

Four NOC nursing instructors nominated for DAISY Award®

Northern Oklahoma College will honor a Nursing faculty member with The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nurse Educators at the NOC 2026 Nurses' Pinning Ceremony Friday, May 1 at the Kinzer Performing Arts Center Heilmann Auditorium in NOC Tonkawa at 7 p.m.

The four finalists are Brian Baird, Lerna Deyirmencian, Marie Head, and Wendy Spiva. Last year's winner was Rachel Kroemer.

Lerna Deyirmencian

Deyirmencian received her Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience from UCLA and her Master of Science in Nursing from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. She completed her nurse residency program at The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Since joining NOC in August 2024, she has contributed to the Adult I and Adult II Theory teams and serves as a clinical instructor. Her diverse nursing background includes cardiac/telemetry, medical-surgical, post-operative, rehabilitation, post-critical care, and intermediate care. In addition to teaching, she currently works as a float pool RN at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center.

She enjoys connecting with patients on a personal level and creating meaningful human connections at the bedside, and is committed to transforming nursing education into an approachable, engaging experience that builds

both competence and confidence.

Brian Baird

Baird received his B.S.N. from the University of Oklahoma in 1986 and his M.S. from Southern Nazarene University in 2008. The majority of his nursing career has been spent serving special needs children in their homes and serving within the ICU.

His work in the ICU included a nearly 14-year period at Hillcrest Hospital Cushing when it was named Cushing Regional Hospital and a stint at Mercy Hospital in OKC. In 2006, he began teaching freshman nursing students at Northern Oklahoma College; a privilege he continues to enjoy to this day.

Baird's passion for teaching has been life-long and has been evident to anyone who has known him. He loves to use creativity in his approach and is known for his use of multiple teaching/learning methods. He himself loves to learn and wants his learners to enjoy the process as well. His use of simulation and gaming has earned him a lead role in NOC Nursing's simulation program. He is currently the Simulation Coordinator.

Baird and his wife, Robin, have been married almost 37 years. They have four children and two grandchildren. They reside in Perkins.

In 2002, while working at Cushing Regional Hospital, Brian received the President's Spirit



Brian Baird



Lerna Deyirmencian



Marie Head



Wendy Spiva

Award from the Hillcrest HealthCare System, a system-wide recognition given to only one employee a year. In 2012 and 2019, he received the NISOD Excellence in Teaching Award in recognition for his work at NOC. In 2020 and in 2021, he received the NOC Best Faculty Award. And in 2016, Mr. Baird received a Faculty Excellence Award for designing and producing a

set of video-based learning activities with his co-faculty and his family. Each set of videos portray how a specific disease process might develop and unfold in the life of an individual. Lastly, he received certification in July of 2022 as a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator.

(See **Nurses** on Page 2)

Roustabout Benefit Show Saturday

The Northern Oklahoma College Roustabouts are hosting their annual Benefit Show Saturday, April 11.

The show is at the Dineo Heilmann Auditorium inside the Kinzer Performing Arts Center at NOC Tonkawa. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and are available at the door.

Nurses

(Continued from Page 1)

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 two children and five grandchildren ranging in age from 10-3.

Wendy Spiva

Spiva has 30 years of nursing experience-beginning as an LPN-I hold an Associate in Science from Rose State College, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and currently pursuing a Master's in Nursing Education.

Spiva's clinical background includes skilled nursing, med/surg, endoscopy, and university health services. She has been a part of the NOC family for three years, serving as the Stillwater Lab Coordinator, teaching lab for Fundamentals of Nursing and Introduction students, and working as a simulation observer.

Her greatest joy is teaching skills to new students and watching them grow into the nurses they are meant to be.

Outside of work, she has been married for 20 years and we have two beautiful daughters who

are active in softball and basketball. They also enjoy camping, cruising to different islands and caring for animals on their funny farm.

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 families every day wherever they practice, in whatever role they serve, and throughout their careers – from Nursing Student through Lifetime Achievement in Nursing. The Nurse Educator Award was created to recognize and celebrate the contributions faculty make to the future of nursing. 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. Northern Oklahoma College, the state's first public two-year community college, is a multi-campus, land-grant institution that provides high quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities and services.

For more information about NOC Nursing, contact Chelsie Taylor at Chelsi.taylor@noc.edu at 580.628.6679.

Fine Arts Auditions Saturday

The Northern Oklahoma College Division of Fine Arts is holding auditions and portfolio reviews on Saturday, April 11.

Auditions for the 2026-27 school year are held at the Kinzer Performing Arts Center at NOC Tonkawa at 10 a.m.

For more information or to schedule a private audition, please contact Shannon Varner at shannon.varner@noc.edu.

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE

ROUSTABOUTS

Benefit Show

2026

TICKETS \$10

SAT | APR 11 | 7:30 PM

KPAC | DINEO HEILMANN AUDITORIUM
NOC TONKAWA



On Feb. 12, The NOC Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and fellow NOC students spent the evening tying Knot Blankets. Approximately 30 blankets were created. Then, on March 31, the Knot Blankets were delivered to Marland's Place in Ponca City. Marland's Place is a foster placement agency. Children will get a blanket of their own when they arrive a Marland's Place. Pictured Bark Row (L-R): Aprille, Marland's Place; Matison McConnell, Riley Fast, Julie Henning, Breeanna Allen, Claire Lawver, Kasen Benton, Alex Jennings, Front Row (L-R): Dee Cooper, PTK sponsor; Amy Heick, and Jose Sosa Martinez.

Enid Superhero Day set for Saturday

Northern Oklahoma College is a title sponsor for Superhero Saturday Family Fun Event on Saturday, April 11, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending with a free lunch from 11 a.m. – noon.

The event is held at North Meadowlake Park in Enid.

Title sponsors are Northern Oklahoma College, Reach Higher, Tri-County Family Resource Center, Pope Distribution, CDSA, Evolution Foundation, Human Service Alliance of Greater Enid, KNID-FM, and the United Way.

Attendees are encouraged to dress as their favorite Superhero.

Activities begin at 9 a.m. with ice cream, paddle boats, petting zoo courtesy of Kenny Farms, putt-putt, family fun activities, and a resource

fair for families and individuals.

Jeremy Hise, Vice President for NOC Enid added, "This is a great way for families to spend quality time together. We will be giving out continuing education and health-related information goodie bags and providing healthy activities for all. Parents will be able to learn about job possibilities, career advice and continuing education, and scholarship opportunities. Together, we hope to solve problems, break down barriers and create opportunities for the entire family."

In addition to the all the activities, several agencies will be there sharing information and providing giveaways, games and much more.

April 11th 2026

SUPERHERO SATURDAY

9 am - Noon
North Meadowlake Park in Enid



EVERYTHING IS FREE!

Lunch Begins at 11 am




DRESS UP AS A SUPERHERO!

Join Us For Ice Cream,
Paddle Boats, Petting Zoo, Putt-Putt,
Family Fun Activities, and Meet Your
Favorite Superhero!

**Resource Fair for
Families and Individuals**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:





















Josh Quintero to lead Jets cheer

Northern Oklahoma College Enid has named Josh Quintero as the Jets Cheer Coach for 2026-2027.

The program was reinstated in December for the 2026-7 Academic Year.

NOC Athletic Director Alan Foster announced the hiring this week.

“I am excited to welcome Josh back to the NOC coaching family,” Foster said. “He did a great job with our program before and I believe that he will continue to do great things as we enter this new chapter of competitive cheer. I look forward to his return.”

Quintero was the cheer coach at NOC Enid 10 years until the program was dropped in 2023. He won four national titles at NOC Enid.

“Bringing cheerleading back to NOC Enid isn’t just about a program, it’s about restoring opportunity,” Quintero said. “It’s about giving

athletes a path to continue their passion for cheer, while earning an education, and be part of something bigger. With a championship culture already in place with four National Titles, we’re excited to build on that legacy and create something special for this community.”



Josh Quintero

(See Quintero on Page 5)

NOC Staculty April Birthdays



Abigail Boggess	April 12	Denise Bay	April 20
Renna Bowers	April 12	Rachel Kirk	April 22
Kaylynn Cantrell	April 13	Shannon Varner	April 22
Cassie Firth	April 15	Ross Buchanan	April 27
Lonnie Rhea	April 15	Anita Simpson	April 27
Mary Ann Harris	April 18	Adrianna Palomares	April 28

Northern Oklahoma College
ANNUAL STUDENT ART EXHIBITION
BEYOND THE FRAME

MACIE BROPHY | DELANEY FOX | ANNA JONES | NEALLY LANTZ

**APRIL 14-
MAY 5, 2026**

Eleanor Hays Art Gallery
KPAC | NOC Tonkawa

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

MEET THE ARTISTS RECEPTION
Saturday, April 18 | 5pm-6:30pm

Quintero

(Continued from Page 4)

“NOC Enid has a Championship culture in all their sports and now we get help support these teams as we try to bring more championships back to Enid,” Quintero added.

While growing up in west Texas, Quintero cheered for the Small Coed Cheer Team at West Texas A&M University five years. He was also a head instructor for the Universal Cheerleaders Association, where he spent many summers teaching cheerleading summer camps to Junior High and High School Cheerleaders across the country. During his time working for Varsity he also helped create some of the Largest Cheer Competitions in the country that are still running today.

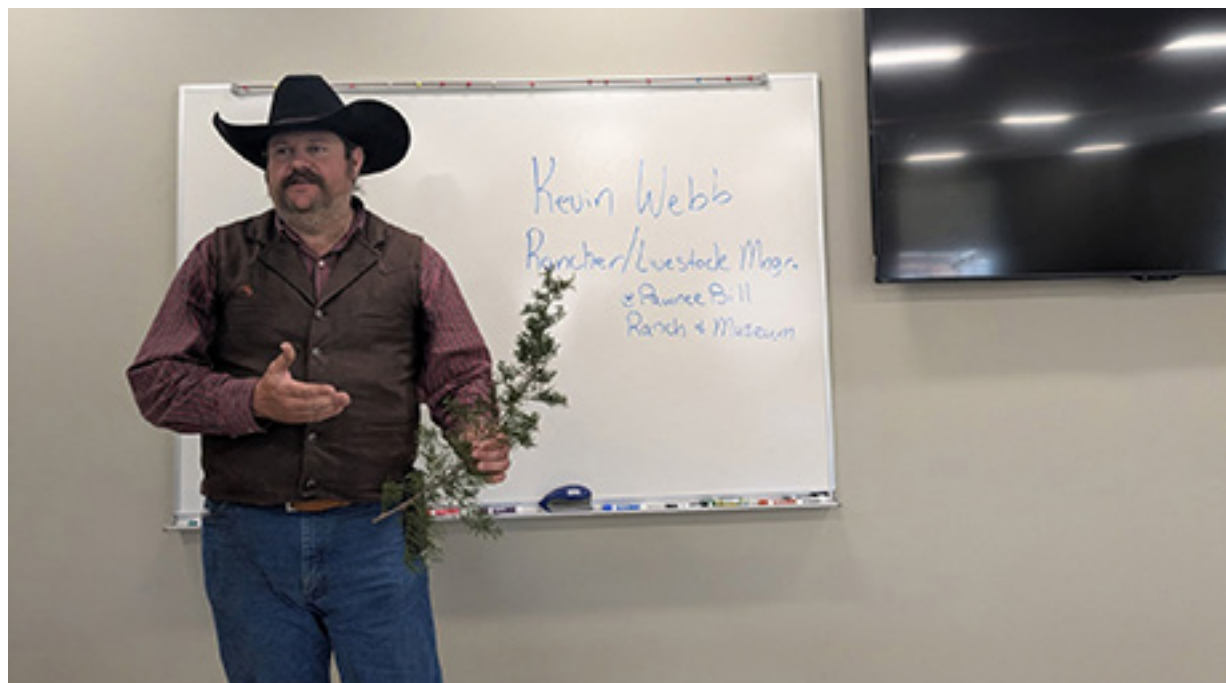
Quintero and wife, Missy, own and coach Spirit Express in Enid. While living in Enid, he has served on many cheerleading boards including

the Oklahoma Cheer Coaches Association for high school cheerleading. In 2009, he was named to the Top 30 Coaches Under 30 in the Cheer Industry by CheerCon. Josh has helped develop some of the safety standards that cheerleading uses today.

With Spirit Express, the Quintero's have won multiple state, regional, and national titles not only with their All-Star Teams but with high school teams as well.

Currently, Quintero is the owner of Freedom Spirit Championships where he runs some of the highest profiled cheerleading competitions for All Star and School teams.

The Amarillo, Texas, native graduated from Amarillo High School and earned a Degree from West Texas A&M University.



Pawnee area rancher Kevin Webb visited Dr. Alyce Webb's American Studies Class, on the NOC Stillwater campus, Thursday. Webb led the students through an insightful discussion, and lectured on land management and weed suppression for a unit on the Environmentalism Movement.

A vibrant poster for the "Play in a Day" event. At the top, a red banner reads "Northern Oklahoma College". Below it, the words "PLAY IN A DAY" are written in large, bold letters on torn paper strips. Underneath, a white banner says "Write It. Build It. Perform It. In One Day." The center features a large digital clock showing "24:00" in orange, surrounded by a chaotic scene of papers, a megaphone, a coffee cup, and other items. At the bottom, the date "SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026" is prominently displayed in white, followed by "7:30 PM | KPAC | NOC TONKAWA" and "Dineo Heilmann Auditorium". A yellow banner at the bottom left says "\$5 Admission" with "Free Admission for NOC Students and Employees with ID" in smaller text to its right. At the very bottom, a white banner states "Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult."



NOC students were recognized at an Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges event on April 7. Pictured (L-R): Julie Henning, Addyson Durbin, NOC President Diana Morris, Jose Sosa Martinez, Joey Wyrick. (courtesy photo).

NOC scholars recognized at OACC at Oklahoma State Capitol

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma – Four Northern Oklahoma College students were recognized at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges All-Oklahoma Academic Team and President’s Tuition Waiver Award Ceremony at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City April 7.

Recognized from NOC for the All-Academic Team were Joey Wyrick, Hennessey; ennJose Sosa Martinez, Laverne; and Julie Henning, Ponca City; while Addyson Durbin, Tonkawa, received a Tuition Waiver Award.

The All-Oklahoma Academic Team Program provides statewide recognition to outstanding two-year college students.

To be eligible, students must be nominated by their college president to the All-USA Academic Team. Nominees must be eligible to graduate during the 2026 academic year and hold a minimum of a 3.50 cumulative grade point average out of a possible 4.0 on all college-level

coursework completed in the past five years. Oklahoma is one of 39 states participating in the All-USA Academic Team Program. The State Academic Teams were introduced in 1994 to provide scholastic recognition to community college students, while promoting excellence at two-year colleges.

Also, each year Presidents of Oklahoma Community Colleges select deserving students from across the State of Oklahoma to receive a \$1,000 tuition waiver, which may be applied to tuition for the upcoming 2026-27 academic school year at \$500 per semester.

The President’s nominees are selected for their outstanding academic achievement, their record in the classroom and their leadership ability. Nominees must be a graduating high school senior or attend a community college. Certificates will be presented to all of the tuition waiver students.



Enroll & Explore!



NORTHERN
Oklahoma College

TONKAWA	ENID	STILLWATER
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
April 14, 2026	April 15, 2026	April 16, 2026
May 5, 2026	May 6, 2026	May 7, 2026
May 12, 2026	May 13, 2026	May 14, 2026
June 2, 2026	June 3, 2026	June 4, 2026
June 16, 2026	June 17, 2026	June 18, 2026
July 7, 2026	July 8, 2026	July 9, 2026
July 28, 2026	July 29, 2026	July 30, 2026
August 4, 2026	August 5, 2026	August 6, 2026

Sessions begin promptly at 9 am or 1 pm

Tonkawa 580.628.6668 recruiter1@noc.edu	Enid 580.548.2353 recruiter2@noc.edu	Stillwater 580.628.6904 janet.jarvis@noc.edu
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For more information www.noc.edu

SCAN ME!



REGISTER ONLINE!

Life changing.



The NOC Star-Gate

A Weekly Portal to the North Oklahoma Sky
 Brought to you by the Bert & Janice Mackey
 Planetarium at Northern Oklahoma College

This Week's Viewing Conditions:

The Moon: We start this week off with the Third Quarter Moon and continue to wane over the week, thus the moon-shine will not be a hinderance to your viewing.

Weather: Check the forecast! The forecast is not so promising, with thunderstorms and clouds in the forecast.



Highlights for the Week of Friday, April 10 to April 17, 2026

This Week – Venus is going to be bright and dominate. Jupiter is still quite visible in the constellation Gemini. Leo the Lion is coming into view and as the sky darkens you may be able to see more of the fainter stars in these constellations.

You may be able to see the comet C/2025 R3 in the predawn sky. It should be in the constellation Pegasus.

Astronomical Notes

As we approach the latter part of the month, you may see a few more “shooting” stars. We

are getting closer to the Lyrids, which will be most active from April 14 to April 30, peaking on April 21 to 22. It is anticipated that you may be able to see around 18 meteors per hour during the peak.

Why are they called the “Lyrids”? Meteor showers are named based upon their apparent location in the sky during their peak activity. The Lyrids appear to originate inside the constellation Lyra – the harp. The Geminids appear in the constellation Gemini.

Photo Credit: Leo Triplet, Slooh Telescope Chile Two, by Dr. Frankie Wood-Black on April 7, 2026



- ▶ February 9
Pizza, Pool and Air Hockey
Student Union | 7:30 pm
- ▶ February 17
Bingo for Food
Student Union | 7:30 pm
- ▶ February 19
Bedlam Basketball
Women | 5:30 pm, Men | 7:30 pm
- ▶ February 24
Homecoming Voting
Student Affairs Office | 9 am – 1 pm
- Karaoke**
Walcher Conference Center | 7:30 pm
- ▶ February 25
Homecoming Voting
Student Affairs Office | 9 am – 1 pm
- ▶ March 2
Homecoming Basketball
Women | 5:30 pm, Men | 7:30 pm
[Coronation halftime of men's game]
Homecoming 5th Quarter
[Food, games, mechanical bull]
East Gym | Immediately Following Game
- ▶ March 3
Homecoming – That's No Bull Revue
Wilkin Auditorium | 8 pm
- ▶ March 9
Bingo for Food
Student Union | 7:30 pm

MARCH 16-20 | SPRING BREAK

- ▶ March 24
Dodgeball
Fieldhouse | 7:30 pm
- ▶ March 30
Magician Show
- ▶ April 6
Easter Egg Hunt
Meet at Gazebo | 7 pm
- ▶ April 13
Petting Zoo
Clock Tower Area | 10 am - Noon
- ▶ April 21
Spring Fling
Chick-fil-a Truck
Ice Cream Truck | 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Archery Tag | 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Fading Fast Concert | 8 pm
- ▶ April 28
Campus Wide Hide n Seek
Meet at Gazebo | 8 pm
- ▶ May 4
Food for Finals
Cafeteria | 10 pm – Midnight
- ▶ May 8
Dorms close at 10 am



NOC Calendar

April 11

Spring Auditions and Portfolio Reviews, KPAC, 10 a.m., Tonkawa
 Away Jets Baseball vs. Western, 1 p.m./3:30 p.m.
 Away Mavs Baseball vs. Carl Albert, 1 p.m./3:30 p.m.
 Home Mavs Softball vs. NOC Enid, 2 p.m./4 p.m.
 Away Jets Softball vs. NOC Tonkawa, 2 p.m./4 p.m.
 Roustabout Annual Benefit Show, KPAC, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa

April 12

Phi Theta Kappa Induction, Walcher Conference Center, 2 p.m., Tonkawa
 BCM Open House, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m., Tonkawa

April 13

Petting Zoo, Clock Tower, 10 a.m. – noon, Tonkawa

April 14

Free Lunch, BCM, 11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa
 Student Art Exhibit Opens, Eleanor Hays Art Gallery/KPAC, Tonkawa
 Home Mavs Softball vs. Carl Albert, 2 p.m./4 p.m.
 Academic Award Reception, 2nd Floor Commons, 5:30 p.m., Stillwater
 Board Game Night, Gantz Center, 7 p.m., Enid
 The Gathering, BCM, 8 p.m., Enid

April 15

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 Jets Baseball vs. Carl Albert, 1 p.m./3:30p.m.
 Academic Award Reception, Gantz Center, 5:30 p.m., Enid
 The Gathering, BCM, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa

April 16

Away Jets Softball vs. Rose State, 2 p.m./4 p.m.
 Home Mavs Softball vs. Connors, 2 p.m./4 p.m.

April 18

Away Jets Baseball vs. Carl Albert, 1 p.m./3:30 p.m.
 Away Jets Softball vs. Seminole, 2 p.m./4 p.m.
 Home Mavs Softball vs. Eastern, 2 p.m./4 p.m.
 Play-In-A-Day, KPAC, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa

N O R T H E R N O K L A H O M A C O L L E G E



THE GATHERING
 FRIENDS OF NOC AGRICULTURE
 ANNUAL EVENT

*Join us as we celebrate the success of
 NOC Agriculture with food, fellowship and entertainment,
 as well as Live and Silent Auctions (hosted by SC Online).
 Cash bar will be available.*

FRI | MAY 1 | 2026

Osage Casino and Hotel, Ponca City
5 pm | Pre-Event Mixer ❖ 6 pm | Main Event
 Individual | \$50 ❖ Table of Eight | \$400



GATHERING EVENT

RSVP by Friday, April 17
www.noc.edu/development/alumni/gathering/
 For more information, please contact **Ciera Kirby**
 ciera.kirby@noc.edu | 580.628.6685

NOC Gathering Golf Scramble
9 am | Blackwell Golf Course
 Four-Person Scramble | \$240
 To sign up contact **Bart Cardwell** or **Blackwell Golf Course**
 bart.cardwell@noc.edu | 580.628.6497
 Blackwell Golf Course | 580.363.1228

★ **Special Recognition** ★
Special recognition of Ag graduates that graduated in a year ending in "6"