

Students attend Higher Ed Day at Capitol

Students and personnel from Oklahoma's state system institutions gathered at the state Capitol today to demonstrate the value and importance of higher education in the state.

Speakers included Governor Kevin Stitt, Speaker Charles McCall, Sen. Adam Pugh, Rep. Mark McBride, State Regents chair Jack Sherry, and Chancellor Allison D. Garrett.

"Students, faculty and staff from Oklahoma's public colleges and universities came together today at our State Capitol to highlight the value of a college degree," said Garrett. "Over half of the top 100 occupations identified as critical for our state require an associate degree or high-

er, including the top 29 highest paying jobs. Investing in higher education drives economic opportunity for individual Oklahomans and strengthens the workforce pipeline for our vibrant business community."

Three students also spoke at the event. Blake Janssen, Redlands Community College; Asa Robbins, Northeastern State University; and Dante Specht, Oklahoma City Community College, shared how pursuing higher education at Oklahoma's public college and universities has positively impacted their lives.

(See **Higher Ed Day** on Page 2)

Tonkawa Homecoming Thursday

NOC Tonkawa is hosting Homecoming on Thursday, Feb. 15 as the Mavs and Lady Mavs host Seminole at 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.

Queen Candidates include Keely Hussey (Women's Basketball), Jaci Johnson (FCA), Lacy Rapp (Business Club), Haley Spaeth (BCM)

King Candidates are Tyler Day (BCM), Edgar Dominguez (Roustabouts), Brian Fredricks (Business Club), Josiah Melton (Athletic Training)

The following are the list of Homecoming

Week activities:

Monday – 360 Photo Booth, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Tuesday – Roustabout Show, KPAC, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday – Games/Mechanical Bull, East Gym, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Thursday -- Homecoming Games vs. Seminole, 5:30 p.m./7 p.m., Coronation at Halftime of the Men's Game. Food/Games in the East Gym after the game.

Homecoming Voting is Tuesday and Wednesday at the Student Affairs Office.



College students from across the state attended Higher Ed Day at the State Capitol on Thursday.

*Roustabout Homecoming Show
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at the KPAC*

Higher Ed Day

(Continued from Page 1)

During the program, the following recipients of the Distinguished Service Award for Higher Education were recognized for their steadfast leadership and support of public higher education in the 2023 legislative session: Sen. Chuck Hall, Sen. Brent Howard, former Sen. John Michael Montgomery, Sen. Adam Pugh, Sen. Dave Rader, Sen. Ally Seifried, Sen. Roger Thompson, Rep. Steve Bashore, Rep. Kylie Hilbert, former Rep. Ryan Martinez, Rep. Anthony Moore, Rep. Cyndi Munson, Rep. Kevin Wallace, Mike Jackson, former Director, Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency

“These legislative leaders are dedicated to advancing Oklahoma’s higher education system and the students we serve,” said State Regents Chair Jack Sherry. “We value our collaborative relationships with legislators and deeply appreciate their investment in our shared goal to meet current and future workforce needs and help individual Oklahomans achieve their dreams.”

The State Regents are requesting \$9.5 million for FY25 to fund the Inspired to Teach program and expand concurrent enrollment. Public higher education’s budget request also includes strategic investments that align with Oklahoma’s projected workforce demand in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and healthcare and focus on increasing adult degree completion. The State Regents seek \$41.5 million for critical workforce development initiatives, including funds to increase enrollment and graduation in STEM disciplines, expand nursing education program and medical residency capacity to address the state’s shortage of nurses and doctors, and provide ad-

ditional scholarships for adult students nearing completion of a college degree or pursuing an industry-recognized micro-credential or certificate.

The State Regents also seek \$71.4 million in FY25 to fund performance-based institutional allocations to meet operational needs, address rising risk management costs, strengthen college access and academic success services for students, and fund strategic collaborations and shared services to drive long-term efficiencies across the state system. The budget request includes one-time capital funding for deferred maintenance and system and structure upgrades to enhance campus safety and cybersecurity.

Another priority for the State Regents in the current legislative session is refining Oklahoma’s Promise to reduce administrative barriers to scholarship access and participation. Strategies may include streamlining high school course requirements and developing an appeal process to assist students facing unique circumstances to ensure no qualified student is excluded.

Recognized by the Southern Regional Education Board as one of the top promise scholarship programs in the nation, Oklahoma’s Promise is considered a national model that combines emphases on academic preparation and financial support for college. More than 105,000 students have earned college tuition scholarships through Oklahoma’s Promise since the program’s inception. For more information about Oklahoma’s Promise or to apply online, visit www.okpromise.org.



Life changing.

NOC provides free income tax preparation service

Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa is providing free basic income tax return preparation for students, NOC employees, and area residents every Thursday starting Feb. 8 at NOC Tonkawa.

Singles or families making less than \$64,000 per year qualify for the free service.

Trained tax preparers from the NOC Business Division and area volunteers will be available for tax assistance each Thursday beginning Thursday, Feb. 8. Taxpayers also have an option to prepare their own basic federal and state tax return using the free e-filing software.

Cara Beth Johnson, Business division chair said, “This is a great opportunity for our students to provide a community service and gain tax preparation experience.”

The Cultural Engagement Center (CEC) is hosting the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program every Thursday through April

11. The CEC will be closed March 18-22 for spring break and for inclement weather. The CEC is located in the Vineyard Administration/Library building.

Interested parties need to bring a photo ID for all filers; Social Security cards and birthdates for taxpayer, spouse, and dependents; W-2 forms; 1099 forms; receipts for childcare costs, education expenses, and other deductions; checking account and routing number for refund; and 1095-A, -B, or -C healthcare coverage or exemption.

Tax preparation is done by appointment only. Please contact Cara Beth Johnson at 580.628.6340 or carolyn.johnson@noc.edu. Tax preparers are available from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. No drop off's will be accepted, individuals must be present during tax preparation.

Northern Oklahoma College and the IRS are sponsoring the program.

NOC February Birthdays



Jessica Beebe	Feb. 9	Audra Biggs	Feb. 23
Brenda Pennington	Feb. 12	Jimmy Dickinson	Feb. 24
Lauren Kennedy	Feb. 14	Jeremy Hise	Feb. 24
Lynn DeMuth	Feb. 16	Tony Barnes	Feb. 25
Cooper Battisti	Feb. 20	Leondra Wilson	Feb. 25
Bradley Klump	Feb. 20	Jonie Johnson	Feb. 28

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

FREE TAX PREPARATION

Call 580.628.6340
or email
carolyn.johnson@noc.edu
to schedule
an appointment.

February 8-April 11, 2024

**closed March 18-22 and for inclement weather*

THURSDAYS 5-8 PM

by appointment only

FREE E-FILING

for Students, NOC Employees

and the Public

FEATURING

Certified tax preparers provided by

Northern Oklahoma College

Business Division

Income limit of \$64,000

Cultural Engagement Center

*Vineyard
Library-Administration Building
NOC Tonkawa*

PLEASE BRING

- Photo ID for both spouses
- Social Security cards and birthdates for taxpayer, spouse and dependents
- W-2 forms
- 1099 forms
- Receipts for childcare costs, education expenses and other deductions
- Checking account and routing number for refund
- 1095-A or healthcare coverage or exemption

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IRS

Jets Softball starts Friday in Texas

The NOC Enid Jets Softball team opens the season Friday at a tournament in Denison, Texas.

NOC Enid will play four games in two days for new head coach Steven Kissel.

“We have the talent to have a good season,” Kissel said. “They have bought in to what I have asked them to, great team chemistry and they work hard.”

Kissel discussed what he sees as the strengths of the Jets team.

“The main strength is our returners who have taken ownership of this program and what we want to do,” he said. “We have several positions that are exceptional.”

Kissel’s biggest concern is a lack of depth.

“We have to avoid injury,” he said.

Region 2 is always challenging and Kissel sees a lot of parity in the league.

“I know the region is strong as it is every year of course everyone refers to Seminole as the team to beat but I think every team has an opportunity to win every day,” he said.

The everyday line-up will be Taryn Rhodes (C), Adie White and Jaidyn Burrell (1B), Tylie Ligon (2B), Yaya Pellett (3B), Sidney Redmon (SS), and Sierra Woods, Megan Fulz, and Emily Gregory (OF) with Jenna Thomas pushing for time.

On the mound, the Jets have five starters including Aly Nash, the leader of the staff according to Kissel.

Lakelynn Thompson, Aubrey Williams, Karis Stewart, and Audra Williams complete the Jets’ staff.

“They are all very good pitchers and we will rely on all of them to step up and take charge of the circle when called on,” he said.

Enid hosts Northern Encounter

Northern Oklahoma College Enid is hosting a Northern Encounter recruiting event on Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. inside Montgomery Hall on the NOC Enid Campus.

There will be door prizes, free SWAG, campus tour, meetings with faculty/staff, and a drawing for tuition waivers.

According to Vice President for Enid Jeremy Hise, this event will be student-centered with prospective students hearing from NOC Enid students as well as faculty, staff, and administrators.

Prospective students will rotate among a number of locations on the Enid campus includ-

ing the Mabee Center, Bivins Chapel, Mackie Planetarium, Nursing Skills Lab, and the Gantz Center.

They will learn about academic options, scholarships, financial aid, student employment, extra-curricular activities, tutoring, and residential housing.

Registration is from 8:45 a.m. – 9 a.m. with the event ending at 11 a.m. Students can register for Northern Encounter at <https://www.noc.edu/students/future-students/>.

Anyone interested in more information can contact NOC’s Enrollment and Recruitment Office at 580.548.2275. The NOC Enid campus is located at 100 S. University.



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ART IS EVERYWHERE

Artwork from Bartlesville Art Association

Cheryl Bryan
Fred Cook
Joey Frisillo
Steven Graham
Amy Jenkins
Jon Lindblom
Carolyn Mock
Janet Odden
Anne Spoon
Cris Sundquist

FEB 06th
MAR 30th

Viewing Hours: 1-5 pm, Monday - Friday, and during performances

Eleanor Hays Art Gallery

Kinzer Performing Arts Center, NOC Tonkawa

Poster Art: Orange Prairie Clouds, Joey Frisillo

Mavs Softball opens Monday

The NOC Mavs Softball Team opens the season Tuesday, Feb. 12, on the road at Southern Nazarene JV.

Under coach Tori Green, the Mavs will be a young team.

“Our team is going to be young and have a lot of new faces on the field,” Green said. “Our returning sophomores have provided great leadership and direction to be successful. I think we will find success this season in doing the small things correctly and utilizing our strengths to our advantage. I look forward to seeing these girls compete at a high level and grow this year.”

Green said she likes the athleticism of this year’s squad.

“Our biggest strength this year will be utilizing our speed to take bases,” he said. “I think our outfield play will help set us apart in big moments.”

The biggest hurdle of the Mavs is their youth and the injury bug.

“We are young in the circle and lost quite a few girls to injury,” she said.

Seminole is always a favorite in Region 2 but Green has some other teams she likes.

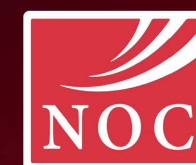
“Region play will be tough,” she said. “Seminole is strong as usual, but Eastern is returning a strong line up and Rose is always a tough competitor.”

The everyday lineup includes Payton St. Andrews (C), Hannah Endicott (1B), Mikayla Arnold (2B), Elyssa Kaniatobe (SS), Allison McGowan (3B) with Abby Farris and Kerik Brown seeing action on the corners. The outfield will consist of Fayth Hoover, Ryllie Shipp, and Maggie Glasgow with Jaci Johnson seeing time in the outfield and as the Mavs main pinch runner.

In the circle, Jordan Johnson and Ashlyne Roblyer will start with Shiloh Roberson and Morgan Robison working in relief.



NOC Enid welcomed Leadership Enid to campus last week providing a tour of the campus.



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Provided through a partnership with an AT&T Grant, Enid Transportation & Northern Oklahoma College.



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NOC Calendar

Feb. 10

Away Jets Softball vs. Vernon (TX) at Denison (TX), 10 a.m.
 Away Mavs Baseball vs. Hesston (KS), noon/2 p.m.
 Away Jets Softball vs. Iowa Lakes at Denison (TX), 12:15 p.m.
 Home Jets Baseball vs. Northeast Nebraska, 1 p.m./3 p.m.

Feb. 12

Away Mavs Baseball vs. Southwestern (KS), 1 p.m.
 Away Mavs Softball vs. Southern Nazarene JV, 1 p.m./3 p.m.
 360 Photo Booth, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m., Tonkawa
 Home Jets and Lady Jets Basketball vs. Eastern, 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.
 Away Mavs and Lady Mavs Basketball vs. Western, 5:30p.m./7:30 p.m.

Feb. 13

Free BCM Lunch, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., Tonkawa
 Roustabout Homecoming Show, KPAC, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 14

Northern Encounter, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Enid
 Free Lunch, Wesley House, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa
 Free BCM Lunch, Gantz Center, 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., Enid
 Home Mavs Softball vs. Neosho (KS), 1 p.m./3 p.m.
 Games/Mechanical Bull, East Gym, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Tonkawa
 The Gathering, BCM, 7 p.m., Enid
 The Gathering, BCM, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa

Feb. 15

VITA Tax Preparation, CEC, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m., Tonkawa
 Homecoming Mavs and Lady Mavs Basketball vs. Seminole, 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.
 Away Mavs and Lady Mavs Basketball vs. Western, 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.
 Food/Games, East Gym, After Homecoming Games, 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 16

Home Jets Softball vs. Cloud (KS), 1 p.m./3 p.m.
 Home Mavs Softball vs. Barton (KS), 1 p.m./3 p.m.
 Home Jets Baseball vs. East Central (LA), 4 p.m.

Feb. 17

Home Jets Softball vs. Barton (KS), 1 p.m./3 p.m.
 Home Mavs Softball vs. Cloud (KS), 1 p.m./3 p.m.
 Home Jets Baseball vs. East Central (LA), 1 p.m./3 p.m.

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

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

6:00 p.m. Tuesday evening, February 27, 2024

1010 East Grand, Tonkawa, OK

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2:00-4:00 PM



FOUR BEDROOMS, two full bathrooms, full carpet, ceramic tile kitchen, CHA, Whirlpool dishwasher, Hot Point range, 7 ceiling fans, 1,668 sq. ft., replacement windows, garage w/Genie opener, fenced, built in 1920, next to Northern Oklahoma College.

LEGAL: Tonkawa-University addition block 4 lots 14 & 15 2 lots.

TAXES 2023: \$523.00 **TERMS:** \$2,000 down with balance at closing.

TERMS: Property sells as is with no guarantees or warranty. Descriptions are accurate to best of knowledge. Announcements made day of sale will supersede all other advertising. Seller or Auction Co. not responsible for accidents.

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