



**NORTHERN**  
Oklahoma College

TONKAWA | ENID | STILLWATER

www.noc.edu

# What's Happening

## April 4, 2026

NOC Public Information Office 580.628.6444

news@noc.edu, scott.cloud@noc.edu

# Three inducted into NOC Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame

Rick Scott, Adam Leaming, and Wilma Harman were inducted into the Northern Oklahoma College Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Thursday night at NOC Tonkawa inside the Renfro Center.

Scott (Class of 1983) is the President of Rick Scott Construction, Leaming (Class of 2001) is the Ponca City School Superintendent while Harman (Class of 1973) was a former Fine Arts Faculty Member who was inducted posthumously.

Also, the NOC Legacy Scholarship was awarded to Ashtyn Crowder, an incoming freshman from Tonkawa who will attend NOC Tonkawa in the Fall of 2026. She is the daughter of Kurt and Tawnya Crowder. Tawnya Crowder is a 1997 graduate of NOC Tonkawa earning an associate degree in Business Administration. The scholarship award is \$1,000.

Scott was introduced by Dr. Rick Edgington, Vice President for Enrollment Management. Leaming was introduced by NOC Emeritus Faculty Pat Hullett and Harman was introduced by former NOC Roustabout Kris DeYoe Vickery.

Each distinguished alum was formally inducted by NOC President Diana Morris saying, "On behalf of the Northern Oklahoma College Board of Regents, it is my honor to recognize and pay tribute to the late Wilma Harman, Adam Leaming, and Rick Scott into the Northern Oklahoma College Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame."

After Karen Harman McGowan spoke on behalf of Harman, Leaming, and Scott gave their acceptance remarks, President Morris closed the event.

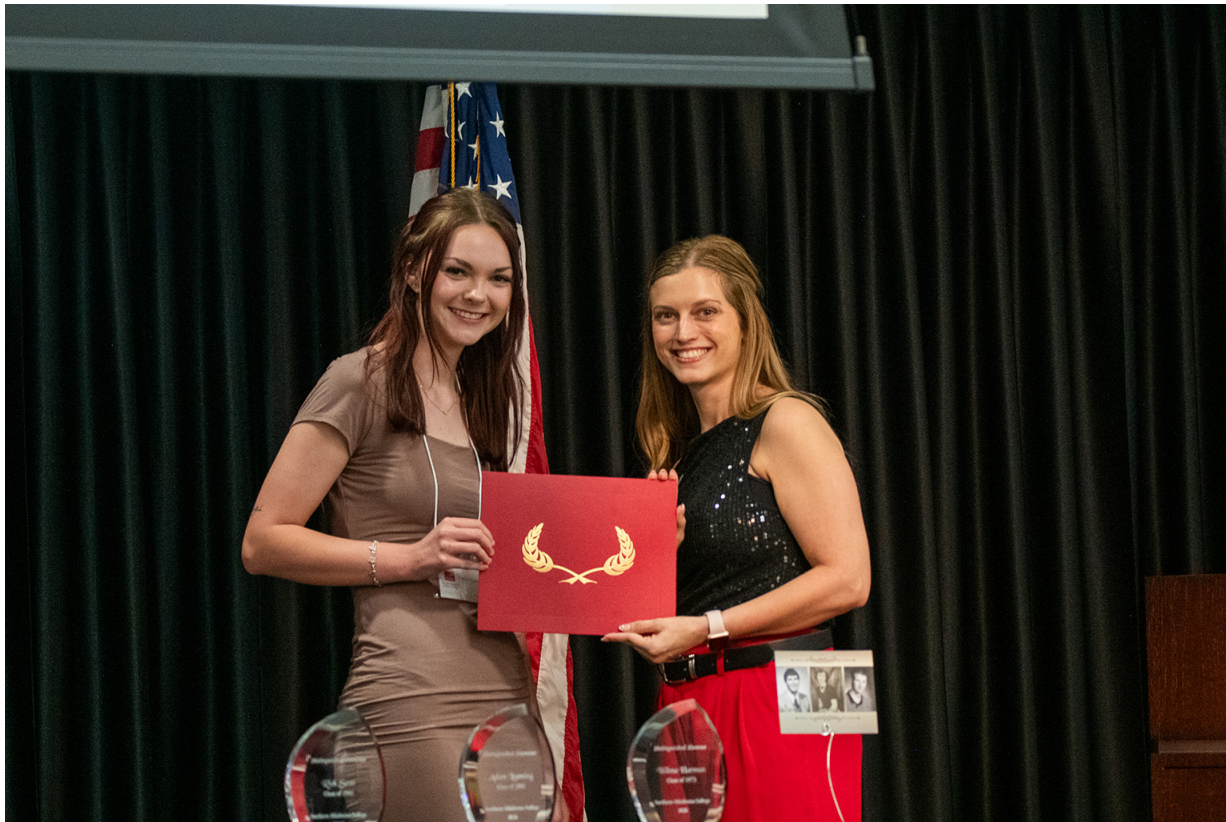
"What a fabulous evening," Morris said. "I always enjoy this opportunity to gather and hear all the wonderful stories about your time on campus. We are proud of Northern and the impact that it has had on so many lives."

"Adam (Leaming) and Rick (Scott), Northern is honored to recognize you this evening. It was a pleasure to visit with you and meet your family and friends who are here tonight to support you. We are honored that you chose NOC as the spot to begin your educational career, and

(See **Alums** on Page 2)



**Three NOC alumni were inducted into the Distinguished Hall of Fame last Thursday in Tonkawa. Pictured (L-R): NOC Vice President for Development & Community Relations Sheri Snyder, Adam Leaming (Class of 2001), Rick Scott (Class of 1983), NOC President Diana Morris. Wilma Harman (Class of 1973) was inducted posthumously. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC).**



NOC Director of Development and Annual Giving Kayla Wooderson presents the 2026 Legacy Scholarship to Ashtyn Crowder (left) from Tonkawa High School. Crowder will attend NOC Tonkawa in Fall 2026. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC).

## Alumni

(Continued from Page 1)

we are proud of your many accomplishments since your graduation and the excellence you bring to your respective fields.”

“To the family of the late Wilma Harman,” Morris added, “Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to honor and celebrate Wilma’s legacy.”

Morris added her congratulations to Alumni Legacy Scholarship winner Ashtyn Crowder.

“Thank you, Ashtyn, for choosing Northern and continuing your family’s legacy with us. We look forward to following your time here on campus and know we will be seeing wonderful things from you in your future endeavors.”

NOC has now inducted 63 distinguished alums into the Hall of Fame. Nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame are accepted throughout the year.

NOC Fine Arts students, under the direction of Shannon Varner and Dr. Edward Dixon, sang NOC’s Alma Mater. Alia Dust sang the National Anthem at the beginning of the event.

For more information, contact Ciera Kirby, Director of Alumni & Community Relations, at [ciera.kirby@noc.edu](mailto:ciera.kirby@noc.edu).

Open to all  
NOC students  
and to the  
public

# Criminal Justice SHOWCASE EVENT

NOC ENID



Three Discussions With  
All Guest Speakers  
NOC Alumni

Wednesday, April 8

Juvenile Delinquency | 9:30 am | Zollars Library, Room 404

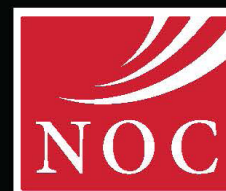
*Presented by Oklahoma Juvenile Affairs*

Criminal Procedures | 11:30 am | Zollars Library, Room 407

*Presented by Enid Police Department*

Corrections | 12:30 pm | Zollars Library, Room 110

*Presented by Garfield County Jail*



Contact John Dolezal  
for more information  
580.628.6242 | [john.dolezal@noc.com](mailto:john.dolezal@noc.com)

## NOC sponsors Enid Superhero Day

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 NOC Staculty Birthdays



Andrew Caldwell	April 1	Cassie Firth	April 15
Benjamin Hainline	April 2	Lonnie Rhea	April 15
Brian Knapke	April 5	Mary Ann Harris	April 18
Vanisa Gay	April 6	Denise Bay	April 20
Silvia Vazquez	April 6	Rachel Kirk	April 22
Christian Milner	April 8	Shannon Varner	April 22
Ashlyn Alexander	April 9	Ross Buchanan	April 27
Abigail Boggess	April 12	Anita Simpson	April 27
Renna Bowers	April 12	Adrianna Palomares	April 28
Kaylynn Cantrell	April 13		

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE

# ROUSTABOUTS

*Benefit Show*

## 2026





TICKETS  
**\$10**

**SAT | APR 11 | 7:30 PM**

KPAC | DINEO HEILMANN AUDITORIUM  
NOC TONKAWA



## NOC Livestock Judging Team wraps season at Houston Livestock Show

HOUSTON, Texas -- The Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa Livestock Judging Team completed their judging season earlier this month at The 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

In addition to team recognitions, NOC had three students recognized as All-American recipients for the 2025-2026 junior college judging season. This award is a combination of Grade Point Average and judging success.

All three students maintained a 4.0 GPA while judging and include; Madison Fischer, Hempstead, Texas; McKenna Sobasky, Churubusco, Indiana; and Ashlee Purvine, Fay, Oklahoma.

Other team members who placed included Lilian Buie, Fairfield, Iowa; Emma Pistorius, Blue Mound, Illinois; Paige Wood, Big Cabin, Oklahoma; Brady Perry, Perkins, Oklahoma; Hallie Herrel, Minco, Oklahoma; and Colton Smith, Elgin, Oklahoma.

Team and individual awards are listed below.

### Team Awards

Third High Team Overall, High Team Swine,

Third High Team Oral Reasons , Fourth High Team Sheep and Goats, Fourth High Team Placings

### Individual Awards

McKenna Sobasky: High Individual Overall, High Individual Oral Reasons, Fourth High Individual Cattle, Fourth High Individual Placings, Eighth Individual Sheep/Goats, Eighth Individual Swine

Madison Fischer: Eighth High Individual Cattle, Eighth High Individual Oral Reasons, 11th High Individual Overall

Lilian Buie: Fourth High Individual Swine

Ashlee Purvine: Ninth High Individual Placings

### Alternate Division

Emma Pistorius: Second High Individual Overall, High Individual Oral Reasons, Eighth High Individual Beef, Second High Individual Sheep/Goats

(See **Houston** on Page 5)

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

## Roustabout Benefit Show April 11

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

The show is at the Dineo Heilmann Auditori-

um inside the Kinzer Performing Arts Center at NOC Tonkawa. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

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

## Fine Arts auditions set for April 11

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](mailto:shannon.varner@noc.edu).

## Criminal Justice Showcase at Enid April 8

NOC Criminal Justice is hosting a showcase event at NOC Enid on Wednesday, April 8.

Speakers from Oklahoma Juvenile Affairs, Enid Police Department, and Garfield County Detention Center will present in various classrooms.

The following is the schedule:

Juvenile Delinquency: 9:30 a.m., Zollars Li-

brary Room 404

Criminal Procedures: 11:30 a.m., Zollars Library Room 407

Corrections: 12:30 p.m., Zollars Library Room 110

The events are open to all NOC students and the Enid area community.

## Houston

(Continued from Page 4)

Paige Wood: 10th High Individual Overall, Seventh High Individual Brahman, Seventh High Individual Beef, 10th High Individual Oral Reasons

Brady Perry: Third High Individual Brahman, Sixth High Individual Beef, 11th High Individual Oral Reasons

Hallie Herrel: Fourth High Individual Swine

Colton Smith: Eighth High Individual Swine



**GATEWAY**  
PROGRAM



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:












# NOC Calendar

## April 4

Home Mavs Baseball vs, UA Rich Mountain, 1 p.m./3:30 p.m.

## April 5

Home Jets Baseball vs. Redlands, 4 p.m./6:30 p.m.  
BCM Open House, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m., Tonkawa

## April 6

Away Jets Softball vs. NEO at Kingfisher, 2 p.m./4 p.m.  
Easter Egg Hunt, Heilmann Gazebo, 7 p.m., Tonkawa

## April 7

Free Lunch, BCM, 11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa  
Planetarium Show, Mackie Planetarium, 6 p.m., Enid  
The Gathering, BCM, 8 p.m., Enid

## April 8

Free Lunch, Wesley House, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa  
Criminal Justice Showcase Event, Zollars Library, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m., Enid  
Free BCM Lunch, Gantz Center, 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., Enid  
Bowling Night, Oakwood Bowl, 7 p.m., Enid  
The Gathering, BCM, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa

## April 9

Away Mavs Baseball vs. Carl Albert, 1 p.m./3:30 p.m.  
Home Jets Baseball vs. Western, 1 p.m./3:30 p.m.  
Away Jets Softball vs. NEO, 2 p.m./4 p.m.  
Home Mavs Softball vs. Rose State, 2 p.m./4 p.m.  
Process Tech Career Fair, CEC, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., Tonkawa

## April 10

Final Day to Withdraw from 16-Week Courses without Evaluation

## April 11

Spring Auditions and Portfolio Reviews, KPAC, 10 a.m., Tonkawa  
Away Jets Baseball vs. Western, 1 p.m./3:30 p.m.  
Home 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



**NORTHERN**  
Oklahoma College

### TONKAWA

**TUESDAY**  
April 14, 2026  
May 5, 2026  
May 12, 2026  
June 2, 2026  
June 16, 2026  
July 7, 2026  
July 28, 2026  
August 4, 2026

### ENID

**WEDNESDAY**  
April 15, 2026  
May 6, 2026  
May 13, 2026  
June 3, 2026  
June 17, 2026  
July 8, 2026  
July 29, 2026  
August 5, 2026

### STILLWATER

**THURSDAY**  
April 16, 2026  
May 7, 2026  
May 14, 2026  
June 4, 2026  
June 18, 2026  
July 9, 2026  
July 30, 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

For more information [www.noc.edu](http://www.noc.edu)

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NOC students, faculty, and staff attended the annual Higher Ed/Oklahoma Promise Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol this past week.

## NOC attends Higher Ed/Oklahoma Promise Day in Oklahoma City

Students, faculty, and staff from Northern Oklahoma College joined other Oklahoma's state system institutions at the State Capitol today to demonstrate the value and importance of higher education in the state and celebrate the Governor and Legislature's ongoing support of the Oklahoma's Promise program.

Speakers during the event included Gov. Kevin Stitt, Sen. Adam Pugh, Sen. Ally Seifried, Rep. Collin Duel, Rep. Mark Lawson, Rep. Arturo Alonso-Sandoval, State Regents chair Courtney Warmington, and Chancellor Sean Burrage.

"Students, faculty, and staff from Oklahoma's public colleges and universities came together at the State Capitol today to showcase the impact of investing in public higher education and the importance of the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship," Burrage said. "More than half of Oklahoma's top 100 critical occupations — including the 22 highest paying careers — require a college degree. Building a strong workforce in

key fields including STEM, healthcare, and education is our highest priority."

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 2024 and 2025 legislative sessions: Sen. Julia Kirt, Sen. Adam Pugh, Sen. Aaron Reinhardt, Sen. Kristen Thompson, Rep. Chad Caldwell, Rep. Toni Hasenbeck, Rep. Dell Kerbs, Rep. Cyndi Munson, Rep. Tammy Townley, and Rep. Josh West.

"Our legislative leaders are making a meaningful investment in Oklahoma's future and the students we serve," said State Regents Chair Courtney Warmington. "Each award recipient demonstrates our shared commitment to higher education's essential role in strengthening the workforce and building a more resilient

See **Higher Ed Day** on Page 8)

# NOC END SPRING 2026 STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## Join Us!

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

# Oklahoma Higher Ed Day

(Continued from Page 7)

economy by helping more Oklahomans earn college degrees.”

For FY27, the State Regents are requesting \$13.5 million for critical workforce development initiatives, including funds to increase enrollment and graduation in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and other critical workforce disciplines and provide additional scholarships for adult students nearing completion of a college degree or pursuing an industry-recognized micro-credential or certificate.

The State Regents also request \$43.5 million in FY27 to fund performance-based institutional allocations; strengthen college access and academic success services and FAFSA completion; expand student scholarships; fund innovations and efficiency initiatives; and enhance campus physical and cyber security. Additionally, the State Regents seek \$21.5 million for implementation of the Strong Readers Act provisions, for the National Guard Educational Assistance Program and Oklahoma Rising Scholars Scholarship, and to expand concurrent enrollment. The State Regents also will advocate for insti-

tution-specific allocations of \$348 million to meet campus needs, including system and infrastructure maintenance projects, and fund strategic collaborations.

Supporting campus research capacity and partnerships is also a priority for the State Regents in the current legislative session. The State Regents support legislation that creates additional opportunities and provides resources to our public institutions to serve as hubs of discovery, generating new knowledge and technologies that can lead to breakthroughs in healthcare, agriculture, energy, and more.

Another legislative priority for public higher education is refining the Oklahoma’s Promise scholarship program to expand access to more Oklahoma families. Strategies include increasing the annual family income limit to \$100,000, clarifying eligibility requirements for children of certified public classroom teachers, and refining high school course requirements for students pursuing various post-secondary opportunities through the scholarship.

Recognized by many as one of the top promise scholarship programs in the country, Oklahoma’s Promise is considered a national model that emphasizes both academic preparation and financial support for college. More than 115,000 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](http://www.okpromise.org).




# 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**





**The NOC Star-Gate**

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

**This Week's Viewing Conditions:**

*The Moon:* The full moon for April was on the second, thus the moon will begin to wane. It will be bright in the sky, causing it to be a bit harder to see some of the dimmer objects.

*Weather:* Check the forecast! Its spring time in Oklahoma, so you never know exactly what we are in for, but the weather is looking pretty good for the week.

**Highlights for the Week of Friday, April 3 to April 10, 2026**

*This Week* – Venus is going to be bright and dominate the early evening western sky for the month. You will be able to see Jupiter high in the west in the early evening. And you might start looking for the constellation Lyra, as the Lyrid meteor shower will peak later in the month.

*Next week* – You may be able to see the comet C/2026 A1 (MAPS) with your eyes, if it survives its close fly-by encounter with the Sun.

**Astronomical Notes**

Mercury will be at its most visible on April 3, it will be at its greatest elongation that is its farthest point away from the Sun as we see it from Earth. (Remember, all of the planets have an elliptical orbit.) Mercury will be very low on the eastern horizon just before the sun begins to rise.

**Pro Viewing Tip**

**Finding Lyra – the Harp**

The easiest way to find Lyra is to look for the Summer Triangle. The Summer Triangle is made up of three stars – Vega, the brightest star in the Constellation Lyra; Altair, the brightest star in Aquila the Eagle, and Deneb in the Cygnus the Swan (and its name fits because it means tail and is located in the tail of the Swan.) Lyra will appear in the north -eastern sky just after midnight. It will be a very bright star.

*April planetarium show on Tuesday*

The April planetarium show is set for Tuesday, April 7, at 6 p.m.

Planetarium Director Fritz Osell will show the evening sky over Enid during the spring months and point out planets and other objects of interest in the night sky. Tuesday's show will be about the ancient Greek origins of the constellations Persius and Andromeda.

Osell will also show the first journey and landing on the moon by the Apollo astronauts and show planetarium visitors what space exploration might look like during the next 3000 years.

Admission is free but donations of non-perishable food is accepted.

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# Enid city attorney Melissa Blanton speaks at NOC Enid Speaker Series

Enid City Attorney Melissa Blanton spoke at Northern Oklahoma College Enid last Friday as part of the Student Government Association Speaker Series, sharing reflections on leadership, community collaboration and the influence of women in her life during Women's History Month.

Blanton said the opportunity allowed her to recognize the women who shaped her path.

"I haven't done anything amazing, but many who came before me have," she said. "This is a great opportunity to discuss ways that lead to better futures and how we can work together to make that happen."

Blanton said people in her life helped her see her potential.

"I have done a number of different things in my life because people have invested in me and showed me who I could be," she said.

She added that one of her passions is helping people connect with resources available in their communities.

"I love to find ways that people can plug into resources that are available," she said. "It's important for people to know what tools are available and how they can tap into those tools."

During the presentation, Blanton included interactive exercises designed to give attendees practical ideas they could take back to their communities.

She also shared personal items from women in her family to encourage participants to reflect on the women who influenced their own lives.

"I have placed some items on the tables from women in my family," she said. "While that won't mean anything to you, hopefully it will encourage you to examine the women in your life and how they have affected you. We all have so many people who have helped us on our

paths in life."

Blanton encouraged attendees to record family stories and histories so they are not lost to future generations.

In discussing leadership, Blanton emphasized the importance of collaboration.

"One thing I want everyone to realize is that leaders make changes in the community through collaborations and partnerships," Blanton said. "You cannot do it alone. You need to see who is at the table and who you can connect with."

Blanton also spoke about recognizing individuals in the community for their contributions.

"So many people do amazing things that are never really noticed," she said. "It's a way of recognizing people for important work they do that many may not notice."

She encouraged attendees to write a note to a woman who influenced their life.

"We don't write notes anymore," she said. "But it is a great way to honor the women in your life. It will encourage and inspire them in so many ways."

Blanton also showed videos illustrating teamwork and leadership. One highlighted how geese fly in formation to increase the strength of the flock, with geese in the back honking to encourage those in front to maintain speed. Another showed how one person dancing in a park inspired others to join.

"One person following is sometimes all you need," Blanton said.

Jeremy Hise, vice president for NOC Enid, thanked Blanton for her presentation and recognized the Student Government Association, led by Dean Ryan Paul and SGA sponsor Chance Blackdeer.

NOC President Diana Morris also thanked



NOC Enid Hispanic Heritage Club/Environmental Science Students attended the SGA Speaker Series event last Friday. Pictured (L-R): Dorothy Paulis (student), Ivan Aragon (student), Julian Enriquez-Gonzalez (club member), Guest Speaker Melissa Blanton, Nancy Real (club member), Mia Landin (student), and Jeremy Ejalu (student). (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)



NOC SGA Members pictured with guest speaker Melissa Blanton. (L-R): Deagan Jones, Kellen Payne, Speaker Melissa Blanton, Noah Morriss, Oryne Stewart (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

Blanton for speaking.

"Melissa, thanks for your challenge today regarding family history," Morriss said. "I have my great-grandmother's autobiography, and that is something special for me to have, so thank you for challenging our students. Thank you for challenging us to empower leaders in our com-

munities."

Morriss also praised Blanton's emphasis on followership.

"In all the talks I have heard about leadership, I've never heard the focus on being a gifted follower," Morriss said. "I think that's genius and I'm so glad you shared that today."

# Scenes from the NOC Enid Jets run to the Elite 8

