

MIKE AGUILAR



**E(sports) are the Champions, My Friends**

OU was named Collegiate Program of the Year at December's 2023 Esports Awards, taking out nationally ranked

rivals like the University of Texas-Austin and the University of California-Berkeley. "Having a Division I power university win an award like this puts a bullseye on our back in all

**Three Minutes to Win It** ▶

"Shark Tank" meets academia when graduate students pitch their research during the annual "Three Minute Thesis" competition. Doctoral and master's degree candidates from each of OU's campuses have three minutes to share their research using only one static presentation slide and their voice. The grand prize is \$2,000 and a slot in the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools 3MT Competition.

Emily Bonner, OU's 2023 3MT winner.



TRAVIS CAPERTON

**Taking a Shot at Pneumonia**

A pneumonia vaccine based on technology created by OU George Lynn Cross Professor of Research Rodney Tweten is undergoing Phase I clinical trials. The OU Department of Microbiology and Immunology researcher believes the proposed vaccine could guard against most known variants of pneumonia, which kill more than 1 million people worldwide each year. Tweten's team research was patented with the help of OU's Office of Technology Commercialization and is licensed to a vaccine development company. ▶



the right ways,” Mike Aguilar, director of OU Esports and Co-Curricular Innovation, told the *OU Daily*. More than 225 OU students participate in OU’s esports program.



◀ **A Circle of Hope**

OU’s Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing received a \$10.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to investigate the biological, social and behavioral factors affecting maternal health in Native communities through the new Center for Indigenous Resilience, Culture and Maternal Health Equity, or CIRCLE. “Most deaths of Indigenous mothers are preventable, and we are excited to better understand risks and improve pregnancy outcomes,” says Karina Shreffler, principal investigator and associate dean for research.

**OU-Tulsa Welcomes New Leader** ▶

Susan Bynum became vice president of OU-Tulsa in January. The well-known attorney and community leader will focus on enhancing the OU brand, cultivating partnerships and fortifying relationships with stakeholders. A 2000 OU graduate who was named to the PE-ET Top 10 Senior Honor Society, Bynum has an extensive background in government relations, business strategy and public relations.



JEREMY PAPPAS

