

# *Presidential Investiture Ceremony*



*Northern Oklahoma College*  
*Tonkawa • Enid • Stillwater*



The Investiture of  
Diana Morris Watkins  
as President of  
Northern Oklahoma College



Tuesday, January 14, 2025

3:00 p.m.

Kinzer Performing Arts Center

Northern Oklahoma College

Tonkawa, Oklahoma



The Northern Oklahoma College Board of Regents appointed Diana Morris Watkins as the 15th president in NOC history on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at the Board of Regents meeting in Enid.

Watkins previously served NOC as Interim President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for NOC Stillwater and as a Language Arts Faculty Instructor.

“The Board of Regents are excited that Diana has accepted the offer as the president of Northern Oklahoma College,” said NOC Board of Regent Chair Brad Fox. “We’d also like to relay our appreciation to the NOC faculty, staff, and community during the interview process. We know that Diana and the NOC community have a great future ahead of us.”

Watkins said, “I am very grateful the Regents have entrusted me with the opportunity to serve the college in this capacity. Our tagline at NOC is *Life Changing*, and for me that is much more than just a catchy phrase on our materials. My father’s community college experience changed the trajectory of his life, and therefore of mine. I’m excited to work with our amazing staff, faculty, and executive council to more efficiently and effectively provide those Life Changing experiences for our students.”

*- Excerpt from May 2024 Press Release*

### **MISSION**

Northern Oklahoma College, the State’s first public community college, is a multi-campus, land-grant institution that provides high quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities and services which create life-changing experiences and develop students as effective learners and leaders within their communities in a connected, ever-changing world.

### **VISION**

Northern Oklahoma College will be a model institution and leader in academic quality and cultural enrichment, promoting student success, collaborative learning, creative and forward thinking, and community responsiveness.

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## **Northern Oklahoma College**

### **Board of Regents**

Regent Jason A. Turnbow, Chair  
Regent Mike Loftis, Vice Chair  
Regent Jami Groendyke, Secretary  
Regent Bradley Fox  
Regent Sandy Mulligan

### **Oklahoma State Regents For Higher Education**

Regent Dennis Casey, Chair  
Regent Courtney Warmington, Vice Chair  
Regent Steven W. Taylor, Secretary  
Regent Dustin J. Hilliary, Assistant Secretary  
Regent P. Mitchell “Mitch” Adwon  
Regent Jeffrey W. Hickman  
Regent Ken Levit  
Regent Jack Sherry  
Regent Michael C. Turpen

### **NOC Foundation Board of Trustees**

Trustee Tom Poole, Chair  
Trustee Brad Purdy, Vice Chair  
Trustee Misty Diemer–Thurman, Past Chair  
Trustee Patrick Anderson  
Trustee Ken Bellmard  
Trustee Jodi Cline  
Trustee Jackie Conrady  
Trustee Mark Detton  
Trustee Cheryl Evans  
Trustee LynnDe Funk  
Trustee Clayeton Hammock  
Trustee Gordon Laird  
Trustee Patrick Zimmerman

### **Chancellor**

The Honorable Sean Burrage

### **Governor of Oklahoma**

The Honorable Kevin Stitt

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## **Northern Oklahoma College Presidents**

James Herbert Kelley, 1902 – 1909  
John P. Alley, 1909 – 1911  
Lynn Glover, 1911 – 1916  
W. C. French, 1916 – 1917  
Richard M. Caldwell, 1919 – 1928  
Dr. Roscoe R. Robinson, 1928 – 1939  
Dr. Loren N. Brown, 1939 – 1951  
Dr. George B. Huckaby, 1951 – 1952  
Dr. Verlin Robert Easterling, 1953 – 1965  
Dr. Edwin E. Vineyard, 1965 – 1990  
Dr. Joe M. Kinzer, Jr., 1990 – 2008  
Dr. Roger Stacy, 2008 – 2010  
Dr. Cheryl Evans, 2011 – 2021  
Dr. Clark Harris, 2021 – 2023  
Diana Morris Watkins, 2024 – Present

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Honorable James Wilkin, Founding Father of UPS, 1901  
George W. Finley, Acting President, 1905 – 1906  
Howard R. Harold, Acting President, 1952 – 1953, August 1965  
Tom Poole, Interim President, 2010 – 2011  
Diana Morris Watkins, Interim President, January 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024

## NOC Executive Council

Diana Morris Watkins, President

Dr. Shelly Mencacci, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Sheri Snyder, Vice President for Development and Community Relations

Dr. Rick Edgington, Vice President for Enrollment Management

Anita Simpson, Vice President for Financial Affairs

Jason Johnson, Vice President for Student Affairs

Jeremy Hise, Vice President for NOC Enid

Dr. Marsh Howard, Vice President for NOC Stillwater

## NOC Academic Division Chairs

Tricia Moore, Agricultural and Biological Sciences

Cara Beth Johnson, Business

Dr. Frankie Wood-Black,  
Engineering, Physical Sciences and Process Technology

Dr. Edward Dixon, Fine Arts

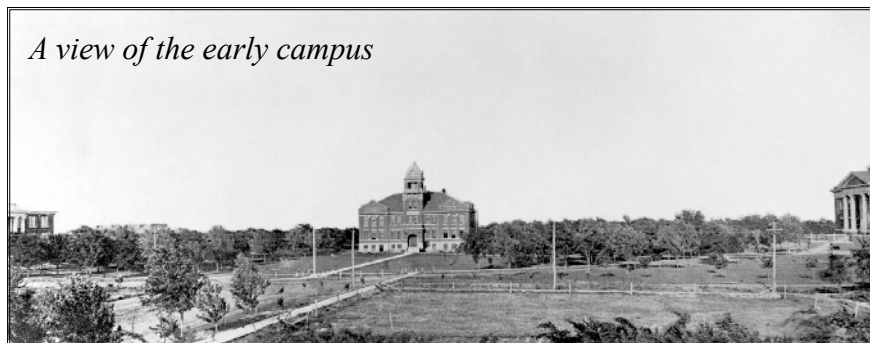
Suzi Brown,  
Health, Physical Education and Recreation

Tammy Davis, Language Arts and Social Sciences

Cassie Firth, Mathematics

Dr. Nikole Hicks, Nursing

*A view of the early campus*



## Historical Academic Regalia Overview

The origins of academic dress date back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were taking form. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher, was the dress of a cleric. In England, in the second half of the 14th century, the statutes of certain colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and prescribed the wearing of a long gown. In the days of Henry VIII of England, Oxford and Cambridge first began prescribing a definite academic dress and made it a matter of university control even to the extent of its minor details.

The assignment of colors to signify certain faculties was to be a much later development and one which was to be standardized only in the United States in the late 19th century.

The gowns for the associate’s, bachelor’s, or master’s degrees are untrimmed. For the doctor’s degree, the gown is faced down the front with black velvet; three bars of velvet are used across the sleeves. These facings and crossbars may be of velvet of the color distinctive of the disciplines to which the degree pertains.

For all academic purposes, including trimmings of doctors’ gowns, edging of hoods, and tassels of caps, the colors associated with the different disciplines are as follows:

Agriculture.....	Maize	Music .....	Pink
Arts, Letters, Humanities .....	White	Nursing .....	Apricot
Commerce, Accounting, Business .....	Drab	Oratory (Speech).....	Silver Gray
Dentistry .....	Lilac	Pharmacy.....	Olive Green
Economics .....	Copper	Philosophy .....	Dark Blue
Education.....	Light Blue	Physical Education.....	Sage Green
Engineering .....	Orange	Public Administration, including	
Fine Arts, including Architecture .....	Brown	Foreign Service .....	Peacock Blue
Forestry.....	Russet	Public Health.....	Salmon Pink
Journalism .....	Crimson	Science.....	Golden Yellow
Law .....	Purple	Social Work .....	Citron
Library Services .....	Lemon	Theology.....	Scarlet
Medicine.....	Green	Veterinary Science .....	Gray

The hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree; more than one color is shown by division of the field color in a variety of ways.



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## Diana Morris Watkins

Diana Morris Watkins became the 15th President of Northern Oklahoma College on June 1, 2024.

She began her career in education teaching high school English in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Her move to post-secondary education came in 2000 when she joined the Oklahoma State University Honors Program, now Honors College, as an academic counselor before spending four years as an “early childhood educator,” taking on the role of full-time mom until her daughter began pre-K.



Watkins’s tenure at NOC began as an Adjunct Instructor in the Language Arts Department on the Stillwater campus in 2005. In 2007 she was named the Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Member for NOC Stillwater. After joining the Language Arts Department full-time in 2007, she was named the Distinguished Faculty Member for NOC Stillwater in 2009.

In 2019 she made the move to administration, assuming the role of Vice President for the Stillwater campus, which houses the NOC/ OSU Gateway Program. In 2022 she was named Vice President for Academic Affairs for Northern. Extremely passionate about student success, Watkins served on the task force that developed NOC’s First-Generation Mentor Program, a program designed to assist students who are the first in their families to attend college. She has presented at numerous conferences, including the National Association of Developmental Education Conference and the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference. Watkins currently serves on the Oklahoma State Regents’ Campus Safety & Security Task Force.

A proud graduate of Perry High School, she went on to earn an Honors Program Bachelor’s Degree in Secondary English Education from Oklahoma State University where she also earned her Master’s Degree in Teaching, Learning, and Leadership and is currently a doctoral student in Higher Education and Student Affairs.

Watkins enjoys practicing yoga, running, reading, and attending sporting events, concerts, and theatre performances. Her daughter Emma, an NOC alumni and graduate of Mount Holyoke College, works as a copy editor at the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and is a communications fellow for the Keats Shelley Association of America.



Diana and Family

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**Northern Oklahoma College  
Presidential Investiture**

Processional *Grand March* from *Aida*.... Northern Oklahoma College Concert Band  
Giuseppe Verdi, Composer  
Conducted by Dr. Edward Dixon

Land Acknowledgement ..... Dr. Rick Edgington  
*NOC Vice President for Enrollment Management*

Pledge of Allegiance ..... Northern Oklahoma College Choir and Concert Band  
Featured Vocalists: Abby Davis and Gracie Fiscus  
Conducted by Dr. Edward Dixon

Invocation ..... Reverend Sondra Ladd  
*First Christian Church of Stillwater*

Welcome and Introduction of Guests..... Dr. Shelly Mencacci  
*NOC Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Greetings on Behalf of the Tonkawa Campus Communities..... Kevin Ditmore  
*Consultant, Tonkawa Development Authority*

Greetings on Behalf of the O.S.R.H.E. .... State Regent Dennis Casey (Chair)  
*Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education*

Greetings on Behalf of the Enid Campus Communities..... Bert Mackie  
*Vice Chairman, Security National Bank*

Presentation of the Symbols of Office ..... Dr. Cheryl Evans, *President Emeritus*  
Dr. Joe Kinzer Jr., *President Emeritus*  
NOC Board of Regents

Musical Interlude *For Good* ..... Northern Oklahoma College  
Choir & Concert Band  
Conducted by Dr. Edward Dixon

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Presidential Address..... Diana Morris Watkins  
*President of Northern Oklahoma College*

Native American Blessing..... T. L. Walker  
*Executive Director of Standing Bear Foundation/  
Northern Oklahoma College Tribal Institute*

Alma Mater (Please rise)..... Northern Oklahoma College Choir & Concert Band  
Conducted by Shannon Varner

*All hail to thee dear NOC, All hail and honor thee.*

*A guiding light throughout each life, Thy name shall always be.*

*Thy sons and daughters honor thee and true will ever be.*

*All hail to thee dear NOC, All hail thy name today.*

Closing Remarks..... Dr. Shelly Mencacci  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Benediction ..... Reverend Sondra Ladd  
*First Christian Church of Stillwater*

Recessional (March Processional) ... Northern Oklahoma College Concert Band  
Clare Grundman, Composer  
Conducted by Dr. Edward Dixon

*Please join us for a reception in the Renfro Center following the ceremony.*

## Processional Order

Flag Bearers  
Platform Guests  
NOC Executive Council  
Marshals  
NOC Faculty  
Higher Education Delegates

## Platform Guests

Chair, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
Northern Oklahoma College Board of Regents  
President of Northern Oklahoma College  
Presidents Emeriti of Northern Oklahoma College  
NOC Executive Council  
Consultant, Tonkawa Development Authority  
Vice Chairman, Security National Bank  
Executive Director, Standing Bear Foundation/Northern Oklahoma Tribal Institute  
Clergy

## Additional Distinguished Guests

The Leadership of the Oklahoma State Senate  
The Leadership of the Oklahoma House of Representatives  
The Leadership of the Oklahoma K-12 and Career Technology Partners

## NOC Student Flag Bearers

<u>NAME/DEGREE</u>	<u>DIVISIONAL FLAG</u>
Lyndey Wilda, <i>Athletic Training</i> -----	NOC Institutional Flag
Kinzie Bell, <i>Elementary Education</i> -----	Division of Agriculture and Biological Sciences
Lacy Rapp, <i>Business Administration</i> -----	Division of Business
Aniya Berry, <i>Astronomy</i> -----	Division of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Process Technology
Leslee Richardson, <i>Art</i> -----	Division of Fine Arts
Trevar Mitchell, <i>Biological Sciences-Pre-Med. Option</i> ----	Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation
Monet Watson, <i>Creative Writing</i> -----	Division of Language Arts and Social Sciences
Elyssa Kaniatobe, <i>Pre-Engineering</i> -----	Division of Mathematics
Jessica Waller, <i>Nursing-RN</i> -----	Division of Nursing

## Organizing Years (1901-1909)

During the first eight years following the Cherokee Strip land run, the first priority of the settlers who had staked claims was development of their claims and the provision of the basic necessities of life for their families.

These pioneers were aware of the need for education and as a result, the numerous one-room schoolhouses dotting the countryside in the Kay County area were heavily utilized. By 1900, some local citizens were beginning to be concerned about the need for secondary education. Prominent among these men was the Honorable James Wilkin, the local territorial representative. Mr. Wilkin introduced an establishment bill creating the University Preparatory School (UPS) at Tonkawa. The bill passed and was signed by Governor Cassius Barnes in the spring of 1901. One of its missions was to prepare students for transfer to The University of Oklahoma.



**Central Hall UPS 1910  
Tonkawa, Oklahoma**

The first Board of Regents included Thomas Martin of Tonkawa, Jeremiah Johnson of Newkirk, and Governor Barnes. They met May 2, 1901 and moved to obtain twenty acres of land on which to construct the school from Thomas Martin. The land was located at the east edge of Tonkawa with a cost of \$1,500. On October 12, 1901, the contract for the construction of Central Hall was signed and the building was finished in March of 1902. The cost was \$23,000 including furnishings.

After a thorough search, James Herbert Kelley was selected to be the first president of the school. He served until 1909 and was the guiding light of the early years. The summer of 1902 saw Mr. Kelley driving his buggy through the countryside recruiting students and when school finally opened, there was an enrollment of 217. There were seven faculty excluding Mr. Kelley, who also taught science and psychology. Male faculty received \$1,200 per year while female faculty received \$900 and Mr. Kelley \$1,800. It was estimated that total cost for the year including room and board was between \$115 and \$168. There were diverse classes, including five foreign languages.

By 1904, enrollment had exploded to 410 and more buildings were required. In 1904 and 1905, the campus added a power plant and Wilkin Hall. The original Wilkin Hall was domed and cost \$60,000. The year 1904 also saw the first graduation exercises, which were held in a large tent. The events lasted three days and included athletic events, debates, and a baccalaureate. Over 900 people crowded in to see the first seventeen graduates of the school receive their diplomas. The speaker was the territorial governor, T. B. Ferguson.



The fall of 1904 was the beginning of the Department of Military Sciences. Ira Reeves, Captain, U.S. Army, was the first commandant. Graduating cadets were commissioned as second lieutenants, first lieutenants or as captains.

Social life was an important aspect of early UPS life. These centered on the numerous literary societies. These groups learned parliamentary law, had debates, readings, picnics, parties, and literary contests. Among these were the Athenians and the Culture Club for girls, both founded in 1902; the Fergusonians for boys, founded in 1903; the Adelphians for boys, founded in 1905; the Literatae for girls, founded in 1906; the Senate for boys and Sorosis for girls, both founded in 1909. The Literatae was active until 1956.

Sports were a major part of the first decade. Football began in the fall of 1904 and the school played anyone who would play them. From 1904 through 1913, the combined record was 56-19-5. These included wins over Oklahoma A&M and twice over the second team of The University of Oklahoma. They were Oklahoma State champions in 1909. In 1909 the UPS basketball team created a sensation when they beat OU, 28-26. The UPS 1908 basketball team was state champion.

Track was a major sport and Gurnie Moss of the 1906 class went on to Drake University where he was proclaimed the "Discovery from Oklahoma". In 1908 and 1909, Morgan Bush, Ira Davenport, and Earl Williams anchored an outstanding team. Bush held the school record in the high jump. Earl Williams and Ira Davenport were joint holders of the high school 100-yard dash record at 9.8 seconds. Davenport held the school records in the 100, 220, 440, 880, 220 hurdles and the broad jump. He also pole vaulted, threw the discus and the shot. At the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, Ira Davenport took the bronze medal as one of three Americans who broke the world record in one minute, fifty-two seconds flat. From 1908 to 1913, UPS won OU's interscholastic track meet three times and had the outstanding performer four times.

UPS was noted for its outstanding fine arts from the very first years. They presented Shakespeare plays, starting with the first year of school. They had outstanding bands and orchestras, and the cadets had their own marching band. Programs and recitals were numerous and included faculty from various disciplines, including President Kelley. From the beginning, there was a fully equipped art room.

The earliest paper was The Purple and the White. In 1906, this publication became the Crimson Rambler. The earliest yearbook was also titled the Crimson Rambler, but by 1908 this title had changed to the Boomer.

In 1909, John Alley became the second UPS president, serving two productive years. Mr. Alley came from Harvard University. Mr. Kelley eventually went back to Harvard and also obtained a Harvard degree. Mr. Alley was President of the Oklahoma Harvard Club and had three faculty members who were Harvard graduates. It was during this time that the school was sometimes called the "Little Harvard of the Plains." Mr. Alley's tenure saw the spread of UPS fame throughout the Midwest with scholarships coming in annually from Chicago

University, Nebraska University, the University of Missouri, as well as OU. Together Mr. Kelley and Mr. Alley saw UPS through the first decade in splendid fashion.

### Recognizing Excellence (1910-1919)

The decade of the teens could be described in different ways. It might be the decade of campus beautification. It might be the decade of vocational education. For many it would be the decade of disaster. President Alley resigned to teach history at OU and to write historical articles. By 1911, the third classroom building, North Hall, and the gymnasium were finished and dedicated. Students did not approve of North Hall, now called Harold Hall, since it had no dome and no decent educational building should be without a dome. On the other hand, they were ecstatic about the gym with its indoor swimming pool, the second one in the state, and its elevated running track.



**Harold Hall  
NOC Tonkawa**

President of UPS was Lynn Glover who served from 1911 to 1916. As history played out this would make him the dominant president of the teens. He called for an aesthetic education and began a beautification movement. Copies of pictures of old masters and lithographs of statesmen, artists, poets and philosophers were bought for walls. Statues of world characters such as Abraham Lincoln were to line the auditorium walls.

New furniture replaced old and outside, a concrete walk around the campus and macadamizing of the circle took place. In addition, three fountains were constructed - one in front of the Wilkin steps and two in front of Central Hall. UPS became one of the most beautiful schools in the Southwest.

School work became a blend of the aesthetic arts and the manual arts with Glover becoming one of the leading advocates of vocational education. The football teams were state powers during the first half of the teens with the A&M coaches telling The Daily Oklahoman that the only two schools in the state to reckon with on a football schedule were OU and UPS.

Only two opposing teams crossed the goal line during the undefeated 1912 season. The women's basketball teams of 1914-1916 captained by Louise Bolick and Vera "Stick" Kimble had strong winning records. Track teams of the era were also very successful in competition against all comers.

UPS added electric lighting in 1910 and in 1913 added a Kimball pipe organ to Wilkin Hall, costing \$10,000. The museum, now called A. D. Buck History and Welcome Center, was started in 1913 by C. E. Johnson and was housed in Wilkin Hall.

The first disaster of the decade occurred April 7, 1914 when Wilkin Hall burned at 3 a.m. in the morning. Horse-drawn fire wagons arrived but could not turn on the water due to lack of a tool used to do so. The building was a total loss although students and faculty braved the flames to save records and museum artifacts. Although the legislature passed a bill appropriating the money for rebuilding, Governor Robert Williams vetoed the bill.

Members of the state legislature had been trying to close several state-sponsored schools since about 1910, using what was known as the Aiken Bill. President Glover fought strongly against this and tried to make the school different from an ordinary high school so as to argue against its closing. While doing just this, he decided to change the school name to OIT (Oklahoma Institute of Technology).

For about two years, from 1913 to 1915, the school's publications and diplomas used this name. However, it was never officially approved, and in June 1915 the State Board of Education forced the return to the name UPS and to coursework relevant only to a regular high school.

One of the noted students of UPS was Ruth Margaret Muskrat, a Cherokee Indian, who was a student from 1912 to 1916. Ruth came to UPS due to a government's closing of the Cherokee school system. She was active in student affairs and served as the associate editor of the *Crimson Rambler*. She published some poetry and short articles while a student at UPS and later graduated from Mount Holyoke College as their first Indian graduate. Ruth went on to fame as a leading Indian advocate and feminist. Her writings are still used today in many classes across the United States. School art instructor and alumnus Harry Winebrenner did a sculpture of her which was in the Northern library until it disappeared during the move to the new library in the administration building.

The last of the suede covered Boomer yearbooks was released in 1916 under the leadership of A. Ray Smith and George Parker. President Glover left to be president of the Oklahoma College of Mines at Wilburton, and W. C. French became the fourth UPS president. W. C. French was to last only one year as the foes of UPS and other state-sponsored schools gained strength. Under this tenure vocational guidance was first started. The first Dean of Women, Lulu Sours, was chosen to look after the social needs and be a "mother" to the girls. For the first time, a matriculation fee of \$2 was charged.

The doors of the school were closed in 1917, as the appropriation bill was not approved. About sixty-five students went off to war with four students – Fred Allan of Tonkawa, Ralph Brown of Tonkawa, Cecil Bottenfield of Blackwell, and Francis Bush of Tonkawa – giving their lives. The buildings were darkened except for North Hall, which was used by Tonkawa for its high school. Equipment and furnishings including the library and printing plant were sent to other state facilities. The school would have to wait until after the war for its resurrection.

## Roaring Into the Twenties (1920-1929)

March 13, 1919 was a great day in the history of NOC. That was the day that it was announced that the appropriations for the re-establishment of UPS had been approved by the Oklahoma Legislature. It would have cost less to run the school during the two years of closure than it cost to refurnish and get it ready for school again. The men who led the fight for the approval sent the pen used in signing the bill to Uncle Jim Wilkin, as the school was the only "child" that Jim Wilkin had. James Wilkin, founder of the school, died on November 15, 1920. Hired as the fifth president was R. M. Caldwell, who served in this capacity until 1928.



**Wilkin Hall  
Rebuilt and completed in 1921**

Among the appropriations was money for the rebuilding of Wilkin Hall and it was finished by 1921, though without a dome. The early 1920s saw many accomplishments, including the arrival of Horace Threlkeld as the first dean of the school. The name of the school in 1919 was the University Preparatory School and Oklahoma State Business Academy. The school was in to make every course have a vocational application. This was promptly pretty much ignored.

The power plant was converted to steam, replacing coal with gas. In 1920, the first Student Council came into existence with Edna Starr being the initial president. Commercial art was introduced as a course offering. *The Crimson Rambler* magazine was revived in 1920 and in 1921 the Boomer yearbook was again a reality. The year of 1921 also saw the founding of *The Maverick* newspaper, which started as a monthly publication. The 1920 year also saw the introduction of the annual track, field and scholastic meets which started with about 300 high school students participating and grew to near legendary proportions in the 1930s.

At the start of 1921, Tonkawa had a population of about 1,800, but by 1923 there were over 10,000. This was the direct result of the discovery of the Three Sands Oil Field south of Tonkawa.

In October 1921, UPS was admitted to the Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Athletics during the decade were highlighted by the 1925 football team, which won the Junior College Championship of Kansas and Oklahoma and lost only to Tulsa University; the 1928 state athletic accomplishments included 1928 Junior College Champions in basketball, the 1928 state champion doubles team in tennis consisting of Lee Jones and Bill Blair and the introduction of the first high school basketball tournament with forty teams entered in 1928.

The leading development of the decade was becoming a college, which was announced in July of 1921. The school's name was changed to University Preparatory and Junior Vocational College. There was considerable speculation throughout the next twenty years or so that the school would become a four-year college, but this was not to be.

In 1925 Howard Harold joined the faculty as a mathematics instructor. During his many years at Northern, Howard Harold filled more roles than any other person, including that of acting president twice.

The year 1923 saw the first school cafeteria, which was located in the basement of North Hall and in its first year featured food prepared and served by the Lions Club of Tonkawa. This was a great service to students who were able to eat much more cheaply than at the "oil field" prices which prevailed in Tonkawa.

Another significant occurrence of 1925 was the granting of land privileges to the City of Tonkawa to build a water tower on college property. In return, the college was to receive 200,000 gallons of water per month, free of charge. This agreement is still in force today.

A number of fine arts programs were featured in the 1920s, including performances of *The Mikado*, *Madame Butterfly* and numerous musical recitals.

The Pep Hounds, a noted group of fellows in red sweaters and white pants, was formed in 1923 and existed for a number of years.

The year 1928 saw the first wrestling team at the school. Also, Dr. Caldwell resigned as president in the spring of 1928. A number of years later, word would be received that he had been killed in a gold mine in New Mexico. His last year saw many remodeling improvements in the school, including the flooring over the old swimming pool at the rear of the gym.

The fall of 1928 saw the arrival of one of the longer tenured presidents of the college, Dr. R. R. Robinson. Dr. Robinson came from what is now East Central University where he was the dean. The car was coming into its own as a method of commuting to college, and the Circle was often filled with cars. No students were allowed to take courses simultaneously in both the preparatory and college levels at the high school level beyond the state requirements or by testing. Faculty gave medical school exams yearly, and many students went on to medical school at such places as the University of Chicago, Stanford and the University of Illinois. Class sizes were not allowed to go much over thirty as this "endangered educational efficiency".

In the late 1920s there were grades of A, B, C, and D, but no F. A "D" was considered a failing grade. The year 1929 also saw the first Athletic Council composed of a mix of students and faculty. If there was a strong negative to the 1920s, it would have been the stock market crash at the end of the era resulting in the depression of the 1930s, which would have a strong impact on a decade of students at Northern.

### Surviving the Thirties (1930-1939)

The 1930s were mostly the province of President R. R. Robinson, who oversaw a decade of growth. He had earned his Ph.D degree at George Peabody College in Nashville, TN. Cars became commonplace and commuting arose as a junior college phenomenon. The campus cry was not "My kingdom for a horse" but instead was "My kingdom for a parking space on the circle." The circle drive was not paved and was pretty bad on muddy days but was great for sledding when it was snow packed in the winter.

College enrollment went from about 135 to 550 during Dr. Robinson's tenure. Accompanied by the Girls' Trio – Edith Fountain, Eleanor Jones and Enid Richards, he made recruiting trips to area high schools. In the summertime, the Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce organized caravans, and accompanied by the band, traveled to all the area towns to advertise the school. "Vocational" was completely dropped from the name, which became University Junior College. The campus was considered to be among the most inviting campuses in the state.



**Threlkeld Hall  
Built in 1939**

One advance was the introduction of advanced standing credit. Also, a strong emphasis was placed on pre-medicine with graduates of this area being readily accepted by such schools as Stanford, the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois, as well as The University of Oklahoma. Graduates from the commerce and education departments could go right to work. Eleanor Jones earned her Oklahoma Life Teaching Certificate with sixty hours, and thirty years after her graduation, the state honored the certificate. Before 1931, D's were considered failing grades; after 1931, D's became passing and F's were introduced.

The Interscholastic Meet grew and grew in the 1930s, peaking at an attendance of 3,170. Students competed in academics, music, track and tennis. Windshield stickers were sold to promote the college in 1931 with Eleanor Jones acting as sales director.

The college had weekly broadcasts over WBBZ of Ponca with various fine arts programs represented. Professor Albert Gale had brought his collection of musical instruments with him when he joined the faculty, and the OU president, Dr. W. B. Bizzell, congratulated the college on the collection during a May 1940 commencement address. He said it was fourth largest such collection in the United States, topped only by the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Art in New York City, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Michigan. Among the outstanding musicians of the decade were James Doenges, first clarinetist



for the Enid Symphony; Dave Westgate, playing clarinet in an international contest under the director of John Phillip Sousa; and Clarence Mills, cornetist, who soloed for the Ringling Brothers Circus.

A big event taking place in 1930 was the floodlighting of the Athletic Park. Though much ado was made of the 60,000 watt lighting system, players would later say that the field was so dim they could barely make out the ball. Coaches and their families lived in very small apartments in the front of the gymnasium. Shorty Foster was the coach of almost everything for much of the 1930s, coaching football, basketball and track. He stayed on as Athletic Director and retired as Registrar.

The Thirties could be said to be the Queens Decade. There were queens picked for all occasions. These included an April Fool's Queen, Maverick Football Queen, Queen of Maverickland, Vodvil Queen, and more. It was also the decade of class gifts to the school. Sidewalks, concrete seating, a plaque commemorating the World War II fallen, display cases, and other things were left as class gifts to the school they loved.

The depression made the Thirties an era of responsibility among students. The majority of students were for Franklin D. Roosevelt and commerce courses were the most popular on campus. There were few "playboys" on campus as many students were paying their own way, and every penny counted.

The Engineers' Club, the Graphic Arts Club, the Writers' Club, the Biology Club, and the Pan American Forum got their start in this decade. Many of these clubs encouraged high grades, but the engineers were designing pranks. First "Bossy the Cow" was found tied to one of the water fountains and later she made it into the Bell Tower of Central Hall.

Three pep clubs arose in the Thirties: the Longhorns included both men and women, the Ruff Muggs was for men, while the Mavericks was for women. Richard Chaney and Dixie Overman were among the track stars. Chaney ran the 440 yards in 49.5 seconds and the 880 yards in two minutes and one second. Both were school records. Overman and Chaney long jumped just shy of 23 feet. Both went to the National Meet.

*The Maverick* newspaper was outstanding with one man in particular being of note. Joe Holland was editor in 1934 and later became head of the Journalism Department at OU.

A nine-hole golf course was located where the present Tonkawa Elementary School and the high school football field are now situated.

One of the big events of the decade was the return of dancing, not seen on campus for more than a decade. Homecomings, which started in 1929, drew large crowds and big parades through downtown Tonkawa. They traditionally started around the college Circle. The speaker at the 1937 Homecoming Assembly was Dr. Carl Smith, president of Babson Institute in Massachusetts and a 1910 graduate of UPS. This Homecoming Assembly was one of the largest that Dr. Robinson presided over. The Student Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1937 with Paul Harper, John Kelly, Palmer Weld and James Frazier chosen to

represent the college at area Chamber meetings.

Also 1937 was the first year for morning graduation exercises and for faculty to wear robes at graduation. Also 1938 saw the first Senior Day with 250 area seniors visiting the first year and over 500 the second year. This was surpassed by the interscholastic contests, which in 1939



**Markley Hall, Present Day  
Built in 1939**

had 3,170 high school contestants. The final part of Dr. Robinson's tenure was overshadowed by the possibility of war, but in 1938 work was started on the first two dormitories. The museum was the second largest college museum in the state after OU and *The Maverick* was picked as best all-around college newspaper by the College Press Association. The summer of 1939 saw Dr. Robinson leave to become president of Central State Teachers' College. Robinson's replacement would be Dr. Loren Brown, who would be at the head throughout the 1940s.

### **Adjusting to WWII (1940-1949)**

Dr. Loren Brown, UJC's seventh president, came from Central State Teachers' College where he was dean. The first years of his tenure saw much-lowered enrollment due to World War II and the gradual demise of the preparatory student department. Dr. Brown's first year, 515 junior college students enrolled but only thirteen enrolled in the preparatory courses.

The new dormitories were called simply the men's and women's residence halls. Room and board was \$21 monthly, and the cafeteria was in the lower floor of the women's residence hall. There was still no tuition for state residents.

The really big news for the early Forties was the civilian aviation training course. UJC was the fifth state school to offer advance flying certificates. Ground school was taught on campus while actual flight lessons took place in Ponca City and Blackwell. As the war approached, the school graduated thirty fliers a year with Mary Houston of Blackwell as the first girl to receive her flight certificate.

The possibilities of war preoccupied the student body, and many were interested in active military service. By 1943, United States Air Force cadets received their wings after training at the college. Patriotism for our country abounded while a universal theme was "Stay in College".

School spirit was high! Pep rallies were the responsibility of two "razzling organizations," the Razz Hounds and the Razzettes. For sporting events, dorm men bought and wore crimson overalls with silver trim across the front saying, "Tonkawa Mavericks". These charitable gents bought a victrola for the women's dorm. It turned out the sly devils wanted dance music for the dance hour held in the women's hall. More classical music on campus was commanded by Rhoda Sharp and Lena Sizelove, two legendary figures in Northern's great music

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history.

The Faculty Wives Club was started with the first hostesses, Mrs. Howard Harold and Mrs. A. D. Buck. Also new was the dean's honor list, replacing the "A" list.

The fire-dousers were students who did volunteer work as firefighters. They received lodging while at college.

Also in 1940 the Maverick football team was Oklahoma Junior College Conference State Champion. The last time for this crown happened in 1928.

The big change in 1941 was another name change for the school, which became Northern Oklahoma Junior College. The next ten years saw the phasing out of the high school curriculum, ending in 1950. The same bill also replaced the state governor as a member of the College Board and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education came into existence.

A patriotic event of 1941 involved the student body's wanting to help the British war effort. The Razz Hounds sponsored a "Scrap Iron for Britain" dance with admission a scrap iron donation to be sent to England.

Women had a rigid curfew in those days: freshman girls in their dorm by 9 p.m. and sophomores by 10 p.m. with the exception of Friday and Saturday. Men could stay out until 11 p.m. nightly and longer on the weekends.

About the women's dress code: pants and shorts were taboo for girls in classrooms. An editorial in *The Maverick* said: "The girls have borrowed from the boys and kept the ideas of getting boyish bobs, wearing shirts and flat-soled shoes, driving cars, and smoking, but may heaven spare the poor man the sole ownership of his slacks, trousers and similar apparel. He certainly does not infringe on the ladies' styles, no matter how tempted he might be to don a sweet little waisted, full-skirted dress."

Then after Pearl Harbor, the flying program became the Cadet Air Corps Qualifying Curriculum. Robert Markely, 1940 graduate, was killed in one of the assaults on Pearl Harbor and became the first NOJC casualty of the war as well as the first Oklahoma college graduate killed. Then Horace Threlkeld, longtime dean of the school, died of a heart attack in January 1942. Howard Harold succeeded him as dean of the school. The unnamed dormitories became Markley Hall and Threlkeld Hall shortly thereafter.

Dancing helped pass the war years, and if students bought defense stamps, they could attend the "Hang Hitler Hop" and other "jitterbug" hops.

In 1943 athletic competition was dropped for the duration of the war. As the war effort deepened, *The Maverick* newspaper went bi-weekly instead of weekly. Ben Matkin, long-time journalism instructor, left and Dorothy Long took over his role with *The Maverick*. During this period, the school acquired its first radio equipment and faculty advisers were added to benefit students.

By fall of 1944, Dr. Brown had the foresight to plan for returning servicemen who would want a higher education. Spring semester 1946, GI's numbering 107 were on campus taking advantage of the GI Bill. A constant complaint of the men was the large number of men as opposed to women.

Many students who had been in combat during the war brought back to the

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classrooms a tone of seriousness and maturity. Many GI's stayed in apartments at the Prisoner of War Camp on the north edge of Tonkawa.

The year 1946 saw Harold Piper start his long career as athletic director. Volney Meece aptly described him when he said, "Dynamite comes in small packages." In the late 1940s, *The Maverick* newspaper was still outstanding. It captured three first places at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in New York City. Three of the outstanding journalism students were Joe Hochderffer, who later edited *The Tonkawa News* and was an instructor at NOJC; Wayne Mackey, later editor of the *Oklahoma City Times*; and Volney Meece, who became one of the state's outstanding sports editors for *The Daily Oklahoman*.

The tower of Central Hall was completely removed by 1948 and the gymnasium expanded with many improvements. Students in 1949 began paying \$2 per hour tuition charge, and the Baptist Student Union was organized with Ruel Case as the first president.

Yearbooks were re-instituted after a twenty-year hiatus with a new name of Round-up, replacing the name of Boomer. A survey showed that 78.1 percent of NOJC students who went on to four-year colleges ranked in the upper half of the various colleges attended.

As the decade closed, Dr. Brown was still at the helm and things looked great for NOJC's future.

### **Promoting the Campus (1950-1959)**

As the 1950s arrived, so did the last year of Dr. Loren Brown's tenure as president. The year was filled with thoughts of the Korean War and student enrollment dropped from 224 the first semester to 115 the second semester. Square dancing was the dance craze with every Tuesday night being dance night. In April, the announcement came of Dr. Brown's resignation. The man whose "Prexy's Column" in *The Maverick* had given sound and homey advice for over a decade and through whose efforts Northern had become the only Oklahoma or Kansas Junior College member of the North Central Association of Colleges left with the graduating class.

Loren Brown's replacement was Dr. George Huckaby, who came from Central State College. Dr. Huckaby was to serve only one year as president. During his short tenure, he was noted for public relations work, the large number of speeches which he gave and his tendency to turn over to the faculty the full responsibility of teaching.

The high school department was abolished preceding the 1951 school year. There had been almost no high school students during the previous decade.

Students had a Cherry Choppers Ball with admission being cherry pits and were strongly in favor of Dwight D. Eisenhower for president.

In May, Dr. Huckaby was delivering one of several commencement speeches he had agreed to present. This one was for the cadets at Vance Air Force Base in Enid. Shortly after he finished, Dr. Huckaby collapsed and died on the speaker's platform from a cerebral hemorrhage. Dean Howard Harold became acting president until a replacement could be found.



The fall of 1953 saw Dr. V. R. Easterling become president of the college. Dr. Easterling came from Kansas State University but was a native Oklahoman. He was a Naval Reserve officer and was noted for his strong efforts in the area of public relations. Shortly after his arrival, he initiated the first of several “booster tours”. These were car caravans of boosters that visited as many as twenty-six towns in twenty counties to promote the college.

Enrollment went up 64 percent in 1954 to 474 students, rising to well over 500 by the end of the decade. Agriculture taught by Jim Marsh was re-

established in 1954. Lowell Clark was teaching music and organized a pep band named the NOJC Strays and also revived the WBBZ broadcasts where a men’s faculty quartet composed of A. D. Buck, Ray Hamilton, Lowell Clark and Olin Walcher sang. The Fifties had religious groups such as Wesley House, Disciple Student Fellowship, Newman Club, and a Catholic Club. The Ag Club was formed and culminated in the founding of the annual NOJC Rodeo.

One Ag student regularly fed eight head of cattle for the dining hall and hogs were added, partially fed by scraps from the dining hall. This was clearly one of the earliest Northern recycling programs.

A sabbatical plan was instituted for faculty and the policy of enrollment of faculty wives and children at one-half the regular fees was instituted.

For 1956, Central 206 was reorganized to form the first radio broadcasting station at the college. It went on air September 26, 1956 with Arthur Davis as student manager and first transmitter.

The special event of 1956 was the re-naming of North Hall to Harold Hall in honor of Dean Howard Harold. In 1956, Easterling Hall was ready for occupancy and the Memorial Union in honor of those who had served in the defense of the country was opened in December. Wilkin Auditorium had been remodeled with reversal of the stage so that entry was on the north, not the south, and the Northern Gym was renamed in honor of Ivan L. “Shorty” Foster



**E.B. Hall, NOC Enid  
Established 1955**



**Easterling Hall, NOC Tonkawa  
Established 1956**



**Lankard Hall, NOC Enid  
Established 1959**

and Harold J. Piper. The homecoming day parade of 1956 was two miles long with numerous entries.

In 1957, the Maverick track team won the Oklahoma JUCO Conference crown. The theme of the semi-centennial year for the state was “From Teepees to Towers”. As the year came to a close, the graduation speaker was former Northern President Loren Brown.

The 1958 school year saw the organization of the Mavettes, a girl’s drill team. Under the guidance of Jackie Troup Jarvis, they performed at halftimes of football games and the Kay County Fair.

The possibility of a manned rocket flight to the moon was a topic of conversation and Hal Holbrook came to Northern for his impersonation of Mark Twain. One of the highlights was an invitation for the band to perform in the Rose Bowl Parade. The forty members went in the NOJC activity bus and the cost was \$1,200.

The 1959 school year saw the paneled marquee sign erected at the entrance to the Circle. A 34 foot replica of a working oil derrick was built at the northeast corner of the campus. The Mavettes staged the first all-girl variety show, and NOJC together with Tonkawa High School staged the opera “Amahl and the Night Visitors” under the director of Rhoda Sharp and June Skeels. Jack Ratteree, clarinetist, had traveled with the Boston Pops under Arthur Fielder and at Interlochen in Michigan. Max Lyall performed all over the state as a pianist, playing anything from Bach to Boogie.

Calvin Crumrine placed first in sheep judging at the Houston Livestock Show and track star Mary Scott placed first in the pre-Olympics at Tulsa. She became an alternate for the 1960 Olympics in Rome. As the year closed, Gloria Strange and Max Lyall received awards as outstanding students and the graduation address was by C. V. Roseberry, former student, who was Vice President of Westinghouse Electric of Chicago.

### Expanding the College (1960-1969)

The 1960 school year saw the first use of advanced standing exams. Also a new Heidelberg press was bought for *The Maverick* and the school continued to be the only junior college in the state printing its own newspaper. The year closed with a bang when Chief of Naval Operations of the Navy, Admiral Arleigh Burke was commencement speaker.

Ralph Herren moderated mock Presidential elections with students choosing Richard Nixon by a two to one margin. The band made a second trip to the Rose Bowl Parade, again traveling by activity bus. The Mavettes, not to be outdone, marched in John F. Kenney’s inaugural parade and attended cade balls at West Point and the Naval Academy. The Ag Club organized and ran the first NOJC College-High School Rodeo, which continued for years and led to membership in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

Throughout the school year of 1961-62, the school watched as its new Library-Administration Building was constructed and the president’s home was built.

By 1963, students numbered 623 and many worked part time on campus for fifty cents per hour. That fall, many were “ringing the bell” for Bellmon, and many will remember this time as the time of the Cuban missile crisis.

One of the big moments of the 1964 school year was the new nine-hole golf course with Harold Piper serving as director. There were two innovations that year. Homecoming Queen candidates were nominated by clubs/organizations and Who’s Who was introduced on campus. A highlight was the election of A. D. Buck as president of the Oklahoma Academy of Science.

A data processing course came on the scene with the incumbent punch cards. However, the biggest story was a sad one, when JFK was assassinated on November 22, 1963.

The following year saw enrollment reach 875, an all-time record gain. The new men’s dorm was named Bush-Duvall and was used for the first time. Plans were laid for a cafeteria-student union expansion and for two more dormitories. Phi Theta Kappa honor society was first instituted on campus and Northern won the OJCC track crown with 78 team points. North Central visitation was in the spring of this year, but results would not be known ‘til the fall. In July, Dr. Easterling resigned to become vice president of operations at Wichita State University and Dean Harold again became acting president.

The tenth president, Dr. E. E. Vineyard, took over on August 11, 1965 as the name of the school changed to Northern Oklahoma College. Trouble came immediately in the form of a letter from North Central placing Northern on private probation. Among the reasons were financial problems leading to excessive student-teacher ratio, inadequate library facilities, lack of instructional supplies and equipment, poor long-range planning, weak faculty organization, and an overall weak intellectual climate. Dr. Vineyard immediately pronounced that quality education was the basic function of a college and everything else was subordinate.

Faculty and administration began immediately to relieve the problems cited by North Central. By 1967, NOC regained its full accreditation status. In fact, due to its innovations, NOC was being recognized as one of the best community colleges in Oklahoma. Fringe benefits were added to faculty salaries and a salary scale was established that moved faculty to the higher ranks among Oklahoma community colleges.



**Student Union, NOC Tonkawa  
Established 1966**



**Boehme Hall, NOC Tonkawa  
Established 1966**

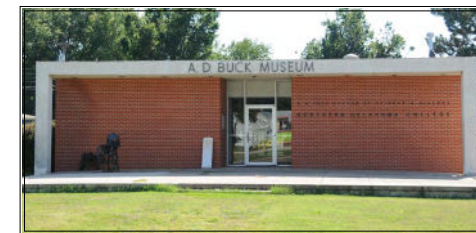
The current student union-cafeteria complex was built, as well as new men’s and women’s dorms. The men’s dorm was named Boehme Hall after longtime grounds superintendent George Boehme. Mr. Boehme was a student in the 1916-1920 era and never left. He was active in musical groups playing the violin and for years signed the names on 3,000 student diplomas in Old English Script. He died in December of 1966 after learning of the honor in the spring. The other dorm was named Bell Hall after long-time speech and debate instructor, Annie Bell. Word reached Annie two weeks before she died.

Commencement speaker in 1966 was Dr. Eugene Swearingen, vice president for development for Oklahoma State University and a Northern alumnus.

The year of 1967 saw the instituting of counseling offices on campus. A loss occurred this year as the school decided to eliminate the football program as being too expensive. However, the athletic thrill of the year was Nat Miller who averaged 32.5 points per game with a high of 53 points in one game. Also 1967 saw the first “spring vacation” and two long-time faculty retired, Dean Howard Harold and A. D. Buck. Dean Harold exclaimed, “I have served as everything around here except janitor.”

The last events of the year were the first of the annual President’s Balls and commencement with Dr. Robert Kamm, president of Oklahoma State University, as speaker.

The 1968 year saw the development of the Brining-Hayton Plaza, named for two former regents, and the addition of the Crowder Science Hall with the carillon chimes atop it. The chimes were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Carmi Crawford. To some, this was also the year of the arsonist, with fires breaking out in Wilkin Hall, the Ag Barn, the Maverick Cafeteria and two in Central Hall. Finally a student was apprehended and it was determined he had set all the fires.



**A.D. Buck Museum, NOC Tonkawa  
Established 1969**

The 1969 year saw wrestling introduced as a collegiate sport. Students were for Richard Nixon over either Herbert Humphrey or George Wallace on the grounds that he was the lesser of three evils. The debate team ranked sixth in the nation, competing against seventy-four schools in Phoenix. The last Mavettes performance was also in 1969, as interest in the group faded and members numbered twelve.

As the decade closed, a major event was the grand opening of the new A. D. Buck Museum and for the first time in history, the museum had a home of its own.

### **Remembering the Seventies (1970-1979)**

The 1970s opened with NOC being the top ranked junior college wrestling team in the nation and Nevona Kegans being named the outstanding coach

at the fifth annual YWCA National Basketball Tournament for women. Dick Finton entertained with his clown act at the annual rodeo with Senator Clem McSpadden doing the announcing. A top priority was the start-up of an associate degree nursing program. The campus was saddened when Pearl Ramsey, former dean of women, died.

In January of 1971, a severe snowstorm stranded over two hundred travelers and the NOC fieldhouse became the “mercy station.” Important events included Tom Carter becoming the first national wrestling champion from NOC, the Roustabouts recording their first album, and *The Maverick* being named the best junior college newspaper in Oklahoma. Then in April, Jim Langdon and Mark Hise flew to New York City to receive two first place awards in the Columbia Press Association event.

In the 1972 school year, NOC Drive was completed, allowing greater access to the campus. For the first time, students were named to serve on various committees, and Karen Long and Susan Van Schuyver won second place in the National Women’s Debate Contest in Los Angeles. Ray Shreck was a top scholastic graduate.

The big event of 1972-73 was the fact that 18-year-olds could vote in the presidential election. Students favored Richard Nixon by 86 percent to 8 percent for McGovern. The spring of 1973 saw the revival of the scholastic contest with Leo Rodrigues directing. Black Heritage Week was held for the first time.

The following year saw the calendar of the school feature calendar girls. A national energy crisis hit and saving energy was in vogue. Mrs. Rowena Corr became the first woman regent at NOC, and the grading system altered to allow the use of the grade of “W” as late as final exams. Word came of the death of Dr. Easterling in Oklahoma City and Ron Appleman moved into the admissions, records and research area. The final important event of the year was the NOC Roustabouts trip to Romania.

The year 1975 saw the new educational method of Talk-Back TV find its place on campus with a director of media and also a director of school and alumni relations being hired for the first time. Among other highlights were the start of the literary magazine, *Harvest*, Gene Dougherty’s exhibit in the Western gallery of the Oklahoma Historical Society and the plans to build an indoor swimming pool.

Leo Canaday’s women’s basketball team captured third place at the national tournament and the Bicentennial was celebrated in grand fashion, including a mural for the administration building. Associated with this was the publishing of the Mac Bradley history of the first seventy-five years of the school.

The year 1976 saw the groundwork laid for the lease of the Kaw Lake property, which had seen heavy use over numerous years for various classes and



**Foster-Piper Fieldhouse, NOC Tonkawa  
Home of the Mavericks**

activities. The mobile home park south of the main campus then led to buildings constructed as alternative living arrangements and for the use of faculty and citizens.

In 1977, high school students were allowed to enroll for college credit for the first time and W.W. Rodgers completed twenty-six and a half years as an NOC regent. Tom Bryant led a foreign study tour to Mexico. Dr. Vineyard’s free-form sculpture “Pax Vita Veritas” was erected, and *The Maverick* won its seventeenth first-class award from the Associated Collegiate Press. Other events or happenings were receiving a ten-year accreditation from North Central Association, the retirement of Clyde Williams as printing instructor and the performance of the Oak Ridge Boys.

The year 1978 saw the introduction of peer tutoring and counseling. Dinner theatre was the rage and the Roustabouts went behind the Iron Curtain for the second time. NOC was featured on OETA’s Candid Campus, which had views of the campus, always one of the most attractive in the state. The sports highlight of the year was a national championship for Leo Canaday’s Lady Maverick team. Both Jim Kerwin and Leo Canaday were chosen Conference Coach of the Year. Governor George Nigh called NOC the greatest college in the state.

The year 1979 saw the first Miss NOC Pageant, which continues today. The year ended with Dr. Banowsky, President of Oklahoma University, as commencement speaker and a fall 1979 enrollment of 1,635 students.

### **Greeting the Eighties (1980-1989)**

The 1980s was to be Dr. Vineyard’s final decade guiding the school. The decade had the usual dramas and musicals, including *The Music Man* in 1980, which played three nights with full house each night, and *The Sound of Music* in 1982, which featured Dineo Heilmann, Jill Butler Robinson, Rick Edgington, Jerry Steichen, Wren Robinson, and Cecelia Schiltz. Nearly the whole leading cast would work for NOC at one time or another. A new innovation for the 1980s was the introduction of the ice cream theatres, one-act plays followed by a variety of ice cream flavors. The Roustabouts were very active in the decade with one highlight being a thirty-five minute performance in Washington, D.C. for the National Convention of Community and Junior Colleges.

A new event, which began in 1980 and has continued to the present time, was the annual quiz bowls. These contests, based on the old GE College Bowl format, were held both as intramural contests and as high school invitational through the first ten years. The college sponsored its own team in contests against other Oklahoma community colleges and typically advanced to regional play. The peak performance occurred in 1983-1984 when the team finished fifth at regionals as the only community college team in the contest.

The Nursing Program at NOC took a giant step forward headed by Delphine Jewell as the program consistently produced about 95 percent pass rates on the nursing boards. This trend continues to this day as the college always has one of the highest pass rates in the state.

A high point in athletics was Karl Lynes, who captured back-to-back national



championships in wrestling and was voted Outstanding Wrestler of the national tournament. In 1983, the wrestling program was disbanded. In basketball, Leo Canaday retired with a record of 223 wins and 45 losses for his teams. Marla Lindley set a single game scoring record of 44 points in one game. In both men's and women's basketball, several Western Conference Championships were won.

A very important feature of the 1980s would have been the community service courses. The school offered up to 43 non-credit courses for the enrichment of the community. In 1982, the enrollment in these classes was over 1,000. The school opened up its first NOC Fitness Center in the old gymnasium. The center was open to use by the community as well as students and faculty.

Other additions included a new library expansion adding 5,500 square feet



**The Graduate Sculpture  
NOC Tonkawa**

of space, the selling of some college land to the high school which accompanied the purchase of the See land, part of which has been utilized for sports and agricultural facilities, the addition of a racquetball courts, expansion of the art facilities, the addition of building elevators and the construction of the Heilmann Gazebo.

Among the additions to campus in this decade were a series of sculptures by the Lanjani

brothers. These include "The Scholar," "The Muse," "The Graduate" and "The Athlete." In 1985, Lori Webb became the first Oklahoman to win a Radio Club of America Award to financially aid her education. Also in 1985, commuter lunches were first begun to try and make commuter students feel more a part of the campus.

In 1986, it was noted that not only was Dr. Vineyard the "dean" of Oklahoma college presidents due to his tenure, but that six administrators had a total of 160 years of service to NOC. The veteran of the group was Olin Walcher, who was beginning his fortieth year of service. No one will forget that 1986 was also the year of the Challenger explosion, which was on student and faculty minds for some time.

Drug awareness programs were started in this decade by Floretta Bellmon. Similar types of programs have continued to this day, giving many students important information about drug and alcohol abuse.

From 1986-1992, the school had no regular yearbooks as these were replaced with video yearbooks. These showed the school year's activities on film.

High points in the latter part of the decade included the introduction of computer-aided classes in English composition, the Jazz Festival, which continues today, and receipt of a ten-year accreditation from North Central,

which stated that the college was making a major contribution to the social, cultural and economic development of north central Oklahoma.

In 1988, Vice President Burson resigned to become president of Navarro Junior College in Texas. Then in November of 1989, Dr. Vineyard announced that the 1989-90 school year would be his last. The search was on for a new president.

### Saluting the Nineties (1990-1999)

As the 1980s ended, so did the twenty-five-year tenure of Dr. Edwin E. Vineyard. The retirement dinner for Dr. Vineyard honored his service to Northern with over 300 people attending. In 1994, Dr. Vineyard was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame. Dr. Vineyard was succeeded by Dr. Joe Kinzer, who came from Central State University at Edmond where he had been dean of the College of Business Administration.

The 1990s have seen numerous partnerships formed between Northern and technology centers of the area. The initial program of this kind involved machine tool manufacturing and the agreement was with Pioneer Technology Center. Others that followed during the decade included respiratory therapy, office management and process technology. Also new academically were the interactive television courses. These started with courses being transmitted to the Enid site and rapidly extended to MerCruiser Corporation in Stillwater and numerous area high schools. Eventually, internet courses were also developed and offered.

The debate team was reinstated and had been highly successful every year of the decade and for a few years, a competitive horse judging team was fielded. Northern's chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association has also been extremely competitive during the 1990s, winning numerous awards. A major academic addition in the late '90s was the Multi-Media Digital Communications (MMDC) program, which opened up offering new opportunities to students.

Also new to this decade was the University Learning Center at Ponca City, which is coordinated through Northern and offers university level coursework and degrees without leaving Kay County.

The 1990s had its big accomplishments and one of these was certainly the new Performing Arts Center. From its opening, it has been the



**Kinzer Performing Arts Center  
Established 1995**

home for great musical and dramas such as *Guys and Dolls*, *A Few Good Men*, *South Pacific*, *Spoon River Anthology* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. New academic programs in Fine Arts have been added that include musical theatre and music business. There have also been Galas, started to celebrate the opening and

continuing to this day through the efforts of alumnus Gerald Steichen and the music department of Northern. Added to this were the annual jazz festivals serving both to educate area high school students interested in jazz and to entertain area audiences. The lobby of the KPAC is still utilized as an art gallery and was officially named in honor of Eleanor Hays and hosts art and historical exhibits throughout the year. Also added during this decade were the Learning Assistance Center and a new department of Developmental Studies, Tutoring and Assessment. Agriculture facilities were expanded on the See land on the east side of campus, and these have been used extensively for shows of various kinds. A new community fitness center was built and has seen heavy use by faculty, students and citizens of the area.

Sports expansion was a major part of the 1990s. Men's and women's basketball continued its striation of success with numerous Bi-State West men's championships and culminated by the region championships in 1997-98 and 1999-2000. Many players from both teams went on to play at universities. These teams were joined by men's and women's soccer teams, women's softball and men's baseball teams. Also of importance in the area of athletics was the Hays Scholarship going to the returning male basketball player having the highest grade-point average and the naming of the Foster-Piper Fieldhouse hospitality room in honor of David Harrison. The NOC Medal of Honor, the highest honor given by Northern, was given to Leo Canaday, athletic director. The previous recipients had been Dr. Edwin E. Vineyard and Olin Walcher.

Also of importance was the purchase of Phillips University in Enid. Northern had been teaching in Enid for years without a real home. The campus was purchased in partnership with the City of Enid and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, with the balance of funding coming from Northern Oklahoma College's Section 13 allocations. Enrollment grew rapidly with some 3,000 students on both campuses.

An institutional flag and department flags were created and are still used at commencement exercises and other special events.

The tragedy of the decade was the bombing of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City. Many members of the Northern community had friends or relatives directly affected by the bombing. The campus responded with a blood drive and donations. A pickup load of supplies for the children involved was sent and the campus dedicated a Heartland Memorial Garden.

As the decade of the 1990s came to a close, the campus lost Clane Kirtley and Curtis Jackson, two of the truest friends that Northern ever had. However, the campus looked forward to the next century with great expectations. The "Little Harvard on the Prairie" was still a place where one can obtain an excellent education on one of the most beautiful campuses in Oklahoma. The dreams and hopes of the citizens who worked to found the school in 1901 had been fulfilled and fulfilled well for one hundred years.

### **Celebrating the Millennium (2000-2009)**

As Northern celebrated the millennium, changes continued to occur across

the campuses. The Wellness Center was built to afford opportunities for exercise in a safe environment year round for athletes, students, employees, and community members. The Renfro Center, honoring Carl and Carolyn Renfro, who established a lectureship series, provided a new home for the Nursing Division and an area for hosting college and community events.

The Enid campus saw the construction of an indoor baseball practice facility and the Astronomy Center, housing one of the largest planetariums in Oklahoma. The Bridge program with Northwestern Oklahoma State University was established. Northern hosted an Oklahoma Global Education Conference, featuring live participation from international sites.



**Mackie Planetarium  
NOC Enid**

With the opening of the NOC/ OSU Gateway program in cooperation with Oklahoma State University, Northern established its third campus, located in Cowboy Mall, Stillwater. The North Classroom Building was constructed to be shared by both NOC and OSU.

The year 2008 saw the retirement of Dr. Joe Kinzer. Dr. Kinzer's leadership and determination to make Northern known across the state as more than just a community college in Northern Oklahoma was evident in the growth of campus facilities, student enrollment, faculty/staff leadership and becoming a multicampus institution. Dr. Kinzer was succeeded by Dr. Roger Stacy, who held the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs at Northern.

In June 2010, Dr. Stacy resigned and Northern Regents asked Tom Poole, alumnus of 1960, to step in as acting president while a presidential search could be performed. During Mr. Poole's term, Northern ranked as one of the top three community colleges in Oklahoma and as one of the top 120 of the country's, according to the Aspen Institute in Washington, D.C. The Nursing Program at the Stillwater site moved into new quarters at Fountain Square. NOC received its largest private donation ever, approximately \$1.6 million from the Ima Faythe Berglund estate.

In February 2011, Northern Board of Regents announced that Dr. Cheryl Evans had been named Northern's thirteenth president and the first female president.

From a single building and 217 students in 1902, Northern has evolved to a multicampus learning community with over 5,000 students. However, the goal of providing an affordable, accessible and quality education to all who desire it has remained unchanged. Northern Oklahoma College has, and will continue to play a significant part in assisting thousands of students to realize their dream.

In 2003, the NOC Enid Jets Baseball Team qualified for the NJCAA Division 2 National Tournament, the first time an NOC Baseball team qualified for the



National Tournament.

NOC Distinguished Hall of Fame Inductees included Ira Davenport, Eleanor Hays, Dr. Clane Kirtley, Volney Meece, Ruth Muskrat, Carrol Roseberry, Marvin Ellstrom, Dr. Eugene Swearingen, Harry Winebrenner, Leo Canaday, Dr. Granvil Hays, Gerald Steichen, Ralph Casey, R. Soland Deonges, William “Bill” Doenges, Dale DeWitt, Jim Langdon, Dr. Kathryn Jones, Steven Wear, Joe Sweeden, Pamela “Kay” Farrell, Ed Kelley, and Karen Long.

### **Growth and Celebration (2010-2019)**



**Mavericks Hall, Established 2015**



**Jets Hall, Established 2015**

In July 2014, NOC held ceremonial groundbreakings for residence halls at NOC Enid and NOC Tonkawa. On Oct. 9, 2015, over 100 guests attended the grand opening and ribbon cutting event for Mavericks Hall in Tonkawa and Jets Hall in Enid. Both events concluded with a Masonic Cornerstone and Time Capsule Ceremony. Jets Hall and Mavericks Hall opened in 2015. Each 84 bed, 20,000 square foot facility cost \$5 million to construct.

Total net assets for NOCF by the end of fiscal year 2004 had reached \$1,834,033, and the foundation initiated a campaign goal to raise \$3 million in total net assets by 2013. As a result of a board strategic planning retreat in 2010, the Foundation increased the goal to \$5 million by 2015. NOCF Celebrated 50 Years in 2013-14 with total assets of \$6.1 million. A goal of \$12 million by 2018 was set by the NOCF.

NOC rededicated a remodeled Wilkin Hall with an Oklahoma Masonic Cornerstone Ceremony in November 2015. A number of items including degree sheets, factbook, graduation program, employee list, and campus photos were placed in a time capsule inside the northeast corner of the building. The original

dedication was November 13, 1905.

NOC held a naming and dedication event for the James Room, in honor of former Regent Keith James for his service to the Board for twenty years. The dedication as September 21, 2016. The Glass Room Dedication was held on May 17, 2017 to honor former State Regent Marlin “Ike” Glass for his years of service with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

NOC celebrated the bond payoff for the NOC Enid campus on May 16, 2018. The twenty-year bond was paid off early and kicked off a year-long celebration of 20 years at NOC Enid.

A number of college and community officials gathered in Stillwater on Sept. 7, 2018 to celebrate the completion of the NOC Stillwater Classroom Building. The Stillwater Chamber of Commerce provided a ribbon cutting for the \$20 million facility.

A ‘topping out’ ceremony was held at NOC Stillwater on Oct. 9, 2018, to celebrate the placing of the final beam for the NOC Stillwater Classroom Building. Over 50 dignitaries attended the event with remarks by NOC President Dr. Cheryl Evans and OSU President Dr. Burns Hargis.

On Nov. 14, 2018, the NOC Board of Regents named the conference room at NOC Stillwater the Brown Conference Room after Regent Linda Brown. Brown served 16 years as an NOC Regent.

Nearly 600 guests attended the sold-out Oak Ridge Boys Concert on April 25, 2019 in the Kinzer Performing Arts Center.

Nearly 400 guests attended the Gala XXIV Concert on April 28, 2019 at the Kinzer Performing Arts Center led by Maestro Gerald Steichen. The Gala featured Soprano Jasmine Habersham and Celloist Nancy Ives. They were joined by NOC Music Faculty, NOC College Choir, and Gala Orchestra.

In May 2014, 2018, and 2019, the NOC Enid Jets qualified for the NJCAA Division 2 Baseball National Championships at David Allen Memorial Ballpark in Enid winning the National Championship in 2013. The team was coached by Raydon Leaton and Scott Mansfield.

In 2014, 2016, and 2019, the NOC Enid Lady Jets Basketball Team qualified for the NJCAA National Tournament.

In 2016, the NOC Enid Jets Men’s Basketball Team qualified for the NJCAA National Tournament.

NOC Distinguished Hall of Fame Inductees included Steven Riggs, Gary Martin, Dr. Patricia Sargent, Natalie Shirley, Diane Anderson, David Gilbert, Thomas Poole, Lanita Chapman, Dr. Ted Zavodny, Clayton Johnson, Gary Kirtley, Jim Reese, Ken Bellmard, Bill Butler, M. Scott Carter, Dr. Gordon Laird, Nevona Kegans-Bossert, Mike Loftis, Bill Phelps, Bill McCloud, Chad Weiberg, and Todd Miller.

### **Prospering Post-Pandemic (2020-2024)**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, a number of campus events were canceled and/or rescheduled including graduation which was held virtually. On a positive note, new technologies were implemented providing students more educational

options for future course offerings at NOC through live-online and fully online.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education approved the Associates in Applied Science in Electronics in Wind Energy, partnering with Enel Energy in 2020. Enel Energy is providing scholarships and faculty support for the new program.

The NOC Tonkawa Mavericks Basketball Team qualified for back-to-back NJCAA National Tournaments in 2020 and 2021. The Mavs reached the Elite 8 in the National Tournament in 2021. The team was coached by Donnie Jackson. NOC selected Enel Green Power North America, Inc. for the Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award in March 2021.

Dr. Cheryl Evans retired in June 2021 after serving 10 years as the NOC President. Dr. Evans guided the college through a number of campus renovation projects and the construction of new dorms at Enid and Tonkawa.

After a six-month search, the NOC Board of Regents selected Dr. Clark Harris as the 14th President of NOC in July 2021, replacing Dr. Cheryl Evans.

In the Fall of 2021, NOC entered into a two-year agreement for selected pieces of artwork owned by Dr. Hugh Pickens, with Doctor Pickens Museum, Inc. to be displayed in the Pickens Learning Commons on the Tonkawa campus.



**Pickens Learning Commons Artwork Display from Doctor Pickens Museum, Inc.**

The new Pickens Learning Commons opened Oct. 12, 2022. The library renovation provided a functional new contemporary student learning commons for students while providing over 80 pieces of art work from the Hugh Pickens Collection and 4 murals by artist Yatika Starr Fields.

Artist Yatika Fields painted a mural on the east wall of the Cultural Engagement Center commemorating NOC events throughout its 120-year history. The mural, commissioned by Hugh Pickens, was the second that Fields painted for NOC.

Former NOC President, Dr. Cheryl Evans, spoke at Women's History Month at NOC Enid in March 2023 on her career as a business woman and school administrator.

NOC Nursing held a 50th year reunion at the Renfro Center in Tonkawa in April 2023. A number of activities led by Dr. Nikole Hicks, Nursing Division Chair, were held at NOC Tonkawa to celebrate.

The NOC Board of Regents moved the NOC Men's and Women's Soccer Program from Tonkawa to Enid for the Fall 2023 season. The Jets' men and women will play at the \$12 million newly constructed Advance Soccer Complex on Enid's west side.

In October 2023, NOC hosted a private screening of Martin Scorsese's feature film *Killers of the Flower Moon* at the Poncan Theatre in Ponca City. NOC hosted a premiere during the afternoon and a reception at the Marland Mansion during the evening with over 750 guests in attendance.

Dr. Clark Harris retired as the NOC President on Jan. 3, 2024. Vice President for Academic Affairs Diana Watkins was named Interim President.

NOC Board of Regents reinstituted the Men's Wrestling Program and started a Women's Wrestling Program at NOC Tonkawa for Fall 2024. Bryan Kenney was hired to lead the men's program while Jayden Miller leads the women's program.

The NOC Tonkawa Roustabouts Celebrated their 60th Anniversary with a benefit show on April 6, 2024.

NOC Distinguished Hall of Fame Inductees included Risha Grant, Jon Kissinger, Marta Sullivan, Evelyn Coyle, Justin Funk, Joe Kreger, Tara Tucker Vaughn, Dr. Jim Appleman, Jeff Medders, Willie J Street, Dr. Michelle Jeffries Keylon and former NOC basketball coach, Scott Morris.

## College Seal



In her bicentennial tribute to Northern, *The First Seventy-five Years of Northern Oklahoma College*, Mac Bradley records the history of the college seal, as reported by Melvin Korn: "The official seal of Northern Oklahoma College was designed by C.W. Totten, chemistry professor, in 1933. George Boehme lettered the insignia that is similar to the state of Oklahoma seal." The current seal was updated for Northern's Centennial Celebration and continues to reflect what the institution values most in its past, present and future.

- The Latin phrases translate to mean Beauty (*Bonitas*), Justice (*Justitia*), Equality (*Aequalitas*), Liberty (*Libertas*) and Truth (*Veritas*).
- Seven stars represent the seven original faculty members at the University Preparatory School, which later evolved as Northern Oklahoma College, as well as the seven Liberal Arts from Medieval tradition.
- The five-pointed star symbolizes aspiration and since Medieval times has represented a symbol of perfection. Pythagoras noted that the number five denotes the fivefold division of the body and the five natural elements: fire, water, air, earth and spirit.
- The colors red and white reflect the early associations of Northern as a preparatory school for the University of Oklahoma. The color red embodies the attributes of courage and energy while white denotes purity of thoughts and actions.
- The border is composed of a triangle for its symbolism of strength, stability and aspiration.

## Presidential Medallion

A medallion is given to a new President to represent a transfer of the responsibility of office and an obligation to promote and maintain the values represented by the institution. The Presidential medallion, designed by NOC Fine Arts Instructor, Audrey Schmitz, incorporates elements of the college seal as well as including the following:



- The flame represents the torch of learning passed to students throughout generations. As Socrates once said, "Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel."
- The column reflects the ancient origins of Greek architecture as exhibited in Wilkin and Harold Hall. It also symbolizes the history of liberal arts education in the Classical world.
- The border reflects an Ivy League tradition in Northern's association with Harvard University, the alma mater of Northern's second president and the source from which Northern's first president brought back the ivy to decorate the campus in its early form as UPS. Because of this history, Northern was known as the "Little Harvard on the Prairie." The border was designed by gathering real leaves from the centennial clock tower on campus.
- The stars in the border represent the three campuses of Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, Enid and Stillwater.



## Distinguished Delegates

Founded	Institution
1890	Oklahoma State University Dr. Chris Francisco <i>Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs</i>
1890	University of Central Oklahoma Mary Howard <i>Director of Educator's Leadership Academy</i>
1897	Langston University Dr. Ruth Ray Jackson, <i>President</i> Theresa Powell, <i>Vice President of Operations</i>
1897	Northwestern Oklahoma State University Dr. James Bell, <i>Vice President for Academic Affairs</i> Dr. Wayne McMillin, <i>Dean of Enid Campus</i>
1908	Connors State College Dr. Ron Ramming, <i>President</i>
1908	Eastern Oklahoma State College Dr. Janet Wansick, <i>President</i>
1919	Northeastern Oklahoma A & M College Dr. Kyle Stafford, <i>President</i>
1941	Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Dr. Allison Garrett, <i>Chancellor Emeritus</i>
1999	University Center at Ponca City Tim Williams, <i>Executive Director</i>

## Special Acknowledgments

Academic Affairs  
Development and Community Relations  
Executive Council  
Fine Arts Division  
Great Western Dining  
Information Technology  
NOC Choir and Concert Band  
Northern Printing Services  
Physical Plant Services  
Presidential Leadership Council, Tonkawa / Enid / Stillwater  
President's Office  
Public Information Office  
Student Affairs



View the *Legacies of Change* at the Eleanor Hays Art Gallery located in the lobby of the Kinzer Performing Arts Center.



**NORTHERN**  
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