

## NOC approves FY 2027 Budget, freezing tuition and mandatory fees for third straight year

The Northern Oklahoma College Board of Regents approved the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting in Tonkawa.

The approved Educational and General Operating Budget of \$26,305,015 represents an increase of 0.79% (\$205,222). For the third year in a row, Northern will not be seeking an increase in tuition and mandatory fees for the 2026-2027 academic year for the Enid and Tonkawa campuses. While in accordance with our MOU, the NOC/OSU Gateway Program will have increases mirroring those OSU will present to the OSRHE for approval.

NOC's updated cost comparison chart reflecting the pricing structure for each NOC location for FY2027 tuition and fees can be located on the website at <https://www.noc.edu/students/current-students/bursar/tuition-and-fees/>.

The NOC Board of Regents unanimously approved this freeze in tuition and mandatory fees during their meeting and it will be presented to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for approval on June 25.

"The Regents are very pleased we are able to continue to provide high quality educational opportunities and services to NOC students without increasing the financial burden on

them or their families," said regent chair Mike Loftis.

Again, this year, institutions will be reimbursed for 100 percent of the total eligible waivers for high school juniors and seniors that our institutions provided in FY26. This \$728,593 reimbursement represents an increase of \$7,470

from the previous year.

NOC President Diana Morris stated, "I'm also quite excited to report that NOC will provide nearly \$4 million in waivers and scholarships to our students. Some previously un-funded and under-funded programs will see an increase as a result of an infusion of funds from the NOC

Foundation."

The NOCF Trustees voted at their last meeting to make a three-year commitment of \$1,000,000 per year to the College. \$500,000 of that is being used to offset cash outlay scholarships to

(See **Tuition** on Page 2)

## Ashley Moore named Interim VPAA

Northern Oklahoma College has named Ashley Moore interim vice president for academic affairs. Moore's official start date is July 6.

Moore replaces Dr. Shelly Mencacci, who accepted a position as vice president of advancement at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

"We are so excited to have Ashley Moore step into this role during this time of transition in academic affairs for NOC," said NOC President Diana Morris. "She brings a wide-breadth of experience in professional development, grants management, and multi-campus operations. Her collaborative approach to leadership and broad understanding of academic policy and

procedures are the perfect blend to support NOC faculty and students as we continue to advance our Life Changing mission across all NOC campuses."

Most recently, Moore served as director of



**Ashley Moore**

secondary education and district gifted and talented coordinator for Stillwater Public Schools, where she led principals, instructional coaches and college- and career-readiness initiatives.

Her extensive background also includes key state-level leadership roles. She served as executive director of literacy and director of gifted and talented for the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Throughout her career, she has managed multimillion-dollar grant budgets, collaborated with state legislators and launched student education initiatives.

Moore holds a Master of Education in curric-

(See **Moore** on Page 2)

# Tuition

(Continued from Page 1)

free up college dollars to address NOC Strategic Plan priorities and \$500,000 will go toward new scholarship initiatives. Further information concerning these new scholarships will be announced in the coming weeks.

Also at the meeting, Brad Fox was elected the Regents Chair and Jami Groendyke as Vice Chair for 2026-2027.

In other business, the regents approved the following items:

- Approved the FY2026 Internal Audit Report.
- Appointed regents Brad Fox and Sandy

Mulligan as Group One Trustees for the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation.

- Approved the NOC Campus Master Plan for FY2027-2035.
- Approved the Financial Report, Monthly Purchases, and Monthly Allocations.
- Regent Jami Groendyke has been appointed by Governor Kevin Stitt to serve another five-year term, which expires in June 2029.

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 22, at NOC Tonkawa at 2 p.m.

# Moore

(Continued from Page 1)

ulum and instruction from Arizona State University and graduate certificates in building-level leadership from Oklahoma State University and district-level leadership from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oklahoma State University and taught high school English for 14 years.

A lifelong learner, Moore is dedicated to her

belief in “Success for every student!” She is currently a doctoral candidate in educational leadership through the OU-Tulsa/CCOSA cohort.

Moore and her husband, Brady, have been married nearly 25 years. They have two daughters: Kinley, who will be a sophomore at the University of Arkansas, and Sadie, who will be a junior at Stillwater High School.



**NORTHERN**  
Oklahoma College

TONKAWA | ENID | STILLWATER

**Happy BIRTHDAY!**

HELP US WISH THESE MEMBERS OF THE NOC FAMILY

*a very Happy Birthday!*

DATE	EMPLOYEE
July 5	Christopher Gerber
July 7	Brandon Haynes
July 7	Leslie Johns
July 9	Terry Chartier
July 9	Jill Schultz
July 16	Dean Percy
July 17	Stephani Spurlock
July 17	Kimberly Mathe Cuellar
July 20	Mary McCoy
July 22	Ryan Paul
July 23	Stacy Burns
July 23	Deryl Gulliford
July 25	Jackie Melson
July 25	Kathy Riley
July 26	Stephen Vassar
July 27	Kayla Wooderson
July 27	Rowan Kehn
July 29	Sherryl Nelson

*Wishing you all a wonderful birthday and a fantastic year ahead!*



Miss NOC 2026 Alia Dust participated in the Miss Oklahoma Competition June 8-13 in Midwest City. Pictured (L-R): Miss NOC Executive Director, Shannon Varner; current Miss Heartland and Miss NOC 2025 Adysen Thompson from Prague; Alia Dust, Miss NOC 2026 from Winfield, Kansas; Diana Morris, NOC President; Mia-Claire Jones from Morrison, Miss Northwest Passage and Miss NOC Enid 2022; Emma Valgora of Ponca City, Miss Ponca City and Miss NOC Tonkawa 2022.

## Studd Morris to lead men's wrestling

Northern Oklahoma College has selected Studd Morris to lead the men's wrestling program at NOC Tonkawa.

Morris comes to NOC from Norman North High School where he was an assistant for one year.

Morris, a graduate of Yukon High School, wrestled at the University of Central Oklahoma where he was part of national championship teams in 2023 and 2024. Morris originally signed with the University of Oklahoma before transferring to UCO.

Morris is excited to take over the Mavs' men's program.

"First and foremost, I would like to thank Athletic Director Alan Foster and President Diana Morris for giving me the opportunity to serve as the next head wrestling coach at Northern Oklahoma College," he said. "After speaking with both of them and the



**Studd Morris**

(See **Morris** on Page 4)



**Cost Per Child**  
**\$100**  
 Commuter Day Camp.  
 Total for 3 Days.  
 Includes T-Shirt.

*Kids should bring a basketball (if they have one).*

# 2026 BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP

**JULY 21-23**  
 Going into 1st-5th | 9am-12pm  
 Going into 6th-8th | 1pm-3pm  
 NOC Tonkawa, Foster-Piper Fieldhouse  
 Concessions will be available for purchase

**To Register Contact: Coach Gossett | 630.329.1212**  
 or Email: [Brandon.Gossett@noc.edu](mailto:Brandon.Gossett@noc.edu)

*Please make checks payable to NOCF Maverick Men's Basketball Camp and bring with you first day of camp along with form on back.*

# Morris

(Continued from Page 3)

rest of the athletic department, it's clear they are committed to investing in the growth and success of this program. I'm incredibly excited to join the Maverick family and provide our student-athletes with every opportunity to excel both on and off the mat."

"My vision is to put Tonkawa on the national stage and showcase the toughness, work ethic, and talent that Oklahoma wrestlers are known for," Morris added.

NOC Athletic Director Alan Foster is excited to see where Morris can take the Mavs' program.

"I am pleased to bring Studd Morris on board as our new wrestling coach," Foster said. "I believe that his championship pedigree at UCO will give him the background needed to enhance our program here at Northern. I look forward to him working with our student athletes to impart his knowledge of what it takes to

succeed not only in wrestling but also in other aspects of their lives."

"His contacts through coaching at Norman North should boost our Oklahoma recruiting," Foster added.

He was regional champion and state runner-up his senior year at Yukon.

Wrestling at 125 pounds, Morris was a two-time Division II National Qualifier. His career record at UCO was 97-25. He was a Super Regional Champion in 2023, was a member of the Italian World Team Member in 2022, and a 2022 Mediterranean Games Bronze Medalist.

Morris has a degree in Marketing from UCO.

He will also assist the women's program at NOC.

He replaces Bryan Kenney who led the Mavs two years. Kenney is now the head women's coach at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

# Sarah Jo Otto to lead Mavs cheer

Northern Oklahoma College has selected Sarah Jo Otto as the NOC Tonkawa Maverick competitive cheer coach.

Otto graduated from Northwestern Oklahoma State University with a bach-



Sarah Jo Otto

elor's degree in mass communication and a master's degree in adult education and administration.

She was a member of the Northwestern Oklahoma State Ranger Cheer Team and also worked at a gymnastics gym. More recently, Otto owned and operated a competitive cheer and tumbling gym for four years. She also spent three years in education, teaching English and journalism in Elkhart, Kansas.

"I'm honored to be part of the return of cheer at Northern Oklahoma College and grateful for the opportunity to lead the Maverick program," Otto said. "I'm passionate about the sport and

(See Otto on Page 5)



# Enroll & Explore!



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<b>TONKAWA</b>	<b>ENID</b>	<b>STILLWATER</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
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*

<b>Tonkawa</b> 580.628.6668 recruiter1@noc.edu	<b>Enid</b> 580.548.2353 recruiter2@noc.edu	<b>Stillwater</b> 580.628.6904 janet.jarvis@noc.edu
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For more information [www.noc.edu](http://www.noc.edu)

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Life changing.

# Otto

(Continued from Page 4)

excited to build a culture of excellence, pride and family while creating an incredible experience for our student-athletes.”

“Joining Northern Oklahoma College feels like a full-circle moment,” Otto added. “It combines my passion for education, recruiting and the sport that has shaped so much of my life.” NOC Athletic Director Alan Foster said he is excited for Otto to lead the program.

“I am super excited to have Sarah lead our competitive cheer program,” Foster said. “It has

been a long and exhaustive search, but I believe it has been worth the wait to find someone with her experience and accomplishments.”

“I look forward to seeing what she can build here at NOC Tonkawa as she guides our student-athletes through their competitive experience,” he added.

Otto will also serve as a recruiter on the Tonkawa campus.

She is a graduate of Drummond High School.

## NOC Calendar

<p><b>July 12</b> Girls' Basketball Camp (July 12-16), Tonkawa</p>	<p><b>July 24</b> No Classes/Offices Closed</p>
<p><b>July 13</b> Sheep Field Day, 9 a.m., Tonkawa Arts Adventure Camp (July 13-16), Tonkawa</p>	<p><b>July 28</b> Enroll &amp; Explore, Wilkin Hall, 9 a.m. – noon or 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Tonkawa</p>
<p><b>July 15</b> Native American Leadership Day, Tonkawa</p>	<p><b>July 29</b> Enroll &amp; Explore, Zollars Library, 9 a.m. – noon or 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Enid</p>
<p><b>July 17</b> No Classes/Offices Closed</p>	<p><b>July 30</b> Enroll &amp; Explore, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Commons, 9 a.m. – noon or 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Stillwater</p>
<p><b>July 22</b> Board of Regents Meeting, President's Large Conference Room, 2 p.m., Tonkawa</p>	<p><b>July 31</b> No Classes/Offices Closed</p>
<p><b>July 23</b> End Late 6-Week Courses</p>	



# NOC ENID

# PLANETARIUM

# SHOW

## Summer Series

**Wednesday, June 17**  
**Wednesday, July 8**  
**Wednesday, July 29**

**All shows begin at  
 12 noon at  
 Mackie Planetarium  
 Free Admission**

Groups and schools can arrange for a planetarium showing by contacting  
**Dr. Frankie Wood-Black**  
 580.628.6440 | astronomy@noc.edu



**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  
Viewing Conditions:

The Moon: The New Moon will be on July 14 and the Full Moon on July 29. The July Full Moon has several names: Buck, Thunder, Hay, and Salman.

Weather: Check the forecast! With the El Nino, there is a chance for a lot of wet weather.

**Highlights for July**

Just get out an look. We don't have any particularly "exciting" events like a planetary alignment, or a comet coming through.

Towards the end of the month we will start to see the beginnings of several meteor showers. But the temperatures and viewing conditions make it a wonderful time to just get out and look and observe.

See if you can get out of the light pollution and really view the Milky Way and see stars that are approximately 250 light-years away from Earth

Thought it would be fun to think about this as we celebrate 250 years. In the night sky, we are seeing light from these stars that began its journey to Earth in 1776.



Spica (Alpha Virginis): The brightest star in the constellation Virgo and one of the 15 brightest stars in the night sky.

Bellatrix (Gamma Orionis): The massive blue giant that marks the upper-left shoulder of the Orion constellation.

Omega Herculis (Cujam): A yellow giant star located in the constellation Hercules.

Photo Credit: Eagle Nebula Slooh Telescope Australia One, by Dr. Frankie Wood-Black on Mar 14, 2026, 18:30 UTC

STATE REGENTS WORKFORCE READY SCHOLARSHIP

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
Improving our future by degrees

**Are you an Oklahoma resident pursuing a degree in a high-demand workforce field?**

The State Regents Workforce Ready Scholarship program is designed to reduce financial barriers to higher education, support student success, and prepare learners for meaningful careers that strengthen Oklahoma's communities and workforce pipeline.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for the State Regents Workforce Ready Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be an Oklahoma resident enrolled at a public college or university within the Oklahoma state system.
- Be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student (minimum of 12 credit hours per semester) at an accredited public institution in Oklahoma. *Note: Exemptions to full-time enrollment may apply.*
- Be enrolled in a degree-seeking academic program aligned with a high-demand occupation or an emerging, high-demand field with projected job growth, as determined by the State Regents.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.
- Complete a work-based learning experience that provides real-life or simulated work opportunities allowing students to develop and apply academic, technical, and essential skills.

**Examples of eligible learning experiences:**

- Apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship
- Clinical experience
- Cooperative education
- Externship, fellowship, or internship
- Job shadowing
- Practicum or residency
- Service learning
- Work-based simulations

**SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT**

Qualified students can earn a one-time scholarship to offset the cost of tuition, fees, and books, with award amounts based on institution type:

Research Universities	Regional Universities	Two-Year Colleges
\$7,000	\$5,000	\$3,000

**APPLY TODAY!**

Scan the QR code or visit [WorkforceReadyOK.org](http://WorkforceReadyOK.org).



**QUESTIONS?**

**DR. LUCIA DICKINSON**

Coordinator for Workforce and Economic Development  
Email: [ldickinson@osrhe.edu](mailto:ldickinson@osrhe.edu) | Phone: 405.225.9180

# State Regents approve new performance funding formula, allocate funds for Oklahoma colleges, universities

## from the OSRHE office

At the May meeting, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education approved revisions to the performance funding formula for state system colleges and universities. The updated methodology reflects public higher education's Blueprint 2030 strategic plan, aligns with state priorities and initiatives, and incentivizes improved student access and success.

The State Regents' Performance Funding Formula Committee developed the model in consultation with HCM Strategists, a national higher education policy and finance consulting firm, after reviewing national best practices in higher education finance and performance funding structures and considering institutional mission differentiation, employer demand, and outcome-based funding metrics.

"This update to the state system performance funding formula will more strategically connect allocation of state appropriations with Oklahoma's higher education priorities, workforce

needs, and student success goals," said State Regents' chair Courtney Warmington. "Beginning in FY27, a percentage of institutional base funding will be allocated through the new model, increasing in annual increments to reach 25% of institutional base funding."

Components of the new model include enrollment (25%), recognizing institutional access for traditional and adult learners with varying economic and academic backgrounds; retention and success (30%), emphasizing student progression and completion outcomes; opportunity (20%), focusing on completion outcomes for priority student populations, such as adult, Pell-eligible, and academically underprepared students; and workforce (25%), aligning funding with key measures such as degree completion in STEM and other critical occupations, employment of graduates, and wages. A peer-sector allocation methodology is designed to recognize the differing missions, structures, and operating environments of research uni-

versities, regional universities, and two-year institutions.

The State Regents also allocated FY27 state appropriations for the state system of higher education and expressed their gratitude for ongoing support of the Oklahoma's Promise and Oklahoma Rising Scholars programs.

The State Regents received \$15.7 million in new state appropriations, representing a 1.4% increased investment by legislators and the Governor over FY26, including an additional \$10 million for Oklahoma's Promise and \$4.7 million for the Oklahoma Rising Scholars Award program.

"We thank our legislators and Gov. Stitt for investing in Oklahoma's future," said Chancellor Sean Burrage. "Public higher education's FY27 budget advances the priorities outlined in our Blueprint 2030 strategic plan – to grow the student pipeline and produce workforce-ready graduates to meet changing marketplace needs."

Institutional operating allocations for FY27 in-

clude continuing targeted investments in campus-based workforce development initiatives in high-demand fields such as engineering, computer science, data analytics, and nursing. In FY26, the State Regents allocated \$11.5 million to Oklahoma's public colleges and universities from funds designated to incentivize increased production of STEM and healthcare graduates. This funding was awarded with the understanding that at the end of a three-year period, funds could be reallocated based on credit hour production and degrees conferred in those critical occupations. Those funds have been allocated for year two of three among the institutions for FY27 and remain "at-risk" based on degree production over the next two academic years.

The State Regents also allocated funding in FY27 for financial aid and scholarship programs to support college degree completion, including concurrent enrollment and the Oklahoma Rising Scholars Award program.

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## Oklahoma State Regents continue to keep tuition affordable

### from the OSRHE office

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education today set tuition and mandatory fee levels for Oklahoma's public colleges and universities. Tuition and mandatory fees for resident undergraduate students in 2026-27 will not increase at nine institutions across the state system of higher education. For in-state undergraduate students, tuition and mandatory fees will increase an average of 2.2% statewide for the 2026-27 academic year.

"We take our responsibility to keep higher education affordable for Oklahoma families very

seriously," said State Regents' chair Courtney Warmington. "Recognizing that Oklahomans and our public colleges and universities are operating in a challenging economic climate, the State Regents work diligently to balance student and campus needs while maintaining academic quality, focusing on innovation, and enhancing support services to continue building our state's educated workforce."

On average, an Oklahoma undergraduate college student will pay \$4.92 more per credit hour for tuition and mandatory fees in 2026-27.

"Increasing degree completion to meet critical

employment needs remains our top priority," said Chancellor Sean Burrage. "This modest increase will empower state system campuses to advance leading-edge programs and services, expand collaboration with the business community, and continue momentum to address other strategies outlined in our *Blueprint 2030 strategic plan*."

Cameron University, Carl Albert State College, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Northern Oklahoma College, Oklahoma City Community College, Redlands Community College, Seminole State

College, and Tulsa Community College will not increase tuition and mandatory fees for resident undergraduate students.

In addition, the State Regents administer Oklahoma's Promise, a state scholarship program that allows high school students from middle- and low-income families to earn a college tuition scholarship. More than 132,000 Oklahomans have earned the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship since the program's inception. Learn more at <https://okpromise.org/>.