

What's Happening

May 7, 2021

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Dr. Cheryl Evans addresses NOC graduates at Saturday ceremonies

Retiring Northern Oklahoma College President Dr. Cheryl Evans addressed graduates at both Tonkawa and Enid campuses last Saturday in commencement exercises.

In speaking to students, Evans told students that, "This is the best day of the entire school year, you reached your education goal during one of the most challenging times in modern history during a pandemic, but you persevered, you showed grit, and you did it."

"Northern Oklahoma College is proud to have been a part of your academic experience and we celebrate with you on this important day in your life," she said. "We all know that education changes lives. The most incredible thing about learning and completing your degree is that nobody can ever take this degree away from you. You will have this credential with you the rest of your life and it will help you from here on out."

"All of you in this graduating class have changed your lives and the trajectory of your future by earning this degree," she added. "You are part of NOC's legacy."

"If we learned anything this last year during a pandemic, it is that life's not easy and it is uncertain. Life is not always fair, but you can still get where you need to go. Look at all of you here in your caps and gowns. You did what it

takes and finished your degrees despite all the obstacles you encountered in 2020 and 2021. You are resilient!"

She encouraged students to keep trying and keep persevering.

"I believe that you can accomplish whatever you set your mind to do and you should go wherever you think you can make a difference," she said. "Surround yourself with people who see your value and remind you of it, but especially you must believe in yourself and then you will be unstoppable. After final exams and degrees are posted, there will be a new chapter in your life and your book will get even more interesting from here."

"You are on a journey so take time to savor each step of the way," she said

"Today we celebrate the great start you've made at Northern Oklahoma College. I encourage you to remember this institution long after you leave here. This is where you "commenced" on your path to a successful and fulfilling life."

"When you achieve a measure of success, please remember your roots and where you were set on a firm foundation for all the other incredible experiences to come. Please give

(See **Graduates** on Page 2



Graduates

(Continued from Page 1)

back with your time, talent, and resources to Northern Oklahoma College, just as many before you have done to make your experience here affordable and memorable.”

NOC held two in-person ceremonies on Saturday in Tonkawa and in Enid for Enid/Stillwater students in a modified event where students were allowed two guests.



Life changing.

NOC May Birthdays



Paula Lewis	May 7	Linn Laughrey	May 21
Brad Gordon	May 9	T.L. Walker	May 21
Christopher Storm	May 10	Kathy Hannah	May 24
Mark Tarrant	May 10	Jeremy Cook	May 25
Ty Shreck	May 11	Janet Jarvis	May 26
Randy Walker	May 11	Dianna Ditmore	May 29
Jill Green	May 12	Jena Kodesh	May 29
Josh Quintero	May 12	Kalin Herren	May 29
Ian Layne	May 17	Claura Wilson	May 29

Northern Oklahoma College
Annual Student Exhibit

NOW YOU SEE ME

Featuring
Art Graduates

KIM BATTLES
LUIS MIRELES

Online Virtual Art Show
<https://www.noc.edu/finearts/art-exhibition/annual-student-art-exhibition-2021/>

Featuring Works in

VISUAL ARTS & DIGITAL MEDIA

Tyrel Morgan named All-American

NOC Sophomore Tyrel Morgan earned NJCAA First Team All-American Honors on Wednesday.

He was selected to the 10-player first team Wednesday afternoon.

Morgan is the first Maverick to be named First Team All-American.

“What an honor,” said coach Donnie Jackson. “It couldn’t happen to a more deserving student-athlete. We talked a lot last summer about him working on his game to be an All-American and he put the time in to make it happen.”

“To be the first NOC Mav men’s basketball player to be named 1st Team All-American in school history is pretty special,” Jackson added. “There have been a lot of great players who have come through Tonkawa and this is quite the accomplishment.”

Morgan is a sophomore from Atlanta, Georgia, and averaged 16 points and eight rebounds for the Mavs who reached the Elite Eight at the NJCAA Tournament in April.

Morgan has committed to play for Texas State.



Tyrel Morgan

NOC Calendar

May 8-14

May 8

Home Mavs Baseball vs. Murray, 1 p.m.
Away Jets Baseball vs. Redlands, 1 p.m.
Away Men’s and Women’s Soccer vs. Eastern, 2 p.m.

May 10

Begin E6/Online Courses

May 11

Final Day to Add E6/Online Courses

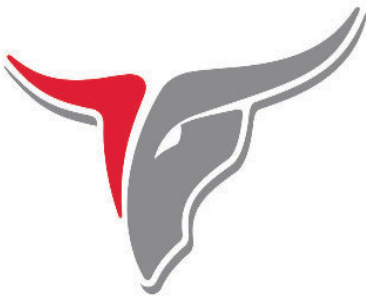
May 12

Final Day to Drop E6 Courses/Online Courses
Board of Regents Meeting, Renfro Center, 1 p.m.

May 13

Region 2 Softball Tournament, TBA, Muskogee (May 13-16)
Region 2 Soccer Tournament, TBA, Enid (May 13-15)
Region 2 Baseball Tournament, TBA, Enid (May 13, 16-20)

For additional information, visit the following links: [NOC Calendar](#)



**NOC
LIVESTOCK
JUDGING**

Day Camp
3 DAYS
ONE-ON-ONE COACHING

SESSION 1

June 7-9, 2021

AGES 9-13

SESSION 2

June 10-12, 2021

AGES 14 AND UP

COST

**\$150 - FOR ALL 3 DAYS
OR \$60 - PER DAY**

Face Masks and Social Distancing Required



REGISTRATION

**Due no later than May 15
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!**

This three-day judging camp is designed for 4-H and FFA members who are interested in improving their livestock evaluation skills, while receiving one-on-one oral reasons help with NOC’s finest judges.

Register online: <https://www.noc.edu/about-noc/community/summer-camps/>

Contact Jennifer Bedwell, NOC Livestock Judging Coach
580.628.6209 | jennifer.bedwell@noc.edu





Representatives from NOC visit Yatika Starr Fields in his Tulsa Studio to discuss the mural Fields will paint at the NOC Tonkawa campus. From left Yatika Starr Fields, Sheri Snyder, NOC Vice President for Development and Community Relations, Cheryl Evans, NOC President, and NOC student representative Morshayla Dumas. (Photo Hugh Pickens)



Representatives from NOC visit Yatika Starr Fields in his Tulsa Studio to discuss the mural Fields will paint at the NOC Tonkawa campus. From left, Yatika Starr Fields and Hugh Pickens, Executive Director of Pickens Museum (Photo by Cheryl Evans)

Pickens Museum and NOC announce Mural by Artist Yatika Starr Fields

North Central Oklahoma is becoming a center for murals.

First “The Three Faces of the Pioneer Woman” by Daniel Pickens was installed at City Central in Ponca City in 2019. And all Ponca City is looking forward to the mural “Oklahoma Sunrise” that will be painted on the east side of the Robin Hood Flour Mill and “The Beauty of Life” which will be painted on the west side of the grain elevator by Rick Sinnett.

In the meantime NOC and Pickens Museum are announcing that work will begin on May 3 on a 20 foot by 50 foot mural that will be painted by Osage artist Yatika Starr Fields in the Native American Engagement Center in the Administration Building on the Tonkawa campus

of NOC. The public is welcome to come and view the mural in progress this Friday, May 7 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. A mural time-lapse video will also be created.

Fields’ paintings generally take two to three weeks to create and work on the mural at NOC is expected to be completed by the middle of May. Fields prefers a blank canvas when he begins, rather than drawing a sketch. He said there is no real blueprint for his paintings, and the result is typically a mesh between what his intentions were with what he was feeling in the moment.

“I just see something and I’ll add it,” he said. “I don’t hesitate to put what I think it needs, and I’ll know it’s finished when it just feels good.”

The mural at NOC is a result of a collaboration

between Pickens Museum and NOC. “When Cheryl Evans said they were looking for an artist to paint a mural for the engagement center, I immediately recommended Yatika,” says Hugh Pickens, Executive Director of Pickens Museum adding that Pickens Museum already has ten paintings by Fields in its permanent collection. “Yatika was delighted to have the opportunity to paint a mural that will inspire Native American students at NOC.”

“We are thrilled to partner with Hugh Pickens and the Doctor Pickens Museum,” said NOC president Cheryl Evans. “This mural will complete the fourth phase of the project and will enhance the Cultural Engagement Center. We are grateful for friends such as the

Pickens who continue to support our College.”

Fields is a nationally known painter and muralist. While attending the Art Institute of Boston from 2000 to 2004, he became interested in Graffiti aesthetics, which has been integral to his knowledge and process along with Landscape painting- and continues to influence his large-scale projects and studio works. Fields is from Oklahoma and currently living and working in Tulsa in conjunction with the Tulsa Artist Fellowship. Fields has spent the last decade on the East Coast, New York City and most recently Seattle where the energy of urban life inspires and feeds the creative force in his artwork. He seeks

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Mural

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to influence his viewers to rethink and reshape their relationships to the world around them.

Fields' compositions are often spontaneous and left open for interpretation so that multiple stories can be drawn from them. His kaleidoscopic imagery, with its dynamic pop, symbolism and culture aesthetic, reference both historical and contemporary themes tied together with traditional affinity but provoked by general concerns of world differences.

Fields' canvasses and murals are alive with movement and filled with images that rely on vibrant colors and swirling patterns to build narratives that carry the eye. Born in Tulsa, Fields is of the Cherokee, Creek and Osage tribes, and is a member of the Bear Clan. At a young age, he was initiated into the Osage In-Lon-Schka dance society. There, he learned more than just how to dance.

"When you dance, it's always about movement and rhythm," he said. "This is something that's always been a part of my life. As any Native person knows who dances or participates in ceremonies, they understand that feeling of rhythm and place and movement." That usage of movement and "swiftness" has since carried into his work, allowing it to flow from one end of the canvas to the other.

Fields' interest in mural painting was influenced by the street art he created when he moved to New York in 2000. Either way, Fields did say the graffiti he painted helped him become a better artist overall.

"I had a good time doing it," says Fields. "I got in a lot of trouble doing it, and I realized I don't have the luck to be a good graffiti artist. I'm glad I did it, though. It was a good

experience, knowing how to work quickly on the street and just using spray paint. I understood full body movement and how to paint quickly and be bold. That's something that's also carried into my studio work now."

Fields recently created a multi-hued, large scale mural "Astonishment of Perception" in downtown Bentonville, Arkansas, in collaboration with the world-famous Crystal Bridges Museum. Painted on the side of a law firm building that's been in the community since the 1880s, the ambitious work centers on Lady Justice. But in Yatika's rendition, she peers out from under her iconic blindfold, "seeing not the impartiality but injustices that exist today."

"There's a distinction between art in public and public art," says Jack Becker, founder of Forecast Public Art, a Minnesota-based nonprofit, that has been helping the museums prioritize public art and expand their reach. "I can take a sculpture out of my studio and put it in a public space. It might have nothing to do with its surroundings. That's art in public. Public art is specific to people and place; the context of the site should inform the content of the work. Good public art resonates and has meaning for audiences that know that place, and for those who don't, it can provide an opportunity to learn."

Fields is becoming nationally known for his work. He recently received representation by the Garth Greenam Gallery in New York City and is preparing for a one man show in 2022. "We were very pleased that a nationally known Native American artist will be installing a major work in North Central Oklahoma," says Pickens.



Northern Oklahoma College Regent Jami Groendyke, Enid, was reappointed by Gov. Kevin Stitt to serve a five-year term to the NOC Board of Regents on Tuesday. Groendyke was appointed by Gov. Stitt, the appointment was carried by Sen. Roland Pederson (R) from Burlington. Her appointment passed unanimously in senate committee and now waits full senate approval. If approved by the senate, her term officially begins July 1, 2021 and ends June 30, 2026. Pictured (L-R): Jami Groendyke, Sen. Roland Pederson, Dr. Cheryl Evans.



NOC honors 2020-21 retirees

Northern Oklahoma College honored 13 retirees Friday at the Renfro Center.

Honorees included Tom Ellis, gardener at Tonkawa; Amy Foss, Controller; Jeff Foss, Network Server Administrator; Deborah Garrouette, Director of Project Achieve at Enid; Raydon Leaton, Vice President for NOC Enid, Laura Marshall, Business Instructor at Tonka-

wa; Dr. Cathy Moore, Division Chair and Language Arts Instructor; Fritz Osell, Astronomy Instructor at Enid; Cindy Fox, Admission/Registration Specialist; Dianna Ditmore, Staff Assistant for Division of Nursing; Rick Lowe, Tonkawa Security; and Mary Skidmore, Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Enid.



Dianna Ditmore was honored for her 30 years of service to NOC. Pictured (L-R): Dr. Nikole Hicks, Nursing Division Chair; Dianna Ditmore, Administrative Assistant for Nursing; Dr. Cheryl Evans, NOC President (photo by John Pickard/Northern Oklahoma College)



Renee Lee was honored for her 16 years of service at NOC. Pictured (L-R): Dr. Rick Edgington, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Renee Lee, Retention Specialist; Dr. Cheryl Evans, NOC President. (photo by John Pickard/Northern Oklahoma College)



Rick Lowe was honored for his 12 years of service to NOC. Pictured (L-R): Jason Johnson, Vice President for Student Affairs; Rick Lowe, NOC Security; Dr. Cheryl Evans, NOC President. (photo by John Pickard/Northern Oklahoma College)



Cindy Fox was honored for her 22 years of service to NOC. Pictured (L-R): Dr. Rick Edgington, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Cindy Fox, Registration Specialist; Dr. Cheryl Evans, NOC President (photo by John Pickard/Northern Oklahoma College)



Mary Skidmore was honored for her 13 years of service to NOC. Pictured (L-R): Dr. Ed Vineyard, former Vice President for NOC Enid, Mary Skidmore, Administrative Assistant to the Vice President; Dr. Cheryl Evans, NOC President (photo by John Pickard/Northern Oklahoma College)



Mavs Baseball coach Ryan Bay earned his 600th career coaching win last Sunday in a 10-2 win over NOC Enid. Bay has 246 wins at NOC, he earned 354 wins total at William Woods University, Bacone, and Northwestern Oklahoma State University before coming to NOC in 2015.

Spring sport playoffs start this week

Region 2 Playoffs in Baseball, Soccer, and Softball begin May 13.

Baseball and soccer playoffs are in Enid while the softball playoffs are in Muskogee.

Brackets should be announced Monday, check www.nocmavs.com and www.nocjets.com for tournament announcements and results. Updates are also available on Twitter (@mavs_athletics and @jets_athletics) and Facebook (@NOCMavsAthletics and @NOCJetsAthletics).



Life changing.

NOC presents service awards for 2021

NOC faculty and staff were given service awards Friday at the Renfro Center.

The following is a list of award winners:

30 Years -- Rick Edgington, Shaen McMurtrie

25 Years – DeLisa Ging, Jerry Hawkins

20 Years – Leslie Johns, Carolyn Johnson, Brad Matson, Dean Percy, TL Walker

15 Years – Julie Baggett, Brian Baird, Mike Machia, Sherryl Nelson, Lisa Nordquist, Kathleen Otto, Brenda Pennington, Kathi Shamburg, Suzanne Stergas

10 Years – Mardeena Huschka, Jack Gnossen, Vickie Crouch, Cheryl Evans, Mary Ann Harris, April Heitfeld, Shannon Lorg, Roy McAllis-

ter, Alicia Sharp, Kelly Vinson

5 Years – Denise Bay, Vanessa Ailey, Diane Cannon, Amber Chester, Troy Cochran, Florence Head, James Hooper, Kelley Larkin, Wendy O'Neill, Cecil Phibbs, Kyle Smith, Silvia Vazquez

1 Year – Jennifer Bedwell, Leeanna Bowling,

LaChelle Bryant, Lee Bufford, Alan Foster, Lorenza, Esther Freund, Malinda Hale, Nikole Hicks, Adrian Ibarra, Monique Ingmire, Kelli Jennings, Carolina Lupercio De Vega, Shurlene Milligan, Maria Elena Ochoa Gonzales, Eric Riddle, Jennifer Robbins, Destiny Rosato, Bridget Smith, Mary Sumner, Tori Wilde.



Dr. Rick Edgington, 30 years



Cara Beth Johnson, 20 years



Brad Matson, 20 years



T. L. Walker, 20 years



Dean Percy, 20 years

