911**

**Clinic Appointments
276-2400**

**Hospital Information
276-3347**

**Adult Day Center
276-1542**

**Community Resources
211**

**Domestic Violence Help
276-2042
Hotline - 226-6424**

**Growers Market
276-9410**

Physician Assistant Answers Student's Challenge

The profession of Physician Assistant has a 46-year history in Oklahoma. From the beginning, our emergency room has welcomed PA's to train here and come to work here. Physician Assistants are licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of physicians. They staff the hospital emergency room 24 hours a day.

Oklahoma has 1,600 Physician Assistants in active service. The University of Oklahoma opened one of the first six accredited teaching programs for Physician Assistants in the United States in 1972.

The profession emerged from the Vietnam War, as highly-skilled medical corpsmen were discharged from service with the capability of serving the civilian population.

Kari Cochran, PA-C

From 1994-2002, Kari Cochran taught science to middle school and high school students in Norman. One day she issued a classroom challenge they turned back on her.

"I was talking to sophomores about careers, and encouraging them to take on the training to enter the job field of their choice. One of the students asked if anything had held me back from a career. I said I might have entered medicine but had been afraid I would not pass anatomy or organic chemistry."

Suddenly emboldened to take on her fear, Cochran, at age 30, went back to college. She loved learning anatomy and organic chemistry and soon was accepted for enrollment in the Physician Assistant program at the OU Health Sciences Center.

After graduating in 2006 and gaining one year of experience elsewhere, the Board-certified PA joined our emergency department in 2008. After four years, she scaled back to periodic weekend shifts to pursue family activities while her son was in high school. In February, Cochran resumed fulltime duties.

She values her time in Marietta. "This place is like no other. To leave and come back is like coming home. I consider this hospital my home."



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