

NOC Board of Regents approve President Clark Harris' retirement letter

Following an executive session during the Northern Oklahoma College Board of Regents monthly meeting on Wednesday in Stillwater, the Board unanimously voted to approve the retirement letter of NOC President Clark Harris, effective January 2, 2024.

Until that time, President Harris has been placed on paid administrative leave. Diana Watkins, current Vice President for Academic Affairs, was tentatively named ranking administrator officer effective immediately.

Chair Brad Fox commented, "President Harris has accomplished many good things during his two years at NOC. On behalf of the Board of Regents and the entire NOC community, we wish him well during his retirement."

In other business, the Northern Oklahoma College Board of Regents approved the FY 2023 external audit report, as presented by Kirk Vanderslice with Hinkle & Company at Wednesday's regent meeting in Stillwater.

Vanderslice reported that the audit went very smoothly and there were no findings for current or prior year. He reported a clean, unmodified opinion on the overall audit as well as with internal controls and with compliance. The college's statement of net position as of June 30, 2023 was \$13,312,285 or down 9% from June 30, 2022, primarily due to net pension and OPEB liability as a result of a drop in investments related to the obligations.

The 2023 Annual Safety and Fire Report for Tonkawa and Enid was approved by the Board as presented by Jason Johnson, Vice President for Student Affairs. The Disc Golf Course at NOC Enid proposal was tabled by the Board as recommended by Jeremy Hise, Vice President for NOC Enid.

NOC's financial report, prepared by Vice President for Financial Affairs Anita Simpson was approved as presented for October. Regents approved purchases of \$25,000 including: Floor

Beam Replacement – Easterling Residence Hall West Side Restroom Facilities – Rick Scott Construction \$35,212; Platform Stair Lift – Making A Difference Building – Enid – Access Elevator \$62,250; Wrestling Mats – Tonkawa – Fix Enterprises/Resilite Sports Products, Inc. \$36,544.50; Boiler – Kinzer Performing Arts Center – Federal Corporation \$29,937.40; Boiler – Harold Hall – Federal Corporation \$44,708.46; and Library Databases – Tonkawa, Enid and Stillwater – ProQuest \$27,420.57.

Vice President for NOC Stillwater Dr. Marsh Howard announced that 200 higher education professionals from across the country met for the Department of Education's Raise the Bar: Attaining College Excellence and Equity conference to discuss improving college students' ability to transfer from one college to another. Groundbreaking new data was presented showing the most productive transfer partnerships between community college and bachelors'

degree institutions in the country. Northern Oklahoma College's Gateway Program, which provides a relatively seamless transition for students transferring to Oklahoma State University, was highlighted as Oklahoma's best partnership for promoting transfer students' graduation.

Howard commented, "The outcomes confirm what we've known for some time, NOC's efforts to provide life changing educational experiences is paying off. For two decades, NOC and OSU have worked together to ensure a successful transition and this research establishes that we're delivering. NOC students transferring to OSU have the highest graduation rates of any community college transfer in the state."

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. in Tonkawa on December 13.



Thanksgiving Break Nov. 20-24
No Classes/Offices Closed





Former NOC President Dr. Cheryl Evans was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame Nov. 6. She was inducted by Chancellor Allison Garrett.

Dr. Cheryl Evans inducted into Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame

Former NOC President Dr. Cheryl Evans was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame Nov. 6, at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Evans was one of 12 inductees.

Evans served as president of Northern Oklahoma College from 2011-21, the institution's first female leader. Prior to that, Evans served 17 years at Northwestern State University.

Evans graduated from Cherokee High School in 1980. She earned a bachelor's in mass communications at NWOSU in 1992 as a non-traditional student, graduating at 30. She finished her M.A. in communication at Wichita State University the following year and her doctorate

in higher education at Oklahoma State University in 2000.

She also completed Harvard University's Middle Management Program and Oklahoma's Educator's Leadership Academy. As a faculty member, she was awarded the Lisa John Faculty Fellowship from the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters in 1996, the John Sheffield Teacher of the Year in 2000, Top Graduate Presentation of Dissertation at OSU in 2000, the John Barton Distinguished Teaching and Service Award in 2004, and the "Enid News & Eagle" Reader's Choice – Best College Professor in 2006.

(See **Evans** on Page 3)

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE

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LABYRINTHS IN ART AND LIFE

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through
JAN 26 | 2024

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and during performances

ELEANOR HAYS ART GALLERY
KINZER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, NOC TONKAWA

Evans

(Continued from Page 2)

Evans administrative service was centered on NOC’s mission of providing quality, affordable, and accessible higher education. Under her leadership, NOC was recognized as being in the top 10% of community colleges in the nation four times by the Aspen Institute in Washington, DC. In addition, the college experienced significant growth in the number of degrees earned, implemented a new enterprise resource planning system for data driven decisions, and received a \$1.75 million award for Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions and the creation of the Cultural Engagement Center for students. Evans also supported the extensive improvement of facilities including the new construction of a classroom building in Stillwater and new dorms in Tonkawa and Enid.

The NOC Foundation experienced significant growth during Evans’ decade of leadership; net assets grew from \$5.5 million to over \$12 million today. She helped establish the Presidential Partners Program through the NOC Foundation, which provides much-needed enhancements for students and employees. Evans also led her team in major projects and encouraged private and public partnerships, such as Enel Wind Energy and Autry Technology Respiratory Care programs that helped students enter the work force directly, as well as maintaining strong relationships with NWOSU through the Bridge Program and with OSU through the NOC/OSU Gateway Program’s Finish Orange campaign.

NOC November Birthdays



John Kuhlmann	Nov. 20	Summer McClure	Nov. 24
Shannon Lorg	Nov. 20	Dee Cooper	Nov. 25
Elva Lora	Nov. 22	Silvia Rodriguez	Nov. 29
Peggy Emde	Nov. 23		

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Making A Difference Ribbon Cutting at NOC Enid last Tuesday. The non-profit organization is utilizing space at the NOC Enid campus for counseling services for the Enid community.

NOC, Making A Difference open new facility at Enid campus

Northern Oklahoma College's Partnership with Enid's "Making a Difference" came to fruition with a ribbon cutting Tuesday on the NOC Enid campus.

Making A Difference, Inc., a 501(c)3 not-for-profit agency founded in 2008, provides counseling services to children and adults, a youth program, and Feed the Neighborhood - an annual community event that provides school supplies and other resources to help families prepare for the school year.

The Enid non-profit is utilizing an unused building on the northwest side of the NOC Enid Campus. Facility renovation was provided by \$500,000 in grant funding received through applications by NOC and Making a Difference.

"Today marks a significant milestone - a day of celebration for Making a Difference, Northern Oklahoma College, the City of Enid, and our entire community," said Jeremy Hise, Vice President for NOC Enid. "The excitement you feel in the air here this evening - it speaks volumes about the collective journey we've under-

taken to make a lasting impact."

"Today we stand before what could possibly be one of the nicest buildings on our campus, housing great people and incredible services," Hise said. "What's truly exciting about this entire project is the untapped potential and how this partnership can flourish and evolve."

"The transition into this new space, navigating renovations, adhering to purchasing guidelines, and aligning various organizational policies, hasn't been without its complexities," Hise added. "Yet, we march forward together, united in our determination."

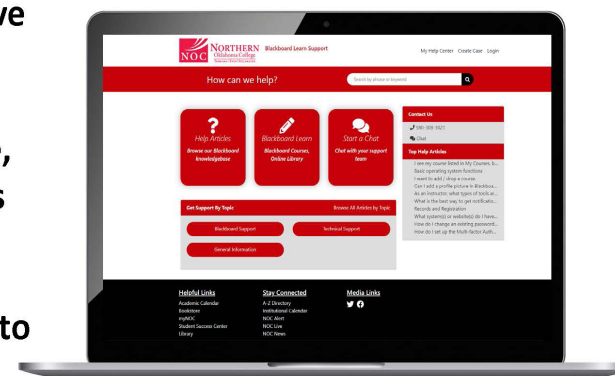
"I extend a warm welcome to the Making a Difference team, now part of the Northern Oklahoma College Family," he said. "Your presence enriches our campus, and we're proud to have you aboard. I want to publicly thank you for your recent support during a challenging time for our campus. Your support hasn't gone unnoticed; it is a testament to our shared commitment to each other."



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Visit NOC's new self-help portal site!

Blackboard Learn Support offers live and self-service options.

- Find the help you need anytime, anywhere with support services available 24 x 365
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Math Instructors at NOC, OU, and NWOSU attended a Math instructor workshop at NOC Tonkawa on Friday. Front Row (L-R): Keenan Meeker, Wendy O'Neill, Martin Carlson, Cassie Firth, Dee Cooper, Courtney Miller, Karri Morrill. Back Row (L-R): Tim Mahary, Stephani Spurlock, Cecil Phibbs, Lynn DeMuth, Kathi Shamburg, Christi Hook. (photo by Shiloh Martin/Northern Oklahoma College).

NOC hosts Math instructor workshop

NOC Tonkawa hosted a Math Inquiry Project (MIP) workshop Friday at the Cultural Engagement Center inside the Pickens Learning Common.

The project is an Oklahoma State University grant through the National Science Foundation. MIP is a statewide collaboration among mathematics faculty in Oklahoma to improve entry-level undergraduate mathematics instruction through three guiding principles: active learning, meaningful applications, and academic success skills.

Attending from NOC were Wendy O'Neill, Cassie Firth, Dee Cooper, Courtney Miller, Karri Morrill, Stephani Spurlock, Cecil Phibbs, Lynn DeMuth, Kathy Shamburg, and Christi Hook. Other colleges represented were NWOSU and OU.



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FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid
2024-2025

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NEED HELP PAYING FOR COLLEGE? APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID.

FAFSA APPLICATION OPENS IN DECEMBER

1 Gather Materials
Social Security Card, Driver's License, W2 Forms, and Last Year's Income Information for You and Your Parents.

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3 Complete FAFSA
studentaid.gov
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Enid 580.548.2261
Stillwater 580.628.6500
Email: Financial.aid@noc.edu

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www.noc.edu/current-students/financial-aid

Aaron Baker named NOC Enid Rotary Student of the Month for November

The NOC Enid Rotary Student of the Month for November is Aaron Baker.

Baker is a sophomore Health, Physical Education, and Recreation major from Ringwood, Oklahoma.

Why you chose NOC? It felt like home and it allowed me to continue by baseball career.

What are your career goals? Graduate with a master's degree in Business/Finance and go into the banking industry.

What are the challenges of being a college student? Stay committed to your goals and dreams even in tough times.

What has being a college student taught you about life? Be responsible, committed, and hard- working and you'll go a long way in life.

What advice would you give high school students when choosing a college or university?

Go to a place where you feel you will be the most successful.

What do you do in your spare time? Hunt, fish, and play with dogs.



Aaron Baker

OU, OSU Gateway Partnership praised at national meeting

Northern Oklahoma College's Gateway Program, which provides a relatively seamless transition for students transferring to Oklahoma State University, was highlighted as a Oklahoma's best partnership for promoting transfer students' graduation.

As part of its "Raise the Bar: Attaining College Excellence and Equity initiative," the U.S. Department of Education hosted a summit at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) in Annadale, Virginia with 200 higher education leaders on making it easier for students to transfer from one college to another, in turn helping them save time and money.

The Department is also releasing groundbreaking new data showing which two- and four-year institutions are best promoting transfer students' success and highlighting the most productive transfer partnerships between community college and bachelors' degree institutions in the country.

NOC to OSU transfers, called a dyad in the report, that result in students graduating with a bachelor's degree within eight years, are the highest dyad transfers in the state of Oklahoma.

Of the approximately 527 NOC students in

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NOC

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the study that transferred to Oklahoma State University, 39 (7%) graduated with a bachelor's degree within 8 years.

While a 7% graduation rate may seem low, the average rate for the top five dyads in the nation was 4.5% and, when adjusting for outliers, the national transfer-graduation average for top-dyads was 6.98%.

In either case, NOC to OSU transfers that result in a bachelor's degree are the highest in Oklahoma and above the national average for top-dyad transfers.

The difficulty students face in transferring between colleges is one of the most significant obstacles to helping many more students earn college degrees. While nearly 40% of students transfer at some point along their postsecondary journeys, they lose more than 40% of their

credits on average when they move between schools. This costs students time, money, and too often the credentials they seek to earn.

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "Our current higher education system stacks the deck against community college students who aspire to earn four-year degrees—denying acceptance of their credits, forcing them to re-take courses, and ultimately making their educational journeys longer and costlier than they need to be.

Raise the Bar seeks to uplift colleges committed to inclusivity, equity, and excellence, rather than arbitrary rankings, high costs, and privilege. Raise the Bar encourages state and institutional leaders to ensure students of all backgrounds can earn a college degree or certificate and go on to a better life.

NOC Enid Day of Kindness



PRESENTED BY THE NOC SOCIAL COMMITTEE

**HOT DRINK
SOCIAL**

NOV 28TH
1:30 PM - 3 PM
COME & GO

CIDER ♦ HOT COCOA ♦ COFFEE

.....

HALLIE GANTZ UNION ROOM 100

NOC Enid Day of Kindness



NOC Calendar

Nov. 17

Away Lady Jets Basketball vs. Kansas Wesleyan JV, 2 p.m.
Residence Halls Close, 3 p.m.

Nov. 18

Away Lady Mavs Basketball vs. Butler (KS), 2 p.m.
Away Jets Basketball vs. Butler (KS), 4 p.m.

Nov. 21

Away Lady Mavs Basketball vs. Hutchinson (KS), 5:30 p.m.

Nov. 26

Residence Halls Open, noon

Nov. 27

Away Jets Basketball vs. MACU JV, 6:30 p.m.
Karaoke, Student Union, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa

Nov. 28

Free Lunch, BCM, 11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa
Runner Girls, THS Football Field, 3:30 p.m., Tonkawa
Home Lady Jets Basketball vs. Crowder (MO), 5:30 p.m.
Away Mavs Basketball vs. Indian Hills (IA), 7 p.m.

Nov. 29

Free Lunch, Wesley House, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tonkawa
Free BCM Lunch, Gantz Center, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Enid
The Gathering, BCM, 7 p.m., Enid
The Gathering, BCM, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa

Nov. 30

Home Lady Mavs Basketball vs. Tabor (JV), 5:30 p.m.
Away Jets Basketball vs. Kansas City Community College, 7 p.m.
Home Mavs Basketball vs. Nationwide Prep, 7:30 p.m.

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