



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To all OSU Employees,

I am pleased to announce that the OSU/A&M Board of Regents today approved the selection of BlueCross BlueShield of Oklahoma as the new health care provider for Oklahoma State University effective January 1, 2008. This change means you and your family will continue to receive quality coverage for less than what most employees currently pay.

The three-year agreement with BlueCross BlueShield of Oklahoma guarantees premiums will not increase more than five percent in 2009 or 2010. You will be able to select from three plans: 1) a PPO similar to HealthChoice High, 2) a high deductible plan with a health savings account, and 3) an HMO.

The monthly premium for an employee in the BlueCross BlueShield PPO plan is \$34 less than the current HealthChoice High monthly premium. OSU will continue to pay the current premium amount (\$364.24) and you can apply the savings to healthcare, dental and vision coverage for you and your family. Amounts not used for medical premiums will be contributed to a flexible spending plan or health savings account.

If you cover dependents, the new plans offer significant opportunities for savings. Employees who elect a PPO plan similar to HealthChoice High for their spouse and children will see a monthly premium savings of \$130. Savings for employee and spouse coverage is more than \$90 a month.

In addition to costs savings, BlueCross BlueShield of Oklahoma was selected based on its outstanding track record in four critical areas – network provider and locations, pharmacy, wellness and disease management, and customer service.

You will receive more details in a special issue of News You Can Use that will be distributed Monday. Employees do not need to take any action at this time. Enrollment will be held in November.

We owe a huge thank you to the HealthCare and Wellness Task Force that was formed last fall and tackled the important issues of rising health care costs and wellness. The task force was chaired by John Fernandes, president of OSU Center of Health Sciences in Tulsa, and included representation from the administration, faculty and staff. In addition, I want to commend Anne Matoy and her HR team for the great work they have done.

While we expect up-front savings for both employees and OSU with this new agreement with BlueCross BlueShield of Oklahoma, even greater savings are possible with successful wellness efforts. A reduction in the need for health care

will mean lasting benefits for you and your family, and help OSU achieve its goal of being the Healthiest Campus in America.

Marlene Strathe