



NORTHERN
Oklahoma College

TONKAWA | ENID | STILLWATER

www.noc.edu

What's Happening

April 17, 2026

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NOC, NWOSU recognized for partnership with Enid Higher Ed Council

Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Northern Oklahoma College are among sixteen business and higher education partnerships across Oklahoma recently recognized as innovative collaborations that strengthen the state's workforce and expand educational opportunities.

NWOSU and NOC were recognized for their partnership with the Enid Higher Education Council, Inc.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions, businesses, and the community that create meaningful pathways between education and employment. Through these collaborations, institutions work directly with industry partners to align academic programs with employer needs, ensuring students gain relevant, in-demand skills.

"Partnerships between local businesses and our public colleges and universities strengthen our workforce, benefiting both our state and individual students," said Chancellor Sean Bura. "The State Regents are proud to recognize these collaborative efforts that drive economic growth, foster innovation, and expand career opportunities for Oklahomans."

"We are incredibly thankful for the work that EHEC does for our students and the support

they provide to each of our institutions," Dr. Bo Hannaford, Northwestern President, said. "These partnerships are vital to the community and understanding why obtaining a college degree is so vital for a student's career trajectory. We often get to hear from students about how EHEC has supported their education and that is exactly why we have this partnership."

NOC President Diana Morris agreed with Dr. Hannaford.

"I'm so pleased for this opportunity to highlight the work done by the Enid Higher Education Council," said NOC President Diana Morris. "The passion these business and community leaders have for improving the post-secondary completion rates for Enid area students is unmatched. They invite representatives from Enid Public Schools, Atry Technology Center, Northern Oklahoma College and Northwestern Oklahoma State University to present at their quarterly meetings to ensure they are familiar with the needs of the educational community and many EHEC members serve on advisory boards for these institutions to ensure we are better equipped to prepare Oklahoma's workforce."

Collectively, these collaborations play a critical role in building a more responsive, skilled, and future-ready workforce for Oklahoma. The partnerships recognized for 2026 are:

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Northern Oklahoma College and Enid Higher Education Council, Inc.

For more than 20 years, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Northern Oklahoma College and community leaders in Enid have maintained a collaborative partnership focused on higher education, community engagement, and economic development. Since 2003, the Enid Higher Education Council, Inc. (EHEC) has led multiple scholarship campaigns, raising nearly \$1.3 million in contributions. EHEC has awarded \$190,470 in direct scholarships to stu-

dents attending NOC Enid and NWOSU Enid and, since 2011, has distributed over \$1 million to establish temporary and permanent endowment funds for both institutions. Supported by local businesses and individual donors, the Enid Higher Education Scholarship Fund helps students pursue affordable degrees while remaining in Enid. EHEC prioritizes underserved and non-traditional students, with the goal that at least 80% of recipients complete a college degree, strengthening the regional workforce and economy.

Greenhouse ribbon cutting, open house set for April 22

Northern Oklahoma College is hosting a ribbon cutting and open house for a new greenhouse on the Tonkawa campus.

The event is set for Wednesday, April 22, from 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. with brief remarks and the ribbon cutting will be at 1 p.m.

Tours will be available showcasing the Precision Agriculture and Renewable Energy Programs. The greenhouse is located at the NOC Ag Complex, 1651 E. NOC Drive.

The development of the new Precision Agriculture Program within the NOC STEM Department was made possible through the U.S. Department of Education Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions Program (NASNTI) grant project, "Connecting Students to Promising Pathways."

Light refreshments will be served.



The Northern Oklahoma College Division of Fine Arts is hosting Play-In-A-Day on Saturday, April 18. Play in a Day is set for 7:30 p.m. at the KPAC where actors, directors, and writers have 24 hours to create a play. Their work will be on display Saturday evening. Admission for Play in a Day is \$5 and is free to NOC faculty, staff, and students with an NOC Identification Card. Children Under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

NOC Staculty April Birthdays



Mary Ann Harris	April 18	Ross Buchanan	April 27
Denise Bay	April 20	Anita Simpson	April 27
Rachel Kirk	April 22	Adrianna Palomares	April 28
Shannon Varner	April 22		

Northern Oklahoma College

PLAY IN A DAY

Write It. Build It. Perform It. In One Day.

SATURDAY
APRIL 18, 2026

7:30 PM | KPAC | NOC TONKAWA
Dineo Heilmann Auditorium

\$5 Admission *Free Admission for NOC Students and Employees with ID*

Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Enid academic awards listed

Northern Oklahoma College Enid students were honored Wednesday night at the Annual Academic Awards Banquet in Montgomery Hall inside the Gantz Center.

NOC Vice President for Enid Jeremy Hise welcomed those who came to celebrate the student's accomplishments.

"This is all about recognizing all the hard work, the talent and commitment of our students," he said. "We have a chance to celebrate academic excellence, leadership, and service. I can't think of a better reason to come together than our students."

"Our faculty are the heartbeat of our institution," he added. "They have the most direct access and influence on our students and have the most impact. They make nights like tonight possible."

"We also want to thank the families, friends, and supporters of these students. There are so many people who have made sacrifices to make this event possible," Hise added.

The following are the awards for 2025-26:
 President's Leadership Council Student: Cooper Howe
 Academic Athlete of the Year: Deagan Jones
 Pre-Engineering: Deagan Jones

Science: Chandler Meacham
 Chemistry: Morgan Hayes
 Accounting: Connor Schlegel
 Business: Joey Wyrick
 Journalism: Corban Burrell
 Adam Wordon Creative Writing: Dorothy Paulis

Elementary Education: Iree Jeffries
 Language Arts: Nicholas Barker
 Math: Carlos De La Torre
 Social Science: Emma Clingenpeel
 Behavioral Science: Raymond Nazario
 The Warren and Dr. Mencacci Outstanding Team Academic Achievement Award: Enid Jets Baseball Team.

2026 All-Oklahoma Academic Team: Joey Wyrick

4.0 Student Award: Connor Schlegel, Cooper Howe, Deagan Jones, Jacob Barr, Joey Wyrick, Laticia Hardy, Lyla Brown, Maria Vega, Marisol Casillas, Rebecca Reddick, Rodrigo Rodriguez, Zachary Henderson, Tanner Fallwell.

Reach Higher Graduate: Eric Jurelong, Jacqueline Collins, Joey Wyrick, Kalie Ulrich, Plazie Williams, Rodrigo Rodriguez, Utena Latdrick.

The event was emceed by Dr. Shelly Mencacci, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Stillwater academic awards given

Northern Oklahoma College Stillwater students were honored Tuesday night at the Annual Academic Awards Banquet in the Commons Area of the NOC Stillwater Classroom Building.

Vice President for NOC Stillwater Dr. Marsh Howard commended the students for their efforts.

"Tonight's banquet is a celebration of academic excellence but even more than that it is a chance to acknowledge the time, effort, perseverance,

and passion that goes into reaching the milestones that we celebrate tonight," he said. "We are here to celebrate of you, our students, not just test scores and GPAs but especially the curiosity, determination, leadership, and grit that is at the heart of your successes. These awards reflect more than academic achievement, they reveal and celebrate outstanding character."

"I also want to take some time to recognize

(See Awards on Page 4)

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

Awards

(Continued from Page 3)

those have helped you along the way,” he added. “First, out incredible faculty. They don’t teach by declaring how things should be, they show up with compassion and consistency, walking alongside our students to support them as they find their own path.”

The following are the awards for 2025-26:

Science Student: Joey Murphy

Earth Science: Nathan Tonti

Biology: Rebecca Napier

Child Development: Montana Burgess-Tarr, Mia McCool, Morgan Morris, Brianna McElroy

Creative Writing: Christa Solpietro

Language Arts: Christa Solpietro

Business: JoLee “Moss” Culver

Accounting: Maklain Stinnett

Math: Walter Ortiz, Bryanna Godfrey

American Studies: Walter Ortiz

History: Hadly McEntire

President Leadership Council: Aryn “Scout” White

4.0 GPA: Sera Stitt

Reach Higher Graduates: Joey Murphy, Joy Walls, Arlene Oxley, Rustin Briggs

The event was emceed by Dr. Shelly Mencacci, Vice President for Academic Affairs.



NOC Fine Arts presented the annual Jazz Band, Concert Band concert Thursday at the Heilmann Auditorium/Kinzer Performing Arts Center. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

**NOC
GREENHOUSE
RIBBON CUTTING
AND
OPEN
HOUSE**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

12:30–2:00 | Come & Go
1:00 | Brief Remarks and Ribbon Cutting
Light refreshments and tours showcasing
Precision Ag and Renewable Energy Programs

NOC Tonkawa | Ag Complex
1651 E. NOC Drive

The development of the new Precision Agriculture Program within the NOC STEM department was made possible through the U.S. Department of Education Native American–Serving Nontribal Institutions Program (NASNTI) grant project, *Connecting Students to Promising Pathways.*



Northern Oklahoma College art students (from left) Delaney Fox, Wichita, Kansas; Neally Lantz, Stillwater; Macie Brophy, Ponca City; and Anna Jones, Medford, are featured in *Beyond the Frame*, the annual student art exhibition on view April 14-May 5 in the Eleanor Hays Art Gallery, NOC Tonkawa. A reception honoring all NOC student artists with work in the exhibit is set for 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18 in the art gallery. The exhibition and reception with refreshments is free and open to the public. (Photo by Audrey Schmitz)

Student Art Exhibition ‘Beyond the Frame’

Beyond the Frame—the annual Northern Oklahoma College student art exhibition is on display through May 5 in the Eleanor Hays Art Gallery in the Kinzer Performing Arts Center at NOC Tonkawa.

Visual art students Macie Brophy, Delaney Fox, Anna Jones and Neally Lantz planned and organized the exhibit as part of the requirements for a credited Portfolio/Gallery Seminar at NOC. *Beyond the Frame* highlights the original art of these four artists along with works of other students enrolled in visual art and digital imaging classes during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Under the guidance of Audrey Schmitz, gallery director and art faculty, the art majors gained experience in developing the infrastructure of the exhibit, including choosing the show title and collaborating with NOC graphic designer Paige Larson on the poster design. The students created an original “skyscape” oil painting for the poster background. They also prepared their own work to be exhibition-ready, produced artist statements and title cards and installed dozens of additional curated works made by other students, all as part of their professional growth

(See Exhibit on Page 6)

NOC DIVISION OF FINE ARTS *Presents*

College Choir *and* Madrigal Singers

SPRING CONCERT

“*SING! Songs of Joy, Hope & Peace*”

SUN | APR. 26, 2026 | 2 PM

Kinzer Performing Arts Center
The Dineo Heilmann Auditorium
NOC Tonkawa

FREE ADMISSION | *Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.*

Exhibit

(Continued from Page 5)

as working artists.

Concerning plans after graduating from NOC, Jones will transfer to UCO, Edmond, to complete a bachelors in Art, and Fox is pursuing internships in art and hopes to ultimately teach and produce work in her own studio setting. Brophy inspires to be a graphic designer after earning a bachelors degree, and Lantz will complete her art degree at UCO or OSU with an emphasis on digital graphic design.

“Overall, there is great diversity of media, subject matter and style in the works on view in *Beyond the Frame*, and the student show is always the most popular event in the Eleanor Hays Gallery,” Schmitz added. “Again, this year we are offering a ‘gallery gift shop’ of affordable

art (starting at \$10), making it a perfect opportunity to buy original work at great prices from talented artists early in their career.”

With over 200 works on display, visitors will find watercolor, acrylic and oil paintings; sculptures; pencil, charcoal and ink drawings; pottery and ceramic forms; digital media; masks; bas relief tiles and mixed media works. Select items are available for purchase.

A reception honoring all students is scheduled from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18 in the art gallery. The exhibition and reception with refreshments is free and open to the public.

Regular gallery hours are 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday and during events in the KPAC.

Enid SNA names raffle winner



Lorrie Fuxa

The NOC Enid Student Nurses Association announced that Lorrie Fuxa was the winner of an Easter raffle.

Prizes for the SNA raffle included a Gift Certificate to Empowering Intentions which gives the raffle winner a 75-Minute Therapeutic Massage and 1-Hour Private Infrared Sauna Combo, valued at \$185 as well as a 40 oz Stanley Tumbler (The Flip Straw Quencher Protour) and assorted Easter Candy.

The SNA sold 214 tickets and raised over \$800.

SNA Sponsor and NOC Nursing Faculty Member April Heitfeld said, “Special thanks to Empowering Intentions for helping us provide this wonderful gift certificate. Thank you to everyone that purchased tickets and helped make this fundraiser a huge success.”

She said that Enid SNA plans to use the money to provide community service to Enid and

(See SNA on Page 7)

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”

SNA

(Continued from Page 6)

surrounding communities. These community service projects include The United Way Chili Cook-off, the Salvation Army Christmas Tree Angel Project and adopting a local nursing home at Christmas to provide gifts for clients without family, and assorted educational projects for local health fairs.

“We are also in the process of planning and creating short informational videos to share on social media concerning what to expect from your nurse while in the hospital, explaining why nurses do what they do,” she added. “Thank you again for your support of the Enid Student Nurses Association.”

Here is a link to their website: <https://www.iahp.com/Jordann-Whittington/>

Athletic sophomore days scheduled

Sophomore days for NOC athletics have been scheduled.

Mavs Baseball: Saturday, April 25

Jets Baseball: Saturday, April 25

Mavs Softball: Saturday, April 25

Jets Softball: Thursday, May 7

Follow Jets athletics at www.nocjets.com.

Follow Mavs Athletics at www.noc.mavs.com



NOC Alumni & Friends BALLPARK SOCIAL

Thursday | May 14, 2026

SAVE THE DATE

OSU COWBOYS vs. University of Arizona
 6 pm | O'Brate Stadium
 103 N. Bellis Street | Stillwater, OK

SCAN TO
PURCHASE
TICKETS

\$12

**NOC ALUMNI & FRIENDS
SPECIAL OFFER**

Stop by the NOC Alumni & Friends
Corral 29 during the game for fun, food
and drinks while they last!

<https://okstate.eventue.net/promotions/NOC>

Questions? Contact Ciera Kirby
ciera.kirby@noc.edu | 580.628.6685



Thirty NOC Tonkawa students were inducted into the NOC Phi Theta Kappa Chapter last Sunday. (photo provided)

Phi Theta Kappa induction held

Phi Theta Kappa honor society held their annual Induction Ceremony on Sunday, April 12, in the Walcher Conference Center at NOC Tonkawa.

Thirty students were inducted. Sponsor, Dee Cooper led the ceremony. Special guest was Dr. Shelly Mencacci, Vice President of Academic Affairs, NOC and the Guest Speaker was Kacee Carson.

Carson served in the U. S. Navy as a Boatswain's Mate Third Class and is the founder and owner of Premier Surface Solutions.

She encouraged the inductees to work through the tough times because that is when you learn the most and to figure out who they are and not what someone wants them to be.

Also recognized during the ceremony was President Kaidince Calvert, Vice President Charley Carson, and Secretary/Public Relations Kristyn Flanery.

Students inducted were: Jadison Ackerman, Edmond; BreeAnna Allen, Ponca City; Madyson Austin, Mansfield, Texas; Justyce Booker, Edmond; Cooper Braden, Blackwell; Kole Campbell, Jet; Charley Carson, Cashion; Lauren Faith-Carter, Stillwater; Noelani Com-

brink, Tonkawa; Cailey Cronquist, Emmett, Idaho; Riley Fast, Ponca City; Madison Fischer, Hempstead, Texas; Kristyn Flanery, Newkirk; Hayden Groene, Keller, Texas; Amy Heick, Ponca City; Hallie Herrel, Minco; Cooper Johnson, Coppell, Texas; Rainey King, Walters; Payten Linn, Red Rock; Ashtyn Lumbers, Perry; Zion Moore, Owasso; Braxten Newton, Oklahoma City; Dalton Pierce, Tonkawa; Emma Pistorius, Blue Mound, Illinois; Ashlee Purvine, Fay; Elizabeth Saldivar, Blackwell; Izabella Sanders, Perkins; McKenna Sobasky, Churubusco, Indiana; Paige Wood, Big Cabin; and Joey Wyrick, Hennessey.

According to NOC Phi Theta Kappa Sponsor Dee Cooper, "The Purpose for Phi Theta Kappa shall be to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. To Achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa shall provide opportunity for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence."

Inductees were presented a certificate and took an oath while holding lit candles.

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NOC Criminal Justice students attended the 2026 ACJA Conference in Minnesota March 8-13. Pictured (L-R): Hayden Grell, Tonkawa; Lexi Merrill, Hominy; instructor Troy Cochran, Lucinda Foreman Ponca City; Taryn Ellis, Enid; and Angelina Rodriguez, Enid. (photo provided)

NOC Criminal Justice students attend 2026 ACJA National Conference in Minnesota

Students from Northern Oklahoma College's Criminal Justice Society recently traveled to Minnesota to attend the American Criminal Justice Association National Conference, held March 8-13, 2026.

This year's conference theme, *Cold Cases*, provided students with a unique opportunity to explore complex investigations while engaging in hands-on learning, competition, and professional development.

According to NOC Criminal Justice Instructor Troy Cochran, one of the most impactful moments of the conference came during the guest speaker sessions, highlighted by a presentation

from Patty Wetterling, a nationally recognized speaker and educator on child abduction and exploitation. Following the 1990 abduction of her son Jacob, Wetterling co-founded the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center and has since become a powerful advocate for child safety and prevention. Her message of resilience, advocacy, and systemic change left a lasting impression on attending students.

Throughout the week, NOC students actively competed in multiple events, including crime scene investigation, physical agility testing,

(See **Criminal Justice** on Page 10)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES SPRING 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



Criminal Justice

(Continued from Page 9)

and criminal justice knowledge exams. In addition to academic and physical competitions, students showcased their creativity in the conference talent show. Performing a skit inspired by the movie Frozen, the group humorously reimagined a cold case unit solving a case and earned an impressive 4th place finish.

Students attending included Hayden Grell, Tonkawa; Lexi Merrill, Hominy; instructor Troy Cochran, Lucinda Foreman Ponca City; Taryn Ellis, Enid; and Angelina Rodriguez, Enid.

NOC student leadership and achievement were also on full display. Criminal Justice Society President Lexi Merrill was awarded a highly competitive national scholarship. Reflecting on the experience, Merrill stated:

“It is with great honor that I was able to accept the ACJA National Scholarship Award, she said. “I am beyond grateful for the scholarship and I am beyond grateful to have experienced The American Criminal Justice Association

2026 National Conference. I was lucky to experience this amazing opportunity with such a great group of dedicated, determined and passionate individuals.”

“As CJS Club President, I am very proud of all of my members for the dedication they had and the hard work they put in over the week, despite never had experienced a conference like this,” she continued. “I am proud of the way they represented NOC all the way in Minnesota. This conference opened up so many opportunities and I will cherish it forever. Next step is planning Region 2 Regionals!”

Adding to the group’s success, Criminal Justice advisor and current National President Troy Cochran earned 1st place in the professional division of the Cold Case Knowledge Exam.

“This was an incredible experience for our students,” Cochran said. “We are thankful for the opportunity and for NOC’s continued support in allowing our students to attend and compete at a national conference.”

Criminal Justice holds showcase

Northern Oklahoma College criminal justice students heard from professionals across several areas of the field during a Criminal Justice Showcase held Wednesday at NOC Enid.

Guest speakers included Chad Mittelstet and Jessica Seigars of the Oklahoma Juvenile Authority, Casey Von Schrlitz of the Enid Police Department, and Travis Ray Downey and Courtney Schlarb of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections Parole and Probation division.

Each speaker shared examples from their work in the field and discussed the day-to-day realities of careers in criminal justice, offering stu-

dents practical insights into law enforcement, juvenile services, and community supervision.

“Our goal is to connect what students learn in the classroom with what actually happens in the field,” said NOC Criminal Justice Instructor Troy Cochran. “Bringing in working professionals gives students a real-world perspective that simply cannot be replicated through textbooks alone.”

All five speakers are Northern Oklahoma College alumni.

For more information about the NOC Criminal Justice program, contact Cochran at troy.cochran@noc.edu.

Join Us!

January 21	KARAOKE NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
January 28	BINGO FOR FOOD	Gantz Center 7pm
February 2-6	HOMECOMING WEEK	Times Vary
February 11	CROCHET NIGHT	Gantz Center 7 pm [Making Woobles]
February 18	MOVIE NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery 7 pm Students pick the movie
February 25	BOB ROSS PAINT NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
March 4	CUP PONG TOURNAMENT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
March 11	BINGO FOR FOOD	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
March 25	TRIVIA NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
April 3	GOLF SIMULATOR	Mabee Center Racquetball Courts 7 pm
April 8	BOWLING NIGHT	Oakwood Bowl 7 pm
April 14	BOARD GAME NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
April 22	ARTS & CRAFTS NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
April 29	PING PONG TOURNAMENT	Jets Residence Hall Lobby 7 pm



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: The New Moon is on April 17, thus if the clouds are out of the way you should have great viewing.

Weather: Check the forecast! The forecast is promising over the weekend, but as the Lyrids peak there is a chance of storms.

Highlights for the Week of Friday, April 17 to April 24, 2026

This Week – The Lyrid meteor shower peaks this week. This is the debris left by Comet Thatcher. The “shooting stars” are produced with the debris hits the Earth’s atmosphere and burns up. There is a very cool animation of the comet debris that can be found at <https://www.meteorshowers.org/>.

The planet Mercury is also bright. You can look east just before the Sun begins to rise.

You may be able to see the comet C/2025 R3 (PANSTARRS) in the pre-dawn sky. It should be in the constellation Pegasus. It is reaching its peak.



Astronomical Notes

To find the constellation Lyra, you are going to be looking for the 5th brightest star Vega. It is a brilliant bluish-white star, and it is the brightest star in the summer sky.

According to Space.com, the best stargazing apps for 2026 include SkySafari 7 which is available for the iOS and Android systems and Stellarium Mobile also available in both the iOS and Android Systems. (I have both on my phone) Star Walk 2 is really good for beginners, as you learn to navigate the constellations and identify the planets.

Photo Credit: Ring Nebula (M57) in the Constellation Lyra, Slooh Telescope Chile Two, by Dr. Frankie Wood-Black on April 23, 2023

NOC Calendar

April 18
Remember the Ten Run, Stillwater
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

April 19
Away Jets Softball vs. Ft. Hays Tech Northwest, 4 p.m./6 p.m.
BCM Open House, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m., Tonkawa

April 20
Away Jets Softball vs. Ft. Hays Tech Northwest, noon/2 p.m.

April 21
Free Lunch, BCM, 11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa
Spring Fling, College Circle, 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Tonkawa
The Gathering, BCM, 8 p.m., Enid

April 22
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
Greenhouse Ribbon Cutting/Open House, Ag Complex, 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. Tonkawa

Board of Regents Meeting, President’s Large Conference Room, 2 p.m., Tonkawa
Academic Award Reception, Gantz Center, 5:30 p.m., Enid
Arts and Crafts Night, Gantz Center, 7 p.m., Enid
The Gathering, BCM, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa

April 23
Away Mavs Baseball vs. Murray, 1 p.m./3:30 p.m.
Away Jets Baseball vs. UA Rich Mountain (AR), 1 p.m./3:30 p.m.
Away Jets Softball vs. Rose State, 2 p.m./4 p.m.
Home Mavs Softball vs. Connors, 2 p.m./4 p.m.

April 24
Tonkawa Film Festival, Wilkin Hall, 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., Tonkawa

April 25
Home Mavs Baseball vs. Murray, 1 p.m./3:30 p.m.
Home Jets Baseball vs. UA Rich Mountain, 1 p.m./3:30 p.m.
Home Mavs Softball vs. NEO, 2 p.m./4 p.m.
Away Jets Softball vs. Eastern, 2 p.m./4 p.m.

Tonkawa Film Festival, Wilkin Hall, 4:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Wilkin Hall



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NOC Tonkawa Exotic Pets



*photos by
Caroline Hillock*

Enid Superhero Day

