

What's Happening October 11, 2025

NOC Public Information Office 580.628.6444

news@noc.edu, scott.cloud@noc.edu

Dr. Mary Ann McCoy, Kayla Wooderson, Ryan Paul, and Dr. Cheryl Evans honored at OACC event



Dr. Mary Ann McCoy, NOC Presiident Diana Morris Watkins, Kayla Wooderson



NOC President Emeritus Dr. Cheryl Evans and NOC President Diana Morris Watkins

Three NOC employees and a former NOC President were honored at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges conference last Friday in Tulsa.

Dr. Mary Ann McCoy, Biological Science Instructor at NOC Enid, was given the Outstanding NOC Faculty award, Ryan Paul, Dean of Students was presented the NOC Professional Staff Award, and Kayla Wooderson, Director of Alumni and Community Relations, was given the NOC Outstanding Support Staff Award.

Dr. Cheryl Evans, NOC President Emeritus, was named to the OACC Hall of Fame.

"I love that this conference gives us an opportunity to recognize some of our outstanding faculty and staff members in front of their peers from across the state," Watkins said. "Getting to present President Emeritus Dr. Cheryl Evans with her OACC Hall of Fame award was an incredible moment for me both professionally and personally."

The 57th Annual OACC conference was held at Tulsa Community College. The theme for this year's event was "Building Tomorrow."

Denise Bay, the administrative assistant for the NOC president is a member of the planning committee for the conference.

Distinguished Alumni nominations due Nov. 1

Northern Oklahoma College is seeking nominations for the 2024 NOC Distinguished Alumni Award.

Nominations are due Nov. 1, according to Kayla Wooderson, Director of Alumni & Community Relations.

Selected honorees will be inducted into the NOC Hall of Fame at the Alumni and Friends Reunion held in the spring. This is the 23rd year for the NOC Hall of Fame event.

The Distinguished Alumni Award, has been established to recognize the achievements of former students whose personal lives, professional achievements and community service exemplify the objectives of NOC. This award is the highest honor that Northern bestows upon an outstanding alumnus/a. To view the past honorees, visit the website at <u>Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Nominations | Northern Oklahoma College (noc.edu)</u>.

Contact Wooderson at 580.628.6473, <u>kayla.wooderson@noc.edu</u> or visit the NOC website at <u>www.noc.edu/alumni</u>.



Life changing.

October NOC Birthdays



Cesar Zepeda	Oct. 14	Gene Mayo	Oct. 27
Jalana Cloud	Oct. 15	Wendy O'Neill	Oct. 27
Melisa Cottle	Oct. 16	Shiloh Martin	Oct. 27
Tricia Moore	Oct. 17	Courtney Miller	Oct. 28
Lori Erasmus	Oct. 17	Vickie Crouch	Oct. 28
Amanda Horton	Oct. 18	Eddie Dixon	Oct. 29
Alyce Webb	Oct. 22	Darryl Rogers	Oct. 30
Tammy Davis	Oct. 24		



Saturday, October 19, 2024
10 am-1 pm
Walk-Ins Welcome



BASKETBALL BRUNCH

GANTZ STUDENT CENTER
MONTGOMERY HALL, 2498 E. MAINE AVE.
ENID. OK

Includes pancakes, meats, juice or coffee.

Kids under 8 years eat free.



Donations will also be taken at door.

\$10 per ticket or 2 for \$15

Please make checks payable to NOCF – Jets Basketball

Watkins attends 'Hidden Figures' ceremony in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Northern Oklahoma College President Diana Morris Watkins attended the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C., commemorating the remarkable contributions of NASA's "Hidden Figures."

The ceremony celebrated the groundbreaking achievements of women who played critical roles in advancing America's space exploration efforts.

Prior to the ceremony, Oklahoma Congressman Frank Lucas (R), Cheyenne, Chair of the Science, Space & Technology Committee, hosted a group for refreshments in the committee hearing room. That group included Oklahoma college presidents and NOC President Emeritus Dr. Cheryl Evans.

"It was an incredible honor to represent Northern Oklahoma College at this event recognizing women's contributions to NASA," said NOC President Diana Morris Watkins. "A huge thank you to Congressman Lucas, Chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and his staff who organized this opportunity for the delegation from Oklahoma."

The "Hidden Figures" were considered crucial to NASA's work from 1930-1970. They were mathematicians and engineers who played a role in the earliest American space flights — calculating rocket trajectories and earth orbits and helping to put men on the moon.

Three of the women — Katherine Johnson, given the challe Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson — were ism and sexism.



President Diana Morris Watkins and Congressman Frank Lucas in Washington, D.C.

honored posthumously. The fourth woman, Christine Darden was honored for her work as an aeronautical engineer.

Families of the four women were presented with the medals. Another medal was symbolically presented to all those whose contributions to NASA went unrecognized during the period.

NASA administrator Bill Nelson said their accomplishments "are all the more impressive" given the challenges they faced because of racism and sexism



Life changing.



All NOC students, faculty, and staff, as well as the general public are invited to attend.

Northern Oklahoma College (Enid Campus) | Gantz Student Union, GU100



Tickets remain to fall lectureship

Tickets are still available to hear famed author lic programs in Dr. Elliot Engel reveal the life of L. Frank Baum and the reasons for the enduring and endearing fame of his "Wonderful Wizard of Oz," at ing state and Northern Oklahoma College on Tuesday, Oct. 22, as part of the Fall 2024 Renfro Endowed Lectureship Program.

Using anecdotes, analysis, and large doses of students. humor, Professor Engel brings to life this most fascinating of fairy-tale writers.

The event is sponsored by the Carl and Brenda been President Renfro/Renfro Endowed Lectureship Program, Charles and Virginia Starks, and Northern Oklahoma College/NOC Foundation. The dinner will be held at the Renfro Center starting at lina, the larg-6:30 p.m.

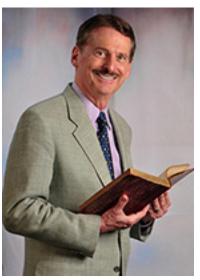
Originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, Dr. El- this worldwide network of clubs. The sales of liot Engel now lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he has taught at the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, and Duke University. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at UCLA. While at UCLA he won that university's Outstanding Teacher Award.

Dr. Engel has written ten books published in England, Japan, Turkey, and the United States. His mini-lecture series on Charles Dickens ran on PBS television stations around the country. His articles have appeared in numerous newspapers and national magazines including Newsweek. He has lectured throughout the United States and on all the continents including Antarctica. Four plays which he has written have been produced during the last ten years. In 2009, he was inducted into the Royal Society of Arts in England for his academic work and service in promoting Charles Dickens.

For his scholarship and teaching, Dr. Engel has received North Carolina's Adult Education Award, North Carolina State's Alumni Professorship, and the Victorian Society's Award of Merit. Most recently, he was named Tar Heel of the Week for his thirty years of delivering pub-

the humanities and sponsornational literary contests for high school

Since 1980, Dr. Engel has of the Dickens Fellowship of North Caroest branch of



Dr. Elliot Engel

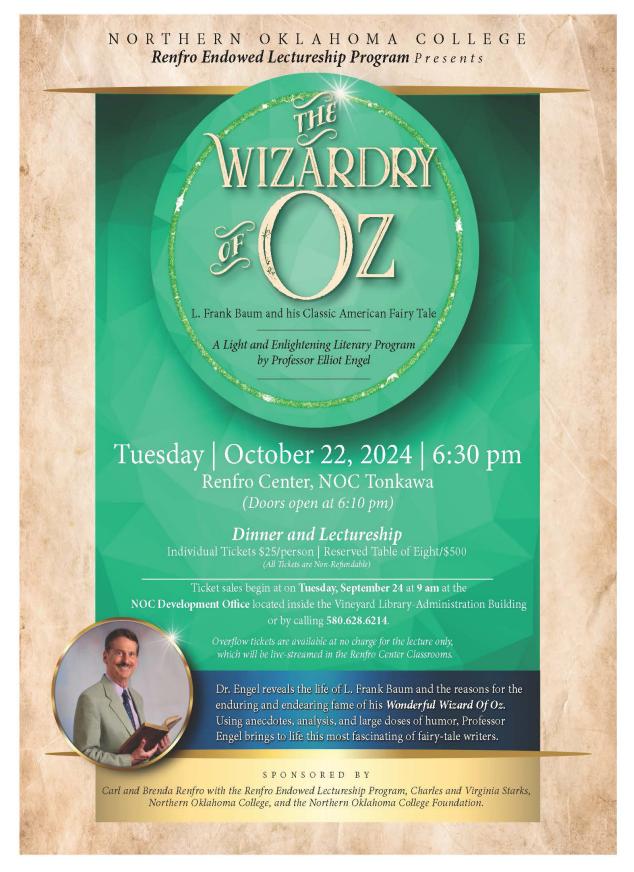
Dr. Engel's books, CDs, and DVDs have raised funds for The Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital which Dickens helped found in London in 1852.

Professor Engel continues to teach outside the classroom and give literary and historical programs throughout the world. He also presents assemblies at elementary, middle, and high schools, and his educational CDs & DVDs are used in classrooms around the country. In his spare time, he likes to imagine all the impressive hobbies and leisure pursuits he could mention here --- if he ever actually would find enough spare time to indulge in them.

A reserved table with seating for eight may be purchased for \$500, which includes dinner in the Renfro Center and Engel's lecture. Individual tickets are on sale for \$25 each.

Seats are available at no charge for the lecture which will be livestreamed into the Renfro Center classrooms at NOC.

Tickets may be purchased by credit card by calling 580-628-6214 or in person at the NOC Development Office, Vineyard Library-Administration Building, NOC Tonkawa.





NOC officials met with Dr. Kyle Parmley at the new greenhouse, a part of NOC's Precision Agriculture Program. Pictured (L-R): Stacey Burns, Director of Physical Plant; Sheri Snyder, Vice President for Development & Community Relations; Diana Morris Watkins, President of NOC; Dr. Kyle Parmley, NOC Precision Agriculture Specialist; Anna Roland, NASNTI Title III Grant Program Director; Anita Simpson, Vice President for Financial Affairs. (photo by Dina Kleinmann/NOC)

NOC greenhouse set to assist precision agriculture program

Northern Oklahoma College (NOC) has taken a significant step forward in supporting breaking ground on a cutting-edge classroom and greenhouse. This facility, part of NOC's Connecting Students to Promising Pathways project, is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNTI) grant.

The new facility will house precision agriculture courses, equipping students with the skills to use advanced technology in agricultural pro-

cesses such as GPS-guided systems, drones, and data analytics for crop management. NOC's Oklahoma's precision agriculture industry by Precision Agriculture Specialist, Dr. Kyle Parmley, has been instrumental in planning the structure and preparing for its integration into the college's curriculum. Working closely with industry experts, the Specialist has been ensuring that the facility meets the evolving needs of modern agriculture while giving students the hands-on experience they need to excel in the

(See **Greenhouse** on Page 6)



Greenhouse

(Continued from Page 5)

field.

ley. "By creating a space dedicated to precision agriculture, we are giving students the tools and environment to understand the technology that is transforming the agricultural industry. Our aim is to make them leaders in this high-tech field."

Set to be completed by December 2024, the "This is a milestone for NOC," said Dr. Parm-facility will play a crucial role in NOC's efforts to expand its STEM programs and develop new career pathways for students in agriculture and technology. It will also strengthen ties with local industries, positioning NOC graduates as key contributors to Oklahoma's agricultural innovation.

Enid, Tonkawa vaccine clinics set

Northern Oklahoma College is hosting an employee vaccine clinic with Foster Corner Drug on all three NOC locations.

The schedule is as follows:

Oct. 14: Enid, Gantz Center Montgomery Hall, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Oct. 18: Tonkawa, Renfro Center, 12:30 p.m.

Participants must bring their insurance card and driver's license or state issue ID. Employees must also bring a Vaccine Consent Form.

Please email Kelley Larkin at Kelley.larkin@ noc.edu for additional information.



NOC Enid students attended a bowling night at Oakwood Bowl in Enid, sponsored by NOC Enid Resident Life. (photo provided)



Commission, NOC Enid set to host 'Stop Human Trafficking' community conversation

The Commission on the Status of Women is Anti-Human Trafficking Committee, about partnering with the Northern College, Enid Campus to host a Community Conversation on Stop Human Trafficking. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Montgomery Hall, Gantz Center, located at 2200 East Maine Street, Enid, OK 73701. The event is free and open to the public.

Each year, an estimated several thousand Oklahomans seek help from human trafficking situations. The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is partnering with local communities to provide an educational initiative on stopping human trafficking — a series of Community Conversations to Stop Human Trafficking at schools.

"Human trafficking is modern-day slavery," said Commission State Chair Brenda Jones Barwick. "It's a

\$150 billion a year industry, and Oklahoma is not immune to it. Most human trafficking in Oklahoma is not happening by people passing through on highways, but by members in their circle of trust, such as family members, friends, or acquaintances, who entrap them into involuntary servitude through labor, sex, or drugs."

The series of Community Conversations to Stop Human Trafficking are held at high schools, colleges, universities, and tribal centers statewide to educate Oklahoma teens, young adults, teachers, and parents on how to recognize early signs of a person being targeted for human trafficking servitude.

NOC President Diana Morris Watkins is pleased to partner with the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women on the event.

"I learned about the work being done by the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women while conducting research for one of my doctoral courses, so when I was approached last spring by Adeline Yerkes, the co-chair of their

partnering for this event I was eager to take the idea to NOC's Executive Council," Watkins said. "We all agreed that bringing in programming to improve the safety and security of our campus communities is always a good idea. I'm grateful to our Dean of Students, Ryan Paul, and NOC Enid Vice President, Jeremy Hise, for doing the logistical work to make this happen."

A panel of Oklahoma professionals and experts will provide a full spectrum of several aspects of human trafficking in Oklahoma. Panelists include non-profit organizations that are providing healing and recovery services and resources to people entrapped into human trafficking. The discussion will highlight tribal and ethnic groups whose populations have experienced a high level of people forced into involuntary slavery; and law enforcement and drug interdiction officers who have been trained to recognize the signs of a bondage situation.

For the first time, the Commission is focusing on prevention of human trafficking. Barwick stated, "The focus has been on dealing with human trafficking after the crime has occurred.

Many are unaware they are being trafficked because it is typically a slow, methodical recruitment process by a trusted relationship. The Commission is educating Oklahomans to recognize the first, second and third phase by traffickers and empowering Oklahomans to stand strong and say, 'Not Me, Not My Community' to the trafficker."

The Commission began its work on human trafficking in 2014 when it partnered with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics to host Solutions, Initiatives, Strategies on Human Trafficking Summit. For the last three years, First Lady Sarah Stitt has hosted an annual summit on this

(See Trafficking on Page 8)



Think you know about human trafficking? Tell us what you know and scan the QR code to answer 4 quick questions.



SEE YOU THERE!







Trafficking

(Continued from Pagee 7)

of experts. In 2022, the Commission formed a Stop Human Trafficking subcommittee led by Commissioner Dr. Nyla Khan to plan and implement the educational events.

Additional information about the Commission's work on human trafficking, including a White Paper published in 2021, can be found 30 commissioners appointed by the Governor, at https://oklahoma.gov/ocsw/human-trafficking.html. For more information to schedule a Community Conversation or obtain Not Me men and women who have an expertise on is-Not My Community materials, contact the Commission at ocswadmin@omes.ok.gov or call 405-401-6970.

topic at the Governor's Mansion with a panel About The Oklahoma Commission on the **Status of Women**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is an official state agency that advises the Governor and legislature on recommendations to improve quality of life and increase economic opportunities for women. It comprises Senate President Pro Tempore and Speaker of the House, as well as an Advisory Council of sues that impact women. Visit the Commission website at www.oklahoma.gov/ocsw.

NOC Student Art of the Week

Editor's Note: Each week, NOC art projects will be profiled. These are original works by NOC art majors and other students enrolled in Studio Art courses.



Anna Jones, Medford, OK (freshman Art major): "Quiet Forest" pen on paper



Delaney Fox, Tonkawa, OK (sophomore Art major): "Swimming Through Green Memories" mixed media collage



Sean Burrage selected as next Oklahoma **Chancellor for Higher Education**

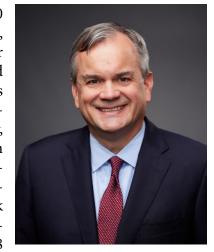
The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Edu- mately 80,000 cation announced today the selection of higher education leader Sean Burrage as the next chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of co-authored Higher Education. Burrage will take office as Oklahoma's 10th chancellor on Dec. 2, 2024, succeeding Chancellor Allison D. Garrett, who has served in the office since November 2021 and will retire Dec. 1.

"Selecting the next Chancellor is a serious tive commitresponsibility, and I thank the board for their thoughtful deliberation during the national forces, includsearch process," said State Regents' Chair Dennis Casey. "We are confident Chancellor-Elect legislative task Burrage is the right leader to advance Oklahoma's state system of higher education as we work to execute the bold strategies in our Blueprint 2030 strategic plan, including aligning programs and services to meet Oklahoma's changing workforce needs."

Currently serving as vice president for executive affairs and chief of staff at the University of Oklahoma, Burrage brings a wealth of experience in higher education, the private sector, and the state Legislature. He is a past president of Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SEOSU) in Durant and was managing partner with the Taylor Burrage Law Firm in Claremore. He served two terms in the Oklahoma State Senate, representing Rogers and Mayes counties, during which he served as minority floor leader from 2011-14.

Under Burrage's leadership, SEOSU streamlined operations, including establishing a shared vice president position with Murray State College, and significantly increased both undergraduate and graduate enrollment. During his tenure as a state senator, Burrage represented approxi-

constituents, authored or over 50 bills that were enacted into law. and served on several legislatees and task ing the 2008 force on Oklahoma's Promise.

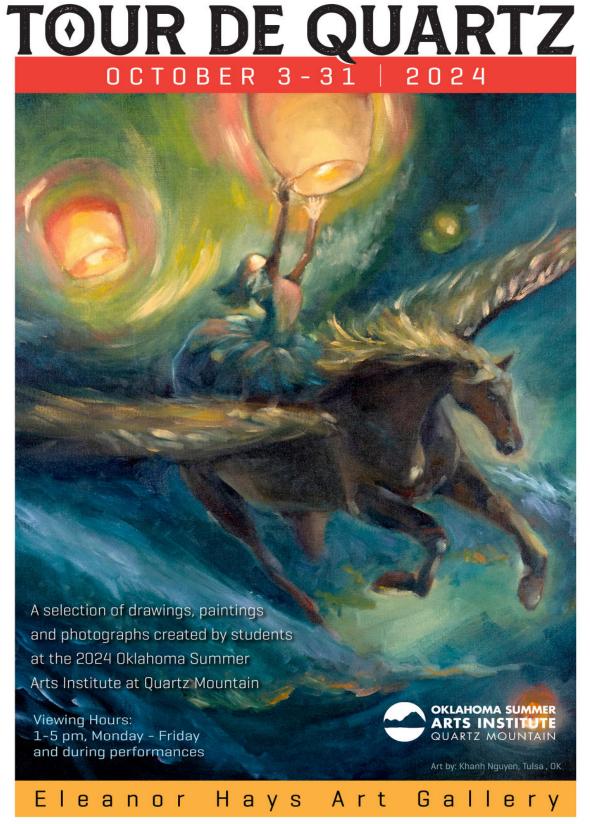


Sean Burrage

"I am honored to have this opportunity to serve Oklahoma," said Burrage. "Oklahoma public higher education must continue to adapt to ensure our graduates are equipped with the skills required to thrive in the modern workforce. I look forward to working with the State Regents, our institutions, and other stakeholders to create more educational and career opportunities for all Oklahomans."

Born in Durant and raised in Antlers, Burrage is a member of the Choctaw Nation and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and a juris doctorate from OU. He and his wife, Julie, a Tulsa native and nonprofit consultant, have four sons.

To fill the position, the State Regents established a search committee, comprised of Casey, Regent Jeffrey W. Hickman, Regent Steven W. Taylor and Regent Courtney Warmington, who developed the position profile that outlined the qualifications sought in the next chancellor and conducted the national search.



Kinzer Performing Arts Center, NOC Tonkawa

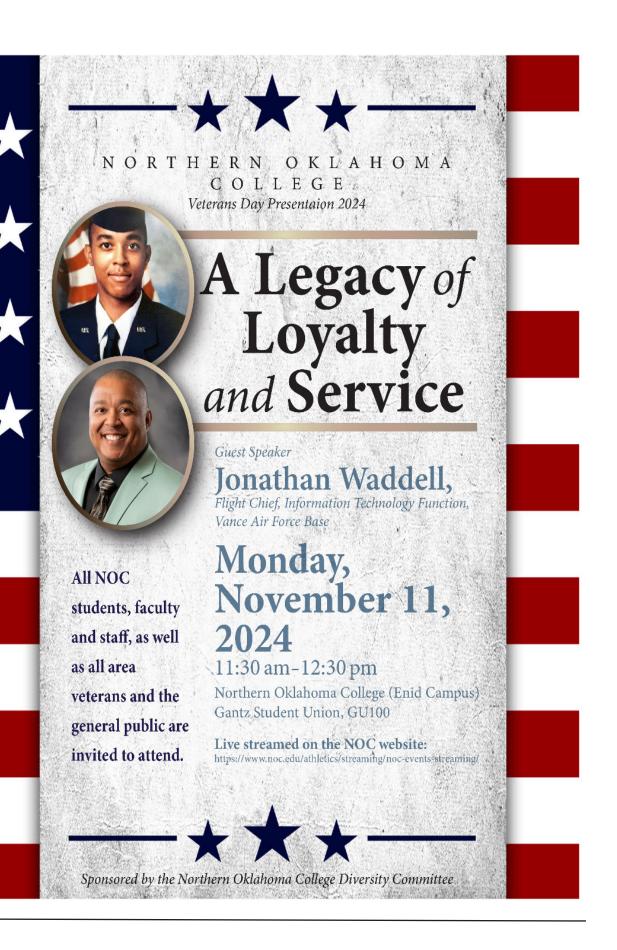
NOC Enid Hispanic Heritage Club Taco Tuesday











NOC Calendar

Oct. 12

Away Lady Mavs Basketball at Southwest Showcase, TBA Away Lady Jets Basketball at Southwest Showcase, TBA Away Mavs Basketball at Mullens Jamboree, TBA

Oct. 13

Home Mavs Baseball vs. Southwestern (KS), 1 p.m. Home Men's and Women's Soccer vs. Rose State, 3 p.m./5 p.m.

Oct. 14

Begin Second Eight Weeks Employee Immunization Clinic, Montgomery Hall, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Enid Bubble Soccer, Soccer Field, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m., Tonkawa Cornhole Tournament, EB/Jets Lawn, 7:30 p.m., Enid

Oct. 15

Free Lunch, BCM, 11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa Literacy Club, Central 211, 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Tonkawa Nursing White Coat Ceremony, Montgomery Hall, 4 p.m., Enid Home Jets Baseball Intersquad, 6:30 p.m. BCM The Gathering, BCM, 7 p.m., Enid

Oct. 16

Free Lunch, Wesley House, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa BCM Free Lunch, Gantz Center James Room, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Enid Away Mavs Softball vs. SWOSU, 2 p.m. Board of Regents Meeting, President's Conference Room, 2 p.m., Tonkawa Away Men's and Women's Soccer vs. Rich Mountain (AR), 2 p.m./4 p.m. The Gathering, BCM, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa Home Mavs Basketball vs. Southwestern (KS)/Neosho (MO), TBA

Oct. 17

Home Mavs Baseball vs. DFW Post Grad, 1 p.m. Away Jets Basketball vs. Southwestern, 3 p.m. Away Jets Baseball vs. Oklahoma Baptist, 4 p.m.

Oct. 18

Final Day to Add/Log on to L8 Courses
Final Day to Drop L8 Courses with Full Refund
Away Mavs Basketball at MOKAN Jamboree, TBA
Employee Immunization Clinic, Renfro Center, 12:30 p.m. – 5 p.m., Tonkawa

For additional information, visit the following links: NOC Calendar

