

# Commencement exercises on Saturday

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor Dr. Allison Garrett will address candidates for graduation at Northern Oklahoma College 2024 commencement exercises Saturday, May 4.

NOC Tonkawa candidates will march into Foster-Piper Fieldhouse on the Tonkawa campus at 9:30 a.m. on May 4.

That same day NOC Enid and Stillwater candidates will enter Briggs Auditorium on the Enid campus at 2:30 p.m.

Pinning ceremonies for graduates from the NOC nursing program will take place at 7 p.m. on May 3 in the Kinzer Performing Arts Center in Tonkawa. This is a change from past years when the pinning ceremony was in Enid on graduation day.

"We are really excited to celebrate the academic achievements of these students," said interim president Diana Watkins. "We hope that holding the pinning ceremonies on Friday evening will open up more time for our nursing graduates to celebrate with their families after they cross the stage and receive their diplomas on Saturday."

Chancellor Allison D. Garrett is the chief executive officer for the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. Garrett leads a state system comprised of 25 state colleges and universities,

11 constituent agencies, one university center, and independent colleges and universities coordinated with the state system.

Garrett provides leadership on matters relating to standards for Oklahoma higher education, courses and programs of study, budget allocations for institutions, fees and tuition, and strategic planning. She is responsible for an annual higher education budget in excess of \$2.8 billion as well as the state endowment fund, with a market value over \$931.5 million. Garrett directs 20 statewide scholarship programs including the Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship program and statewide GEAR UP efforts.

Prior to her role as Chancellor, she served in senior leadership roles at universities in three



Dr. Allison Garrett

states, including as president, executive vice president and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Garrett also worked for more than a decade at the Walmart Inc. corporate offices, holding the positions of vice president and general counsel for the corporate division and vice president of benefits compliance and planning.

A native of Neosho, Missouri, Garrett holds

a bachelor's degree in English from Oklahoma Christian University, a juris doctorate from The University of Tulsa College of Law and a Master of Laws in securities regulation from Georgetown University.

Garrett and her husband live in Edmond, Oklahoma. They have three adult children and two grandchildren.

## Board sets timetable for new president, approves two MOU's

The Northern Oklahoma College Board of Regents selected three candidates for the NOC president's position at the April board meeting held in Tonkawa on Wednesday.

The finalists (in alphabetical order) are Dr. Trevor C. Lane, State Specialist and Associate Professor at Washington State University; Ms. Diana Watkins, Interim President and Chief Academic Officer at Northern Oklahoma College; and Dr. Patrick Wilson, Executive Director of Online & Extended Learning at New Mexico Highlands University.

Interviews will be held in an executive session at a special regent's meeting May 15 and then regents plan to announce a president at the May 22 regular regent's meeting in Enid.

In other business, the regents approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Grand Mental Health, Inc. that will provide mental health services at the Tonkawa campus.

According to Vice President for Student Affairs Jason Johnson, the MOU provides an on-

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# Regents

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site Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist (CPRSS) two to three times a week to provide mental health and/or substance use screening services to students. After screening, a Licensed Mental Health Professional or a Mental Health Professional Under Supervision for Licensure shall provide individual therapy services to NOC Tonkawa students participating in this program.

The regents also approved an MOU with Central Tech Truck Driving Training that will provide housing for truck driver training students at the NOC Enid campus in Elliot-Goulter Residence Hall. Those staying would be subject NOC student housing policies. The MOU approval is pending, subject to the attorney general’s office approval.

The regents approved the monthly financial reports presented by Vice President for Financial Affairs Anita Simpson. They approved monthly purchases of \$25,000 or more including the purchase of four 15-passenger vans from Ste-

vens Ford in Enid at a cost of \$232,560.00. Also, repairs to the NOC Enid Marshall Building Tower were approved at a cost of \$246,350.00. Crossfire Construction, LLC of Stillwater had the winning bid for the project.

Governing board members also approved a list of vehicles and equipment for sale as surplus property. Simpson said the items would be sold by on-line auction. Also, a college house located at 206 S. Franz in Tonkawa would be sold with the buyer moving the home from the NOC property.

The regents also discussed the president’s home at the Enid campus. More research will be done considering whether to sell of demolish the home. It has not been used in the previous 20 years. The item was tabled until the May meeting.

The next regularly scheduled regent meeting is at NOC Enid on May 22 at 2 p.m. in the James Room.

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## Softball, baseball playoffs next week

The NOC Softball and Baseball Teams start the 2024 NJCAA Playoffs next week. Softball starts Wednesday, May 8 in Piedmont and baseball starts May 9 at David Allen Memorial Ballpark in Enid.

The NOC Enid Jets Softball finished the regular season with a 16-34 record overall and 6-18 in conference play.

NOC Tonkawa finished the reguhaar season with a 13-33 record, 3-21 in conference play.

Jets and Mavs baseball finish the regular season after the three game bedlam series that starts Friday afternoon in Tonkawa. The final game is set for Enid on Sunday.

Heading into the final weekend series, the Jets have a record of 33-19, 17-10 in conference while the Mavs are 35-17, 16-11 in league play.

More information about Mavs athletics is available at [www.nocmavs.com](http://www.nocmavs.com)

More information about Jets athletics is available at [www.nocjets.com](http://www.nocjets.com)

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Spring 2024 Final Exam Schedule—Tonkawa, Enid and Stillwater Campuses

| Monday, May 6                                                                                  | Tuesday, May 7                                                  | Wednesday, May 8                                                                         | Thursday, May 9                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| If Course is<br>MWF 8:30am<br>WF 8:00am<br>MWF 8:10am<br>MW 8:30<br>EXAM is<br>8:00 am—9:50 am | If Course is<br>TR 9:00 am<br><br>EXAM is<br>8:00 am—9:50 am    | If Course is<br>MWF 9:30 am<br>M 9:00 am<br>MW 9:00 am<br><br>EXAM is<br>8:00 am—9:50 am | If Course is<br>TR 7:30 am<br>T 8:00am<br>R 8:00am<br><br>EXAM is<br>8:00 am-9:50 am |
| If Course is<br>MWF 11:30 am<br>MW 11:30 am<br><br>EXAM is<br>10:00 am—11:50 am                | If Course is<br>TR 12:00 pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>10:00 am—11:50 am | If Course is<br>MW or MWF 12:30 pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>10:00 am—11:50 am                   | If Course is<br>TR 10:30 am<br><br>EXAM is<br>10:00 am—11:50 am                      |
| If Course is<br>MW 1:30 pm<br>MWF 1:30pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>12:00 pm—1:50 pm                    | OPEN                                                            | If Course is<br>MWF 10:30 am<br>MW 10:30 am<br><br>EXAM is<br>12:00 pm—1:50 pm           | OPEN                                                                                 |
| If Course is<br>MWF 2:30 pm<br>MW 3:00 pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>2:00 pm—3:50 pm                    | If Course is<br>TR 3:00 pm<br>EXAM is<br>2:00 pm —3:50 pm       | If Course is<br>M 3:30pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>2:00 pm-3:50 pm                               | If Course is<br>TR 1:30 pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>2:00 pm-3:50 pm                         |
| If Course is<br>M 4:30pm<br>MW 4:00pm<br>EXAM is<br>5:00 pm -6:50 pm                           | If Course is<br>TR 5:30pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>5:00 pm-6:50 pm     | If Course is<br>MW 5:30pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>5:00 pm-6:50 pm                              | If Course is<br>TR 4:00pm<br>TR 4:30 pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>5:00 pm-6:50 pm            |
| If Course is<br>M 6:00 pm<br>M 6:30 pm<br>M 7:00pm<br>EXAM is<br>7:00 pm-8:50 pm               | If Course is<br>T 7:00pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>7:00 pm-8:50 pm      | If Course is<br>W 7:00pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>7:00 pm-8:50 pm                               | If Course is<br>R 7:00pm<br><br>EXAM is<br>7:00 pm-8:50 pm                           |



# Daisy Award finalists named

Northern Oklahoma College Nursing faculty members will be honored with The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nursing Faculty at the NOC 2024 Nurses' Pinning Ceremony Friday, May 3 at the Kinzer Performing Arts Center in NOC Tonkawa at 7 p.m.

The four finalists are Elaine Briggs, Marie Head, Kathy Phillips, and Dr. Yuracy Salazar-Lee.

### Elaine Briggs

After graduating high school in 1979, Briggs attended Central Vo-Tech in Sapulpa in a medical assistant program where she decided she wanted to be a nurse. She completed Oklahoma Baptist University's nursing program and started her nursing career at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa where she worked in orthopedics and cardiac care. She then worked in Home Health Care before moving to Oklahoma City

where she worked at University Hospital in newborn and special care nursery.

Briggs then moved to Blackwell where her husband started a medical practice. She took time off from nursing to raise her children and then started at NOC as an adjunct instructor, joining NOC as a full-time faculty member in January 2016.



Elaine Briggs

(See Award on Page 4)

## NOC May Birthdays



|                   |        |               |        |
|-------------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Bryan Kenney      | May 1  | Matthew Gray  | May 17 |
| Jashawn Talton    | May 1  | Ian Layne     | May 17 |
| Aron Bassoff      | May 9  | Linn Loughery | May 21 |
| Brad Gordon       | May 9  | Brodie Salyer | May 21 |
| Christopher Storm | May 10 | T.L. Walker   | May 21 |
| Mark Tarrant      | May 10 | Kathy Hannah  | May 24 |
| Ty Shreck         | May 11 | Janet Jarvis  | May 26 |



**Viva La Raza!**  
**Hispanic Student Club**  
Invites you in celebration of  
Cinco de Mayo to



**MAY 3, 2024 | 6-9 PM | DOWNTOWN ENID**

**Food Trucks • Dancers • Live Music • DJ • and more!**  
*Look for Our Booth!*

**PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN:**

**5TH PLACE**



**Mexican  
Candy  
Basket**

**4TH PLACE**



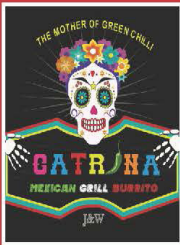
**\$30 Gift Card**  
Heydy's Place Mexican Restaurant

**3RD PLACE**

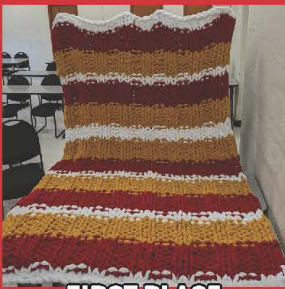


**\$40 Gift Card**  
El Carnitas Mexican Cafe

**2ND PLACE**



**\$50 Gift Card**  
Catrina's Mexican Grill



**FIRST PLACE**  
**HANDMADE BLANKET**

**TO PURCHASE \$5 RAFFLE TICKETS, CONTACT**

Dr. Mary Ann McCoy: 580.548.2394 | maryann.mccoy@noc.edu  
Raychel Harves: 405.641.0066 | raychel.harves@noc.edu



**Life changing.**



# Award

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**Marie Head**

Head completed her initial nursing degree at NOC in 2007 and continued her education earning a BSN at Kaplan University in 2014, her MSN at Purdue University in 2017 and her DNP at Oklahoma City University in 2020.

She joined the nursing faculty in 2016 and teaches primarily in the skills and simulation practice lab settings. She has been married for 19 years and has four children and nine grandchildren, seven of whom are boys and two are girls all ranging in age from 1-22 years old.

**Kathy Phillips**

Phillips graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science, University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and then the University of Oklahoma with a Masters in Nursing Education.

“I worked in the legal field until I decided to make a change into nursing,” Phillips said. “I started nursing career at SMC on the medical-surgical unit as staff RN and eventually transferred to ICU as staff RN. I accepted position of critical care educator and decided



Marie Head



Kathy Phillips

to obtain a Master’s Degree. Once I obtained graduate degree, I accepted position to teach at NOC to educate the next generation of nurses.”

**Dr. Yuracy Salazar-Lee**

Dr. Salazar-Lee has been a nurse for over 10 years. She earned her Associates of Arts from Southwest Texas Junior College in 2009, a Bachelor of Arts in Biology with Minors in Chemistry and Spanish from Texas A&M-Kingsville in 2011, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2013 (Cum Laude), a Master of Science in Nursing in 2018 from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where she graduated with a 3.9 GPA, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2023 from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, where she graduated with a 4.0 GPA.



Dr. Salazar-Lee

Dr. Salazar-Lee joined NOC in August of 2023 and is the Enid Lab Coordinator. Prior to joining our team, Dr. Salazar-Lee was a Nursing Education Specialist at Mayo Clinic Florida. Dr. Salazar-Lee’s nursing experiences include pediatric/adult ER/Trauma, endoscopy, academia in nursing/nursing education, and pediatric neurology.

The award is part of The DAISY Foundation’s mission to express gratitude to nurses with programs that recognize them for the extraordinary, compassionate and skillful care they provide patients and families.

DAISY Award recognitions honor the super-human work nurses do for patients and

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE, TONKAWA  
*Kinzer Performing Arts Center*



**ELEANOR HAYS ART GALLERY**  
Viewing Hours:  
1-5 pm | Monday-Friday  
and During Performances

**2024**  
STUDENT ART EXHIBITION  
**IN BLOOM**

**APR 16 - MAY 7**

**Artist's Reception**  
Sunday, April 21  
2:00-3:00 pm

**MaeElla Seaboy-Cliff**  
**Brooklyn Loney**  
**Myra J. Mehojah**





# Sofia Hernandez selected for Nigh Leadership Academy

Northern Oklahoma College Stillwater student Sofia Hernandez recently attended the George and Donna Nigh Leadership Academy at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Hernandez is a freshman President Leadership Council student from Perkins.

PLC Sponsor Tammy Davis sees Hernandez's leadership abilities at NOC Stillwater.

"Sofia is an energetic, thoughtful leader," Davis said. "She eagerly embraces leadership opportunities on our campus."

Hernandez had rave reviews from the conference.

"This conference gave me the opportunity to meet many new friends (we still keep in touch) and to see what leadership looks like in my state government," she said. "We attended many leadership discussions with our trip sponsor and Mr. Nigh's protégés that were very insightful."

"The conference was really a pleasure to attend," Hernandez said. "We went to the capital to watch a legislative session, the First Americans museum, Ed Funk's Ranch, the Oklahoma City Memorial, attended an Oklahoma City Rotary club meeting, volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, and attended an Oklahoma City Thunder game."

"I enjoyed the Ed Funk ranch the most," she added. "Our group got to see the Clydesdales and eat dinner in Funk's pool house with Mr. and Mrs. Nigh."

The Nigh Leadership Academy is supported by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, which contracts with the Nigh Academy for implementation. During the history of the academy, more than 600 students have been awarded the title of Nigh Scholar.

Past students have become members of the

State Legislature, county commissioners, mayors, city councilman, lawyers, doctors, teachers, federal and state officials, businessmen and higher education administrators and professors.

On April 19, 1999, the Oklahoma State Legislature

and former Gov. Frank Keating established the George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship. The purpose of this scholarship is to allow each of the two- and four-year higher educational institutions, both public and private, to select and honor one student each year as a Nigh Scholar. Each student is selected and nominated by their institution's president and receive a one-time \$1,000 Leadership Scholarship.

The scholarships are provided to the scholars at the conclusion of a five-day Leadership Academy in Oklahoma City. The academy is an intense mixture of personal development sessions on expanding personal skills and understanding of leadership. The academy provides all program and personal expenses.



**Sofia Hernandez**



**NOC Fine Arts held the annual spring concert Sunday at the Kinzer Performing Arts Center. (photo by Shiloh Martin/Northern Oklahoma College)**



**NOC held the annual Red Bud Jazz Festival Tuesday night with assistance from the Perry and Blackwell High School bands. (photo by Shiloh Martin/Northern Oklahoma College)**