

Regents approve capital projects at Enid, Tonkawa

The Northern Oklahoma College Board of Regents approved a number of capital projects on the Tonkawa and Enid campuses.

A total of 15 projects were approved, as described by Vice President for Financial Affairs Anita Simpson.

Projects approved included a precision agriculture drone package; KPAC stage painting in Tonkawa; Tonkawa and Enid campus wide concrete repairs; Easterling Residence Hall roof replacement in Tonkawa; Elliott-Goulter Residence Hall carpet replacement in Enid; Enid cafeteria lounge and tile replacement; Mabee Center entryway tile replacement and restroom renovation in Enid; Zollars Library carpet replacement in Enid; Tonkawa mail and address machine replacement; a data center server and storage upgrade; annual software and hardware maintenance support renewal; and annual Microsoft license renewal.

Regents also approved a yearly contract with Great Western Dining, NOC's food service provider. NOC has contracted with Great Western Dining for food services on the Tonkawa and Enid campuses for the past two academic years.

Simpson also provided NOC's financial report, which was approved by the regents.

Regents also heard a report on the upcoming Higher Learning Commission campus visits

scheduled for November 2027. A number of college faculty and staff members explained to the regents their roles in the accreditation process.

Also, the regents approved the opening of residence halls at Enid and Tonkawa for the summer. Students can stay at Threlkeld Hall in Tonkawa at a rate of \$600 per month and Jets Hall in Enid at a rate of \$735 per month.

In administrator updates, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Shelly Mencacci reported that NOC has 79 applications for the college's nursing program for fall 2026. She also reported that NOC continues to have a 100% NCLEX pass rate for nursing graduates.

Sheri Snyder, vice president for development and community relations, reported that 74 students will wear first-generation student stoles at NOC commencement exercises May 2 as a gift from the NOC Foundation. She also reported that eight faculty members will wear first-generation stoles.

Vice President for Enid Jeremy Hise reported that Enid Superhero Saturday on April 11 was a success. He said NOC set up a booth at the annual event where prospective nontraditional students had an opportunity to learn about NOC. He added that a number of NOC Enid athletes helped with the community event.

Dr. Rick Edgington, vice president for enrollment management, said NOC enrollment for summer 2026 and fall 2026 is trending well, with NOC Enroll & Explore opportunities on all three NOC campuses providing opportunities for fall enrollment.

Simpson also reported that college officials continue to study the Big Beautiful Bill, passed by Congress in July 2025, and its potential impact on college financial aid.

Marsh Howard, Vice President for Stillwater and Grant Development, said NOC has re-

ceived a \$1,000 grant from the NJCAA for NOC competitive cheer. The program was reinstated in December 2025 by the board of regents for fall 2026.

Jason Johnson, vice president for student affairs, reported that NOC has coaching openings for men's wrestling, Lady Mavs basketball and Mavs cheerleading that he said will be filled in the next few weeks.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 20, in the James Room at NOC Enid's Gantz Center at 2 p.m.

Commencement set for Saturday

Cattle rancher and television producer Jeff Medders will address candidates for graduation at Northern Oklahoma College 2026 commencement exercises Saturday, May 2.

NOC Tonkawa and NOC Stillwater candidates will march into Foster-Piper Fieldhouse on the Tonkawa campus at 9:30 a.m. on May 2.

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

Pinning ceremonies for graduates from the NOC nursing program will take place at 7 p.m. on May 1, in the Kinzer Performing Arts Center

in Tonkawa.

"The NOC family is looking forward to celebrating this significant academic milestone for our students," said NOC President Di-



(See **Commencement** on Page 2)

Commencement

(Continued from Page 1)

ana Morris. “We’re also excited for our students to hear from Distinguished Alumnus Jeff Medders who in addition to being incredibly entertaining is an excellent representation of Northern Oklahoma College values.”

Medders, a 2023 NOC Distinguished Alumni, grew up on a ranch in southeastern Oklahoma, where his passion for the western lifestyle and storytelling took root early. By his junior year of high school, he had already set his course—to become a sportscaster—and he has pursued that goal with unwavering focus ever since.

Originally planning to attend Oklahoma State University, Medders instead chose Northern Oklahoma College as a start to his college career after recognizing the opportunity to gain hands-on experience through its student-run radio station. That decision proved pivotal, launching a career that began with local sportscasting roles in Midland-Odessa, Texas, and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In 1988, Medders’ career took a defining turn when he began freelancing for the then-fledgling Winner Communications. Over the next 15 years, he became a familiar face across major networks, hosting programming for ESPN, ABC, CBS, CBS Sports Network, Animal Planet, and more.

In 1991, Medders became the face of ProRodeo—a role he has carried for more than three decades. His connection to the sport deepened in 2012 when his company, Geronimo Productions, took on a major role in producing television coverage for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA).

Another pivotal chapter came in 2020, when Rural Media Group acquired the PRCA’s television rights. As President and General Manager of The Cowboy Channel, Medders helped transform the visibility of ProRodeo, expanding its reach to more than 70 million homes during a year defined by the challenges of COVID-19.

Today, Medders remains one of the premier television hosts in the western sports world, known for his versatility and authenticity—particularly in programming that centers around the horse and the western way of life. He is currently producing *10 Nights in Vegas*, a series he created with Taylor Sheridan.

Medders’ contributions to the industry have earned him induction into the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum’s Hall of Fame, the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma State University Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame.

Planetarium show set for Tuesday

NOC Enid will host a community planetarium show on Tuesday, May 5 at 6 p.m. at the Mackie Planetarium.

Visitors will see the Tales of a Time Traveler - with an Introduction to what to look for in the sky during the month of May.

Groups and schools may arrange a planetarium show by contacting Dr. Frankie Wood-Black at NOC by calling 580-628-6440 or emailing Astronomy@noc.edu

NOC will also be hosting a Summer Planetarium Series at noon on June 17, July 8 and July 29.



Spring 2026 Final Exam Schedule

Tonkawa, Enid and Stillwater Campuses

MONDAY, May 4	TUESDAY, May 5	WEDNESDAY, May 6	THURSDAY, May 7
COURSE WF 7:40am MW, MWF or WF 8:00am MW or MWF 8:30am MW 8:30am	COURSE T 8:30 am TR 8:30 am TR 9:00 am	COURSE M, MW or MWF 9:00 am MTWF or MWF 9:30 am	COURSE TR 7:30 am TR 7:40 am TR 7:45am TR 8:00 am
EXAM 8:00 am-9:50 am	EXAM 8:00 am-9:50 am	EXAM 8:00 am-9:50 am	EXAM 8:00 am-9:50 am
COURSE MW 11:30 am MWF 11:30 am	COURSE TR 11:30 am TR 12:00 pm	COURSE MW or MWF 12:30 pm	COURSE T or TR 10:30 am
EXAM 10:00 am-11:50 am	EXAM 10:00 am-11:50 am	EXAM 10:00 am-11:50 am	EXAM 10:00 am-11:50 am
COURSE MW 1:30 pm MWF 1:30pm	OPEN	COURSE MW, MWF or MTWR 10:30 am	OPEN
EXAM 12:00 pm-1:50 pm		EXAM 12:00 pm-1:50 pm	
COURSE MW or W 2:00 pm MWF or W 3:00 pm	COURSE T 2:00 pm TR or T 3:00 pm	COURSE MF 3:00 pm MW 3:30 pm	COURSE TR 1:30 pm
EXAM 2:00 pm-3:50 pm	EXAM 2:00 pm-3:50 pm	EXAM 2:00 pm-3:50 pm	EXAM 2:00 pm-3:50 pm
COURSE M 4:30pm	COURSE T, TR, TF 5:30pm	COURSE MW 5:30pm	COURSE TR or T 4:00pm TR 4:30 pm
EXAM 5:00 pm-6:50 pm	EXAM 5:00 pm-6:50 pm	EXAM 5:00 pm-6:50 pm	EXAM 5:00 pm-6:50 pm
COURSE M 6:00 pm M 6:30 pm M or MW 7:00pm	COURSE T or TR 7:00pm	COURSE W 7:00pm	COURSE R 6:00pm R 7:00pm
EXAM 7:00 pm-8:50 pm	EXAM 7:00 pm-8:50 pm	EXAM 7:00 pm-8:50 pm	EXAM 7:00 pm-8:50 pm

NOC plans DMI Student Showcase, Epic Shorts Film Festival

The Northern Oklahoma College Digital Media Institute's Annual Student Showcase will be held on Friday, May 1, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Wilkin Hall room 108/110.

DMI's graduating students will be showcasing their creative skills in Maya, After Effects, Photoshop, Premiere Pro, and much more.

Visitors are welcome to take a tour, watch demo reels, talk to the students, and enjoy traditional free ice cream floats.

DMI Director Brad Matson said, "The goal of DMI is to furnish students with an expertise skill set required to secure employment within the realm of cutting-edge computer graphics. Over the span of two years, the program centers on artistic methods utilizing contemporary technology. DMI students cultivate the capacity to translate their concepts and visions into various realms of digital media, encompassing 3D modeling, texturing, animation, motion capture, game environment and asset development, visual effects, motion graphics, graphic design, digital filmmaking, video editing, and audio refinement."

"This is a great opportunity to expand the awareness to potential employers as well as introducing companies to a talent pool

of educated, creative, and driven artists, in addition to exposing talented prospective students to the DMI program and the local educational facilities," Matson added.

Epic Shorts Student Film Festival

The 18th Annual Epic Shorts Student Film Festival will take place on May 1 at 4 p.m. in the Wilkin Theatre, showcasing nine original short films produced entirely by Digital Media Institute students.

These filmmakers handled every aspect of the process, from initial writing and directing to lighting, sound, and final production phases. According to festival founder Brad Matson, this year's lineup represents the highest quality of work in the event's history.

Attendees can look forward to a fun and competitive screening where cash prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place, along with a special Audience Choice award.

All proceeds and donations benefit Diabetes Solutions of Oklahoma. These funds provide critical financial support for children in Oklahoma, helping them access insulin pumps, medical supplies, education, and scholarships for specialized diabetes camps.

Mavs, Jets athletics in post-season

NOC athletics is heading to the post season for 2026, baseball post season is underway while the softball post season is in two weeks.

Mavs and Jets baseball is in the Region 2 Crossover Series this weekend. The Mavs are at South Ark for a three game series while the Jets are at Mountain Home (AR) for a best of three. The winners of the best of three advance

to the NJCAA Region 2 Tournament in Enid May 7-10.

Jets and Mavs softball face each other on Thursday, May 7, at Enid's Pacer Field for the final regular season games of 2026. The NJCAA Region 2 Softball Tournament is May 14-17 at Shawnee's Firelake Softball Complex.





NOC Fine Arts held a concert last Sunday including the College Choir and Madrigal Singers at the Heilmann/Auditorium inside the Kinzer Performing Arts Center. (photo by Caroline Hillock).

NOC hosting summer camps

Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa and Enid are hosting a number of camps this summer. July 7, July 12 and August 2
Boys Basketball Camp: July 21-23

The following are listed by campus.

Tonkawa

- Girls Basketball: June 8-10 (Grades K-3)
- Nursing Camp: June 18
- Skills USA: June 14-19 (overnight)
- Girls Basketball: June 21-25 (Grades 3-6)
- Girls Basketball: July 5-9 (Grades 7-12)
- Arts Adventure: July 13-16
- Softball Prospect Showcase: May 17, June 9,

Enid

- ERDA Internship: May 18 – July 31 (overnight)
 - Upward Bound Summer Academy: May 26 – July 2
 - USAF: June 3-13 (overnight)
 - Youth Leadership Enid: June 9-11 (overnight)
- Please contact Scott Cloud at scott.cloud@noc.edu for additional information.

**EPIC SHORTS
FILM FESTIVAL**

FRIDAY MAY 1ST
4PM - 6PM

WILKIN THEATRE

DMI
digital media institute



NOC art students and faculty collaborated on the annual student art exhibition, 'Beyond the Frame.' Students sold over \$1400 of student art by the end of the reception and are currently over \$1600 in total sales.

NOC Calendar

May 2

Commencement Exercises for NOC Tonkawa/Stillwater, Foster-Piper Fieldhouse, 9:30 a.m., Tonkawa

Commencement Exercises for NOC Enid, Briggs Auditorium, 2:30 p.m., Enid

Away Jets Baseball vs. UA Rich Mountain, Region 2 Crossover Series, 1 p.m./4 p.m.

May 3

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

May 4

Final Exams
Food for Finals, Jets Cafeteria, 9 p.m. – 11 p.m., Enid

Food for Finals, Mavs Cafeteria, 10 a.m. – midnight, Tonkawa

May 5

Final Exams
Enroll & Explore, Wilkin Hall, 9 a.m. – noon, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Tonkawa

Planetarium Show, Mackie Planetarium, 6 p.m., Enid

Student Honor Recitals, Heilmann Auditorium/KPAC, 7:30 p.m.

May 6

Final Exams
Enroll & Explore, Zollars Library, 9 a.m. – noon, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Enid

May 7

Final Exams
NJCAA Region 2 Baseball Tournament, David Allen Memorial Ballpark (May 7-10)

Enroll & Explore, 2nd Floor Commons, 9 a.m. – noon, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Stillwater

NOC Tonkawa vs. Jets Softball at Pacer Field, 2 p.m./4 p.m.

Mavs Softball vs. NOC Enid at Pacer Field, 2 p.m./4 p.m.

May 8

Staculty Awards, Retirement Celebrations, Service Pinning, Renfro Center, 9:30 a.m., Tonkawa

NOC ENID

PLANETARIUM SHOW

**Tuesday,
May 5, 2026 | 6 pm**

Mackie Planetarium

Free Admission

[Donated non-perishable food items accepted]

NOC Life changing.



NOC Mass Communication students attended a college broadcaster convention in Oklahoma City April 9. Pictured (L-R): Mass Communication instructor Dean Percy, Corban Burrell, Enid; Kadi Kienholz, Marland; Catie Blum, Ponca City; and Rowan Svob, Pond Creek. (photo provided)

Mass Comm students attend conference

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. – Northern Oklahoma College Mass Communication students attended the Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association/Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters annual convention.

The convention was held April 9th at the OKANA Resort in Oklahoma City.

Attendees were Corban Burrell, Enid; Kadi Kienholz, Marland; Catie Blum, Ponca City; and Rowan Svob, Pond Creek.

Earlier this year, students submitted digital work in the OBEA student competition going



Kadi Kienholz and Corbin Burrell

up against other students from across the state and attended the awards ceremony.

Only the top three submissions are recognized in each category.

In the Public Service Announcement category, Kadi Kienholz place 2nd and Corban Burrell placed 3rd.



Northern Oklahoma College 2025-2026 Employee Service Awards Ceremony, Service Pinning, and Retirement Recognition

Join Us

Friday, May 8, 2026

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Renfro Center, NOC Tonkawa

End of Year Faculty Meeting 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Brunch Begins at 10:30 a.m.

Program Remarks Begin at 11:00 a.m.

Welcome

Service Pinning

Special Awards

Retirement Recognition

Closing Remarks

Life changing.



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 is on May 1, Moonshine is going to interfere with our nighttime viewing, but will improve as the week progresses.

Weather: Check the forecast! The forecast is promising for the next week, so take advantage!



Highlights for the Week of Friday, May 1 to May 8, 2026

This Week – The Lyrids will be replaced by the Aquariids thus the sky is still putting on a show. The Aquariids will appear as though they are coming from the constellation Aquarius and should peak May 5 and 6, and should be most visible in the pre-dawn hours. So, definitely keep your eyes skyward.

Jupiter and Venus are still visible all month, and Jupiter helps you to locate the constellation Gemini. The constellation Aquarius is located between Pisces and Capricorn

Astronomical Notes

As we approach summer, you may want to

plan a tour of various areas of Oklahoma. This past December, Black Mesa in the Oklahoma Panhandle was designated as an International Dark Sky park. This means that there is limited interference by human light pollution. It helps preserve the true nocturnal environment and allows for great stargazing. It will offer great viewing opportunities and let you see the wonders of the universe.

Photo Credit: Slooh Australia Observatory AllSky Image, by Dr. Frankie Wood-Black on April 23, 2026

MAY EMPLOYEE
Birthday
CELEBRATIONS!

Let's celebrate our amazing team members and wish them a *fantastic* year ahead!

🌟 Aron Bassoff 5/9	🌟 Ian Layne 5/17
🌟 Brad Gordon 5/9	🌟 Heather Merrill 5/18
🌟 Christopher Storm ... 5/10	🌟 Linn Laughrey 5/21
🌟 Mark Tarrant 5/10	🌟 Brodie Salyer 5/21
🌟 Ty Shreck 5/11	🌟 Teresa Walker 5/21
🌟 Mathew Gray 5/17	🌟 Kathy Hannah 5/24
	🌟 EJ Taylor 5/25
	🌟 Janet Jarvis 5/26

Thank you for all you do!

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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

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580.548.2353
recruiter2@noc.edu

Stillwater
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janet.jarvis@noc.edu

For more information www.noc.edu

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