

Distinguished Alumna 2013  
Lanita Johnstone Chapman  
Class of 1976

After earning an Associate of Science degree from Northern Oklahoma College, Newkirk native Lanita Johnstone attended Oklahoma State University on a Lew Wentz Scholarship, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree (1978) and a Master of Science degree (1980) as well as certification in various educational areas. In 1982 she married Dale Chapman. In 1979 she began her professional career as a Business Education instructor at Central Oklahoma Vocational-Technical School where she was appointed by Gov. George Nigh to the State Advisory Council for Vocational Education. She taught vocational business education at Pioneer Area Vocational-Technology Center (1981-88) before entering administration, serving as director or coordinator of several programs. In 2001 the Pioneer Technology Center Foundation, Inc. appointed her as its first Executive Director. She retired in December 2012 after 34 years in education, including 31 years at Pioneer Technology Center. A dedicated community worker, Mrs. Chapman has served as a City Commissioner for the City of Ponca City and as Vice Mayor. She has held memberships and leadership positions in numerous professional and civic organizations throughout her career.