

Distinguished Alumnus 2004
Leo R. Canaday
Class of 1956

As a varsity football player, Leo Canaday helped the Mavericks win the 1955 Oklahoma Association Junior College Conference Championship. In 1963 Northern employed him as Athletic Director and HPE&R Chairman, positions from which he retired in 1993.

He coached football, golf, track (four NJCAA Regional Championships), tennis (two regional championships) and women's basketball. The basketball team placed third in the 1975 NJCAA National Tournament and in 1979 won the only Northern NJCAA national championship.

Seven times Conference Coach of the Year, twice Regional Coach of the Year (1975, 1979) and 1979 National Coach of the Year, Mr. Canaday received the NJCAA Service Award in 1992 and the NOC Medal of Honor in 1994.

He served on the Governor's Council for Physical Fitness and as Tonkawa Recreation Director. A qualified water safety instructor and trainer, he was awarded a 40-year American Red Cross pin for volunteer service. In 2001 he was inducted into the Blackwell High School Hall of Fame.