

Presidential investiture set for Jan. 14

The investiture for Diana Morris Watkins, the 15th president for Northern Oklahoma College, will be held Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, in the Kinzer Performing Arts Center on the Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa campus at 3 p.m.

Watkins assumed the NOC presidency on June 1, 2024.

"This ceremony is a chance to celebrate the rich traditions of Northern Oklahoma College and to honor the incredible leaders who have held this role prior to the NOC Board of Regents entrusting it to me," Watkins said. "I am so grateful for the opportunity to lead our outstanding faculty, staff and executive team as we seek to provide Life Changing opportunities for students and help develop them into effective learners and leaders who will make positive contributions to Oklahoma's workforce."

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, taking on 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 Moun-ty Holyoke College, works as a visitor services associate and copy editor at the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and is a communications fellow for the Keats Shelley Association of America.

The tradition of an investiture officially marks the beginning of a new leader's administration. Sometimes referred to as an "inauguration",



Diana Morris Watkins

Wrestling donor recognition Saturday night

NOC Wrestling Donors and the Wrestling Organizing Committee will be recognized Saturday night at the NOC-Carl Albert match at 6 p.m. in the Foster-Piper Fieldhouse.

The women's match starts at 6 p.m., the donor/committee recognition will follow and then the men's match against the Vikings will close the event.

Also, the NOC Lady Mavs and Jets will be in the Lady Mavs Classic on Saturday. The Lady Jets face Temple (TX) at 1 p.m. while the Lady Mavs host Butler (KS) at 3 p.m. Men's wrestling then hosts Cowley (KS) at 4 p.m. Saturday.

(See **Watkins** on Page 2)

Miss NOC Executive Director: Shannon Varner
580.628.6365 or email shannon.varner@noc.edu



Contestants for the Miss NOC Scholarship Pageant are Pictured Front Row (L-R): Faith Oshiro, Jaclynn Heitman, Gabryela Mendoza Lara, Abby Davis. Back Row (L-R): Madison Mandrigues, Adelina Valencia, Addison Polk, Amberlynn Kelly. Not pictured Adysen Thompson and Cristal Cain. (photo by Shiloh Martin/Northern Oklahoma College)

Miss NOC Pageant set for Tuesday

The 34th annual Miss NOC will be crowned Tuesday, Nov. 19 at the Kinzer Performing Arts Center in Tonkawa.

The program starts at 7:30 p.m.

Ten contestants from NOC Enid and NOC Tonkawa are participating in the event.

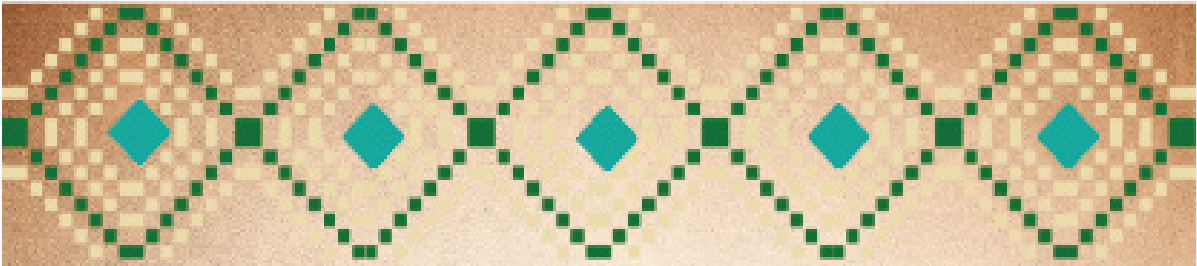
Contestants are Madison Mandrigues, Kingstont, Oklahoma; Crystal Cain, Blanchard, Oklahoma; Adelina Valencia, Sunnyside, Washington; Amberlynn Kelly, Ponca City; Faith Oshiro, Enid, Oklahoma; Addison Polk, Du-

rant, Oklahoma; Adysen Thompson, Prague, Oklahoma; Gabryela Mendoza Lara, Enid, Oklahoma; Jaclynn Heitman, and Abby Davis, Tonkawa, Oklahoma.

Miss NOC is a free event and open to the public.

For the second year, the event is combined with contestants from Enid and Tonkawa competing for the title.

Jaidyn Burrell was crowned Miss NOC in 2023.



NATIVE AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE PRESENTATION

It's Not Easy Being Green



Presented by

T. L. Walker

Executive Director, Standing Bear Museum and Education Center, Ponca City, OK

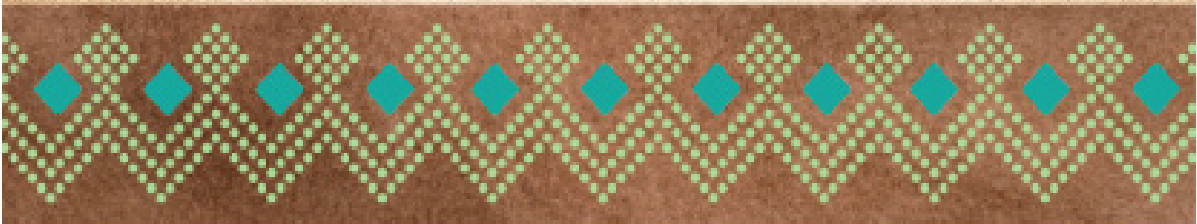
November 20, 2024, 11:30 a.m.

Gantz Student, GU100, NOC Enid

Live streamed on the NOC website
<https://www.noc.edu/athletics/streaming/noc-events-streaming/>

All NOC students, faculty, and staff, as well as the general public are invited to attend.

Sponsored by the Northern Oklahoma College Diversity Committee





NOC honored veterans at the annual Veterans Day Program Monday in Enid. Pictured (L-R): Col. Little, Diana Morris Watkins, George Pankonin (photo by Shiloh Martin/NOC)

Veterans honored at Enid program

Northern Oklahoma College hosted their annual veteran’s tribute at the Enid campus on Monday, Nov. 11, at the Gantz Center.

George Pankonin, United States Air Force Retired, addressed NOC students, faculty, staff, and veterans at the Monday ceremony on “A Legacy of Loyalty and Service.”

Pankonin served in the Air Force from 1970 -1993. Pankonin served as an enlisted Airman from Nov. 18, 1970, to Sept. 28, 1978. Before earning his bachelor’s degree, and attending officer training school, Pankonin attained the rank of staff sergeant. His final assignment on active duty was as the 3345th Supply Squadron commander at Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois. He has served as the president of the 4RKids Foundation, an organization he helped form

provides educational, vocational and athletic opportunities for developmentally disabled Oklahomans. He was also the chairman for the Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce’s annual Enlisted Appreciation Night at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and is the Vance Retiree Activities Office director.

He said that veterans are not just soldiers in combat but also work in warehouses, drivers, mechanics, cooks, and many other jobs similar to civilian jobs.

Pankonin gave a number of examples of individuals who served in the military but also continued to serve past their military careers including pilots adding, “You can serve your

(See **Veterans** on Page 5)

Holiday LUNCHEON

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NOC Enid
Thursday, December 5, 2024
11:30 am - 1:30 pm | Montgomery Hall

Please RSVP to April Heitfeld
april.heitfeld@noc.edu | 580.548.2322

..... 🍀

NOC Stillwater
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
11:30 am - 1:30 pm | NOC Classroom Building, Rm 205

Please RSVP to Janet Jarvis
janet.jarvis@noc.edu | 580.628.6904

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NOC Tonkawa
Wednesday, December 11, 2024
11:30 am - 1:30 pm | Renfro Center

Please RSVP to Ciera Kirby
ciera.kirby@noc.edu | 580.628.6292

Veterans

(Continued from Page 4)

community in the armed services but you can serve your community in so many ways.”

Dr. Mary Ann McCoy, NOC instructor and chairman of the NOC Diversity Committee, introduced the program.

NOC Dean of Students Ryan Paul introduced Pankonin, who is the former mayor of Enid.

NOC Vice President for Enid Jeremy Hise presented a collection of gifts to Pankonin for speaking at the event.

“We thank Mr. Pankonin for your speaking today and for your long-term support of Northern Oklahoma College,” he said. “You have been a friend to NOC.”

NOC President Diana Morris Watkins closed the event.

“Thank you for your service,” she said to all the

veterans. “Thank you, Mr. Pankonin, for sharing so many great stories today that show us how we can serve our country in so many different ways. We are so grateful for your service. Remember the challenge given to us that as we make memories each day, they are memories of loyalty and service.”

Dr. McCoy also presented “America’s White Table,” a tribute to missing soldiers.

Cynthia Smith Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, played each service song with veterans recognized for each service branch. Each veteran was also presented a pin by NOC Enid President Leadership Council students.

The program concluded with the playing of “Taps.”



The NOC Fellowship of Christian Athletes had an Amazon and Walmart gift card fundraiser for a family in Blackwell that provides needed items for foster care families as well as families that children are returned to them from foster care. FCA was able to collect \$1410 in gift cards to buy items such as bedding, diapers, bottles, and other helpful items for these families in Kay County. Thank you to all students, faculty and staff that donated to this project. Pictured are Andrew and Rachel Campbell who received the gift cards, Christi Hook FCA sponsor, and several FCA members.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES FALL 2024

AUGUST

19Welcome Back Block Party
Monday | Courtyard Between Jets Hall and EB Hall | 7 pm

26Bingo for Food
Monday | Gantz Center | 7:30 pm

SEPTEMBER

3OKC Baseball Club Game | \$10 ticket
Tuesday | Must prepay for your ticket in the Student Affairs Office

9Pizza, Pool and Letters Home
Monday | Gantz Center | 7:30 pm

17Voter Registration Drive | 9 am-1 pm
Ice Cream Truck | 10 am-1 pm
Tuesday | Constitution Day | Zollars

23Paint Night
Monday | Gantz Center | 7 pm

OCTOBER

7Bowling
Monday | Oakwood Bowl, 4709 W Owen K Garriott Rd | 7:30 pm

14Cornhole Tournament
Monday | Courtyard Between Jets and EB | 7:30 pm

21Karaoke
Monday | Gantz Center | 7:30 pm

28Halloween Movie Night
Monday | Gantz Center | 7:30 pm

31Trick or Treat Fair
Thursday | Courtyard Between Jets and EB | 5:30-7 pm

NOVEMBER

4Mini Golf
Monday | 4rKids Mini Golf, 710 Overland Trail | 7:30 pm

11Bingo for Food
Monday | Gantz Student Union | 7:30 pm

18Ping Pong Tournament
Monday | Jets Hall | 7 pm

Thanksgiving Break | November 25-29

DECEMBER

9Food for Finals
Monday | Gantz Center | 9 pm

Winter Break Begins
December 13
Dorms close at 10 am



Northern Oklahoma College Executive Council members attend Leadership Enid luncheon with OSRHE Chancellor-Elect Sean Burrage on Wednesday. Pictured: Anita Simpson, VP Financial Affairs; Sandy Mulligan, NOC Regent; Diana Watkins, NOC President; Sean Burrage, OSRHE Chancellor-Elect; Dr. Shelly Mencacci, VP Academic Affairs; Dr. Rick Edgington, VP Enrollment Management/Registrar; Jeremy Hise, VP NOC Enid; Jason Johnson, VP Student Affairs; Bert Mackie, Former Oklahoma State Regent; Sheri Snyder, VP Development & Community Relations; and Dr. J. Marsh Howard, VP NOC Stillwater.

TL Walker to speak at Enid Wednesday

TL Walker will speak at NOC Enid Wednesday at the Gantz Center starting at 11:30 a.m. Walker will speak as part of Native American and Indigenous People presentation. All students, faculty, staff, and the general public are invited to attend. Walker is the Executive Director of the Standing Bear Museum and Education Center in Ponca City.

The event is sponsored by the Northern Oklahoma College Diversity Committee. Wednesday's event will be livestreamed.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS COACHING



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- Balance school, work, and life
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- Set goals for now and the future
- Connect with campus resources



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Page

This service is free to all NOC students.



Request an appointment at
<http://www.noc.edu/academic-success-coaching>

For more information, contact Kathleen Swain
580.628.6258 or kathleen.swain@noc.edu

NOC receives clean audit report at board of regents meeting

Northern Oklahoma College received a clean audit report at the November Board of Regents meeting in Enid on Wednesday.

The external audit, performed by Hinkle & Company, PC, of Tulsa, audited the college's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2024. The report was given by Kirk Vanderville.

"Our job is to express an opinion based on the financial statements provided," he said. "We are happy to report we have a clean unmodified opinion on financial statements, a clean opinion on internal controls with no deficiencies noted, and a clean opinion on compliance with federal programs."

"The process went smooth this year," he added. "You (NOC) were one of the better clients we work with. You did a great job this year provid-

ing timely information and supporting documentation. Your financial statements also look really good. You have increases in net position and an increase in cash which are the two areas I like to highlight."

President Diana Morris Watkins commented on the audit.

"I am extremely pleased with the findings of this external audit which are a testament to the diligent work Vice Presidents Simpson and Snyder and their teams do together in the daily management of Northern Oklahoma College's financial resources," she said.

"I'd like to thank our employees in finance, financial aid, and scholarships for their assistance during this process," said Anita Simpson,

(See **Board** on Page 7)

NOC Student Art of the Week



Macie Brophy, Ponca City
(freshman Art major):
"Strawberries & Cream"
Wallpaper design, Water-
color & Ink on paper.



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For More Information,
Contact Kathleen Swain
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Calculus
Statistics

Nursing

Care Plans
Medical Surgical
Pathophysiology
Pharmacology
Microbiology

English

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Reading Comprehension
American Literature
British Literature
World Literature

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Board

(Continued from Page 7)

Vice President for Financial Affairs. “It takes a lot of employees to help with this process. We have a lot of hard-working people who do their best to do things the right way.”

“Congratulations on a clean audit,” said regent chair Jason Turnbow.

In other business, the regents performed the following actions:

Approved the academic calendar for 2024-25, approved the financial report for October 2024, approved two monthly purchases over \$25,000. They include a roof repair at the Zollars Library in Enid and new roofs for NOC rental properties in Tonkawa. The regents also allocated funds for the branding of four new recently purchased vans.

In administrator updates, vice presidents made their reports to the regents.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Shelly Mencacci reported that NOC is receiving two grants from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (\$15,000 each) to be used in developing micro credential programs (specialized training) aimed for adult learners. They are Cinema Set Construction for Fine Arts and Spanish for Health Care Workers.

Vice President for Development & Community Relations Sheri Snyder reported the First-Gen/First Choice Campaign was held Nov. 8. The campaign raised nearly \$10,000 and an anonymous donor has matched those fund-raising efforts with another \$20,000 making a total of \$30,000 for the program.

Jeremy Hise, Vice President for Enid, reported that President Leadership Council students

traveled to Tulsa visiting the Greenwood District. He said the trip was very enlightening and educational for students.

Vice President for Enrollment Management Dr. Rick Edgington reported to the regents the initial spring enrollment report which shows a preliminary increase in head count and credit hour production. He also provided a 15-year enrollment report for NOC at all campuses highlighting enrollment trends.

Anita Simpson, Vice President for Financial Affairs, reported on the economic impact of NOC for the college service area. She said that NOC pays \$11 million in salaries that boost the local economy.

Dr. Marsh Howard, Vice President for Stillwater, reported that NOC Stillwater held a Northern Encounter recruiting event with 33 students attending. He said that surveys with those potential students showed a positive impression of NOC for those students.

Vice President for Student Affairs Jason Johnson reported the first wrestling duals were held Oct. 30 with more duals in the future. He said that NOC is glad to have wrestling back on the Tonkawa campus.

In the president’s report, Diana Morris Watkins reported the NOC Executive team had the opportunity to hear from OSRHE Chancellor-Elect Sean Burrage in Enid.

“We are super excited about his leadership for higher ed in Oklahoma,” she said.

The December meeting will be held in Tonkawa in the Presidents’ Large Conference Room at 2 p.m. on Dec. 11.



Life changing.

 **NOC TONKAWA**

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

FALL 2024

AUGUST

19

Welcome Back Block Party
Monday | by Gazebo | 7 pm

26

Bingo for Food
Monday | Student Union | 7:30 pm

SEPTEMBER

3

OKC Baseball Club Game | \$10 ticket
Tuesday | Must prepay for your ticket in the Student Affairs Office

9

Pizza, Pool and Letters Home
Monday | Student Union | 7:30 pm

17

Voter Registration Drive | 9 am-1pm
Ice Cream Truck | 10 am-1pm
Tuesday | Constitution Day | Clock Tower

23

Magician Show
Monday | 7 pm

OCTOBER

1

Inflatable Putt-Putt
Tuesday | by Gazebo | 4-8 pm

8

Dodge Ball
Tuesday | Gym | 7:30 pm

14

Bubble Soccer
Monday | Soccer Field | 6-8 pm

21

Karaoke
Monday | Student Union | 7:30 pm

28

Halloween Movie Night
Monday | 7:30 pm

31

Trick or Treat Fair
Thursday | on Circle | 5:30-7 pm

NOVEMBER

4

Family Feud
Monday | Renfro Center | 7:30 pm
Sign up Team in Student Affairs Office by October 28

12

Bingo for Food
Tuesday | Student Union | 7:30 pm

18

Archery Tag
Monday | Gym | 7-9 pm

19

Miss NOC
Tuesday | KPAC | 7:30 pm

Thanksgiving Break | November 25-29

DECEMBER

3

Campus-Wide Hide-n-Seek
Tuesday | Meet at Gazebo | 8 pm

9

Food for Finals
Monday | Student Union | 9 pm

Winter Break Begins
December 13
Dorms close at 10 am

NOC Calendar

Nov. 16

Away Lady Jets Basketball vs. Temple (TX) at Tonkawa, 1 p.m.
 Home Lady Mavs Basketball vs. Butler (KS), 3 p.m.
 Away Mavs Basketball vs. New Mexico at Hobbs (NM), 3 p.m.
 Away Jets Basketball vs. Hutchinson (KS) at Great Bend (KS), 4 p.m.
 Home Men's and Women's Wrestling vs. Carl Albert, 6 p.m./7:30 p.m.

Nov. 17

Home Men's Wrestling vs. Cowley (KS), 4 p.m.

Nov. 18

Away Lady Mavs Basketball vs. Independence (KS), 6:30 p.m.
 Ping Pong Tournament, Jets Lobby, 7:30 p.m., Enid
 Archery Tag, Foster-Pipe Fieldhouse, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Tonkawa

Nov. 19

Free Lunch, BCM, 11:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Tonkawa
 The Gathering, BCM, 7 p.m., Enid
 Away Lady Jets Basketball vs. Allen (KS), 6 p.m.
 Miss NOC Scholarship Pageant, KPAC, 7:30 p.m.

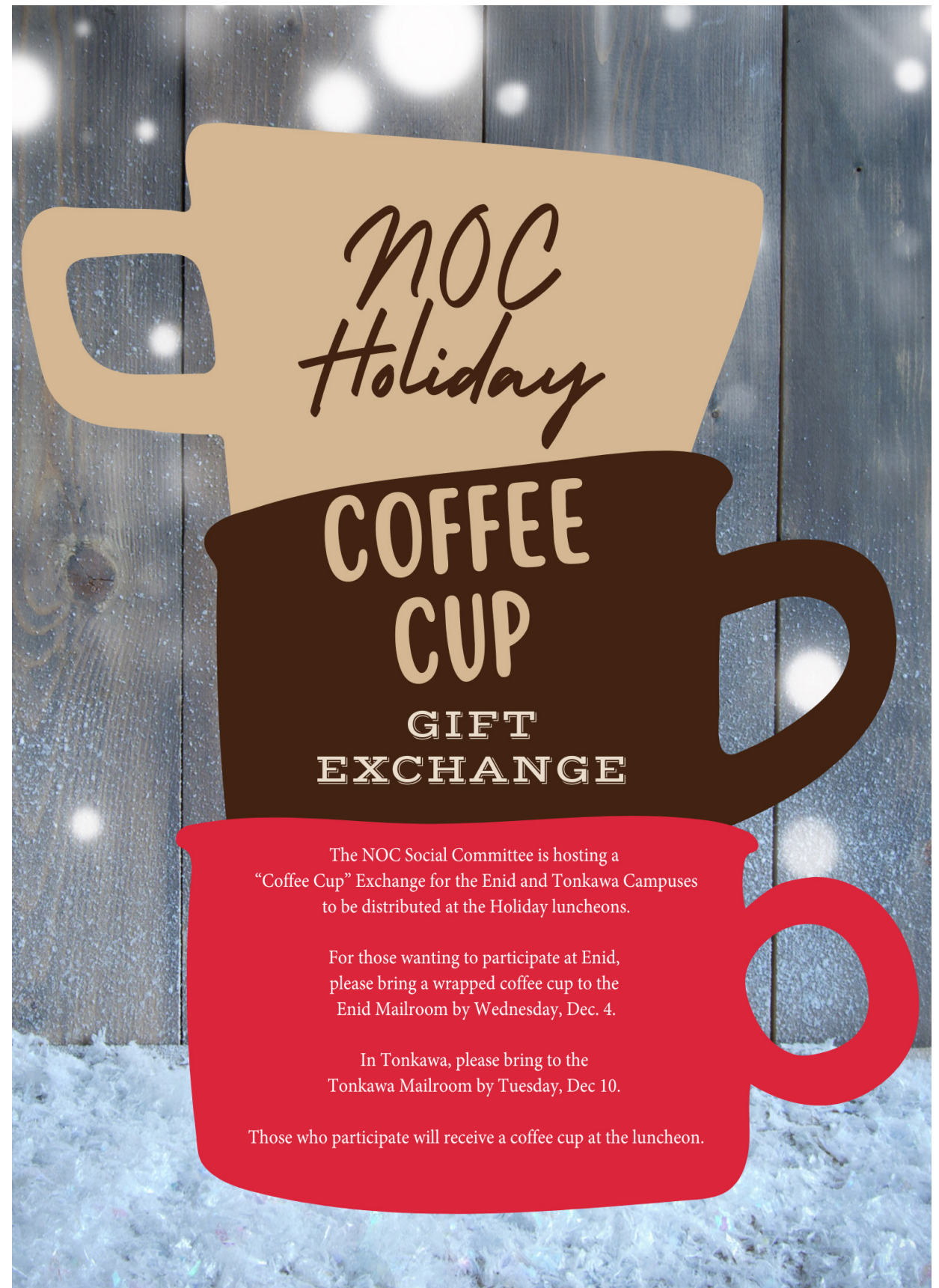
Nov. 20

NOCF Board of Trustees, Gantz Center, 10 a.m., Enid
 Free Lunch, Wesley House, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa
 Free BCM Lunch, Gantz Center, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Enid
 Native American and Indigenous People Presentation, Gantz Center, 11:30 a.m., Enid
 Away Mavs Wrestling vs. Labette (KS), 5 p.m./6:30 p.m.
 Away Mavs and Lady Mavs Basketball vs. Butler (KS), 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.
 Home Jets Basketball vs. Hesston (KS), 6:30 p.m.
 The Gathering, BCM, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa

Nov. 22

Residence Halls Close, 3 p.m.
 Home Lady Jets Basketball vs. Navajo Technical College, 5:30 p.m.

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



NOC Enid students participate in United Way Day of Kindness

