



MINUTES

of the

March 6, 2026, Regular Meeting

of the

Board of Regents *for the*

Oklahoma Agricultural & Mechanical Colleges

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Items pertaining to the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma A&M Colleges, of interest to all the institutions

Page

I. BOARD OF REGENTS' BUSINESS

Approval of Order of Business.....	1
Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held January 30, 2026.....	1
Announcement of next Regular Board Meeting on April 24, 2026.....	2
Recognition of Regent Chris Franklin.....	2
Recognition of Mr. Jason Ramsey and Adoption of Resolution of Appreciation.....	2
Conclusion of Board of Regents' Business.....	3
Attachment to this portion of the minutes.....	4-13

Business with the Institutions

II. OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by President Julie Dinger.....	14
Panhandle Magazine.....	14
Adoption of Memorial Resolution for Dr. Dale Campbell Goldsmith.....	15
Approval of the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Strategic Plan.....	16
Approval of the program suspension of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fine Arts.....	16
Approval to enter into an equipment Master Lease for the purchase of buses.....	16
Approval to solicit bids and process a purchase order to purchase buses for travel.....	17
Conclusion of OPSU's business.....	18
Agenda attachment to this portion of the minutes.....	19-59

III. NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M COLLEGE

Remarks by President Kyle Stafford.....	60
NEO Update.....	60
Approval to change the Bursar Payment Policy, "N2-1212 BURSAR August 2025" to align with the late payment fee structure that was previously approved at the January 2026 Board of Regents Meeting.....	61
Approval of personnel actions; items not requiring Board action provided for informational purposes only.....	62
Approval to increase the cost of the renovation of the food retail store in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union to \$875,00.....	62
Approval to select an on-call consultant to provide as-needed construction management services to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College.....	62
Approval to purchase five fleet vehicles from Oklahoma State University in the amount of \$145,000.....	63
Approval to solicit competitive bids or contracts approved through the Office of Central Procurement to replace the parking lot for Copen Hall at an estimated amount of \$125,000.....	63
Agenda attachment to this portion of the minutes.....	64-86

Business with the Institutions (*continued*)

IV. CONNORS STATE COLLEGE

Remarks by President Ron Ramming & overview of CSC Connection.....	87
Conclusion of CSC's business.....	88
Agenda attachment to this portion of the minutes.....	89-105

IV. LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

Remarks by President Ruth Ray Jackson & overview of 'E Roar Digital Publication.....	106-107
Approval of personnel actions; items not requiring Board action provided for informational purposes only.....	108
Agenda attachment to this portion of the minutes.....	109-127

VI. OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by President Jim Hess.....	128
Career Services Presentation by Dr. Brent Marsh, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Kellie Ebert, Director of Career Services.....	128-131
Adoption of Memorial Resolutions for Perry McNeill, JoAnna Ryan, Milton Usry, Jr., Barbara Walker, and Russell Emery Wright.....	131
Approval of personnel actions; items not requiring Board action provided for informational purposes only.....	132
Approval of curricular changes.....	132
Approval of peace officer actions (OSU System).....	132
Approval of actions required to finance a potential project to replace compressed natural gas fueling station equipment in Stillwater, Oklahoma.....	133
Approval to enter into and execute a ground lease agreement with Teledyne FLIR Defense, Inc.....	133
Approval to transfer funds for space renovations in the Nancy Randolph Davis West building.....	134
Approval to waive bidding requirements for a 340B wholesale supplier (OSU-CHS).....	134
Approval to enter into a contract with the City of Stillwater to fund an Airline Service Guarantee Participation Agreement.....	134
Approval of five purchasing items.....	135-137
Recognition agreements for interior spaces.....	137
Agenda attachment to this portion of the minutes.....	138-191

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments by Mr. Michael Mann regarding the OSU Hockey Club.....	192
Comments by Mr. Carl Weinaug regarding Lake Carl Blackwell.....	193

**Further items pertaining to the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma A&M Colleges,
of interest to all the institutions**

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs, Policy and Personnel Committee

No report. All recommendations made by this Committee were presented during the business of OPSU and OSU.

Audit, Risk Management and Compliance Review Committee

No report.

Facilities Committee

No report. All recommendations made by this Committee were presented during the business of NEO and OSU.

Finance Committee

No report. All recommendations made by this Committee were presented during the business of OSU.

Regents Steering Committee

Update on the CSC Presidential Search Process..... 194

VIII. OTHER BOARD OF REGENTS' BUSINESS

Executive Session 195

Open Session..... 195

Appointment of Ms. Kristi Ice as the Chief Executive Officer for the offices of the
Board of Regents and Secretary of the Board..... 195

Meeting adjournment..... 196

Attest page..... 197

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
FOR THE OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES
MARCH 6, 2026**

Notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on November 6, 2025.

The Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) Colleges met in the Council Room, 412 Student Union, on the campus of Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater, Oklahoma (OK) on March 6, 2026.

Board members present: Mr. Rick Walker, Chair; Mr. Cary Baetz, Vice Chair; Mrs. Blayne Arthur; Ms. Jennifer Callahan; Mr. Chris Franklin; Mr. Joe D. Hall; Mr. Jimmy Harrel; Mr. Tracy Poole; and Mr. Billy G. Taylor.

Board member absent: None.

Board staff present: Mr. Jason Ramsey, Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Ms. Brandee Hancock, Interim General Counsel; Ms. Michelle Finley, Chief Audit Executive; Mr. Steve Thompson, Director of Public Policy; Ms. Karlee Belle Gholson, Deputy Director of Public Policy; Ms. Kyla Eldridge, Office Manager & Executive Assistant to the CEO; and Ms. Amy Thomas, Administrative Associate.

After it was affirmed a quorum was present and that all documents had been filed with the Secretary of State, Chair Walker called the meeting to order at approximately 10:11 a.m.

I. BOARD OF REGENTS' BUSINESS

A. Approval of Order of Business

(The Order of Business and Agenda for this meeting are collectively identified as ATTACHMENT A and attached to this portion of the minutes.)

Regent Harrel moved and Regent Taylor seconded to approve the Order of Business as presented.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Harrel, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

B. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held January 30, 2026

Regent Poole moved and Regent Callahan seconded to approve the Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Harrel, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None.
The motion carried.

C. Announcement of next Regular Board Meeting

Chair Walker announced that the Board's next Regular Meeting will be held on April 24, 2026, in the Calcagno Family Ballroom of the Student Union on the campus of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) in Miami, OK.

D. Recognition of Regent Chris Franklin

Chair Walker said the Board would like to recognize the completion of Regent Franklin's first term. Though it was a partial term, he has been on the Board for two years and he immediately stepped into the role of a Board member to make an impact with his exceptional experience and good judgment. The Board is excited that Governor Kevin J. Stitt has reappointed Regent Franklin for a full eight-year term and looks forward to his confirmation by the State Senate. Chair Walker then presented Regent Franklin with a trophy which read, "In grateful appreciation for your leadership and dedication to the advancement of higher education in Oklahoma as a member of the Board of Regents for Oklahoma State University and the A&M Colleges, 2024-2026."

(Regent Franklin was recognized with applause.)

Chair Walker said he appreciates Regent Franklin's service as Chair of the Athletics Task Force Committee. He has stepped in and done a phenomenal job.

E. Recognition of Mr. Jason Ramsey and Adoption of Resolution of Appreciation

(The Resolution of Appreciation is identified as ATTACHMENT B and attached to this portion of the minutes.)

Chair Walker presented Mr. Ramsey with a trophy that said, "In grateful appreciation for your leadership and dedication to the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges and the advancement of higher education in Oklahoma, 2003-2025."

(Mr. Ramsey was recognized with applause.)

Regent Taylor moved and Regent Baetz seconded to adopt the Resolution of Appreciation as presented.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Harrel, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None.
The motion carried.

(At approximately 10:16 a.m., Regent Harrel left the meeting.)

March 6, 2026

A Secretary of State notice for this meeting was filed on November 6, 2025.

1. Order of Business
2. Minutes of the January 30, 2026, Regular Board Meeting
3. Announcement of next regular meeting:
April 24, 2026 -- Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
 Calcagno Family Ballroom, Student Union
 Miami, Oklahoma
4. Recognition of Regent Chris Franklin
5. Recognition of Mr. Jason Ramsey and Adoption of Resolution of Appreciation

1. Oklahoma Panhandle State University
2. Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
3. Connors State College
4. Langston University
5. Oklahoma State University

1. Academic Affairs, Policy and Personnel Committee
2. Audit, Risk Management and Compliance Review Committee
3. Facilities Committee
4. Finance Committee
5. Regents Steering Committee – CSC Presidential Search

1. Reports or recommendations by the Interim Chief Executive Officer
 - a. General Business
 - b. General Counsel
 - c. Chief Audit Executive



AGENDA

Regular Meeting of the OSU/A&M Board of Regents

March 6, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

**Oklahoma State University
Council Room, 412 Student Union
Stillwater, Oklahoma**

Notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on November 6, 2025. Detailed information for all agenda items is provided in the attached documentation.

I. BOARD OF REGENTS' BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Order of Business
- B. Consideration and possible approval of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 30, 2026 (due to their large volume, draft minutes for this meeting are available for viewing on the Board website at the following url: https://regents.okstate.edu/site-files/docs/meetings/2026/draft_2026-01-30_reg_brd_mtg_minutes.pdf)
- C. Announcement of next Regular Board Meeting to be held on April 24, 2026, at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Calcagno Family Ballroom, Student Union, Miami, Oklahoma
- D. Recognition of Regent Chris Franklin
- E. Recognition of Mr. Jason Ramsey and Adoption of Resolution of Appreciation

II. OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

- A. General Information/Reports Requiring No Action by the Board
 - 1. Remarks by President Julie Dinger
 - 2. Panhandle Magazine
- B. Resolutions
 - 1. Request adoption of Memorial Resolution
 - a. Dr. Dale Campbell Goldsmith
- C. Policy and Operational Procedures
 - 1. Request approval of the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Strategic Plan
- D. Personnel Actions in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03
 - 1. Items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only
 - a. Two items for informational purposes only
- E. Instructional Programs

1. Request approval of the following program suspension:

- a. Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fine Art

F. Budgetary Actions (adoption of a new budget or revision of a budget, etc.)

None

G. Other Business and Financial Matters

1. Request approval to enter into an equipment Master Lease for the purchase of buses

H. Contractual Agreements (other than construction and renovation)

None

I. New Construction or Renovation of Facilities

None

J. Purchase Requests in compliance with Board Policy 2.07

1. Request approval to solicit bids and process a purchase order to purchase buses for travel

K. Student Services/Activities

None

L. New Business Unforeseen at Time Agenda was Posted

M. Other Informational Matters Not Requiring Action of the Board

1. 2026 Out of State Travel

III. NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M COLLEGE

A. General Information/Reports Requiring No Action by the Board

1. Remarks by President Kyle Stafford
2. NEO Update

B. Resolutions

None

C. Policy and Operational Procedures

1. Request approval to change the Bursar Payment Policy “N2-1212 BURSAR August 2025” to align with the late payment fee structure that was previously approved at the January 2026 Board of Regents Meeting

D. Personnel Actions in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03

1. Request approval of personnel actions; items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only
a. Five personnel actions for approval
b. Eight items for informational purposes only

E. Instructional Programs

None

F. Budgetary Actions (adoption of a new budget or revision of a budget, etc.)

None

G. Other Business and Financial Matters

None

H. Contractual Agreements (other than construction and renovation)

None

I. New Construction or Renovation of Facilities

1. Request approval to increase the cost of the renovation of the food retail store in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union to \$875,000
2. Request approval to select an on-call consultant to provide as-needed construction management services to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College

J. Purchase Requests in compliance with Board Policy 2.07

1. Request approval to purchase five fleet vehicles from Oklahoma State University in the amount of \$145,000
2. Request approval to solicit competitive bids or contracts approved through the Office of Central Procurement to replace the parking lot for Copen Hall at an estimated amount of \$125,000

K. Student Services/Activities

None

L. New Business Unforeseen at Time Agenda was Posted

M. Other Informational Matters Not Requiring Action of the Board

1. Out-of-state travel summary for January 2026

IV. CONNORS STATE COLLEGE

A. General Information/Reports Requiring No Action by the Board

1. Remarks by President Ron Ramming
 - a. CSC Connection Publication

B. Resolutions

None

C. Policy and Operational Procedures

None

D. Personnel Actions in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03

None

E. Instructional Programs

None

F. Budgetary Actions (adoption of a new budget or revision of a budget, etc.)

None

G. Other Business and Financial Matters

None

H. Contractual Agreements (other than construction and renovation)

None

I. New Construction or Renovation of Facilities

None

J. Purchase Requests in compliance with Board Policy 2.07

None

K. Student Services/Activities

None

L. New Business Unforeseen at Time Agenda was Posted

M. Other Informational Matters Not Requiring Action of the Board

1. Out-of-State Travel Report for January 2026

V. LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

A. General Information/Reports Requiring No Action by the Board

1. Remarks by President Ruth Ray Jackson

a. Overview of 'E Roar Digital Publication

B. Resolutions

None

C. Policy and Operational Procedures

None

D. Personnel Actions in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03

1. Request approval of personnel actions; items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only

a. Five personnel actions

b. One item for informational purposes only

E. Instructional Programs

None

F. Budgetary Actions (adoption of a new budget or revision of a budget, etc.)

None

G. Other Business and Financial Matters

None

H. Contractual Agreements (other than construction and renovation)

None

I. New Construction or Renovation of Facilities

None

J. Purchase Requests in compliance with Board Policy 2.07

None

K. Student Services/Activities

None

L. New Business Unforeseen at Time Agenda was Posted

M. Other Informational Matters Not Requiring Action of the Board

None

VI. OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

A. General Information/Reports Requiring No Action by the Board

1. Remarks by President Jim Hess

2. Career Services Presentation by Dr. Brent Marsh, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Kellie Ebert, Director of Career Services

B. Resolutions

1. Request adoption of Memorial Resolutions for Perry McNeill, JoAnn Ryan, Milton Usry Jr., Barbara Walker, and Russell Emery Wright

C. Policy and Operational Procedures

None

D. Personnel Actions in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03

1. Request approval of personnel actions; items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only

a. 4 new appointments

b. 3 changes in appointments

c. 2 sabbaticals

d. 10 retirements or separations for informational purposes only

E. Instructional Programs

1. Request approval of curricular changes

a. OSU-STW

i. 3 new programs/certificates

ii. 30 program modifications

b. OSUIT

i. 3 new programs/certificates

ii. 4 program modifications

F. Budgetary Actions (adoption of a new budget or revision of a budget, etc.)

None

G. Other Business and Financial Matters

1. Request approval of peace officer actions (OSU-System)

2. Request approval of actions required to finance a potential project to replace compressed natural gas fueling station equipment in Stillwater, Oklahoma

3. Request approval to enter into and execute a ground lease agreement with Teledyne FLIR Defense, Inc.

4. Request approval to transfer funds for space renovation in the Nancy Randolph Davis West building
5. Request approval to waive bidding requirements for a 340B wholesale supplier (OSU-CHS)

H. Contractual Agreements (other than construction and renovation)

1. Request approval to enter into a contract with the City of Stillwater to fund an Airline Service Guarantee Participation Agreement

I. New Construction or Renovation of Facilities

None

J. Purchase Requests in compliance with Board Policy 2.07

1. Request approval of five purchasing items

a. Sole Source and Special Request

1. Authorization is requested for Fire Service Training to purchase American Heart Association (AHA) educational training materials from AHA in the estimated amount of \$275,000

b. Revolving and Appropriated Funds

1. Authorization is requested for the Spears School of Business to purchase replacement computers for Spears' staff in the estimated amount of \$400,000
2. Authorization is requested for Human Resources to award and execute a contract with Employer Advocates as the benefits broker/benefits consulting firm to provide strategic advisory and brokerage/consulting support for the OSU/A&M employee and retiree benefits portfolio, including the University's self-funded healthcare plan

c. Auxiliary Enterprises Funds

1. Authorization is requested for OSU Athletics to increase the previously approved estimated amount of \$285,000 to \$375,000 for its engagement with Huron to cover additional services to complete the project

d. Plant Funds

1. Authorization is requested to demolish Kerr Hall, Drummond Hall, and Kerr Drummond Cafeteria, and for Facilities Management to purchase the necessary demolition services in the estimated amount of \$4,649,411

K. Student Services/Activities

None

L. New Business Unforeseen at Time Agenda was Posted

M. Other Informational Matters Not Requiring Action of the Board

1. Recognition agreements for interior spaces

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

In accordance with Board Policy 1.17, time will be provided for individuals to appear before the Board in order to provide comments on issues directly affecting institutions governed by the Board.

A. Individuals scheduled to speak:

1. Mr. Michael Mann
2. Mr. Carl Weinaug

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consider other possible actions based upon reports or recommendations by various Committees of the Board of Regents.

A. Academic Affairs, Policy and Personnel Committee

No Report. All recommendations made by this Committee were presented during the business of OPSU and OSU.

B. Audit, Risk Management and Compliance Review Committee

No report.

C. Facilities Committee

No Report. All recommendations made by this Committee were presented during the business of NEO and OSU.

D. Finance Committee

No Report. All recommendations made by this Committee were presented during the business of OSU.

E. Regents Steering Committee

1. Update on the CSC Presidential Search Process

IX. OTHER BOARD OF REGENTS' BUSINESS

A. General Information/Reports Requiring No Action by the Board

None

B. Resolutions

None

C. Policy and Operational Procedures

None

D. Personnel Actions in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03

1. Executive Session, if approved by the required number of members present, for the purpose of discussing/considering candidates for the position of Chief Executive Officer for the offices of the Board of Regents and Secretary of the Board. (Oklahoma Open Meeting Act §307B.1.)
2. Consider or take any action with reference to the matter contained in the immediately preceding item.

E. Other Business Matters Requiring Action of the Board

None

F. Reports/Comments/Recommendations by Interim Chief Executive Officer

G. Reports/Comments/Recommendations by General Counsel

H. Reports/Comments/Recommendations by Chief Audit Executive

I. New Business Unforeseen at Time Agenda was Posted

J. Other Informational Matters Not Requiring Action of the Board

None

K. Meeting adjournment

Resolution of Appreciation *honoring*
JASON R. RAMSEY

WHEREAS, Mr. Jason R. Ramsey served the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges with distinction, honor, and integrity for nearly 23 years, for which the Board expresses its sincere appreciation; and

WHEREAS, he received a Master of Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma, a Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University, and is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma and Leadership Edmond; and

WHEREAS, he previously served on the staff of the OSU Alumni Association, former Governor Frank Keating, and former U.S. Senator Don Nickles; and

WHEREAS, he joined the Board staff in 2003 as a Policy Analyst and became the Director of State Government Relations in 2008, before becoming Chief Executive Officer in 2012; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as CEO, Mr. Ramsey served with 26 Regents and 37 Presidents and has been involved in conducting six presidential searches; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the institutions of higher education which it governs have benefited greatly from his leadership and depth of knowledge and expertise; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ramsey has left a lasting, positive impact on the operations of the Board Offices and will continue to provide leadership and service to higher education in his new role for the Oklahoma State University System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board pays honor and tribute to Mr. Ramsey for his extraordinary service and worthy accomplishments on behalf of the Board of Regents and the institutions it governs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be presented to Mr. Ramsey, and that a copy be included in the official minutes of the Board as a lasting tribute to his exemplary service and worthy accomplishments for and on behalf of the Board, its institutions, and higher education in Oklahoma.

Adopted by the A&M Board of Regents this 6th day of March, 2026.

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE OKLAHOMA
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES**

Rick Walker, Chair

Jimmy Harrel, Member

Cary Baetz, Vice Chair

Tracy Poole, Member

Blayne Arthur, Member

Billy G. Taylor, Member

Jennifer Callahan, Member

Board Seal

Chris Franklin, Member

Joe D. Hall, Member

II. OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY, GOODWELL, OKLAHOMA

President Julie Dinger and other members of the administration came before the Board to review the Agenda and present the business of Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU). (The OPSU Agenda is attached to this section and considered a part of these minutes.)

A-1 Remarks by President Julie Dinger

President Dinger congratulated Mr. Ramsey and thanked him for his mentorship. She said she is grateful this is not goodbye, but “see you around.” She also said she is excited to see what Mr. Ramsey will accomplish in the coming years and that he means a lot to her and her family. Mr. Ramsey thanked President Dinger for her comments.

A-2 Panhandle Magazine

President Dinger said the cover story of the *Panhandle* magazine is something of which the University is proud: the Panhandle State Path Forward Strategic Plan. Page 4 of the magazine features a story about this new Strategic Plan. First and foremost, the administration went through a yearlong process with three important questions in mind: How do we improve student success? How do we strengthen our people and culture? How do we increase our regional impact? President Dinger said the administration focused on two main points throughout this process which arose from community conversations with faculty, staff, supporters, and stakeholders: coordinated action and shared ownership of outcomes. If approved by the Board today, the administration will begin work immediately to achieve these goals. The initial priorities in the first year will be benchmarking data, forming cross-functional implementation teams, and strengthening the University’s communication system to ensure these goals become a reality for the community.

On page 5 there is a story about the University’s 9 percent growth in headcount enrollment and 7 percent increase in credit hours for the spring semester. President Dinger said she is excited about this because it shows two things: first, the administration is doing what it should by getting students through each semester. Second, the administration is getting OPSU graduates where they need to be, which is out in the workforce and achieving their dreams. She said an increase in spring enrollment means the University is retaining students. Coaches are doing what they need to do to build cultures and programs that keep students on campus. Faculty in the classroom are doing everything they can to connect students with learning outcomes in a meaningful way. Staff members are providing students with support to be successful. President Dinger said this is something the administration is proud to share.

President Dinger said the story on page 7 highlights an exciting new tradition at OPSU. Last year, Mr. Tracy Kincannon, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing (COASN), met with area high schools for discussion and recognized the need for a career fair, where high school students can meet local businesses and learn how to become active members of the local economy. Dean Kincannon rallied individuals on campus to hold OPSU’s first annual Career Day for area-

wide high school students. President Dinger said every single high school in Texas County was represented, and she hopes the event will expand to sister counties in the coming years. Regional industry leaders and academic departments were invited, and it was a fantastic day. Almost all the regional industries were represented, so the area high school students learned what it really takes to participate in fields such as agriculture, banking and finance, and healthcare. President Dinger said she looks forward to more Career Days in the future.

President Dinger said pages 10 and 11 highlight two students she is very proud of: Mr. Jair Cruz and Ms. Cami Kenny. Mr. Cruz is a senior education major who will graduate in May. He participated as the University's nominee to the Nigh Leadership Academy and had a fantastic weekend packed with learning about leadership. President Dinger said it is refreshing for a senior to get a rush of excitement and adrenaline by learning how to give back in big and small ways. She said he returned to campus with actionable ideas and a renewed sense of purpose as he is preparing to enter the next phase of his life. President Dinger said Ms. Kenny is a rockstar on campus and was selected to join the National Association of State Departments in Agriculture NextGen program to learn how to become an emerging leader and about the complex future of agriculture. Ms. Kenny participated in policy conversations and received professional development training and industry insight into what is currently happening in agriculture during visits to Arkansas and Washington D.C., and she brought what she learned back to OPSU. Ms. Kenny is an active member in OPSU's Women in Ag chapter and COASN Leadership Council. She is a junior who is double majoring in Ag Business and Animal Science.

President Dinger referenced the story on page 12 about two faculty members who recently presented at the 2026 AI Conference hosted by Northwestern Oklahoma State University. She liked the approach taken by OPSU faculty, which is how to use AI to gain access to information and how to humanize the experience. Both faculty members brought their specific research interest to this topic.

Closing out the magazine, President Dinger brought attention to the story on page 13 about OPSU's Livestock Judging Team. The Team recently took on leadership roles at the Cimarron County Fair Livestock Judging Contest and mentored students in 4-H and FFA who were in the judging program. President Dinger said she is very proud of these young people and their coach, Dr. Crystal Tolle.

B-1 Adoption of Memorial Resolution

a. Dr. Dale Campbell Goldsmith

President Dinger said Dr. Goldsmith served as Vice President (VP) of Academic Affairs at OPSU from 1996 to 2004.

Regent Franklin moved and Regent Poole seconded to adopt the Memorial Resolution as presented in Item B-1 of the OPSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

C-1 Approval of the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Strategic Plan

President Dinger said this Item was discussed with members of the Academic Affairs, Policy and Personnel (AAPP) Committee. AAPP Committee Member Poole said the Committee acted to recommend Board approval of this Item.

Regent Poole moved and Regent Baetz seconded to approve Item C-1 as presented in the OPSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

E-1 Approval of the following program suspension:

a. Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fine Art

President Dinger said this program underwent the regular, four-year review cycle in October 2025. During that time, faculty and academic leadership identified persistent structural challenges affecting the long-term viability of the program, such as sustained low productivity, a small number of graduates, a low number of students enrolling, rising costs of student credit hours, faculty capacity to offer studio courses, and a lack of innovation. President Dinger said this suspension will allow faculty and academic leadership to dig into workforce and institutional data to align this program more appropriately with the area's economic needs. Historically, this program has focused on marketing and working artists, both of which continue to be important aspects of culture in the art program at OPSU. The administration hopes to continue to capture students but to do so in a way that ties to workforce outcomes going forward.

Regent Callahan moved and Regent Franklin seconded to approve Item E-1 as presented in the OPSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

G-1 Approval to enter into an equipment Master Lease for the purchase of buses

President Dinger said this Item is directly connected to Item J-1. It is an innovative and hybrid solution to a major problem the University faces from being in a remote location. Travel costs for athletic teams have skyrocketed over the last several years.

Ms. Liz McMurphy, VP of Fiscal Affairs, said the administration has been working on these two Items for the last six months. She said Mr. Victor Esparaza, OPSU Athletic Director (AD), conducted research about lease and purchase options for buses and full charter services. As President Dinger already mentioned, charter bus costs have increased significantly over the past few years, and it was time to find a more cost-effective solution. The main roadblock the administration has faced in operating its own bus fleet is maintenance of the vehicles and securing drivers for trips. As they were researching options, one stood out in terms of service. Aside from strictly charter bus companies or lease to purchase options, the administration discovered an opportunity to purchase used buses, which have an additional ten years of useful life as well as maintenance and driver contracts. The same model has been successful at another institution that is similar to OPSU in a rural location. VP McMurphy said the administration compared current cost with cost under the new model and estimates a cost savings of \$75,000 to \$130,000, including the master lease of \$500,000 over a seven-year term, by purchasing three buses, fuel, maintenance, driver services, physical damage services, and branding the buses. VP McMurphy thanked Mr. Scott Schlotthauer, OSU Chief Procurement Officer, for his assistance in reviewing the options. She said Mr. Schlotthauer connected the administration with experts at the Stillwater campus who provided valuable feedback on the buses and insurance coverage for the model of buses.

Regent Baetz asked about the quality and standards of drivers. VP McMurphy said the company will conduct background checks and other standard procedures for a charter service, such as following requirements of the OK Department of Transportation (ODOT). She said the company will also carry insurance coverage for the drivers.

Regent Baetz moved and Regent Poole seconded to approve Item G-1 as presented in the OPSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

J-1 Approval to solicit bids and process a purchase order to purchase buses for travel

President Dinger thanked VP McMurphy and AD Esparza for their work on this proposal, which took them many months to find as a solution to lower travel costs.

Regent Franklin moved and Regent Taylor seconded to approve Item J-1 as presented in the OPSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

The business of OPSU being concluded, President Dinger and other members of the administration were excused from the meeting.



OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Goodwell, Oklahoma

Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents for OSU and the A&M Colleges
March 6, 2026

Dear Board Members:

Subject to budgetary limitations and availability of funds, the following expenditures are submitted for Board approval with the purchases to be coordinated through the Chief Procurement Officer, Oklahoma State University. We recommend the following business for your consideration and approval.

A - GENERAL INFORMATION/REPORTS REQUIRING NO ACTION BY THE BOARD

1. Remarks by President Dr. Julie Dinger
2. Panhandle Magazine

B - RESOLUTIONS

1. Request adoption of Memorial Resolution:
(Reference Document B-1)
 - a. Dr. Dale Campbell Goldsmith

C - POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

1. Request approval for the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Strategic Plan.
(Reference Document C-1)

D - PERSONNEL ACTIONS in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03

1. Request approval of personnel actions. Items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only. *(Reference Document D-1)*
 - a. Two items for informational purposes only

E - INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

1. Request approval for the following Program Suspension:
(Reference Document E-1)
 - a. Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fine Art

F - BUDGETARY ACTIONS

None

G - OTHER BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Board approval is requested to enter into an equipment Master Lease for the purchase of buses. *(Reference Document G-1)*

H - CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS (other than construction and renovation)

None

I - NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF FACILITIES

None

J - PURCHASE REQUESTS in compliance with Board Policy 2.07

1. Board approval is requested to solicit bids and process a purchase order to purchase buses for travel. *(Reference Document J-1)*

K - STUDENT SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

None

L - NEW BUSINESS UNFORESEEN AT TIME AGENDA WAS POSTED

None

M - OTHER INFORMATIONAL MATTERS NOT REQUIRING ACTION OF THE BOARD

1. 2026 Out of State Travel *(Reference Document M-1)*

MARCH 2026

Panhandle

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

OPSU.edu



***THE PANHANDLE
PATH FORWARD***



OKLAHOMA
PANHANDLE STATE
UNIVERSITY

P.O. Box 430
Goodwell, OK 73939
Tel: 580-349-2611
Toll Free: 1-800-664-OPSU
Fax: 580-349-2302



@ **wearepanhandle**

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Julie Dinger — University President
Dr. Charla Lewis — Vice President of Academic Affairs
Dr. Ryan Blanton — Vice President of Advancement
Liz McMurphy — Vice President of Fiscal Affairs
Victor Esparza — Athletic Director

PANHANDLE MAGAZINE

Lauren McBee — Director of Campus Communications
Gabe Stoesz — Sports Information Director

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Lauren McBee — Cody Rodriguez

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04 OPSU'S NEW STRATEGIC
PLAN: *THE PANHANDLE PATH
FORWARD*

07 OPSU HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL
CAREER DAY TO STRENGTHEN
WORKFORCE PIPELINE

09 ANNUAL TOP HAND AUCTION
CONTUNUES LEGACY OF
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

10 JAIR CRUZ EXPLORES STATE
LEADERSHIP WITH THE NIGH
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

11 CAMI KENNY SELECTED
FOR NASDA NEXTGEN
PROGRAM



Oklahoma Panhandle
State University

Strategic Plan

The Panhandle Path *Forward*



P OPSU.EDU

f x i g
#wearepanhandle

THE PANHANDLE PATH FORWARD

OPSU PROPOSES UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN

academic programming with workforce needs across the Panhandle, reinforces data-informed decision-making, and embeds measurable objectives with defined leadership responsibilities and timelines.

Equally important, the process reaffirmed OPSU's commitment to shared governance and collaborative leadership. Efforts such as the Shared Governance Task Force, the development of a campus leadership structure, and initiatives like Leadership OPSU reflect a broader investment in building a culture of feedback, transparency, and mutual accountability.

Rather than functioning as a static document, the strategic plan is structured as an implementation-driven framework. Upon approval by the OSU A&M Board of Regents, implementation will begin with the 2027 Fiscal Year. Initial priorities will focus on benchmarking data, forming cross-functional implementation teams, and strengthening communication systems to ensure campuswide alignment.

University President Dr. Julie Dinger emphasized that the strength of the plan lies in how it was developed.

"The Panhandle Path Forward is not a plan created in isolation. It reflects the voices, expertise, and commitment of our faculty, staff, and community partners. We asked hard questions about student success, culture, and regional responsibility, and we answered them together. This framework gives us clarity about where we are going and confidence in how we will get there."

The strategic planning process has reinforced a simple but powerful theme we are one university with one mission. The future of OPSU will not be defined by isolated efforts but by coordinated action and shared ownership.

As OPSU awaits Board consideration, the campus community remains focused on sustaining momentum, strengthening alignment, and continuing the collaborative work that shaped the plan. By grounding its future in data, engagement, and regional responsibility, Oklahoma Panhandle State University is positioning itself for long-term resilience and measurable impact across the Panhandle and beyond. **P**

Oklahoma Panhandle State University is entering its next chapter with a clear sense of direction shaped, not by a single office, but by a campuswide commitment to shared purpose. The university's new strategic framework, The Panhandle Path Forward, is the result of an intentional, collaborative planning process and is currently pending approval by the OSU A&M Board of Regents.

Over the past several months, faculty, staff, students, governing groups, and community partners engaged in a structured strategic planning process grounded in three north-star questions:

- How do we improve student success?
- How do we strengthen our people and culture?
- How do we increase our regional impact?

Through open forums, leadership discussions, shared governance conversations, and cross-functional working groups, the university community examined data, reflected on institutional strengths and challenges, and identified areas requiring focused action. The process built upon recent campus initiatives, including expanded advising tools, professional development efforts, workforce-aligned academic programs, and the launch of Panhandle Tech. It also clarified where OPSU must be more disciplined, aligned, and accountable.

The emerging plan reflects what the campus community consistently voiced: the need for clarity, shared responsibility, and execution.

At its core, The Panhandle Path Forward is designed to strengthen the entire student lifecycle, from early outreach and concurrent enrollment partnerships to retention, completion, and career readiness. It aligns



FROM RECORD GRADUATES TO RISING ENROLLMENT

OPSU POSTS 9% SPRING HEADCOUNT GROWTH

Oklahoma Panhandle State University reports strong spring enrollment growth, with headcount up 9 percent and total credit hours increasing 7 percent compared to last year. The gains reflect measurable progress in the university's focused efforts to improve student retention from fall to spring and strengthen persistence toward degree completion.

This momentum follows another historic milestone for the institution. OPSU is coming off the largest fall graduating class in university history, a clear signal that more students are not only enrolling, but successfully completing their degrees. Together, record graduation numbers and spring-to-spring enrollment growth demonstrate a strengthening student lifecycle from entry to completion.

University leadership attributes the spring gains to a coordinated, campus-wide retention strategy implemented throughout the fall semester. Faculty, advisors, student support staff, and academic leaders worked intentionally to identify students who needed support early and connect them with meaningful academic interventions before challenges escalated.

Expanded academic support services, targeted advising outreach, and structured follow-up meetings helped students build clear plans for academic success. The Academic Resource Center and tutoring services were leveraged more intentionally, ensuring that students had accessible, timely assistance in key gateway and major courses.

In addition to academic supports, OPSU has prioritized financial literacy as a critical component of retention. Students were provided clearer guidance on financial aid, budgeting, and responsible borrowing, helping them understand not only how to finance their education, but how to manage resources in a way that supports persistence. By addressing financial stress proactively, the university strengthened one of the most significant predictors of stop-out risk.

The increase in credit hours, up 7 percent, signals that students are maintaining course loads that keep them progressing efficiently toward graduation. That academic momentum has been supported

by streamlined degree pathways, particularly clearer transitions from associate degrees to baccalaureate programs. By aligning curricula and reducing unnecessary credit loss, OPSU has made it easier for students to see and follow a direct path to completion.

Behind the scenes, improved technology infrastructure has played an important role. Investments in advising tools, degree audit systems, and data-informed decision-making have allowed the university to institutionalize student-centered practices that benefit all learners. Rather than relying on isolated interventions, OPSU is embedding support structures into everyday operations.

Curriculum and policy reforms have also centered squarely on student success, career alignment, and external partnerships. Academic programs are being reviewed and refined to ensure relevance to workforce needs and regional priorities. Stronger collaboration with industry and community partners is creating clearer connections between classroom learning and career opportunity, reinforcing the value of persistence for students and families.

"These results reflect intentional alignment across our academic programs, student services, policies, and partnerships," said Dr. Charla Lewis, Vice President of Academic Affairs. "When we remove barriers, clarify pathways, and equip students with the academic and financial tools they need, persistence improves. This spring's growth is evidence that institutionalizing student-centered practices truly makes a difference."

As OPSU continues advancing the Panhandle Path Forward strategic priorities, student success remains central. The university will build on this progress by refining interventions, strengthening partnerships, and continuing to remove barriers that stand between students and graduation.

Spring enrollment growth is more than a statistical milestone. It represents students who stayed the course, faculty and staff who acted with purpose, and a university community committed to one mission: helping every student cross the finish line. **P**

DR. JARRETT KAUFMAN

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
OF ENGLISH | DIRECTOR,
NO MAN'S LAND
READING SERIES



In the classroom and on the page, Dr. Jarrett Kaufman is guided by a clear belief: students are not passive recipients of knowledge. They are active participants in it.

An Associate Professor of English and Director of the No Man's Land Reading Series, Dr. Kaufman teaches Modern American Literature, Fiction Writing, and Composition. His teaching philosophy is modeled after the compassionate instruction approach of Mike Rose and centers on inclusion, collaboration, and mutual respect.

"My pedagogy aims to create an inclusive classroom atmosphere that values students as scholars and professionals," Dr. Kaufman explains. "I work to cultivate a learning environment that is supportive and collaborative, where I engage students in conversation, allowing them to voice their opinions without reservation, but challenge them with respect when appropriate."

For Dr. Kaufman, trust is foundational to learning. He believes meaningful classroom experiences affirm that students are agents in their own education. "For students to trust a teacher, a teacher must show them that he or she truly wants to learn from them as much as the students seek to learn from the teacher," he says.

While his courses center on literature and writing, Dr. Kaufman views English studies as preparation for far more than academic analysis. He emphasizes that the discipline develops critical and creative thinking skills that are essential across industries.

"English courses teach students how to analyze literature in a way that helps them think critically about the world around them," he says. "English studies encourage creative thinking, which is a highly marketable soft skill prized in many careers." From marketing and blog writing to copyediting and social media content creation,

students leave his classroom with skills that extend well beyond the page.

Beyond teaching, Dr. Kaufman maintains an active creative and scholarly agenda. He is currently completing a book of linked short stories titled *Black Days*. His short fiction continues to gain national recognition. His story "The Muddied Pond or the Polluted Fountain" was recently published in *The Alabama Literary Review*, and "We Suffer the Fire," a finalist for the Ron Rash Award, is forthcoming in *The Broad River Review*.

His scholarly work explores nineteenth century American literature. In a forthcoming article, he investigates how Edgar Allan Poe and Nathanael Hawthorne construct symbolism in their short fiction. Focusing on Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" and Hawthorne's "The Minister's Black Veil," Dr. Kaufman analyzes how sociological, theological, and historical contexts shape each work's gothic aesthetic.

Recently, he was awarded the Desert Nights, Rising Star Fellowship from Arizona State University's Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. He has also been invited by the editors of *The Alabama Literary Review* to participate in "The Author's Spotlight," where he will be interviewed about his creative work and writing process.

This April, the Department of English will host the fifth No Man's Land Reading Series event under Dr. Kaufman's direction. This year's featured speaker is award winning writer Nathan Ballingrud, author of *The Strange*, *North American Lake Monsters*, *Wounds*, and *The Lunar Gothic Trilogy*. His work has been adapted into Hulu's *Monsterland* and the feature film *Wounds*, bringing contemporary literary voices to a wider audience.

Dr. Charla Lewis, Vice President for Academic Affairs, notes that Dr. Kaufman's impact reaches well beyond his publications and professional accomplishments. "Dr. Kaufman exemplifies the kind of faculty member who elevates both our students and our English department," Lewis says. "His commitment to compassionate instruction, his nationally recognized creative work, and his leadership of the No Man's Land Reading Series create meaningful opportunities for our students to engage with literature in transformative ways."

Through his teaching, scholarship, and creative work, Dr. Kaufman continues to foster thoughtful readers, confident writers, and students prepared to shape their own futures. **P**

OPSU HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL CAREER DAY

TO STRENGTHEN PANHANDLE WORKFORCE PIPELINE



Oklahoma Panhandle State University's College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing (COASN) successfully hosted its first annual OPSU Career Day on February 25, bringing together Panhandle-area businesses, organizations, and students for a day focused on workforce development and regional economic growth.

The inaugural event connected high school juniors and seniors alongside OPSU students with employers from across the Panhandle, creating a centralized opportunity for career exploration, recruitment, and professional networking. Designed to address evolving workforce needs in rural communities, Career Day highlighted clear career pathways and reinforced opportunities for students to build meaningful futures close to home.

Throughout the day, students engaged one-on-one with employers representing a wide range of industries. Businesses promoted full-time and part-time positions, shared information about future career opportunities, and highlighted internship options, including Summer 2026 placements. Community organizations and regional partners also participated, emphasizing collaboration and innovation across the Panhandle.

"Career Day reflects OPSU's commitment to preparing students for success beyond the classroom," said Dr. Charla Lewis, Vice President for Academic Affairs. "By connecting academic programs with real-world opportunities, we help students see how their education translates into meaningful careers while strengthening the workforce that supports our region."

"As a regional university, OPSU takes seriously its responsibility to meet the needs of our communities," said Tracy Kincannon, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing. "Career Day was about connecting education with opportunity. We want our students and our high school partners to understand the strong careers that exist right here in the Panhandle, while helping employers build the workforce they need to thrive."

Career Day marked the beginning of a broader slate of spring initiatives led by COASN that reflect OPSU's commitment to student success and workforce readiness. On April 8, the university will host the Aggie Classic CDE & Speech Contest, welcoming hundreds of FFA members from across Oklahoma to campus for leadership development, career exploration, and hands-on learning experiences.

Later this spring, COASN students and faculty will travel to Illinois State University to defend the 2025 NACTA Sweepstakes Championship, representing OPSU and the Panhandle on a national stage. The NACTA Sweepstakes Award recognizes excellence in teaching, innovation, and student engagement, affirming that OPSU students are receiving a high-quality, hands-on education aligned with real-world workforce demands.

"Everything we are doing, from Career Day to FFA leadership events to national competition, is focused on preparing students to succeed and ensuring our region remains competitive," Kincannon said. "Together, these efforts demonstrate OPSU's commitment to Progress through Knowledge." **P**



RAISED
\$45,000

ANNUAL TOP HAND AUCTION CONTINUES LEGACY OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

At Oklahoma Panhandle State

University, traditions are more than events on a calendar. They are investments in students, programs, and the future of the Panhandle. One of those traditions, the annual Top Hand Auction, continues to play a vital role in the success of the rodeo program.

First held in 2003, the Top Hand Auction has been a cornerstone of the rodeo team's fundraising efforts for more than two decades. What began as a way to provide additional support for the program has grown into one of the most important and impactful annual events.

"The purpose of the Top Hand Auction is to raise funds to support the rodeo program," said Head Rodeo Coach Shelbie Rose. "It isn't just a fundraiser. It's what keeps our program moving forward. This auction fills the gap between what the university provides and what it truly takes to build a competitive, championship-level program."

This year's event raised approximately \$45,000, demonstrating the continued commitment of alumni, families, businesses, and friends of the university.

Funds raised through the auction directly support essential needs within the program, including feed for livestock, fuel and upkeep for equipment, facility maintenance and improvements, training equipment, scholarships, and other operational expenses. These investments ensure that student-athletes have the resources necessary to train, compete, and succeed at a high level.

"This support benefits our students directly," Rose said. "It ensures our livestock are well cared for so there is always something to practice on. It helps fund scholarships, allows us to purchase training tools, and keeps the facility where they house their horses and practice up to date and in safe working condition."

Beyond the financial impact, the Top Hand Auction represents something even deeper. It reflects the strength of community support that has long defined rodeo.

"Rodeo has always been built on community," Rose said. "This program does not exist in a vacuum. It is supported by families, businesses, alumni, friends, and people who believe in hard work and the western way of life. When we see continued community involvement, it tells our athletes that what they are doing matters. It builds pride,



accountability, and confidence. It creates partnerships and opportunities that extend far beyond the arena."

For the university's leadership, the event reflects both tradition and forward momentum.

"The Top Hand Auction is a powerful example of what happens when a community rallies behind its students," said University President, Dr. Julie Dinger. "Our rodeo student-athletes represent dedication, discipline, and the spirit of the Panhandle. We are deeply grateful for the alumni, partners, and friends who continue to invest in their success. Their support ensures our students have the resources they need to grow not only as competitors, but as leaders."

"We are proud of where this program stands," Rose added. "We're even more excited about where we're headed, and we're grateful to have this community riding with us."

With strong community backing and a clear vision for the future, the Top Hand Auction remains more than an annual event. It is a driving force behind the continued success of OPSU Rodeo. **P**

"We are proud of where this program stands. We're even more excited about where we're headed, and we're grateful to have this community riding with us."

— Shelbie Rose, Head Rodeo Coach

JAIR CRUZ

EXPLORES STATE LEADERSHIP

Oklahoma Panhandle State University education major and student-athlete Jair Cruz recently had the opportunity to step beyond the classroom and onto the floor of the Oklahoma State Capitol through the Nigh Leadership Academy. The experience reshaped how he views leadership, service, and civic responsibility.

Cruz said he was especially excited for the opportunity to meet state leaders and witness the legislative process firsthand.

"The most exciting part going into this experience was getting to meet some amazing people like Bobby Stem with OEPA, Philip Busey, Jr. of Delaware Resource Group, and Representative Kenton Patzkowsky," Cruz said. "I was also excited to go into the State Capitol and see two bills being passed."

Seeing that process unfold gave Cruz a new appreciation for the work behind public service. He was struck by how much collaboration and preparation take place before a bill becomes law.

"From watching the process, I realized that bills go through many steps, revisions, and conversations before they become law," he said. "This reminded me of preparing my team for competition. There is strategy, communication, and hard work that goes on behind the scenes. Effective leadership in government, just like in sports, takes patience, teamwork and trust."

As a student-athlete, Cruz already understood the importance of leading by example. The Academy, however, expanded that perspective beyond athletics and into civic leadership.



Oklahoma Panhandle State University



"Leadership theory and the mechanics of government can only get you so far in a classroom," Cruz said. "At the Academy, I got to see it up close. Speaking to leaders from across our state about their personal journeys taught me that being a leader means serving your community with responsibility."

One of the most meaningful parts of the trip was his conversation with Representative Kenton Patzkowsky. During their discussion, Cruz asked how a leader can balance responsibility with accountability. "He said you have to listen first," Cruz shared. "That really stuck out to me because I can use that with my team and at home in my community."

The experience also deepened Cruz's understanding of his role at OPSU and within the Panhandle.

"I knew responsibility as a student-athlete, but leadership taught me it goes further than showing up and doing well," he said. "Leading requires intentionality, serving one another, and using your voice for good."

Dr. Charla Lewis, Vice President for Academic Affairs at OPSU, said experiences like the Nigh Leadership Academy play an important role in student development.

"At Oklahoma Panhandle State University, we are committed to providing students with opportunities that connect classroom learning to real-world leadership," Lewis said. "Jair's experience at the State Capitol reflects the kind of engaged, thoughtful leadership we strive to cultivate in our students. Programs like the Nigh Leadership Academy empower students to understand their impact and confidently serve their communities."

Cruz said the trip has influenced how he approaches his future, whether in athletics, academics, or community involvement.

"I intend to implement what I have learned by leading with intentionality," Cruz said. "Whether through sports, schoolwork, or community service, I want to lead more in terms of service and decision-making for other people."

He encourages other students to pursue similar opportunities. "I would advise them to go for it," Cruz said. "It challenges you and puts you with inspiring people while helping you become a better leader than you may realize."

For Cruz, leadership is no longer just about performance. It is about purpose. Thanks to his experience at the Oklahoma State Capitol, that purpose now extends far beyond the classroom. **P**

CAMI KENNY

SELECTED FOR NASDA NEXTGEN PROGRAM

At Oklahoma Panhandle State University's College of Agriculture, Science and Nursing (COASN), leadership is cultivated through hands-on experience, intentional mentorship, and opportunities that extend well beyond campus. For Cami Kenny, that preparation led to the national stage through her selection to the NASDA NextGen program.

Cami was selected to participate in the NASDA NextGen, an opportunity designed to prepare emerging leaders for the complex future of agriculture. Through this program, she traveled to Rogers, Arkansas, and Washington, D.C., where she engaged directly with agricultural policymakers, industry leaders, and professionals from across the country.

In Arkansas, Cami participated in professional development sessions and committee meetings centered on food systems, nutrition, and animal agriculture. She attended regional and national meetings, observed policy discussions in real time, and toured major agricultural facilities. These experiences provided a deeper understanding of how state departments of agriculture collaborate to support producers and shape policy at both regional and national levels.

Her experience in Washington, D.C., expanded that perspective even further. Cami visited embassies, took part in policy simulations, and engaged in committee discussions focused on natural resources, trade associations, and animal agriculture. Working in teams, she analyzed agricultural agreements, developed recommendations, and presented her findings to industry professionals. The opportunity required agricultural knowledge, confidence, communication skills, and the ability to think critically under pressure.

Dean of the College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing, Tracy Kincannon, said Cami's selection for NASDA NextGen reflects both her individual work ethic and the culture of leadership development within the college.

"Cami represents the type of student we strive to develop," Kincannon said. "She has combined classroom knowledge with hands-on experience and leadership opportunities. Her participation in NASDA NextGen demonstrates that our students are prepared to contribute to policy conversations and represent agriculture at the highest levels."

While NASDA NextGen provided a national platform, Cami's leadership journey has been shaped through the experiences and opportunities she pursued at OPSU. As a member of the COASN Leadership Council, she has worked alongside faculty and fellow students to support recruitment efforts, assist with college events, and represent her peers. The council provides students with practical experience in organization, communication, and service-based leadership.

Through her involvement with the council, Cami gained insight into how institutions operate and how student voices contribute to shaping programs initiatives. That experience strengthened her confidence long before she stepped into national committee meetings.



OPSU President Dr. Julie Dinger said opportunities like NASDA NextGen are a direct reflection of the university's commitment to experiential learning.

"When our students step into rooms where important agricultural decisions are being discussed, they carry with them the preparation, confidence, and purpose they developed at OPSU," Dinger said. "Cami's selection to NASDA NextGen reflects not only her exceptional talent and work ethic, but the kind of leadership culture we are intentionally building at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. We believe in giving students real responsibility, real experience, and real opportunities to engage in the issues shaping our region and our nation. Cami embodies what it means to be prepared to lead in agriculture and to serve rural communities at the highest levels. We are incredibly proud of the way she represents OPSU."

Cami's journey highlights the distinct advantage of an OPSU education. Students are not only learning about agriculture, they are actively engaging in the conversations that shape its future. Through leadership councils, faculty mentorship, and national programs like NASDA NextGen, OPSU students are gaining the experience and confidence needed to make a meaningful impact.

For Cami Kenny, the future of agriculture is not something distant. It is something she is already helping shape. **P**

"Her participation in NASDA NextGen demonstrates that our students are prepared to contribute to policy conversations and represent agriculture at the highest levels."

— Tracy Kincannon, OPSU's Dean of COASN

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

DR. HALL AND DR. BALAYAR PRESENT AT
NWOSU 2026 AI CONFERENCE



Faculty from Oklahoma Panhandle State

University helped lead the conversation on the future of artificial intelligence in higher education as they presented at the 2026 AI Conference hosted by Northwestern Oklahoma State University. This year's conference theme, "Rural Roots, Digital Literacy," highlighted the unique opportunities and responsibilities rural institutions have in shaping how emerging technologies serve their students and communities.

Dr. Marjory Hall and Dr. Bhoj Balayar each brought distinct but complementary perspectives to the conference, examining how AI can expand access to knowledge while preserving academic integrity and human connection.

Dr. Hall's presentation explored how artificial intelligence can help bridge knowledge gaps often experienced by students in rural or underserved areas. She emphasized that as students near the start of their professional careers, AI literacy is no longer optional but essential. Her session shared classroom activities and assignments designed to help students use AI as a research and discovery tool while maintaining high academic standards and integrity.

"With appropriate monitoring, AI can broaden students' horizons without diminishing academic standards," Dr. Hall said.

Dr. Balayar's session, titled "AI-Supported Learning: Associations with Motivation, Engagement, and Achievement Through the Lens of Self-Determination Theory," examined how AI tools such as generative chatbots, intelligent tutoring systems, and gamified

learning environments can enhance student learning when thoughtfully implemented. Drawing from a systematic review of research conducted between 2018 and 2025, his presentation used Self-Determination Theory to evaluate how AI can support students' needs for autonomy, competence, and relatedness.

He emphasized that meaningful innovation must remain human-centered, noting that AI should enhance learning rather than replace the vital role of instructors and peer interaction. When grounded in developmental science and implemented ethically, AI-supported learning can increase motivation, engagement, and academic achievement, particularly for rural students navigating rapid technological change.

Dr. Charla Lewis, Vice President for Academic Affairs, expressed pride in the faculty members who represented the university at the statewide conference.

"Our faculty are not just responding to the rapid growth of artificial intelligence; they are helping shape how it is used responsibly and effectively in higher education," Lewis said. "Dr. Hall and Dr. Balayar exemplify OPSU's commitment to innovation that remains rooted in integrity, equity, and student success."

Their participation reflected OPSU's ongoing commitment to preparing students from rural communities to thrive in an increasingly digital world, ensuring that innovation enhances opportunity while preserving the human relationships at the heart of education. **P**

SERVICE LEARNING

OPSU STUDENTS SUPPORT LOCAL AGRICULTURE WHILE BUILDING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS



When members of the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Livestock Judging Team stepped into leadership roles at the Cimarron County Fair Livestock Judging Contest, they did more than volunteer. They shifted from competitors to authorities, mentors, and professionals in action.

By facilitating the contest, OPSU students gained meaningful experiential learning that strengthened both their technical knowledge and professional skillsets. They organized classes, determined official placings, and evaluated oral reasons, applying classroom concepts in a real-world setting while representing OPSU in the community.

According to Dr. Crystal Tolle, the experience allowed students to translate theoretical knowledge into practical decision-making. Core principles from livestock evaluation courses such as structural correctness, phenotype analysis, production traits, and species-specific selection priorities were no longer confined to textbooks. Students placed classes and defended their decisions using logical, industry-based reasoning, reinforcing the academic foundation built in the classroom.

Throughout the event, students practiced skills essential to agricultural careers. They critically analyzed livestock, made official placings under time constraints, and provided constructive feedback to 4-H and FFA participants. Serving as group leaders and mentors strengthened their leadership and communication abilities, while coordinating the contest required professionalism, organization, and accountability.

Perhaps most impactful was the confidence students developed. By evaluating reasons and defending official placings, they were required to trust their knowledge and judgement. Offering feedback to younger contestants validated their expertise and reinforced their mastery of livestock evaluation concepts.

Hands-on learning is especially critical in livestock judging and animal science education. While textbooks provide foundational knowledge, true competency develops through repeated exposure to live animals and real-time decision-making. Experiential education bridges the gap between theory and practice, sharpening observational skills and



reinforcing retention in ways that lectures alone cannot.

Hosting the contest also exposed students to the broader expectations of the agricultural industry. Professionals must evaluate efficiently, communicate clearly, and justify decisions objectively. Through event coordination and mentorship, students learned that success in agriculture demands not only technical knowledge but also timeliness, ethical responsibility, and strong interpersonal skills.

OPSU's involvement in events like the Cimarron County contest demonstrates its commitment to agricultural education and community engagement. By supporting youth livestock programs, the university strengthens recruitment pipelines and builds lasting relationships with local producers, advisors, and families.

"This is what applied learning is supposed to look like. Our students weren't observing the industry — they were operating within it. They made decisions, stood behind them, and served younger exhibitors with professionalism. That kind of responsibility builds confidence you simply can't manufacture in a classroom."

The partnership benefits both OPSU students and the surrounding agricultural community. Students gain leadership experience, professional networking opportunities, and visibility beyond campus. Meanwhile, 4-H and FFA members receive mentorship and high-quality judging contest experience led by trained evaluators. The result is a mutually beneficial cycle of education, mentorship, and community development.

Service-based, hands-on learning opportunities are essential in preparing students for agricultural careers. Agriculture demands critical thinking, adaptability, communication, and leadership. By hosting and conducting a judging contest, OPSU students practice making informed decisions under pressure, communicating with diverse audiences, mentoring youth, and representing their institution with professionalism.

At OPSU, agriculture education extends far beyond the classroom. Through experiences like the Cimarron County Livestock Judging Contest, students learn by doing, serve by leading, and graduate not only knowledgeable, but capable, confident, and career-ready. **P**

EQUESTRIAN TEAM

DELIVERS STANDOUT PERFORMANCES
WITH 31 CLASS PLACINGS



The OPSU Equestrian Team delivered a standout performance this past weekend at Texas Tech University, competing in three separate shows in two days. Entering a total of 36 classes, the team brought home an impressive 31 class placings, highlighting the depth and consistency of the program.

Two riders rose to the top of their divisions with class wins. Freshman Taydem Perryman captured a first-place finish in Level 1 Horsemanship, while sophomore Jolina Demann earned a win in Rookie Horsemanship.

Several other OPSU riders followed closely with strong second-place finishes across multiple divisions. Eva Johnson turned in an exceptional weekend, placing second in both Reining and Open Horsemanship. Sydney Carey secured second place in Rookie Horsemanship, while Adaelia Wiebe earned a second-place finish in Beginner Horsemanship. Ashlyn Eisenman also added a second-place finish in Rookie Horsemanship, and Mitchell Addison-Ullom rounded out the group with a second-place finish in Open Horsemanship.

Additional top placings were earned by Cami Kenny in Beginner Horsemanship, Nahomy Corral-Olivas in Rookie Horsemanship, and Paige Pearson in Rookie Horsemanship, all contributing valuable points to the team's overall success.

As a team, OPSU wrapped up the weekend with both a third-place and a fourth-place overall finish. Adding to the success, Eva Johnson sealed her ticket to the 2026 Regional Championship in the reining for the second year in a row. Several other OPSU riders are also sitting just shy of qualification and remain well within reach of the 2026 Regional Championship. These students will have one final opportunity to secure their spots February 21 when the team travels to New Mexico State University for the final show of the season.

The weekend at Texas Tech University was a testament to the dedication, preparation, and teamwork within the OPSU Equestrian Team as they continue to build momentum.

"I'm extremely proud of how our team showed up this weekend," said Coach Kacey Ward. "Competing in three shows over two days is demanding, and our riders stayed focused, prepared, and competitive. The results speak to the work and preparation they've been putting in leading up to this show." **P**

OPSU BASKETBALL

PARTICIPATES IN COACHES FOR
AUTISM AWARENESS



The Oklahoma Panhandle State men's and women's basketball teams participated in Coaches for Autism Awareness, benefiting Autism Speaks, during the Senior Day games versus Science & Arts on Saturday, Feb. 21. The nationwide campaign ran during basketball games from Feb. 21–28.

OPSU head women's and men's basketball coaches Maria Belt and Charles Belt, along with other gameday personnel, wore Autism Speaks–branded pins during the contests in support of Coaches for Autism Awareness.

Fans that attended the Senior Day games heard public address announcements about the initiative, and QR codes were displayed in the front lobby of Anchor D Arena, allowing fans to learn more about the mission of Autism Speaks and make donations to the cause.

About Coaches for Autism Awareness:

Coaches for Autism Awareness (formerly Coaches Powering Forward) is an annual initiative that brings collegiate and high school basketball communities together to champion the mission of Autism Speaks. The refreshed name reflects feedback from participants and supporters, clarifying the program's purpose while continuing to celebrate its impact. Since 2014, Autism Speaks has distributed more than 9,000 puzzle piece pins to over 450 colleges and high schools, providing coaches, staff, and broadcasters with a visible way to promote inclusivity at games.

Those interested in learning more about Autism Speaks or making a donation were encouraged to visit: www.autismspeaks.org. 



OKLAHOMA
PANHANDLE STATE
UNIVERSITY



25TH ANNUAL PAUL FARRELL
MEMORIAL ART AUCTION

Tickets are live



FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

CHECK OUT
ALL THINGS
HAPPENING!



36

f X i s
#wearepanhandle



MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it has been called to the attention of Oklahoma Panhandle State University and the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges that Dr. Dale Campbell Goldsmith, Oklahoma Panhandle State University Administrator, was claimed by death on January 16, 2026.

WHEREAS, Dr. Dale Campbell Goldsmith, by their loyalty, attention to duty, and faithful performance rendered service as Vice President of Academic Affairs to Oklahoma Panhandle State University from 1996 to 2004, and as a citizen worthy of commemoration and respect; and

WHEREAS, their friends and Oklahoma Panhandle State University have suffered irreparable loss in their passing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES;

THAT it takes this method to express its appreciation for the 8 years of exemplary service rendered by Dr. Dale Campbell Goldsmith to Oklahoma Panhandle State University, the State of Oklahoma and its citizens, to express respect to their memory, and to extend to the family its deep sympathy in the loss sustained, and to state that the Board and every member thereof respectfully join the friends of the deceased in mourning the passing of one of Oklahoma Panhandle State University's dedicated servants.

BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be shared within the minutes of the Board and a copy sent to the family of Dr. Dale Campbell Goldsmith.

Adopted by the Board the 6th day of March, 2026.

Dr. Julie Dinger, President

Mr. Rick Walker, Chair



Oklahoma Panhandle State University

STRATEGIC PLAN THE PANHANDLE PATH *FORWARD*



OPSU.EDU

MISSION:

Rooted in 'Progress through Knowledge' OPSU cultivates and empowers learners, leaders, and innovators to pursue excellence and create **their path to anywhere.**

*"OPSU's strength has always been its **people** and its **purpose**. This strategic plan charts a clear path forward, one that honors our roots, responds to our region, and positions our students for success **where their paths lead.**"*

- Dr. Julie Dinger,
University President

VISION:

Oklahoma Panhandle State University is the region's leading engine of opportunity, advancing the future through accessible, transformative learning experiences that prepare highly skilled graduates for meaningful careers and lifelong success.



VALUES:

ONE **We Have Integrity**
We build trust through honesty, transparency, and engagement.

TWO **We Strive for Excellence**
We advance our mission and vision in all we do.

THREE **We Serve**
We attend to our people and communities and make a difference.

FOUR **We are Resilient**
We endure and build our shared future as stewards of our mission and resources.

FIVE **Everyone Belongs**
We welcome and value every individual.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Student Success & Retention

Objective: Build a comprehensive, data-informed student retention and completion framework.

Action Items:

- Establish institution-wide retention targets and data systems that enable early identification of at-risk students and proactive intervention.
- Implement coordinated, cross-functional student success strategy that integrates academic advising, tutoring, mentoring, and co-curricular supports.
- Strengthen institutional data literacy across departments to support timely, evidence-based student success decisions.

2. Grow the Student Pipeline

Objective: Increase college access and early engagement to build a stronger regional enrollment pipeline.

Action Items:

- Expand K-12 partnerships, concurrent enrollment programs, and college readiness activities to connect with prospective students earlier.
- Boost financial access and affordability by increasing FAFSA completion rates, scholarship uptake, and proactive financial guidance for prospective and current students.
- Simplify transfer and re-entry pathways and proactively re-engage adult learners, veterans, and returning students to expand enrollment.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

3. Workforce Development & Regional Relevance

Objective: Align academic programs and student experiences with regional workforce needs and emerging opportunities.

Action Items:

- Conduct ongoing environmental scans and employer partnerships to align degree offerings with current and projected regional labor market demands.
- Develop and launch new academic programs responsive to societal and labor market trends, prioritizing high-need fields across the Panhandle and surrounding region.
- Integrate internships, applied learning, and employer partnerships into the OPSU experience to ensure graduates are career-ready from day one.

4. Academic & Operational Excellence

Objective: Build a sustainable, high-performing academic and administrative enterprise.

Action Items:

- Assess and align academic structures to ensure programs effectively serve students and support long-term institutional sustainability.
- Standardize and continuously improve institutional operating procedures to reduce inefficiencies and elevate service quality.
- Maximize revenue generation from academic programs and institutional assets to support reinvestment in the mission.
- Modernize admissions and registration processes to improve the student experience and increase enrollment conversation.

5. OPSU Identity & Regional Brand

Objective: Affirm and activate OPSU's identity as the region's leading engine of opportunity.

Action Items:

- Affirm OPSU's mission, vision, and values institution-wide to ensure alignment, clarity and a shared sense of purpose among faculty, staff, and students.
- Activate institutional values through consistent, compelling internal and external branding that reflects who OPSU is and who it serves.
- Strengthen campus-wide engagement, traditions, and community connections to foster institutional pride, belonging, and long-term retention.

D - PERSONNEL ACTIONS in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03

1. Items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only.

Change in Appointment

Name	Title	Type	Effective Date	Salary	Contract Term
Lauren McBee	Director of Communications	Salary Increase	1/1/2026	\$65,000.00	12 months
Rebekah Wagenbach	Assistant Professor of History and Political Science, and Department Chair of Behavioral and Social Science	Change in Appointment	2/10/2026	\$47,000.00	9 months



OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

P.O. Box 430 • Goodwell, OK 73939 • 580.349.1402

Request for Program Suspension Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fine Art (058)

Background

Oklahoma Panhandle State University conducts a four-year, faculty-driven academic program review cycle to evaluate mission alignment, student demand, program quality, and sustainability. This process also supports compliance with Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) Low Productivity Review expectations.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fine Art underwent its scheduled review in October 2025. While the review affirmed strong instructional quality and community engagement, it also identified persistent structural challenges affecting long-term viability.

Rationale for Suspension

Multiple indicators support the recommendation to suspend the BFA in Fine Art:

- **Sustained Low Productivity:** Degree production declined from an average of 3–9 graduates annually (2016–2022) to four graduates in 2022–2023 and zero graduates in both 2023–2024 and 2024–2025. The number of declared majors decreased from a high of 33 to 16 over the same period.
- **Rising Cost Per Student Credit Hour:** Instructional cost per student credit hour increased steadily, exceeding \$350 per SCH in the most recent academic year, despite declining enrollment.
- **Faculty Capacity Constraints:** The program maintained relatively fixed instructional staffing while student demand declined, creating an imbalance between capacity and output and limiting flexibility for curricular modernization.
- **Lack of Program Modifications:** During the period of declining enrollment and productivity, no substantive program modification requests were submitted to redesign or restructure the program in response to market or enrollment shifts.

Together, these factors indicate that the program is not currently sustainable without significant reinvestment.

Student Impact and Teach-Out

This action represents a suspension only, not deletion. No new students will be admitted beginning Fall 2026. All currently enrolled students will be supported through an orderly teach-out process, including guaranteed course availability, individualized advising, and timely degree completion options.

Recommendation

Based on the 2025 program review, longitudinal enrollment and graduation trends, and OSRHE productivity expectations, Oklahoma Panhandle State University respectfully requests approval to suspend the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fine Art (058) effective Fall 2026. This action ensures responsible stewardship of institutional resources while honoring commitments to current students and preserving the option for future program redesign or reactivation.



OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF FISCAL AFFAIRS

P.O. Box 430 • Goodwell, OK 73939 • 580.349.1566

Agenda Item: Approval to Finance Equipment Purchase through the OSRHE Master Lease Program

Executive Summary and Background

Board approval is requested to authorize Oklahoma Panhandle State University to submit documentation to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) to finance a potential bus purchase through the 2026 Master Equipment Lease Program in an estimated amount of \$500,000, plus associated issuance costs. Approval is also requested to authorize the purchase of the equipment in accordance with OPSU Purchasing Policy and Procedures.

The OSRHE Master Lease Purchase Program is a statewide financing mechanism that enables public colleges and universities to acquire major equipment through a consolidated, tax-exempt lease revenue bond structure. Rather than issuing debt independently, institutions submit eligible projects to OSRHE for inclusion in an annual Master Lease submission to the Legislature. Once approved, bonds are issued on behalf of participating institutions.

This pooled financing model typically results in more favorable interest rates and reduced issuance costs due to the aggregated borrowing structure and the credit strength of the State Regents. Eligible uses include major movable capital equipment such as buses, vehicles, instructional and laboratory equipment, and technology infrastructure.

If included in the 2026 Master Lease submission and approved, the project will be financed through bond proceeds. OPSU will be responsible for making required lease payments from legally available funds.

To the extent the University advances its own or borrowed funds prior to receipt of bond proceeds, it is the Board's intent that such expenditures be reimbursed from Master Lease bond proceeds in accordance with applicable federal law. Approval of this agenda item constitutes the Board's declaration of official intent under Section 1.150-2 of the Internal Revenue Code and will be formalized through a resolution executed by the Board's Chief Executive Officer.

The project is expected to be funded, in whole or in part, from financed proceeds, with required capital payments made from legally available funds.

RESOLUTION DECLARING AN INTENT TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES FROM TAX-EXEMPT BOND PROCEEDS

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents for Oklahoma A&M Colleges (the "Board of Regents") the governing board of and acting for Oklahoma Panhandle State University (the "Institution") desires to finance the costs of purchasing three buses for the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Campus in Goodwell, Oklahoma (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Institution intends to request The Oklahoma Development Finance Authority (the "Authority") to finance the costs of the Project or portions thereof under the Authority's Master Real Property or Equipment Lease Program with the proceeds of the sale of bonds or other obligations the interest on which is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes (the "Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, prior to the issuance of the Bonds the Institution desires to incur certain capital expenditures (the "Expenditures") with respect to the Project from available moneys of the Institution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents for the Institution has determined that those moneys advanced to pay the Expenditures prior to the issuance of the Bonds are available only for a temporary period and it is necessary to reimburse the Institution for the Expenditures from the proceeds of the Bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE INSTITUTION DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, ORDER AND DETERMINE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Institution hereby states its intention and reasonably expects to reimburse Expenditures of the Project paid prior to the issuance of the Bonds with proceeds of the Bonds.

SECTION 2. The reasonably expected maximum principal amount of the Bonds to be issued is [\$500,000].

SECTION 3. This resolution is being adopted no later than 60 days after the date on which the Institution paid its first Expenditure on the Project to be reimbursed from proceeds of the Bonds (excluding certain "preliminary expenditures" as defined in Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 which may have been paid before that date).

SECTION 4. The Institution or the Authority will make a reimbursement allocation, which is a written allocation that evidences the Institution's use of proceeds of the Bonds to reimburse an Expenditure, on or after the issue date of the Bonds but no later than 18 months after the later of the date on which the Expenditure is paid or the Project is placed in service or abandoned, but in no event more than three years after the date on which the Expenditure is paid.

SECTION 5. This resolution is adopted as official action of the Institution in order to comply with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 and any other regulations of the Internal Revenue

Service relating to the qualification for reimbursement of Expenditures of the Institution incurred prior to the date of issue of the Bonds.

SECTION 6. This resolution is effective immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this ___th day of _____, 20__.

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE
OKLAHOMA A&M COLLEGES

By _____
Rick Walker
Chairman

Attest:

Jason Ramsey
Chief Executive Officer



OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF FISCAL AFFAIRS

P.O. Box 430 • Goodwell, OK 73939 • 580.349.1566

Agenda Item: Request for Board Approval to Solicit Bids and Process a Purchase Order to Purchase Buses

Cost Comparison and Financial Analysis of Transition from Charter Bus Services to OPSU-Owned Buses

Purpose

The purpose of this cost comparison is to present a detailed, multi-year-informed cost comparison for athletic team travel, evaluating the continued use of full-service charter bus providers versus a transition to OPSU-owned motorcoaches supported through a contractual partnership with Soldier Xpress for driver services and bus maintenance. This analysis is intended to support executive- and board-level decision-making by clearly outlining financial impacts, cost savings, and key considerations.

Executive Summary

Based on FY27 modeled costs, transitioning from full-service charter bus travel to OPSU-owned buses operated with contracted drivers and maintenance services results in annual cost savings ranging from approximately \$74,000 to \$133,000, depending on the charter vendor used for comparison.

Under the OPSU-owned bus model, total FY27 athletic travel costs are estimated at \$353,540, compared to full-service charter alternatives ranging from \$427,882 to \$486,285.

In addition to direct cost savings, the proposed model provides improved budget predictability, greater operational control, and reduced exposure to year-over-year charter bid increases. The model considerations assume a conservative approach to cost projections, accounting for potential inflation in fuel prices and unforeseen maintenance costs in excess of average maintenance cost estimates.

Current Charter Bus Environment

Athletic team travel has historically relied on full-service charter bus vendors. Recent bid activity demonstrates upward cost pressure:

- FY26 Charter Bus Bids:
 - Overland: \$572,751
 - Village: \$605,810
- FY27 Charter Bus Bids:
 - Soldier Xpress: \$427,882
 - Overland: \$465,218
 - Village: \$486,285

These figures do not include football travel, which is separately itemized and adds additional cost volatility year to year.

Proposed OPSU-Owned Bus Model

The proposed operating model shifts OPSU from a fully outsourced charter approach to direct ownership of motorcoaches, with third-party support for professional operations. Key components include:

- Acquisition of buses through a master lease structure
- Contracted driver services provided by Soldier Xpress
- Contracted maintenance services
- OPSU-funded fuel, physical damage insurance, and branding costs

This structure retains professional transportation expertise while allowing OPSU to control assets and long-term costs.

FY27 Cost Breakdown – OPSU-Owned Bus Scenario

The FY27 total cost for athletic travel under the OPSU-owned model is \$353,540, composed of the following elements:

- Football-only charter services: \$31,604
- Bus master lease (7-year term): \$83,000
- Driver services: \$108,442
- Fuel: \$27,849

- Maintenance services: \$90,000
- Physical damage insurance premium: \$5,145
- Bus wraps and branding: \$7,500

Driver service costs include not only wages but also dispatch, administrative support, cleaning, overhead, and employee benefits as described by the vendor.

FY27 Cost Comparison Summary

Travel Model	FY27 Total Cost	Annual Savings vs OPSU-Owned
OPSU-Owned Buses + Contracted Services	\$353,540	—
Full-Service Charter – Soldier Xpress	\$427,882	\$74,342
Full-Service Charter – Overland	\$465,218	\$111,678
Full-Service Charter – Village	\$486,285	\$132,745

These savings represent approximately 17% to 27% reductions in annual travel costs when compared to full-service charter alternatives.

Bus Assets and Useful Life Considerations

The analysis includes the following bus specifications and pricing information:

- Bus 1: 418 Van Hool CX45, 517,801 miles – \$162,000
- Bus 2: 419 Van Hool CX45, 510,502 miles – \$170,000
- Bus 3: 420 Van Hool CX45, 509,603 miles – \$158,000

Each bus is noted as having an estimated additional 10 years of useful life. A master lease finance quote for FY26 totals \$490,000.

Financial and Operational Benefits

The OPSU-owned bus model offers several advantages beyond direct cost savings:

- Budget Predictability: Fixed lease and service contracts reduce exposure to annual charter bid escalation.
- Cost Control: OPSU pays for actual operating components rather than bundled vendor margins.

- Scheduling Flexibility: Increased control over athletic travel timing and availability.
- Asset Value: Investment in rolling stock with documented remaining useful life.

Key Risks and Considerations

The following considerations are acknowledged:

- Insurance and liability exposure: Physical damage coverage is included in the model; broader liability coverage will be in effect by Soldier Xpress to provide full and adequate coverage for any circumstance that may occur while buses and students or employees are in their care.
- Maintenance cost variability: The model assumes \$90,000 annually; actual costs will depend on utilization and mileage.
- Fuel price volatility: Fuel estimates are based on averages and conservative assumptions.
- Lifecycle planning: Long-term replacement and residual value strategies have been established. At the conclusion of the master lease term, OPSU will sell buses and replace with newer models.

Conclusion

The cost comparison demonstrates that transitioning to OPSU-owned buses supported by contracted driver and maintenance services produces significant and recurring cost savings while improving operational control and financial predictability. Based on the FY27 model, this approach represents a fiscally responsible alternative to continued reliance on full-service charter providers.

This memorandum is provided for discussion and policy consideration by senior leadership and the Board of Regents. The funding for this expenditure will come from legally available funds. The Office of Central Procurement will assist in reviewing all contracts before acceptance.

PRIORITY CHARTER AGREEMENT

Oklahoma Panhandle State University ("OPSU")
and
SX (Hanza's Soldier Xpress) ("SX")

This Priority Charter Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into as of _____, 20____
("Effective Date"), by and between:

Oklahoma Panhandle State University, an Oklahoma public institution of higher education ("OPSU"), and
SX (Hanza's Soldier Xpress LLC), an Oklahoma motorcoach and charter transportation provider ("SX").

OPSU and SX may be referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties".

1. STATEMENT OF FACTS / PURPOSE

OPSU desires professional motorcoach charter transportation services, including drivers, dispatch, and operational oversight. SX is a qualified charter bus and motorcoach operator. The Parties enter this Agreement to establish priority scheduling, pricing structure, and operating terms for OPSU charter transportation services.

2. TERM; RENEWAL; TERMINATION

2.1 Term. This Agreement shall be in effect for a period of one (1) year beginning on the Effective Date ("Initial Term").

2.2 Renewal. Thereafter, this Agreement shall automatically renew for successive one (1) year periods unless terminated by either Party with sixty (60) days' written notice prior to the end of the then-current term.

2.3 Termination for Convenience. Either Party may terminate this Agreement for convenience upon sixty (60) days' written notice.

2.4 Termination for Cause. Either Party may terminate this Agreement if the other Party materially breaches this Agreement and fails to cure such breach within ten (10) days after written notice. If the breach creates an immediate safety, legal, or insurance compliance risk, the non-breaching Party may terminate immediately.

3. PRIORITY CHARTER; SCHEDULING

3.1 Priority Scheduling. SX shall make motorcoaches and charter services available to OPSU upon fourteen (14) days' notice, subject to availability and SX's legal and safety obligations.

3.2 Trip Requests and Written Confirmation. All charter transportation requests shall be confirmed in writing (email acceptable) and include, at minimum: (i) trip dates and times; (ii) pick-up and destination locations; (iii) estimated passenger count; (iv) proposed itinerary and return time; and (v) any special instructions.

4. DEFINITIONS (BILLING TERMS)

For purposes of billing and performance:

(a) Trip Day: Any calendar day in which a bus and driver are assigned to OPSU service at any time.

(b) Deadhead: Travel time/miles without OPSU passengers aboard (positioning travel).

(c) Loaded Service: Travel time/miles with OPSU passengers aboard.

(d) Over-the-Road / Shuttle Service: Movement not involving point-to-point highway travel, including (by example) town-to-town shuttles, hotel-to-venue, meals, driver swaps, athletics facilities, or similar local movements.

(e) Standby / Wait Time: Time during which the bus and driver remain available to OPSU between movement.

5. RATES; PRICING; PAYMENT TERMS (PER DAY)

5.1 Rate Sheet. OPSU shall pay SX according to the per-day structure set forth in Exhibit A (amounts to be completed by OPSU and SX).

5.2 Fuel. OPSU may provide a fuel card for use during OPSU charter services. If the fuel card is unavailable, declined, or not accepted, SX may fuel as needed and invoice OPSU at actual cost plus an administrative fee of 15 % (or \$_____).

5.3 Driver Lodging for Overnight Trips. For overnight trips, OPSU will provide (or reimburse) safe lodging accommodations for SX driver(s), one (1) room per driver.

5.4 Net 30 Payment Terms. SX shall invoice OPSU for all charges incurred under this Agreement. OPSU shall remit payment within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice (Net 30).

5.5 Invoice Disputes. OPSU must notify SX in writing of any invoice dispute within ten (10) business days of receipt. Undisputed portions shall be paid per Net 30 terms.

5.6 Late Payments. Amounts not paid when due may accrue interest at 1.5% per month (or the maximum allowed by law, whichever is less).

5.7 Suspension for Nonpayment. SX may suspend service if OPSU invoices are delinquent beyond thirty (30) days, provided SX gives written notice and an opportunity to cure.

5.8 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, payment for all travel and accommodation expenses shall be made in accordance with the Oklahoma State Travel Reimbursement Act, and such payment shall be no greater than the maximum amount allowed by the Oklahoma State Travel Reimbursement Act.

6. MAINTENANCE; HOUSING; CONDITION OF EQUIPMENT

6.1 Maintenance Standards. SX shall ensure that any motorcoach equipment used in OPSU service is maintained in compliance with all applicable D.O.T. regulations and consistent with manufacturer maintenance programs and required inspection guidelines.

6.2 Responsibility Allocation. Maintenance, wear items, road calls, towing, damage, and cleaning responsibility shall be allocated as outlined in Exhibit B (to be completed by the Parties).

6.3 Damage Beyond Normal Wear. To the extent permitted by applicable law, OPSU shall be responsible for damage beyond normal wear caused by OPSU passengers, OPSU staff, or OPSU-directed activities, including excessive cleaning requirements.

7. DRIVERS; COMPLIANCE; SAFETY

7.1 Qualified Drivers. SX shall provide properly licensed and qualified driver(s) meeting all applicable legal and safety requirements, including CDL passenger qualifications and required safety compliance programs.

7.2 Hours-of-Service / Legal Compliance. OPSU acknowledges that all trips are subject to hours-of-service compliance and legal operating limits. SX will not be required to operate in violation of any law or safety policy.

7.3 Passenger Conduct and Safety. OPSU shall be responsible for passenger supervision and conduct. SX may refuse service or remove a passenger from service (in coordination with OPSU leadership) when needed for safety.

8. CONTROL; OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY

The motorcoaches shall at all times be under the exclusive control of SX and the driver(s) operating the bus. Any and all decisions regarding roadworthiness, weather conditions, route safety, legal compliance, and all matters affecting safe operation shall be made by SX/driver(s), and such determinations shall be conclusive.

9. CANCELLATIONS; CHANGES; FORCE MAJEURE

9.1 Cancellations. Cancellation fees will apply as outlined in Exhibit C (to be completed by the Parties).

9.2 Trip Changes. Trip changes that increase duration, add shuttle requirements, extend duty time, or require additional drivers may result in additional charges per Exhibit A.

9.3 Force Majeure. Neither Party shall be liable for failure or delay in performance due to events beyond

reasonable control, including severe weather, road closures, government actions, natural disasters, or other conditions rendering service unsafe or impracticable. Charges incurred prior to cancellation/interruption remain

payable.

10. INSURANCE

SX shall maintain insurance coverage with carriers rated A- or better by A.M. Best, including:

- (a) Commercial Auto Liability: \$5,000,000 Combined Single Limit (CSL)
- (b) Commercial General Liability: \$5,000,000 per occurrence / \$5,000,000 aggregate
- (c) Workers' Compensation: Statutory (Oklahoma)
- (d) Employer's Liability: \$1,000,000

OPSU shall be named as Additional Insured on applicable policies where permitted. Coverage shall be primary and non-contributory with respect to OPSU's insurance. SX will provide Certificates of Insurance upon request.

11. INDEMNIFICATION; LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

11.1 Indemnification and Responsibility. To the extent permitted by Oklahoma law, SX shall indemnify and hold harmless OPSU from claims arising from SX's negligence or willful misconduct. If and only to the extent permitted by applicable law, OPSU agrees to be responsible for the negligent acts and/or omissions of its employees, agents, representatives, divisions, and affiliates that arise out of or are related to OPSU's obligations pursuant to this Agreement.

11.2 No Consequential Damages. Neither Party shall be liable for indirect, incidental, special, consequential, or punitive damages (including lost revenue, lost profits, or reputation damages).

11.3 Limitation of Liability. SX's total liability for claims arising under this Agreement shall be limited to the total amount paid by OPSU to SX in the six (6) months preceding the event giving rise to the claim, except where prohibited by law.

12. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

SX is an independent contractor. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create a partnership, joint venture, principal-agent relationship, or employer-employee relationship between OPSU and SX.

13. ASSIGNMENT; SUBCONTRACTING

OPSU may not assign this Agreement without written consent of SX. SX may subcontract portions of service when required for capacity or operational needs, provided subcontractors maintain insurance and compliance standards consistent with this Agreement.

14. GOVERNING LAW; VENUE

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Oklahoma. Any dispute, controversy, action, matter of interpretation, or other proceeding arising out of or in relation to this Agreement shall be filed in the Oklahoma District Court of Payne County, or the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, if federal jurisdiction is applicable. OPSU does not waive its sovereign immunity by entering into this Agreement and specifically retains all immunities and defenses available to it as a sovereign pursuant to all applicable law. Designations of venue, choice of law, enforcement actions, and similar provisions shall not be construed as a waiver of sovereign immunity. The parties agree that any ambiguity in this Agreement shall not be strictly construed, either against or for either party, except that any ambiguity as to sovereign immunity shall be construed in favor of sovereign immunity.

15. ENTIRE AGREEMENT; AMENDMENTS

This Agreement, including all Exhibits, constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous discussions or agreements. No amendment, modification, or waiver shall be binding unless in writing and signed by both Parties.

16. NOTICES

Notices under this Agreement shall be delivered by personal delivery, certified mail, or email with confirmation to the addresses below (or such other address provided in writing):

OPSU Notice Address:

Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

SX Notice Address:

Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date written above.

OPSU

Oklahoma Panhandle State University

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

SX

SX (Hanza's Soldier Xpress)

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT A — PER-DAY RATE SHEET (TO BE COMPLETED)

Driver Fee (per Trip Day): \$ _____ per day

Overnight Per Diem (if applicable): \$ _____ per overnight

Cleaning / Dispatch / Admin Fee: \$ _____

Overage Surcharge (if applicable): _____ % (trigger: _____)

Deadhead Rate (if applicable): \$ _____ per mile

Loaded Mile Rate (if applicable): \$ _____ per mile

Over-the-Road / Shuttle Rate (if applicable): \$ _____ per day (or \$ _____ per hour)

Standby / Wait Time (if applicable): \$ _____ per hour

Fuel Card Admin Fee (if needed): _____ % or \$ _____

EXHIBIT B — MAINTENANCE & DAMAGE RESPONSIBILITY MATRIX (TO BE COMPLETED)

Preventative Maintenance: OPSU / SX

Tires: OPSU / SX

Brakes: OPSU / SX

Road Calls / Towing: OPSU / SX

Interior Damage Beyond Normal Wear: OPSU / SX

Exterior Damage Beyond Normal Wear: OPSU / SX

Biohazard / Excess Cleaning: OPSU / SX

EXHIBIT C — CANCELLATION & CHANGE POLICY (TO BE COMPLETED)

Cancellation Fees:

>72 hours: ____%

72-48 hours: ____%

48-24 hours: ____%

<24 hours / same day: ____%

Trip Change Fees / Standby: _____

Special Event / Holiday Premiums: _____

OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTION

SUMMARY OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL AS OF January 2026
MONTH

FUND SOURCE	FY26		FY25		FY26		FY25		FY26		FY25	
	NUMBER OF TRIPS	AMOUNT EXPENDED	NUMBER OF TRIPS	AMOUNT EXPENDED	NUMBER OF TRIPS	AMOUNT EXPENDED	NUMBER OF TRIPS	AMOUNT EXPENDED	NUMBER OF TRIPS	AMOUNT EXPENDED	NUMBER OF TRIPS	AMOUNT EXPENDED
REVOLVING												
ST APPRO	6	\$ 2,375.60	7	\$ 1,280.12	32	\$ 12,754.17	34	\$ 7,742.46				
FEDERAL							11	\$ 1,183.23				
PRIVATE												
AUXILIARY					1	359.35	9	\$ 3,529.48				
OTHER												
TOTAL	6	\$ 2,375.60	7	\$ 1,280.12	10	\$ 4,902.94	54	\$ 12,455.17				

III. NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M COLLEGE, MIAMI, OKLAHOMA

President Kyle Stafford came before the Board to review the Agenda and present the business of NEO. (The NEO Agenda is attached to this section and considered a part of these minutes.)

A-1 Remarks by President Kyle Stafford

President Stafford expressed his appreciation to OSU President Hess for the hospitality last night. He said it was great to see a former NEO student, Mr. Jacob Clark, who is a third-generation NEO graduate who matriculated to OSU. He thanked Mr. Chris Kuwitzky, OSU Senior VP for Administration and Finance; Ms. Tammy Eck, Associate VP for Administration and Finance; and Ms. Rita Hesser, Controller & Director of Accounting; and their teams for their assistance over the last couple of weeks regarding reporting. The NEO administration is very appreciative of the Shared Service system.

After the meeting, President Stafford said he is excited to travel to Council Bluffs, Iowa to join nine NEO Wrestling Team members who are competing in a national tournament. Mr. Joe Renfro, Head Wrestling Coach, is in his 13th year at NEO and expects a great outcome. President Stafford recognized and congratulated Mr. Roger Ward, Head Men's Baseball Coach, has been at NEO for 29 years and recently received his 900th career win.

Last night, the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams finished the regular season and will be in Muskogee from March 11th through the 14th. President Stafford expressed his appreciation to the City of Muskogee's tourism group, *Visit Muskogee*, for its hospitality. The Women's Basketball Team finished in 2nd place in the conference, and the Men's Basketball Team finished in 4th place.

President Stafford said NEO will host its annual Founders Day on March 21st to celebrate the founding of NEO. A new water fountain will be revealed that day, which is a gift that was privately funded by the Marijane Gregg-Sidote family and her estate. Lastly, President Stafford said it is hard to believe the spring semester is nearing its end, and NEO's Commencement exercises will take place on May 7th.

A-2 NEO Update

President Stafford said the *NEO Update* cover photo features a cowgirl who participated in NEO's 16th Annual Alumni and Recruiting Rodeo. This event is typically held in November; however, there was a virus that caused it to be pushed to February. Despite the change in date, it was still a great event with an excellent turnout of 300 high school student athletes and alumni on campus. He said this Rodeo is a great way to connect NEO's tradition of excellence with new prospective students.

The NEO Agriculture Department hosted a “Branded in Leadership” Conference for more than 100 area high school students, as shown on page 3 of the magazine. Students came to NEO from as close as Miami High School to as far away as central Arkansas. President Stafford said this is a great leadership, training, and outreach event for the Department.

He said page 4 features a story about NEO’s new endowed scholarship: the Charles Stoner Family Scholarship. Mr. Charles Stoner is a proud NEO graduate and his family owns and operates the Welch State Bank locations in Welch, Miami and other communities in northeastern OK. President Stafford said he is proud to have this \$105,000 scholarship endowment supporting students majoring in business. When he was a student, Mr. Stoner worked during the day and attended classes at night. The administration appreciates the Stoner family’s investment in NEO students.

President Stafford highlighted the story on page 5 which is about another NEO alumnus, Dr. Donald W. Dareing, who graduated from NEO in 1955 and then went to OSU. He found a passion for engineering while at NEO and went on to obtain a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois. Dr. Dareing has authored over 50 professional publications, including books about drilling and mathematical models. His story reflects on how important faculty are to inspire students to accomplish their dreams. President Stafford said Dr. Dareing recently released a new manuscript titled “Mechanics of Social Change,” and the administration appreciates his connection to NEO.

Last week, NEO hosted members of the Cherokee Nation leadership on campus for a check presentation from Chief Chuck Hoskin, Speaker of the Council Johnny Jack Kidwell, and three tribal council members, who either attended or graduated from NEO. President Stafford also noted that Chief Hoskin’s parents both graduated from NEO. The administration appreciates the Cherokee Nation’s investment and continued support through the Community Assistance Grant to fund wellness initiatives across campus, such as new defibrillators, water bottle filling stations, and break room improvements.

President Stafford said he is happy to announce the success of an NEO alumn, Mr. Eli Kreeger, who is a proud 2022 NEO nursing program graduate and is currently working at the Mayo Clinic.

In closing, President Stafford briefly highlighted the final page of the magazine, which shows a schedule of important dates for events happening on campus.

C-1 Approval to change the Bursar Payment Policy “N2-1212 BURSAR August 2025” to align with the late payment fee structure that was previously approved at the January 2026 Board of Regents Meeting

Regent Callahan moved and Regent Poole seconded to approve Item C-1 as presented in the NEO Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

D-1 Approval of personnel actions; items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only

- a. Five personnel actions for approval
- b. Eight items for informational purposes only

Regent Taylor moved and Regent Baetz seconded to approve the personnel actions as presented in Item D-1 of the NEO Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

Regent Hall asked who will replace Mr. Warren Harkins, Director of Physical Plant, after his retirement. President Stafford said the administration plans to post that job position next week as Mr. Harkins's last day is July 1. There is potential interest on campus, but the administration hopes to attract other applicants with advertising. Regent Hall said it is a tough job to do for the money. President Stafford agreed.

I-1 Approval to increase the cost of the renovation of the food retail store in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union to \$875,000

President Stafford said this Item was discussed with members of the Facilities (FACS) Committee. FACS Committee Chair Hall said the Committee acted to recommend Board approval of this Item.

Regent Hall moved and Regent Taylor seconded to approve Item I-1 as presented in the NEO Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

I-2 Approval to select an on-call consultant to provide as-needed construction management services to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College

President Stafford said this Item was also discussed with members of the FACS Committee. FACS Committee Chair Hall said the Committee acted to recommend Board approval of this Item.

Regent Hall moved and Regent Taylor seconded to approve the selection of Crossland Construction Company as the on-call consultant to provide construction management services as presented in Item I-2 of the NEO Agenda.

Regent Hall asked for the terms of this engagement. President Stafford said the contract is for five years with one-year renewal term.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

J-1 Approval to purchase five fleet vehicles from Oklahoma State University in the amount of \$145,000

President Stafford said the administration is very appreciative of Mr. Rick Newton, OSU Transportation Services Manager, for the help with obtaining these vehicles.

Regent Franklin moved and Regent Callahan seconded to approve Item J-1 as presented in the NEO Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

J-2 Approval to solicit competitive bids or contracts approved through the Office of Central Procurement to replace the parking lot for Copen Hall at an estimated amount of \$125,000

Regent Poole moved and Regent Callahan seconded to approve Item J-2 as presented in the NEO Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

The business of NEO being concluded, President Stafford was excused from the meeting.



NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M COLLEGE

Miami, Oklahoma

Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents for OSU and the A&M Colleges

March 6, 2026

Dear Board Members:

Subject to budgetary limitations and availability of funds, the following expenditures are submitted for Board approval with purchases to be coordinated through the Chief Procurement Officer, Oklahoma State University. We recommend the following business for your consideration and approval.

A - GENERAL INFORMATION/REPORTS REQUIRING NO ACTION BY THE BOARD

1. Remarks by President Kyle Stafford
2. NEO Update (*Reference Document A-2*)

B – RESOLUTIONS – None

C - POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

1. Request approval to change the Bursar Payment Policy N2-1212 BURSAR August 2025 to align with the late payment fee structure that was previously approved at the January 2026 Board of Regents Meeting. The policy has been reviewed and approved by Board of Regents' Office of Legal Counsel (*Reference Document C-1*).

D - PERSONNEL ACTIONS in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03

1. Request approval of personnel actions. Personnel items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only (*Reference Document D-1*).
 - a. Five personnel actions for approval
 - b. Eight reappointments, separations, changes in salary, changes in title, and personnel leaves

E - INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS– None

F - BUDGETARY ACTIONS – None

G - OTHER BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS – None

H - CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS (other than construction and renovation) – None

I - NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF FACILITIES –

1. Request approval to increase the cost of the renovation of the food retail store in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union to \$875,000. The renovation projection was previously approved by the board in January 2025. Project is expected to be completed before the fall 2026 semester (Reference Document I-1).
2. Request approval to select an on-call consultant to provide as-needed construction management services to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (Reference Document I-2).

J - PURCHASE REQUESTS in compliance with Board Policy 2.07 –

1. Request approval to purchase fleet vehicles (3 vans, 1 truck, and 1 mid-size SUV) from OSU in the amount of \$145,000 using legally available funds.
2. Request approval to solicit competitive bids or contracts approved through the Office of Central Procurement to replace the parking lot in Copen Hall, estimated at \$125,000. The funds for expenditure will come from legally available funds.

K - STUDENT SERVICES/ACTIVITIES – None**L - NEW BUSINESS UNFORESEEN AT TIME AGENDA WAS POSTED – None****M - OTHER INFORMATIONAL MATTERS NOT REQUIRING ACTION OF THE BOARD**

1. Out-of-state travel summary for January 2026 (*Reference Document M-1*).

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

UPDATE

M A G A Z I N E

MARCH 2026 ISSUE



KICKIN' UP DUST

Alumni & Recruitment Rodeo welcomes many riders and ropers to campus

PEN TO PAPER

Norsemen Football pens more than 50 athletes on National Signing Day

NIGH SCHOLAR

NEO student selected for prestigious scholarship and leadership academy



CHECK OUT THE
NEO EVENT CALENDAR
FOR MORE!

NEO.EDU/EVENTS

A LOOK AHEAD...

NEO HONORS SYMPOSIUM | MARCH 10

FOUNDERS' DAY | MARCH 24

A&M CLASSIC BASEBALL GAME | MARCH 31

GROW, GROW, NEO! | APRIL 17

A&M CLASSIC SOFTBALL GAME | APRIL 20

NEO COMMUNICATIONS

NEO.edu | neocommunications@neo.edu
Copyright © 2026 NEO A&M College

NEO HOSTS 16TH ANNUAL ALUMNI & RECRUITING RODEO WITH STRONG TURNOUT AND NATIONWIDE PARTICIPATION



Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College Agriculture Department hosted the 16th Annual NEO Alumni/ Recruiting Rodeo on Saturday, February 7, welcoming alums and high school competitors from across the country for a full day of high-level rodeo action at the NEO Rodeo Arena.

The annual event brings together former NEO rodeo athletes and prospective students, serving as both a celebration of NEO's rodeo legacy and a key recruiting opportunity. This year's rodeo featured approximately 300 entries, highlighting continued growth and strong interest in the NEO Rodeo Program.

Competition began with a long go-round at 9 a.m., with the top six alums and top six high school competitors in each event advancing to the finals at 7 p.m., known as the Main Event.

"It was another tremendous event, even with having to reschedule it from November to February," said

Kolby Ungeheuer, NEO Head Rodeo Coach. "The weather worked out great for us, and we had a great day of rodeo competition. It's a blessing to have so many alumni from all over the country come back and support the rodeo program. Our high school turnout was tremendous, with students traveling from as far away as Michigan and Pennsylvania. It was truly another great year of top-notch competition in the NEO Rodeo Arena."

High School Champions

Saddle Bronc: *Creek Rogers, Ft. Scott, Kan.*
Tie-Down Roping: *J. Luke Wickett, Sallisaw, Okla.*
Breakaway Roping: *Camryn Fry, Quapaw, Okla.*
Steer Wrestling: *Colson Gulager, Ft. Scott, Kan.*
Goat Tying: *Taylor Richman, Adair, Okla.*
Team Roping: *Stockton Cribbs, Mt. Vernon, Mo. & Gus Albertson, Carthage, Mo.*
Barrel Racing: *Bryar Wilson, Tahlequah, Okla.*

Alumni Champions

Saddle Bronc: *Zane Wagner, Breda, Iowa*
Tie-Down Roping: *Brody Tunks, King City, Mo.*
Breakaway Roping: *Bailey Orman, Willard, Mo.*
Steer Wrestling: *Lucas Peterson, Lawrenceburg, Ky.*
Goat Tying: *Kassidy Howard, Carthage, Mo.*
Team Roping: *Brody Tunks, King City, Mo. & Jackson Haug, Princeton, Mo.*
Barrel Racing: *Tiffany Teehee, Claremore, Okla.*
Bull Riding: *Chris Durbin, Lebanon, Mo.*

Scholarships Awarded

High School Tuition Scholarship: *Bryar Wilson, Tahlequah, Okla.*
High School Book Scholarships: *John Cole VanLoan, Bois D'Arc, Mo.*

The NEO Alumni/Recruiting Rodeo continues to strengthen connections between past, present, and future Norsemen, while showcasing the tradition of excellence within the NEO Rodeo Program.

NEO AG DEPARTMENT HOSTS "BRANDED IN LEADERSHIP" CONFERENCE FOR AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The NEO Agriculture Department successfully hosted the Branded in Leadership Conference on Wednesday, January 21, welcoming approximately 110 high school students to campus for a full day of leadership development, inspiration, and hands-on learning.

The conference was designed to equip students with essential leadership and soft skills applicable to agriculture, education, and future careers. The day began with a welcome from NEO Agriculture department Chair, Dr. Mary Booth, setting the tone for an engaging and impactful program.

Students heard from two keynote speakers throughout the day, including Kylee Deniz, who presented "The Soft Skills of Bold Leaders," and Brandon Baumgarten, who delivered the afternoon keynote "Ready. Set. Lead!" Both sessions emphasized confidence, adaptability, and leadership in today's evolving professional landscape.



Participants rotated through a series of interactive breakout sessions, which included:

TNT Traits! Traits That Take No Talent – Kylee Deniz
Gratitude in Ink – NEO Agriculture Ambassadors
Authentic Leadership: You Can't Fake the Weather – Edie Ingram
Social Media: Caught Up in the Web – Brandon Baumgarten

Additional highlights included a college student roundtable discussion offering attendees firsthand

insight into collegiate life and leadership opportunities at NEO, as well as lunch provided by Sodexo and NEO Recruitment.

"The NEO Ag Department was proud to host our Branded in Leadership conference, 'Are You Ready to Lead? Ready. Set. Lead.' for 110 outstanding FFA students," said Booth. "From inspirational speakers and interactive breakout sessions to professional headshots and a NEO student roundtable, the day was energizing from start to finish. I went home that night truly charged up and excited, knowing the future of agriculture is in the hands of capable, passionate leaders."

The Branded in Leadership Conference reflects NEO Agriculture's continued commitment to leadership education, outreach, and strengthening connections with future Norsemen across the region.

CHARLES STONER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT BUSINESS STUDENTS



Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College is excited to announce the establishment of the Charles Stoner Family Scholarship, an endowed scholarship created to support future generations of students pursuing business degrees at NEO. The scholarship became effective January 15, 2025, with an initial gift of \$105,000.00.

Established by NEO alumnus Charles Lee Stoner and his wife Barbara Stoner, the scholarship honors the lasting impact NEO has had on their lives and on the surrounding community. Born in 1940, Charles Stoner charted a steady rise from his early days at NEO to the upper ranks of Oklahoma banking. While attending night classes at NEO from 1960 to 1964, he balanced work and study to earn an Associate of Arts in Business. He later advanced his education at the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin, completing his degree in Commercial Banking in 1968.

Stoner's professional career was defined at Welch State Bank, where he served as President, later Chairman of the Board, and ultimately Chairman Emeritus. Along the way, he earned recognition for leadership and civic service and held prominent roles, including serving as a director of the Oklahoma Bankers Association.

A deep and enduring commitment to community service matched his professional success. Stoner lent his expertise to hospital boards, development authorities, and financial training programs, taught Dave Ramsey financial courses for 25 years, and consistently supported families in need. He has long credited his time at NEO with instilling the confidence that propelled him forward- embracing a personal motto that if success was possible, it

was his responsibility to achieve it. That conviction guided his leadership in banking and service, marking him as both a builder of institutions and a mentor to the communities he touched. Mr. Stoner shared, "When your life has been blessed, it is incumbent upon you to bless others," a belief that reflects both his philosophy of leadership and his lifelong commitment to serving those around him.



As an endowed scholarship, the Charles Stoner Family Scholarship will provide long-term, sustainable support for students. The Stoners' gift reflects their belief that NEO equips students with the confidence, encouragement, and foundation to pursue and achieve their goals—and it represents their desire to give back to the institution that helped shape their family's story.

Scholarship Criteria

To be considered for the Charles and Barbara Stoner Family Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be enrolled as a Business major at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
- Demonstrate financial need as determined by the college's financial aid process
- No minimum GPA requirement ensures accessibility for students working toward academic and personal growth

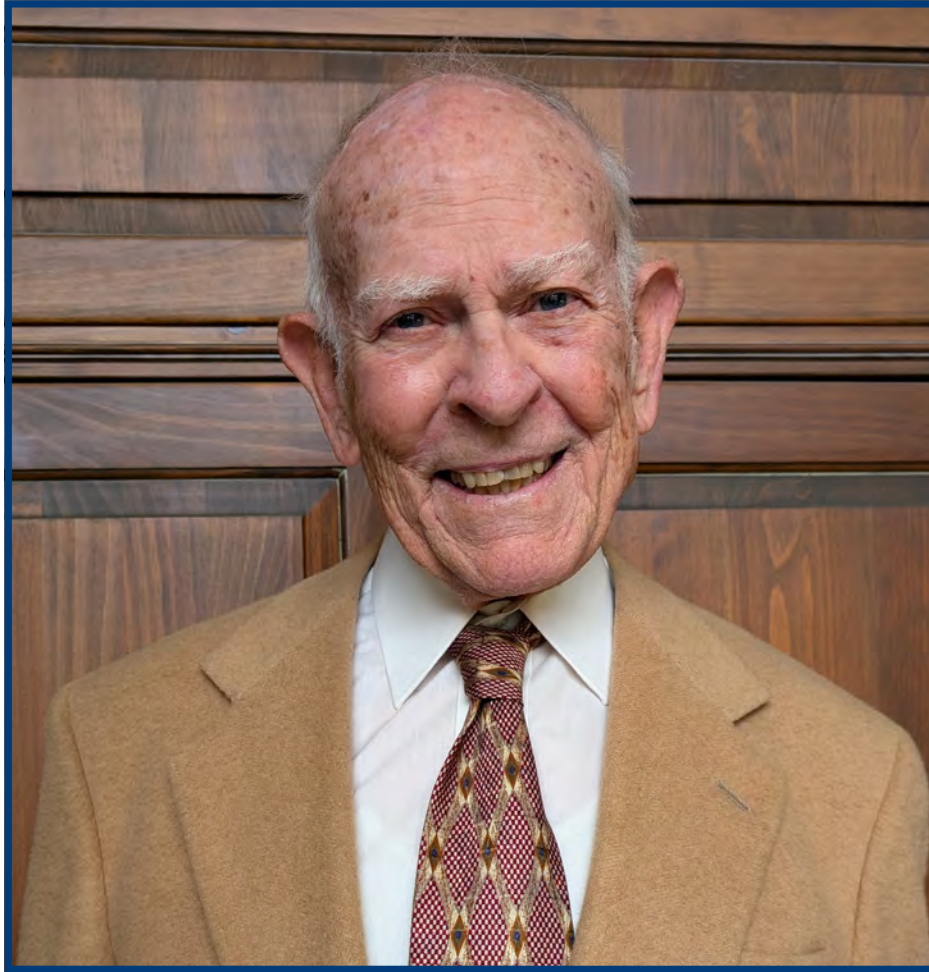
The scholarship is intended to support motivated business students who need financial assistance to pursue their education and future career goals.

"The Charles Stoner Family Scholarship exemplifies the lasting impact of giving back and investing in students," said Ryan Orcutt, Executive Director of Development. "Gifts like this help remove financial barriers and ensure NEO continues to change lives. We are deeply grateful for Mr. and Mrs. Stoner's generosity over the years and for the integral role they have played in strengthening both our campus and our community through their continued involvement."



FROM THE SANDSTONE WALLS OF NEO TO DEEP GEOSPACE — DR. DONALD W. DAREING

A
L
U
M
N
I



S
P
O
T
L
I
G
H
T

In 1996, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College named Dr. Donald W. Dareing, a graduate of the NEO Class of '55, an Outstanding Alumnus, a title that only scratches the surface of a career defined by world-class research and industrial innovation.

Dr. Dareing's work exists at the intersection of industry and academia, a blend that has resulted in over 50 professional publications, three international books on Drilling, and groundbreaking mathematical models. During the "Golden Era" of the 1960s—the same decade he earned his PhD from the University of Illinois—the Space Race transfixed the world. However, while NASA looked toward outer space, Dr. Dareing looked deep into Earth's Geospace, discovering that the two technologies are similar.

"It is interesting that the technologies for petroleum and space exploration were developed at the same time," said Dr. Dareing. He points out that both fields rely on the same fundamental principles: thrust, navigation, and control.

Just as a rocket must be guided through the atmosphere, a drill bit must be navigated through Geospace, along a prescribed path to reach reservoirs that are sometimes miles below the surface. Dr. Dareing was among the first to measure real-time vibrations of drill bits along with mathematical models

of drill strings, a feat of mechanical engineering that made deep-Earth exploration as predictable and reliable as a moon landing.

This research reached international levels due to its groundbreaking nature. Still, despite the world-class nature of his studies, Dr. Dareing prefers relationships closer to home while reflecting on his smaller-scale memories, such as playing on the sandstone walls of NEO when he was just a boy.

He had the luck to use the campus as his backyard while growing up, living only one block from the blue-and-gold-covered grounds. This proximity led him to enroll at the school and eventually become a fixture on the Norseman baseball team, a member of the Engineers Club, and an inductee into Phi Theta Kappa.

With countless career feats and former involvement on campus, it may be surprising to hear him admit that he was an unmotivated C-plus student in high school. What turned this unmotivated teen into a world-class researcher was the personal, caring environment at NEO—and, specifically, the mentorship of instructors like Mr. Oran Nead—that uncovered his potential.

"Mr. Oran Nead spoke to me during every lecture," Dr. Dareing said. "His teaching and investment in me uncovered my potential as a person. Because of him,

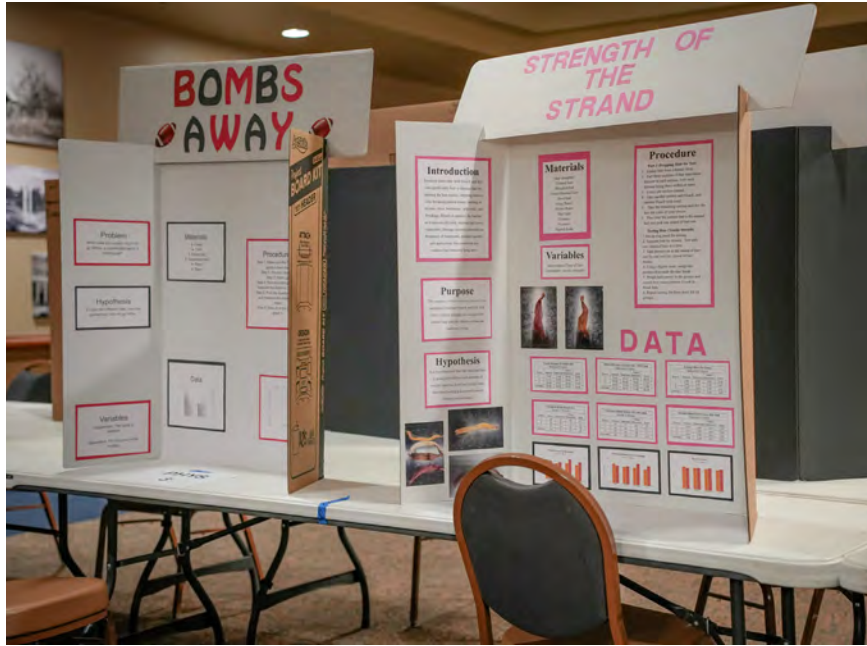
I was prepared to compete at the state, national, and later the international level."

Today, Dr. Dareing remains a hometown kid who happens to be a global expert across many fields. He still remembers when the Camp Crowder buildings moved onto campus after the war to support war veterans, and he maintains a deep affection for the people of the Miami region.

His latest work, a manuscript titled *Mechanics of Social Change*, applies his lifelong understanding of physical laws to the evolution of society, demonstrating that he is still seeking seemingly unrelated fields that can be better understood through simple yet hard-to-find analogies.

For the students currently walking past the same sandstone walls Dr. Dareing once played on and then walked past every day as a student, his message is grounded and clear: NEO can change your life's trajectory, just as it did his. "The pathway to personal satisfaction and success is through education," said Dareing, "and NEO is the perfect place to start."

NEO HOSTS REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR HIGHLIGHTING STUDENT INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE



Award Winners:

Top Junior High Biological Science:
Locklyn Ward (8th grade), Grove Middle School
Project: "Field of Dreams"

Top Junior High Physical Science:
Ansley Beasley (8th grade), Grove Middle School
Project: "Fertilizer Runoff: The Silent Lake Killer"

Top Senior Biological Science:
Caytie Couch (10th grade), Quapaw Public Schools
Project: "Insect Alliance"

Top Senior Physical Science:
Brooklyn Brock (11th grade), Quapaw Public Schools
Project: "Built for the Shake"

The Top Overall Award for the 2025 NEO Regional Science Fair was presented to Brooklyn Brock for her project "Built for the Shake."

Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College hosted the NEO Regional Science Fair on Thursday, February 5, welcoming approximately 80 middle school and high school students to campus.

Health. The event provided young scientists the opportunity to showcase original research, problem-solving skills, and scientific creativity in a collegiate setting.

Students ranging from 6th grade through 12th grade competed across 10 scientific categories, including Physics, Zoology, Behavioral Science, and Medical

Awards were presented for Top Biological Science and Top Physical Science, with honors given separately to junior high and high school students.



NEO HOSTS CHOIR FESTIVAL FEATURING AREA MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS



Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College hosted the NEO Choir Festival on Friday, February 6, welcoming area middle and high school choirs for a day of performances, evaluations, and musical growth.

Participating schools included: Nowata Middle and High School (Director: Jennifer Prince), Vinita Middle School (Director: Maria Snider), Purdy Elementary School (Director: Christina Harmon), Commerce High School (Voice Teacher: Desiree Jones).

The festival featured a variety of performances, including: 4 soloists (three from Vinita and one from Commerce), 3 large ensemble performances, and 5

small ensemble performances.

Student performances were adjudicated by guest judges Amanda Ford and Tyler Zustiak, who provided scores, ratings, and written feedback to each ensemble.

The NEO Choir Festival is designed to mirror the structure and expectations of state-level choral contests, offering students and directors an authentic adjudicated experience. By performing prepared repertoire and receiving professional evaluations, participants gain valuable insight as they prepare for the upcoming contest season.

"Our goal with the NEO Choral Festival is to create a supportive, educational experience that helps students feel confident and prepared as they move into contest season," said Dr. Tatiana Taylor, Director of Choirs and Vocal Music at NEO. "Giving young musicians the opportunity to perform, receive professional feedback, and experience a collegiate setting is an important part of fostering both musical growth and a love for choral music."

NEO is proud to support music education and provide opportunities that connect secondary students with collegiate-level arts experiences.

NEO HOSTS EASTERN REGION TSA CONFERENCE



Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) hosted the Eastern Region Technology Student Association (TSA) Conference on Wednesday, February 25, welcoming approximately 450 students from across the region for a full day of competition and leadership development.

The conference brought high school students to campus to compete in a variety of STEM and leadership-focused events, including dragster racing, modeling

and design, prepared speeches, leadership strategies, presentations, and debate.

The event provided an exciting opportunity for students to demonstrate their technical skills, creativity, and teamwork while experiencing a college campus environment. Throughout the day, NEO faculty and staff engaged with participants, answered questions, and showcased the college's academic programs and

student opportunities.

Hosting the Eastern Region TSA Conference reflects NEO's continued commitment to supporting STEM education and providing meaningful experiences for prospective students. The college was honored to host this dynamic regional event and welcome the next generation of innovators and leaders to campus.

NEO UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS ATTEND TRIO DAY AT THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL



On Wednesday, February 25th, NEO Upward Bound students participated in TRIO Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol, joining peers from across Oklahoma to celebrate the impact of TRIO programs while engaging with state leaders and policymakers.

During the visit, students toured the Capitol, met with legislators, and met with local State Representative Steve Bashore, gaining valuable insight into leadership and civic engagement.

"TRIO Day is an unbelievable experience for our students to hear from representatives and leaders who sat in the same chair as them years ago," said NEO Upward Bound Director Jonathan Wengert. "We were also able to meet leaders of our state and even had the opportunity to meet with Rep. Bashore. We hope that by attending this day that we are setting our students up for future success."

NEO's TRIO programs support first-generation college students, individuals from limited-income backgrounds, and students with disabilities by providing academic support, mentoring, and leadership development opportunities.

NEO A&M COLLEGE HOSTS CHEROKEE NATION LEADERSHIP, RECEIVES \$50,000 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT



Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) was honored to host Cherokee Nation leadership on campus on Thursday, February 26, 2026, during a special visit recognizing the partnership between the institution and the Cherokee Nation's shared commitment to student and community well-being. During the visit, NEO was presented with a \$50,000 Cherokee Nation Community Assistance Grant to support campus wellness initiatives.



The funding will support three critical projects designed to promote health, safety, and community access, including weight room improvements, the expansion of campus Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units, and the installation of water-bottle filling stations across campus. These initiatives directly align with the Cherokee Nation's funding priorities and will enhance NEO's ability to serve students, community members, and Cherokee citizens who utilize campus facilities.

NEO GRADUATE ELI KREEGER SERVING AS PSYCHIATRIC RN AT MAYO CLINIC ROCHESTER



From NEO A&M College to one of the nation's leading healthcare institutions, Eli Kreeger's journey reflects dedication, discipline, and the strong foundation built at NEO.

Kreeger earned an Associate of Science in 2022 and an Associate Degree in Nursing in 2024 from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College before continuing his education at Missouri State University, where he completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. He now serves as a Psychiatric Registered Nurse at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

"The success I have found is built not just on my own

effort, but on the foundation laid by hard work, the discipline instilled by the nursing program at NEO, and the unwavering support of the people who taught me and built me up every step of the way," Kreeger said.

NEO is proud to celebrate Eli's accomplishments and the impact he is making in the healthcare field.



KENNEDY FREEMAN SELECTED FOR GEORGE AND DONNA NIGH PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



NEO Freshman, Kennedy Freeman, has been selected as NEO's recipient of the George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship and will participate in the George and Donna Nigh Leadership Academy.

Established by the 1999 Oklahoma Legislature, the George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship provides opportunities for outstanding students who are preparing for careers in public service. As part of the scholarship program, recipients participate in leadership seminars offered through the Nigh Institute, designed to strengthen leadership skills and deepen understanding of public service.

Each college and university in Oklahoma nominates one student per year for this prestigious honor.

"I'm unbelievably honored to have the opportunity to represent NEO at the Nigh Leadership Academy," Freeman said.

Freeman was selected for her demonstrated leadership, academic excellence, and service-oriented involvement. Scholarship recipients must be Oklahoma residents, enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program, and pursuing a degree leading to a career in public service. Selection criteria also include academic performance, honors, recommendations, and participation in extracurricular and community activities.

As part of the scholarship, Freeman will attend the four-day George and Donna Nigh Leadership

Academy, held February 7–10 in Oklahoma City. The Academy provides an intensive leadership experience focused on personal development, public service, and leadership skills. Participants stay on-site throughout the program to fully engage in all sessions. Scholars who complete all Academy activities receive a \$1,000 scholarship at the conclusion of the program.

NEO congratulates Freeman on this outstanding achievement and looks forward to her continued success.



NEO BOOKSTORE FEATURED ITEM

Drive your ride with Norse pride! Pickup this NEO license plate today!

Available in-store and online.

GET THESE AND MANY OTHER NORSE PRIDE ITEMS AT
BOOKSTORE.NEO.EDU

NEO HOSTS PRESIDENTIAL PARTNERS BASKETBALL APPRECIATION RECEPTION



Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College hosted a Presidential Partners Basketball Appreciation Reception during the NEO vs. Northern Oklahoma College–Tonkawa game on Thursday, February 5.

Presidential Partners were welcomed with complimentary admission to both the women's and men's basketball games, along with food, beverages, and special gifts in appreciation of their continued support of NEO.



The event provided an opportunity to celebrate the impact of Presidential Partners and thank them for their ongoing investment in the success of NEO and its students.



NEO A&M COLLEGE FOOTBALL PROGRAM ANNOUNCES CLASS OF 2026



Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and Head Football Coach Zach Crissup announced the addition of more than 50 new student-athletes to the 2026 roster on National Signing Day, February 4, 2026.

NEO Football is coming off a strong 2025 season that ended with a 6-4 record overall and 5-2 in conference play, which secured them a ticket to the 2025 Southwest Junior College Football Conference Championship.

This signing class brings a potent combination of size and speed across the board, addressing key needs on both sides of the ball. The Golden Norsemen added significant depth, with a heavy emphasis on offensive and defensive linemen, while also upgrading overall team speed at the skill positions.

NEO signed 10 from Oklahoma, 16 from Florida, five

from Alabama, four from Georgia, three from Arkansas, two from South Carolina, and one from Texas, giving the program a diverse and competitive group for the 2026 season.

“This is easily the most geographically diverse signing class we have had in almost 30 years,” said NEO Football Head Coach Zach Crissup. “Our staff did a great job covering the country and finding the right guys to bring top-tier talent to the Banks of Tar Creek. I am fired up to get this group here in the summer and see what they can do this fall. I am just as excited about the guys already on campus as we gear up for spring ball. Row Norse Row!”

Positionally, the class is built around the line of scrimmage and defensive depth, with 11 incoming offensive linemen, 12 defensive linemen, four

linebackers, and three defensive backs. Joining them are four wide receivers, one tight end, one quarterback, two specialists, and one ATH.

This group provides immediate competition, strengthens roster balance, and positions our program to continue building toward championship-level football.

NEO Football will join the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference/Iowa Community College Athletic Conference scheduling alliance for the 2026-2027 seasons. This move provides our student-athletes with increased exposure through 10 guaranteed games against opponents from across Kansas and Iowa.

NEO STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION HOSTS BLACK CULTURAL CELEBRATION



On Tuesday, February 24, 2026, Northeastern

Oklahoma A&M College's Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a Black Cultural Celebration in honor of Black History Month.

The student-driven initiative was designed to promote cultural appreciation and educate the campus community about the rich history, achievements, and contributions of Black Americans.

The event featured interactive trivia activities focused on Black inventors, historical figures, and musical artists. Faculty, staff, and students participated in the games for opportunities to win prizes while expanding their knowledge of Black history and culture.

Attendees also heard a short educational presentation on the Tulsa Race Massacre, which provided historical

context and encouraged reflection and discussion. The celebration concluded with student performances, including a poetry reading, a song, a Stomp Dance, and a comedy routine, highlighting creativity and cultural expression within the NEO community.

The Black Cultural Celebration reflects NEO's commitment to fostering an inclusive campus environment and providing meaningful educational experiences beyond the classroom.







LOCATION: ONEOK STADIUM EIDE BAILLY CONFERENCE CENTER
RECEPTION TIME: 4:30 PM
FIRST PITCH: 6:00 PM
RSVP: EMAIL EIVERTSON@NEO.EDU

JOIN US

MARCH 31, 2026

FOR A COMPLIMENTARY
 NEO ALUMNI & FRIENDS PREGAME
 RECEPTION INSIDE ONEOK STADIUM!



PURCHASE GAME TICKETS AT THE GATE OR ONLINE FOR \$10.00 AT MILB.COM/TULSA | FREE ADMISSION WITH VALID TRIBAL ID



NEO A&M COLLEGE vs CONNORS STATE COLLEGE
MARCH 31, 2026 | 6 PM | ONEOK FIELD | TULSA, OK



TICKETS: \$10 AT MILB.COM/TULSA OR PURCHASE AT GATE | FREE ADMISSION WITH VALID TRIBAL ID



Since its inception in 2009, the NEO Presidential Partners program has been instrumental in improving NEO in areas that are often underfunded. From cultural mainstays like Miss Indian NEO to student necessities like ACT prep courses, support from the Presidential Partners ensures that students have the resources they need to succeed.

To date, Presidential Partners have supported nearly half a million dollars in projects on campus. The heart of NEO is the student body, and our Presidential Partners support students in a variety of ways. One prime example is the Textbook Bank, which allows students to visit the library to use textbooks from the most common courses on campus free of charge.

Presidential Partners also support academic awards such as the Top Ten Freshmen. Each year, we have the opportunity to recognize the cream of the crop, highlighting the ten most outstanding students during their freshmen year. Additionally, Presidential Partners support student and academic clubs across campus to encourage students to get the most out of their college educational experience.

Many of our students excel not only in the classroom, but on the field, arena, mat, or court as well. Presidential Partners show our nationally competitive athletic teams their appreciation in many ways, including travel expenses and national tournament gear. A student-athlete truly feels the support of our alumni and the community when they receive shirts or jackets for their national title run.

To maintain an excellent student body, we must also support our faculty and staff. The Presidential Partners show their support each year through funding of the NEO Service Awards. These awards highlight new talented employees as well as those who have gone above and beyond their job description.

Join the dozens of Presidential Partners today as we strive to improve the campus experience for students, faculty and staff!

JOIN PRESIDENTIAL PARTNERS ONLINE

TO BECOME A PARTNER TODAY, VISIT NEO.EDU/PARTNERS
 TO FILL OUT THE ONLINE APPLICATION AND/OR PAY BY CARD.



Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College Policy

BURSAR PAYMENT POLICY	N2-1212 BURSAR August 2025
------------------------------	---

PURPOSE

- 1.01 The purpose of this policy is to outline various payment options to assist students in meeting their financial obligations to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College.

SCOPE

- 2.01 This policy applies to all students at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College ("NEO").

POLICY

- 3.01 Accounts are to be paid in full by the end of the 16 week add/drop date each semester.
- 3.02 A 1% late fee ~~(up to \$35)~~ will be charged monthly on unpaid balances until the end of the semester in which the charge was incurred.

- A. Examples of situations that could result in an outstanding balance include, but are not limited to, the following: failure to establish and maintain a deferred payment plan, incomplete financial aid processing, unreported outside resources, or any balance greater than zero.

3.03 **Deferred Payment Plan**

If full payment is not possible at the start of the semester, students may enroll in a deferred payment plan. The cost to enroll in the deferred payment plan is \$25 per semester. The fee is a non-refundable administrative fee charged by NEO for deferred payment plan service. The first installment payment and administrative fee will be due by the 15th of the month in which the deferred payment plan is established.

- A. The number of payments depends on how early students enroll for the plan. The earlier students enroll, the smaller the payments and the longer students have to pay. The amount of each payment will depend on the amount of tuition and fees charged and financial aid award, if any.

1. Students may be eligible for the five-installment (per semester) plan. This plan allows students to make payments for each semester in up-to five installments. Fall payment due dates: August 15 (if enrolled prior to July 31), September 15, October 15, November 15 and December 15. Spring payment due dates: January 15 (if enrolled prior to December 31), February 15, March 15, April 15, and May 15.

2. Full semester plan enrollment deadlines are as follows: Fall, September 15; Spring, February 15; Summer, June 15.
 3. If students do not enroll in a deferred payment plan by the deadline dates, accounts will be subject to a 1% ~~(not to exceed \$35)~~ per month late fee until paid in full.
- B. The students' original deferred payment plan will automatically adjust if they have schedule changes such as adding or dropping a class, financial aid award changes, or if they add books to their deferred payment plan; these actions could increase or decrease their payments. They will be notified by the Bursar Office via email of any changes to their deferred payment plan.
 - C. Deferred payment plans submitted through NEO are valid for only one semester and must be requested each semester.
 - D. Missed deferred payment plan installments will result in an assessment of a late payment fee of .25% ~~(not to exceed \$25 per month)~~ for each missed payment. Failure to pay will result in an enrollment hold for future classes/semesters.

3.04 Enrollment

- A. For students who are not on a deferred payment plan, accounts must be paid down to \$500 or less by the 16 week add/drop date each semester. Failure to pay the account down to \$500 will result in an enrollment hold for future classes/semesters.
- B. For students who are on a deferred payment plan, accounts must be in good standing. Failure to keep the account in good standing will result in an enrollment hold for future classes/semesters.

3.05 Payments

Applicable fees for using credit/debit card payments are collected by third-party payment processor for all payments. There are no service charges for using the Automatic Clearing House (ACH) method with a checking or savings account.

- A. NEO imposes a non-refundable fee of \$20.00 for each returned payment.

3.06 Financial Aid

If pending financial aid will not cover 100% of a student's account balance, then payment is due by the end of the 16 week add/drop date. Students whose financial aid does not pay 100% of their account balance may enroll in a deferred payment plan for the difference. The deferred payment plan will adjust automatically.

- A. If financial aid is cancelled/reduced and no longer will cover 100% of the student's account balance, then payment is due by the due date listed on the monthly statement.
- B. If financial aid covers 100% of the student's account balance, then any prior payments causing a credit will be refunded to the student.

3.07 Employer tuition assistance

Students who receive employer tuition assistance may have the costs of educational expenses paid by their employer through direct billing or through reimbursement. Students should check with their employers to determine which plan is appropriate for them. NEO is not responsible for agreements between students and their employers.

- A. Direct billing: Students whose employer offers direct payment to NEO must ensure that NEO receives a letter from the employer that authorizes and describes the conditions of such an arrangement. The letter must be on file in the Bursar Office and Financial Aid Office no later than the beginning of the semester.
- B. Reimbursement: Students attending under employer reimbursement are required to follow the standard payment policy and then receive reimbursement following guidelines established by his/her employer.
- C. Under either form of tuition assistance, students are responsible for any portion of the educational fees not paid by their employers. Students whose employers have contingencies on payments (such as attaining a certain grade) are required to pay as if they did not have employer tuition assistance and be reimbursed after the employer makes payment in accordance with the employer's policy. NEO is not responsible for an employer's failure to pay.
- D. If the student's employer pays tuition assistance benefits directly to eligible individuals, students are personally responsible for payment of their expenses and are required to follow NEO's standard payment policy.

3.08 Veterans' educational assistance

Individuals who are currently serving or have served in our nation's armed forces may be eligible for educational assistance from the Veterans Administration ("VA"). Eligible students must complete paperwork required to establish VA eligibility at the time of registration. If the VA pays benefits directly to eligible individuals, students are personally responsible for payment of their expenses and are required to follow NEO's standard payment policy.

- A. Veterans using Chapter 31 or 33 educational benefits shall not be prevented from enrolling; charged a late penalty fee; required to obtain additional funding

or be denied access to school resources and classes if they are awaiting a delayed payment from the VA.

- B. Veterans using Chapter 31 or 33 educational benefits who reduce their hours and received a payment are responsible to pay the difference to NEO and are required to follow NEO's standard payment policy.

3.09 Other education tuition reimbursements and scholarships

External reimbursements and scholarships must be reported to the Bursar Office and Financial Aid Office no later than the beginning of the semester for aid to be authorized as received. Unreported payments from external reimbursements and scholarships will not be considered when applying late fees to accounts. It is the responsibility of students to verify that both departments, the Business Office and Financial Aid Office, have received notice of all incoming account payments so not to be charged any late payment fees.

- 3.10 Any late fee charged to students' accounts may be waived or refunded based on the application of Financial Aid funds or external funding (i.e. third-party scholarships, employer assistance, etc.). Students must contact the Bursar Office to request the late fee to be waived or refunded.

PROCEDURE

- 4.01 Accounts are expected to be paid in full by the end of the add/drop date each semester or enrolled in a deferred payment plan.
- 4.02 Deferred payment plans can be set up by completing an application posted on the Bursar Office website.
- 4.03 The administrative fee and first installment are due by the 15th of the month in which the deferred payment plan was established.
- 4.04 Deferred payment plan participants are sent installment payment due notifications in separate emails, and the statement email is to inform students of the total monthly billing statement amount for informational purposes.
- 4.05 Payments are due by the 15th of the month.
- 4.06 Late payment fees are assessed monthly. There will be no late fees on non-delinquent accounts.

A. No late fee will be assessed on any balance below \$5.00

B. A late fee will not be applied until the payment is 10 days late

- 4.07 To enroll in a future class/semester, students' account balances must be paid down to \$500 or less, or the student must be enrolled in a deferred payment plan with their account in good standing.
- 4.08 Enrollment/academic holds placed on an account may be lifted as long as installment payments are current.
- 4.09 Charges and credits originate from on-campus departments. These departments are responsible for maintaining the detailed records of the transaction that appear on students' billing statements. If students have questions regarding an item on their statement, please contact the appropriate department directly.
- 4.10 If an account remains unpaid, NEO reserves the right to suspend or withdraw students from classes, deny future enrollments, and require students to move from student housing.
- 4.11 Accounts must be cleared before students can obtain a diploma.
- 4.12 Any charges incurred by NEO to collect on delinquent accounts will be assessed to and will be the responsibility of the account holder; to include reimbursing NEO the fees of any collection agency, which may be based on a percentage at a maximum of 33.3% of the debt, and all costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred in such collection efforts. This will be assessed to the student's account and included in the balance due.
- 4.13 Delinquent account information is disclosed to credit reporting agencies, which could endanger students' credit rating on a local or national level. Past due accounts may receive payment from the warrant intercept program (WIP) that captures state income tax refunds to pay outstanding NEO debt.

Approved:

June 13th, 2025



D - PERSONNEL ACTIONS in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03

1. Request approval of personnel actions. Personnel items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only

- a. Five personnel actions for approval

Name	Action	Effective Date	Salary/Rate Annually
Warren Harkins	Retirement- Director of Physical Plant	7/1/2026	\$62,500.00
Anna Hart	Separation- Head Cheer & Dance Head Coach	2/13/2026	\$16,000.00
Lauren McCreary	New Hire- Head Volleyball Coach & Resident Director	3/2/2026	\$28,420.26
Blake Mills	Promotion- Head Men's Basketball Coach & Student Activities Coordinator	3/1/2026	\$40,000.00
Zachary Crissup	Salary Increase- Head Football Coach	3/1/2026	\$73,000.00

Personnel items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only

- b. Eight reappointments, separations, changes in salary, changes in title and personnel leaves.

Name	Action	Effective Date	Salary/Rate Annually
Jo Branstetter	New Hire- Instructor of Nursing	2/6/2026	\$63,398.70
Brian Happy	New Hire- Grounds Technician	3/3/2026	\$24,960.00
Lindsey Schaefer	New Hire- Executive Assistant to President	3/9/2026	\$44,000.00
Lori Hackwell	Retirement- Instructor of Business	5/8/2026	\$52,435.02
Chip Hammons	Retirement- Instructor of Business	5/8/2026	\$58,667.82
Barbara Patterson	Retirement- Administrative Assistant	5/31/2026	\$23,484.99
Samual Sharp	Separation- Asst. Football Coach & Resident Director	2/19/2026	\$25,000.00
Michael Cannon	Salary Increase- Asst. Football Coach	3/1/2026	\$50,000.00



I - NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF FACILITIES-

1. Request approval to increase the cost of the renovation of the food retail store in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union to \$875,000. The renovation projection was previously approved by the board in January 2025. Project is expected to be completed before the fall 2026 semester.

FUNDING

The project is supported by \$660,000 from Sodexo, and the additional funding needed to complete the project will come from private donated funds.

JUSTIFICATION

NEO received approval in January 2025 to renovate the current food retail store, the "Galley," located in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union.

Crossland Construction, the Construction Manager at Risk, recently provided cost updates for the project based on the bids received.

The project includes architect, kitchen equipment, real property renovations, and new furniture for seating in the area.

**I - NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF FACILITIES-**

2. Request approval to select an on-call consultant to provide as-needed construction management services to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College.

FUNDING

Project fees will be determined on a project-by-project basis.

JUSTIFICATION

Crossland Construction Company has successfully provided CMAR as-needed services for NEO A&M in the past and is familiar with the campus. It is recommended to engage with Crossland Construction Company for CMAR as-needed services for a period of five years comprised of one-year renewable contract terms.

Kyle Stafford, NEO A&M College, and Phil Thomas, of Long-Range Facilities Planning are coordinating this item.



M – OTHER INFORMATIONAL MATTERS NOT REQUIRING ACTION OF THE BOARD

1. Out-of-state travel summary for January 2026.

Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
Summary of Out-of-State Travel as of

Jan-26

Column (1): Travel This Month

Column (2): Corresponding Month Last FY

Column (3): Amount Expended Current FY

Column (4): Amount Expended Prior FY

Fund Source	No. Trips (3)	Amount Expended-Curr	No. Trips (1)	Amount Expended	No. Trips (26)	Amount Expended-Curr	No. Trips (18)	Amt. Exp Previous FY
Revolving	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
State Approp. (290)	2	\$236.26	1	\$24.36	7	\$1,096.62	13	\$3,170.31
Federal (430)	1	\$308.40	0	\$0.00	17	\$10,442.69	4	\$1,076.13
Private	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Auxiliary (701)	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$740.44	1	\$913.87
Other	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Total	3	\$544.66	1	\$24.36	26	\$12,279.75	18	\$5,160.31

IV. CONNORS STATE COLLEGE, WARNER, OKLAHOMA

President Ron Ramming came before the Board to review the Agenda and present the business of Connors State College (CSC). (The CSC Agenda is attached to this section and considered a part of these minutes.)

A-1 Remarks by President Ron Ramming

a. CSC Connection Publication

President Ramming expressed his appreciation to OSU President Hess and the First Cowgirl for their hospitality last night. He said it was an enjoyable evening.

He referenced the cover of the Connection, which pictures the costumer for CSC's new mascot. Updating the mascot's look was a long process, and the full story can be found on page 3 of the magazine. On February 12th, the College held its annual All-School Homecoming which is the featured story on page 4. Mr. Ross Turner from Chattanooga, OK and Ms. Ryleigh Bacon from Oktaha, OK, were crowned King and Queen, respectively. President Ramming said the story on page 5 is about the annual Aggie Club Homecoming, which is an event that has been hosted by the Division of Agriculture for over 30 years. Mr. Turner was also crowned Aggie Club King, while Ms. Chloe Silka from Locust Grove was crowned Aggie Club Queen.

President Ramming said the administration is very proud of Ms. Cierra Dunn, who is featured on page 6. Ms. Dunn held the state record for barebow archery, and she surpassed her own record in January. He said it is incredible to see what these students are able to do at this event. The bottom of page 6 and all of page 7 features a story about the CSC Meat Judging Team, which is a program that began within the past year. President Ramming said the Team traveled to competitions in January and February and placed 6th in the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado and 5th in the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo in Texas. The Team is unfamiliar with carcass grade because there are not many large meat processing plants in the Warner area, but as these students gain more time and experience, President Ramming said he is confident they will continue to improve their ranking.

He highlighted the story on page 10 about two employees selected to serve as Peer Reviewers for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). President Ramming said these employees will conduct peer reviews nationally at HLC member institutions. This is significant because the only Peer Reviewer on the CSC campus before now was President Ramming. The value of having multiple Peer Reviewers within the administration is that they bring back ideas from their reviews and help the College prepare for its own HLC accreditation visits. President Ramming said he is very proud of Dr. Lynett Rock and Ms. Tosha Stout.

To close the magazine, President Ramming said the baseball team had an outstanding fundraising event, which is featured on page 13. The administration recognized Head Coach Perry Keith at this event for his 1900th win, which he earned last spring. Coach Keith holds the most wins in National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) history.

President Ramming said the regular basketball season has ended. The Men's Basketball Team finished 16-8 and 6th in the conference. The Women's Basketball Team will play in the NJCAA Region 2 Tournament at Rougher Village in Muskogee next Wednesday at 3:00 p.m., and the Men's Basketball Team will play at 3:00 p.m. next Thursday. President Ramming invited the Regents to attend these games if their schedules allowed. He said there are several Division I prospects playing in this league. The baseball team began the season at 19-3; and the softball team started the season at 4-6.

President Ramming said the maintenance contract that is up for rebid received very strong interest. He thanked Mr. Schlotthauer and his team for helping with that process. Twenty-eight firms submitted interest letters, nine of which are close to completing their bids by the March 23rd deadline. President Ramming said he anticipates the winning bid to be presented to the Board for approval at the next regular board meeting.

Lastly, President Ramming said the spring bull sale is scheduled for April 9th and he hopes to see strong interest in the event. The conditions have been good for health and growth; he has not seen this level of gains in a long time, and it is phenomenal.

The business of CSC being concluded, President Ramming was excused from the meeting.



Connors State College

Warner, Oklahoma

Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents for OSU and the A&M Colleges

March 6, 2026

Dear Board Members

Subject to budgetary limitations and availability of funds, the following expenditures are submitted for Board approval, with purchases to be coordinated through the Chief Procurement Officer, Oklahoma State University. We recommend the following business for your consideration and approval.

A - GENERAL INFORMATION/REPORTS REQUIRING NO ACTION BY THE BOARD

1. Remarks by President Dr. Ron Ramming
 - a. Connection

B – RESOLUTIONS- None

C - POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES- None

D - PERSONNEL ACTIONS in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03- None

E - INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM- None

F - BUDGETARY ACTION-None

G - OTHER BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS- None

H - CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS (other than construction and renovation)-None

I - NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF FACILITIES- None

J - PURCHASE REQUESTS- None

K - STUDENT SERVICES/ACTIVITIES- None

L - NEW BUSINESS UNFORESEEN AT TIME AGENDA WAS POSTED- None

M - OTHER INFORMATIONAL MATTERS NOT REQUIRING ACTION OF THE BOARD

1. Out-of-State Travel Report for January 2026
(Reference Document M-1)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. S. Ramming', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Ronald S. Ramming
President

A Publication of Connors State College

February 2026

CONNECTION



A New Face for the Connors State Cowboys

CONNORS STATE COLLEGE

WARNER CAMPUS
700 COLLEGE RD
WARNER, OK 74469

**THREE RIVERS PORT
CAMPUS**
2501 N 41st St. E
MUSKOGEE, OK 74403

ADMINISTRATION

PRESIDENT
Dr. Ronald S. Ramming

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
Dr. Chris McBeath

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR
FISAL SERVICES**
Mike Lewis

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR
STUDENT AFFAIRS**
Jake Lawson

CONNECTION CONTRIBUTIONS

Amber McKibben
Angie Lane
Josie Correll
Debbie Mullens
Macey McCoy
Jordan Barry

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

February 2026

FEATURE	3
• <i>New Mascot</i>	
CAMPUS LIFE	4
• <i>All School Homecoming</i>	
AGRICULTURE	5
• <i>Aggie Homecoming</i>	
• <i>Sophomore Archer Spotlight</i>	
• <i>Meat Judging Results</i>	
CAMPUS LIFE	8
• <i>NAACP Celebration</i>	
• <i>HLC Peer Reviewer Selections</i>	
• <i>Student Spotlight</i>	
• <i>Alumni Spotlight</i>	
ATHLETICS	13
• <i>Baseball Bash Kickoff</i>	

Cover photo by Jordan Barry (Freshman - Colcord, Okla.)

**CSC
SOCIAL
MEDIA**
#CONNORSSTATE



facebook.com/
connors
statecollege



@ConnorsState



@ConnorsState



youtube.com/
connors
statecollege

Connors State College in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nation origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, crime statistics for both the Warner and Muskogee campuses may be reviewed at <http://connorsstate.edu/asr>. This publication was printed by Connors State College as authorized by the Director of College & Community Relations. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination or endorsement is intended by Connors State College.

A Fresh Face for a Proud Tradition: Connor “The Cowboy’s” New Look

by Amber McKibben, CSC Recruitment & Marketing

Connors State College is proud to introduce a bold new look for its beloved mascot, Connor “The Cowboy.” The refreshed design blends tradition with modern style, giving students, alumni, and fans an updated symbol of Cowboy pride.

For years, Connor “The Cowboy” has represented the spirit, grit, and determination that define Connors State College. Rooted in Oklahoma’s rich western heritage, the mascot embodies hard work, resilience, and community — values that continue to shape the college experience.

The new mascot design features updated colors, sharper details, and a more dynamic appearance. From a redesigned cowboy hat and boots to a friendlier, more expressive face, Connor’s new look is crafted to energize crowds and create stronger engagement at campus and community events. College officials say the update was driven by a desire to keep the mascot fresh and relevant while honoring its long-standing tradition. The enhanced design ensures Connor stands out at athletic competitions, student activities, and outreach events across the region.

As Connors State College continues to grow and evolve, the new mascot stands as a symbol of progress while honoring tradition. Connor “The Cowboy” may have a new look, but the Cowboy spirit remains stronger than ever.





Connors State College Celebrates Annual All-School Homecoming

by Amber McKibben, CSC Recruitment & Marketing

Connors State College crowned its 2026 royalty during the All-School Homecoming ceremony on February 12th in the Melvin Self Fieldhouse. Congratulations to the 2026 King Ross Turner (Chattanooga, OK) and Queen Ryleigh Bacon (Oktaha, OK)! Royalty was named during the halftime festivities of the men's basketball game against Eastern.

Students, faculty, staff, and alumni were all present celebrating the annual tradition. Turner and Bacon were selected from a competitive field of candidates from various campus organizations, teams, and academic departments. Ross represented the BCM while Ryleigh represented the Cross Country Team.

The event continued the annual

homecoming tradition and helped spur the Cowboys to a 93-87 victory for the men's team and an 80-66 victory for the women's team. Go cowboys!





Division of Agriculture Hosts Annual Aggie Club Homecoming

by Amber McKibben, CSC Recruitment & Marketing

Connors State College's Division of Agriculture continued a beloved campus tradition with its annual Aggie Homecoming, held on February 5th in the Nero Fine Arts Building. The event serves as a preliminary competition to determine which agricultural students will represent the division at the upcoming All-School Homecoming festivities.

Jake Walker, head rodeo coach, guided the event as master of ceremonies, leading contestants through a series of lighthearted, family-friendly questions designed to showcase their quick thinking.

Here Ross Turner and Chloe Silka were respectively crowned the 2026 Aggie Homecoming King & Queen. The newly crowned royalty earned the honor of

representing the Division of Agriculture at CSC's All-School Homecoming.

The annual event, held by the Agriculture Division Chair, Mr. Trent Todd, highlights a strong sense of community within CSC's agricultural programs while maintaining a tradition that has become an important part of campus life in Warner. There were forty participants in this year's Aggie Homecoming, representing every Agricultural team on campus.

AGRICULTURE

Aiming Higher: Sophomore Archer Shatters Personal and State Records

By Deborah Mullens, CSC Instructor & Cattlewomen's Member

Cierra Dunn, a sophomore, recently competed in the collegiate Female Barebow division at the Oklahoma State Indoor Championship, hosted by H&M Shooting Sports and sanctioned by USA Archery Oklahoma. She set a new personal best in the 60-arrow indoor round, surpassing her previous state record in the same division. The championship, held on January 18, 2026, consisted of 60 arrows shot at 18 meters on a 40 cm target, with the bullseye roughly the size of a thumbnail. Archery Coach Johnny King stated "Cierra Dunn will graduate this spring and will be greatly missed. However, we are thankful to have been able to have her as a Connors State College Collegiate Archer Barebow!"



Meat Judging Team Posts Impressive Multi-Contest Results

by Amber McKibben, CSC Recruitment & Marketing

The Meat Judging Team has been very busy in January and February. They traveled to Denver for the National Western Stock Show, Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo, & the South Plains Contest.

Denver Team Results: High Overall Team Beef Judging, Third Overall Team Lamb Judging, Second Overall Team Pork Judging, High Overall Team Questions, Third Overall Team Placings, Sixth Team Overall



Denver Individual Results:

Karlee Glover: 4th High Individual Lamb Judging, 8th High Individual Questions, 8th High Individual Beef Judging, 7th High Individual Overall

Tucker Cox: 2nd High Individual Beef Judging, 4th High Individual Questions

Addison Sarratt: 6th High Individual Beef Judging, 10th High Individual Pork Judging, 6th High Individual Questions

Sydni Richardson: 8th High Individual Lamb Judging, 8th High Individual Pork Judging

Fort Worth Team Results: High Team Overall Pork Judging, High Team Overall Placing, Third Overall (Tied with first) Questions, 2nd Overall Beef Judging, 5th Overall

Forth Worth Individual Results:

Addison Sarratt: High Individual Pork Judging, 3rd High Individual Questions

Karlee Glover: High Individual Placing, 5th High Individual Beef Judging, 6th High Individual Pork Judging

Sydni Richardson: 5th High Individual Placing

South Plains Team Results: 5th High Team Overall, 3rd High Team Lamb Judging, 5th High Team Beef Judging

South Plains Individual Results:

Karlee Glover: 5th High Individual Overall, 2nd High Lamb Judging, 3rd High Pork Judging, 3rd High Placing, 3rd High Questions

Addison Sarratt: 6th High Lamb Judging



CAMPUS LIFE

Connors State College NAACP Celebrates Black History with “From Legacy to Leadership” Program

by Amber McKibben, CSC Recruitment & Marketing

The Connors State College NAACP Freedom Fighters hosted their annual Black History Program on February 19, 2026, at the Dr. Nero Fine Arts Building on the Warner Campus. This year’s program was centered around the theme “From Legacy to Leadership: Uniting the Past and Present to Move Forward in Power.”

This event featured several speakers including Reverend Dr. Marlon Coleman, the first black mayor of Muskogee. Theme speakers Leila Davis Foley, Mayor Emeritus of Taft and First Female Black Mayor of Oklahoma & the United States of America. Our featured M.C.

Traci McGee, First Woman to serve as Council Person for Ward 4, Muskogee Ok. The Warner High School Choir, directed by Shelly Beck, performed multiple selections throughout the program including “Down by the Riverside” & the Black National Anthem “Lift Every Voice.”





A highlight of the celebration was the special recognition of the 2026 Freedom Fighters of the Year: Tosha Stout, Jalen Thompson, & Tore Alford. Each honoree was acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to the college and community.

The program also included participation from several CSC NAACP members, with Donte Sanson Jr., CSC NAACP King, delivering the welcome address, and Paris Mitchell, Vice President of CSC NAACP, speaking on the occasion.

Coloring contest winner: 1st Place - Mi'Shell Moore, 2nd Place - Paris Mitchell,

The CSC NAACP chapter holds historical significance as the first established NAACP chapter in Warner, Oklahoma, and the first NAACP Auxiliary on the Warner campus. If you want to learn more about the CSC NAACP Freedom Fighters and their upcoming activities, contact Rev. Carneta Cooper, Advisor to the CSC NAACP chapter. The Freedom Fighters welcome new members and community support as they continue their mission on campus and throughout the Warner Community.

CAMPUS LIFE

Connors State College Celebrates HLC Peer Reviewer Selections

by Amber McKibben, CSC Recruitment & Marketing

Connors State College is proud to announce that Dr. Lynett Rock, Division Chair of Science and Mathematics, and Tosha Stout, Registrar, have been selected to serve as Peer Reviewers for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

The Higher Learning Commission is a nationally recognized accrediting body focused on ensuring quality, integrity, and continuous improvement in higher education. Through their service as Peer Reviewers, Dr. Rock and Ms. Stout will help evaluate colleges and universities across the country, contributing to practices and standards that directly support student learning, academic quality, and institutional accountability.

Selection as an HLC Peer Reviewer is a distinguished professional honor and reflects a strong commitment to academic excellence and student success. Peer Reviewers play a critical role in maintaining accreditation standards that protect students and ensure they receive a high-quality educational experience. Dr. Rock's

and Ms. Stout's selection underscores Connors State College's dedication to putting students first through strong academic leadership and responsible institutional practices.

Connors State College congratulates Dr. Lynett Rock and Tosha Stout on this achievement and thanks them for their continued commitment to serving students and for proudly representing CSC and its mission at the national level.



Student Spotlight: Dorn “K.C.” Keil (Okay, OK)

by Amber McKibben, CSC Recruitment & Marketing

Dorn “K.C.” Keil, a sophomore from Okay, Oklahoma, chose Connors State College for a variety of reasons, the most significant being its location. Since the college is close to his hometown of Muskogee, he has been able to continue serving as a full-time caretaker for his disabled mother. He was also a prominent member of the Connors State cheer team and can now be seen around campus representing the President’s Leadership Class and working as a work-study student in the Recruiting Department.

Keil is a Social Science major and expects to graduate with his associate degree along with a certificate in Small Business. During his time at Connors State College, he has been involved in numerous clubs and organizations, often finding himself in unique experiences that have added to the richness of his college journey. From walking in parades and riding horses to winning national championships in cheer, he has embraced every opportunity. He shares that the relationships he has built at Connors will remain with him for a lifetime, as he has formed some of his closest and most unexpected friendships.

In his first year at Connors State College, Keil had the privilege of competing with the cheer team—an experience he regards as one of the highlights of his life. In addition to cheering on the sidelines for the basketball team, the squad competed across the country, including events in Los Angeles, California, and Daytona Beach, Florida. Through long hours of practice, extensive travel, and dedication, he earned the title of two-time national champion.

After graduating from Connors State College in May 2026, Keil plans to attend Rogers State University to pursue a career in law. His goal is to inspire perseverance and resilience in others, demonstrating that through dedication and hard work, anything is possible.

His senior quote from high school remains a guiding principle in his life: “Fortune favors the bold.”



CAMPUS LIFE

Alumni Spotlight: Nikki Alvarez ('98)

by Amber McKibben, CSC Recruitment & Marketing

For Nikki Alvarez, attending Connors State College was more than just the next step in her education — it was continuing a meaningful family legacy. Her mother, brother, and now her daughter as of last spring are all alumni. With deep roots in the college and the surrounding community, Connors has remained a central part of her life for decades.

A 1996 graduate of Porum, Oklahoma, Nikki attended Connors from 1996 to 1998, majoring in Business Administration. As a working mom at the time, she focused her energy on balancing family, work, and academics rather than joining campus clubs. Still, she found connection and support in the close-knit campus environment.



“I chose Connors because I believed it was a really good program close to home. I could still be part of the roots of my community and still be involved in the school itself,” she shared. One of her favorite memories from her time on campus was spending time visiting with her advisor, Mrs. Billie Williams, whose conversations left a lasting impression on Nikki.

After completing her time at Connors, Nikki continued her education at Northeastern State University, completing her bachelor’s in business administration. She then built a successful career in financial services, where she has worked since 1997 with Armstrong Bank. In her current role as a client service representative, she helps facilitate new accounts, including IRAs and CDs, assists with lending, and provides general customer service support.

Her connection to Connors has never faded. Recently, Nikki joined the college’s Alumni Board and is excited to help strengthen both the school and the community it serves.

Her enthusiasm for Connors State began the moment she stepped on campus — and it continues to grow. She has remained actively engaged, attending events like the Cowboys & Caviar Gala and celebrating the college’s impact across generations of her family. Today, that legacy includes her son Jordan, her granddaughter Lyla, a new grandson expected in August, and her wonderful husband Tony of twenty years. Adding to the family’s history with the institution, Nikki’s mother also worked at Connors State for a number of years.

Through education, service, and family tradition, Nikki Alvarez embodies the lasting connections that make Connors State College more than a place to learn, it’s a place to belong.

Cowboys & Cowgirls Opening Day Bash Honors Legacy, Leadership, and a Record-Breaking Coach

by Angie Lane, CSC Bursar

January is a busy and exciting time for the baseball program at Connors State College as preparations ramp up for the February 1 season opener. It also marks the annual Opening Day Bash & Auction, which celebrated its 12th year with former players, supporters, and the Orange Nation gathering for an evening of stories, fellowship, and fundraising. Head Coach Perry Keith continues to emphasize that the people connected to the program are what make it special.

This year's event also honored two major milestones. President Dr. Ron Ramming gave his final opening remarks before retiring in June and was presented with an autographed batting helmet. Coach Keith was recognized for reaching 1,900 career wins — the most in NJCAA history — and received a customized bat signed by the team.



The Bash serves as the program's primary annual fundraiser, supporting plans for a new indoor facility and locker room. Held each year on the last Saturday in January, the event continues to be a vital tradition for Cowboy Baseball.

The Connors State Cowgirls celebrated their achievements at their annual pie auction and fundraiser on Saturday, January 26. The event brought together not only team members, but also faculty, staff, alumni, and even prospective freshmen.





CONNORS STATE COLLEGE
700 COLLEGE RD
WARNER, OK 74469



On February 4, Connors State Baseball played a double header against Oklahoma Chrstian. Winning both games to make the Cowboy's 4-0 this season.

*Back cover photo by Macey McCoy
(Sophmore - Beggs, Okla.)*

SUMMARY OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL FOR THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 28, 2026

FUND SOURCE	TRAVEL THIS MONTH		CORRESPONDING MONTH LAST FISCAL YEAR		AMOUNT EXPENDED CURRENT		AMOUNT EXPENDED PRIOR	
	NO. OF TRIPS	AMOUNT EXPENDED	NO. OF TRIPS	AMOUNT EXPENDED	NO. OF TRIPS	FISCAL YEAR	NO. OF TRIPS	FISCAL YEAR
ST. APPROP.	0	0.00	1	4,557.37	1	4,016.66	3	7,975.75
FEDERAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	15,195.22	1	10,159.79
PRIVATE	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
AUXILIARY	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	309.43	0	0.00
OTHER	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	-	-	1.00	4,557.37	6.00	19,521.31	4.00	18,135.54

V. LANGSTON UNIVERSITY, LANGSTON, OKLAHOMA

President Ruth Ray Jackson and other members of the administration came before the Board to review the Agenda and present the business of Langston University (LU). (The LU Agenda is attached to this section and considered a part of these minutes.)

A-1 Remarks by President Ruth Ray Jackson

a. Overview of ‘E Roar Digital Publication

President Jackson thanked OSU President Hess and his team for their hospitality last night. She also expressed appreciation to Mr. Ramsey for his support of LU and for always being a text or phone call away.

She said it is hard to believe it is already March, and it has been a busy and productive semester at the University. Next week, LU will celebrate Founders Week to commemorate the University’s 129th anniversary. The Week will be full of activities, including a concert and annual convocation at which the keynote speaker will be an LU alumna, Dr. Tiffany Crutcher, founder of the Terence Crutcher Foundation. The administration will also host an inaugural event, the Founders Week Celebration Gala, which will be held in Tulsa. President Jackson said everyone is excited and looking forward to Saturday, March 14th. She invited the Regents to attend Founders Week if their schedules permit.

President Jackson said the administration is proud of the Mental Health First Aid Training Program launched at LU this semester, which is led by Mr. Joshua Busby, Dean of Students, and the Division of Student Affairs. President Jackson said this program offers evidence-based training that teaches employees how to identify, understand, and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance abuse challenges. Mental health first aiders are trained to be a non-judgmental and listening ear. There are more than 50 employees currently training. She said the administration is fortunate and proud to have this program on campus.

She said the administration shared a progress report with the Board last month about the expenditures of the OK Capital Assets Maintenance and Protection (OCAMP) funds. President Jackson expressed her continued appreciation to the OK State Legislature for funding and supporting deferred maintenance needs. The funding is going a long way but the needs continue to outpace available resources. The completed projects funded by OCAMP were designed to make a wide impact across the entire University, such as elevator modernizations, lift station expansions, extensive investments in residential housing, roof replacements at LU-Oklahoma City (OKC), and high-impact upgrades that overhaul the Athletic Complex’s HVAC systems. President Jackson said she is proud of what has already been accomplished with this funding, and there are several more projects being planned. She expressed appreciation to Mrs. Theresa Powell, VP of Operations, and her team in the Division of Operations for their leadership throughout these projects which really impact the living and learning environments on LU campuses.

President Jackson said both the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams will compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Tournament this month. The Men's Team finished 2nd in the Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) Tournament, and LU will host the first two rounds of the National Tournament on March 13th and 14th. The Women's Team clinched the SAC championship last month and earned a spot in the National Tournament. The Women's Team will travel to Henderson, Tennessee for the first two rounds. The LU community is hopeful that both teams will advance to compete for national titles.

President Jackson referenced the *'E Roar* magazine and said page 3 highlights the Thomas E. English Chemistry Leadership initiative, which is a service-learning program embedded within the chemistry curriculum and named after the 12th President of LU. The program is led by chemistry faculty and LU alumnus, Dr. Ryan Johnson, and gives students the opportunity to build their confidence and capacity within chemistry and other Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. Students refine their skills through this program and take their knowledge directly to high school students by offering presentations, demonstrations, and tutoring to inspire further interest in the field of STEM.

She said page 4 contains a story celebrating 20 years of LU's Student Ambassador program. The program has become a hallmark on campus after its creation under the direction of the 15th President, Dr. JoAnn Haysbert. The program is currently led by Mr. Dezz Lewis, who currently serves as a Community Resource Extension Specialist at the Sherman Lewis School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Student ambassadors serve as front door hosts to guests on campus. President Jackson said the administration is proud these students who serve as ushers for ceremonial events and represent the University at public occasions, modeling the ideal values and expectations of LU students.

Among the experiences undergraduate students have at LU, the opportunity to work side-by-side with scientists and researchers is the most impactful. Pages 8 and 9 feature stories about the incredible research and accomplishments of two of the 11 students who participated in the annual Kansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) Symposium in January. Mr. Julianne Simmons and Mr. Justin Berryhill, biology majors, both earned Awards of Excellence at the Symposium for their research.

Finally, President Jackson said the cover story features the legendary aviation pioneer, Ms. Bessie Coleman, and how her time at LU inspired her to take flight. Ms. Coleman's work in aviation is directly connected to her time at the University, which was then known as the Colored Agricultural and Normal University. Next month, Ms. Coleman—affectionately known as “Queen Bess”—will be celebrated by commemorating the 100th anniversary of her final flight. President Jackson said she hopes the Board will read the article about Ms. Coleman's remarkable life, courage, innovation, legacy, and her connection to LU.

D-1 Approval of personnel actions; items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only

- a. Five personnel items
- b. One item for informational purposes only

President Jackson noted that the administration is appointing Mr. Calvin Miller as the Interim Head Football Coach.

Regent Hall moved and Regent Taylor seconded to approve the personnel actions as presented in Item D-1 of the LU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

The business of LU being concluded, President Jackson and other members of the administration were excused from the meeting.



LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

Langston, Oklahoma

Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma A&M
Colleges

March 6, 2026

Dear Board Members:

Subject to budgetary limitations and availability of funds, the following expenditures are submitted for Board approval with purchases to be coordinated through the Chief Procurement Officer, Oklahoma State University. We recommend the following business for your consideration and approval.

A - GENERAL INFORMATION/REPORTS REQUIRING NO ACTION BY THE BOARD

1. Remarks by President Ruth Ray Jackson
 - a. Overview of 'E Roar Digital Publication

B – RESOLUTIONS

None

C - POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

None

D - PERSONNEL ACTIONS

1. Request approval of personnel actions. Personnel items not requiring action by the Board are provided for informational purposes only. (*Reference Document D-1*)
 - a. Five personnel actions
 - b. One item for informational purposes only

E - INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

None

F - BUDGETARY ACTIONS

None

G - OTHER BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

None

H - CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS (other than construction and renovation)

None

I - NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF FACILITIES

None

J - PURCHASE REQUESTS

None

K - STUDENT SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

None

L - NEW BUSINESS UNFORESEEN AT TIME AGENDA WAS POSTED

None

M - OTHER INFORMATIONAL MATTERS NOT REQUIRING ACTION OF THE BOARD

None

All items listed above are respectfully submitted for your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Ray Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Ruth Ray Jackson, Ph.D.
President

THE ROAR

MAGAZINE

THE WOMAN WHO WOULD NOT BE GROUNDED

HONORING BESSIE COLEMAN





INSIDE

THIS ISSUE:

- FROM CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY **3**
- TRADITION, PRIDE, AND SERVICE **4**
- RESEARCH EXCELLENCE **8**
- **COVER STORY:** THE WOMAN WHO WOULD NOT BE GROUNDED **10**

FROM CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY:

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY CHEMISTRY STUDENTS GAIN CONFIDENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY TEACHING

BY JET TURNER



For many years, Dr. Ryan Johnson and the Langston University Department of Chemistry have worked diligently to create service-learning and confidence-building programs in STEM fields for high school students.

Dr. Johnson's goal has always been to expand this work statewide, but he's learned an important lesson during his endeavors.

"Externally funded programs are powerful but temporary," Dr. Johnson said. "When grants end, students lose access to support."

That's why the Chemistry Department has shifted its focus to sustainability by embedding this work directly into Langston University's curriculum, building permanent pipelines that connect LU students to Oklahoma communities.

The Thomas E. English Chemistry Leadership Initiative is a curriculum-embedded service-learning program named after Langston University's 12th president, who emphasized education for community engagement and service.

Langston University General Chemistry I students develop and deliver interactive chemistry demonstrations to local high school students, positioning themselves as experts and leaders. During the Fall 2025 semester, more than 25 LU students presented demonstrations at Frederick A. Douglass High School in Oklahoma City on Nov. 11 and 18.

For some of LU's chemistry students, this was the first time they felt confident calling themselves "scientists." That change in mindset doesn't just help students pass chemistry; it shapes their entire STEM journey and career trajectory, according to Dr. Johnson.

General Chemistry I students designed demonstrations on topics like acids and bases, chemical reactions and states of matter. They practiced extensively, then taught 40-minute sessions to Douglass High School chemistry classes.

"This opportunity was encouraging for me because I got a glimpse of how well I can do in the education field as an instructor," said Oliviya Greenhoward, a General Chemistry I student last semester. "I was so surprised, appreciative of and humbled by the experience."

The department of chemistry is expanding the Thomas E. English Chemistry Leadership Initiative this semester and has submitted a research proposal to determine whether this type of teaching experience helps students build confidence in STEM fields.

"The goal is to create a replicable model that can scale across Oklahoma and beyond," Dr. Johnson said. "A sustainable approach to STEM pipeline development that doesn't depend on external funding cycles."





TRADITION, PRIDE AND SERVICE:

STUDENT AMBASSADORS PROGRAM SHAPES STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT LANGSTON UNIVERSITY FOR 20 YEARS

When Maya Offord arrived at Langston University as a freshman in Fall 2022, she was immediately greeted by a Student Ambassador.

The Ambassador welcomed her to Dear Langston and helped her find her way to student check-in. There, she met other Ambassadors who would continue to help her navigate the campus that was about to become her home for the next four years.

Throughout that first day, and her entire first week, Offord continued to have overwhelmingly positive interactions with Student Ambassadors. From putting on fun events in the evenings to doing “dorm storms” to check on her and her fellow freshmen, the Ambassadors made sure Offord truly felt like she was a member of the Lion Pride.

“As soon as I got on campus that first day, my first people that I had were Ambassadors,” Offord said. “It really inspired me to go be an Ambassador because they were good mentors, and I was like, ‘I really, really want to be a part of that.’”

Offord is now a senior quad major—psychology, corrections, general studies and criminal justice—and she is the Student Ambassadors’¹¹⁴

membership and training chair. She is one of the thousands of students and alumni whose time at school has been made all the better thanks to LU Student Ambassadors.

The Langston University Student Ambassadors is an organization made up of model students who want to elevate their HBCU through community service and peer mentorship. They serve as freshman orientation leaders, assist with campus tours, help with ceremonial events, and volunteer around campus and in the Town of Langston community. They are heavily involved with student activities across organizations, and they are experts in LU history.

Student Ambassadors are an integral part of LU, but for most of the university’s proud history, the organization did not exist.

A DIRECTIVE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When Dr. JoAnn Haysbert became the President of Langston University in Fall 2005, she gave Dezz Lewis a mission: create a student ambassador program.

“Then, all we had, really, was the McCabes, Mister and Miss Langston,



Miss Black Langston and the three SGA elected officials,” Lewis said.

“Those were your student leaders. And (Dr. Haysbert) said, ‘Man, we need more when people come to campus.’”

She tasked Lewis, who was the Director of Student Life at the time, with creating a new group of students who could serve as “ambassadors” to help represent Langston University during campus visits and other important events. She left it up to him to decide how the club would be organized and run, and he embraced the challenge.

Lewis knew he wanted the organization to be different from any other student organization. As a proud alumnus himself, he wanted it to be a way to instill school spirit and pride in students while shaping them into young leaders. He wanted it to create a sense of belonging on campus because he knew students who felt they belonged were more likely to finish college. Most of all, he wanted it to be impactful not just for its members, but for Dear Langston as a whole.

After brainstorming for a while, Lewis created a set of goals and measurable outcomes for the program. Then, he went to work.

He decided rather than follow the standard student organization model of the time, where clubs were run by presidents and a few other executive positions who made all the decisions, the Student Ambassadors would be run by the Ambassadors’ Council. They would create committees for the various aspects and functions of the organization, and each committee would have a chair. Each chair would have a seat at the Ambassadors’ Council. The Ambassadors’ Council Chairman would be the spokesperson for the organization.

With the framework established, Lewis began working out how he would train the Student Ambassadors. In addition to their role as student representatives during campus visits, the administration had decided the Ambassadors should also serve as orientation leaders during Lion Camp, Langston University’s week-long freshman orientation program that takes place the week before classes begin in the fall semester.

“We needed orientation leaders for the freshman orientation,” Lewis said. “So when you drop your kids off, the first people you see are the Ambassadors. They’re your model Langston students, and they embody the Timeless Human Values.”

Once he had a plan ready, he set to work recruiting students. In Spring 2006, the Student Ambassadors had their first official meeting with a class of 36 students. At the end of the summer, they attended the Student Leadership Institute and held a retreat to prepare for Lion Camp. In Fall 2006, new students were greeted for the first time by Student Ambassadors.

TIMELESS HUMAN VALUES OF LEADERSHIP

1. **Leadership**
2. **Exemplary Character**
3. **Respect for Oneself**
4. **Respect for Others**
5. **Respect for School Property**
6. **Service to Others**
7. **Scholarly Achievement**

A STAPLE OF STUDENT LIFE

When Lion Camp ended, the Student Ambassadors remained. They were meant to be student leaders year-round, and they were meant to serve the entire campus community.

The Student Ambassadors would reach out to other student organizations and ask what support was needed. They would help recruit students to attend various club events as well as official university programs and sporting events. They cultivated a shared sense of school pride with their peers, and they worked to better the student experience for everyone.

They also continued to receive training. On Wednesday evenings in the fall, Student Ambassadors attended a leadership class with Dr. Haysbert, giving them direct interaction with their president and an opportunity to influence their campus.

Lewis also continued to train them himself, teaching them to recite the Timeless Human Values and the Profile of a Langston Student so that they might take them to heart and learn to embody those qualities. He taught them about the history of the university, and he taught them poems he hoped would inspire the students to continue to strive for success.

“They learned everything that was poured into me as a young adult,” Lewis said. “A lot of affirmations and poems. They had a curriculum. It spawned out of conversations I had with my mentors in college, but most of all, my grandmother made me memorize every poem, affirmation you could think of. So, a lot of what they were doing was stuff that I learned as a kid and stuff I learned at Langston (University).”

As the Ambassadors established their role in campus life over the next few years, Lewis continued to refine what he called “the core” of the program. He would add to the curriculum as he saw needs arise. He changed the membership process so that instead of recruiting specific students who had shown leadership potential, any student with a 2.0 GPA could apply to join.

Eventually, Lewis relinquished his role as advisor to the Student Ambassadors. Now, Dr. A. Dominique Williams, the Assistant Dean of Students in the Office of Student Life, serves in that capacity. Since taking over the role, Dr. Williams has continued to improve the organization. She believes that as student leaders and representatives for the institution, the Student Ambassadors should be held to a high standard. Members must now maintain a 2.5 GPA minimum in addition to the thorough application and training process. Their role in the community has also been expanded.

After Lion Camp, the Ambassadors continue to mentor freshmen throughout their first year of school. They assist with campus tours and recruitment events like High School Day. They participate in service projects like serving meals in the cafeteria. A new service project they recently added was attending HBCU days at high schools and middle schools in Oklahoma.

“There’s still room for growth,” Dr. Williams said. “There’s still room for this organization to be bigger and better than it currently is. This is an awesome opportunity for students to be engaged and just spread the good word of Langston (University).”

The Student Ambassadors have become a staple of student life at Dear Langston, and dozens of students apply each spring to be inducted into

THE PROFILE OF A LANGSTON UNIVERSITY STUDENT

1. Attend class & university functions

2. Have respect for the rights & property of others

3. Refrain from the use of profanity & obscene language

4. Maintain appropriate dress & standards of cleanliness

5. Exhibit moral character

6. Exhibit courteous behavior

7. Obey rules, regulations, & laws

8. Assist in keeping university property clean

9. Be an advocate of academic integrity

10. Be an advocate of social integrity

11. Demonstrate leadership qualities

the program in the fall. With each new Ambassador Class inducted and freshman class welcomed, their impact continues to grow.

20 YEARS OF IMPACT

After 20 years, there are many aspects of the Student Ambassadors program that have become tradition. Customs like “L’s Up” and many spirit chants originated from the organizations’ early years. Saying “I am a Langston Man” or “I am a Langston Woman” when introducing oneself is now common. The “Ask Me” t-shirts from Lion Camp are easily recognizable symbols of the club.

Now, students like Trinity King cannot imagine Langston University without the Student Ambassadors.

When King first came to Langston, the Student Ambassadors helped her feel at home. Her Ambassador mentor, Kayla, helped make her transition into college easier. She wanted to pass on that same support and encouragement she received, so King applied to become an Ambassador during the spring of her freshman year. Kayla even wrote her a letter of recommendation.

King was inducted into the Ambassador Class of 2023, and she has loved it ever since. She now serves as the Chair of the Student Ambassadors. As she prepares to graduate with her bachelor’s degree in animal science in May, King knows her time at LU wouldn’t have been the same without the program.

“That first interaction I had my freshman year (with Ambassadors), it really changed my trajectory,” King said. “Learning about the history of Langston, I take that to heart with me. I’m Langston ride or die.”

King and Offord were both inspired to join the Student Ambassadors because they had felt its positive impact early on in their time at LU, and they continue to see how its influence impacts the campus community beyond people’s first years.

Many students join Student Ambassadors at the end of their freshman or sophomore years, and they often go on to become leaders in other student organizations afterward. King tells new students that Ambassadors is a great “starter organization” because it helps you get involved on campus and teaches you to be an active member of the community. The program’s lessons on leadership, personal responsibility and school pride stay with you as you move on to your next club or internship or job.

“I believe Ambassadors shaped me into being a leader,” Offord said. “Although I’d been in leadership roles in high school, I didn’t really get that experience until I got here. Being an Ambassador, it encouraged me to be a really good leader and also to take accountability. It also taught me it’s OK to go other ways and work with other people because when you’re a leader, you have to be able to be flexible.

“And then it also helped me to love Langston (University).”

BY ELLIE MELERO





RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

**LANGSTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TAKE HOME AWARDS
AT ANNUAL K-INBRE SYMPOSIUM**

BY ELLIE MELERO



Following an eventful weekend filled with medical research and networking, two Langston University students took home awards for their research presentations at the annual Kansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) Symposium.

Juliane Simmons, a graduating senior biology major, earned an Award of Excellence for his oral presentation on “Exploring the Connection Between NUAk and 14-3-3zeta in Muscle Tissue.” Justin Berryhill, a junior biology major, earned an Award of Excellence for his poster presentation on “Gait Differences in ASD/Fragile X Rodent Models.”

“I feel very honored to have received an award for my research,” Simmons said. “It amazes me that I was able to receive that honor with work that I was only able to do in six weeks.”

K-INBRE is a collaborative effort of medical and academic institutions in Kansas to “promote multidisciplinary research networks with a focus on Cell and Developmental Biology,” according to the K-INBRE website. Langston University is the only Oklahoma-based institution partnered with K-INBRE.

The program offers LU students mentored research opportunities as well as opportunities to present their research at events like the annual Symposium. Simmons and Berryhill were two of the 11 LU students who, along with several faculty members, participated in the 2026 K-INBRE Symposium in January.

Simmons worked with Dr. Erika Geisbrect at Kansas State University on his research project. What was supposed to be a summer-long internship was unfortunately cut short after just six weeks because of pauses in federal grant funding, but Simmons was still appreciative of the time he spent in Dr. Geisbrect’s lab.

His research used fruit flies to study how 14-3-3zeta, a common phosphorylation signaling protein found in muscle tissue, and NUAk, a kinase, affect muscle development. The study was meant to improve scientists’ understanding of what causes myopathy, or muscle disease.

“I would say the end goal pretty much for anybody’s research is to make quality of life better, helping people with certain diseases,” Simmons said.

Berryhill’s research compared normal rats to rats with mutations in the Fmr1 gene, which is linked to a genetic disorder affecting brain development and causing motor problems called Fragile X. The goal was



to see how the mutation changed movement, which may help scientists better understand motor symptoms and improve early detection and treatment strategies for Fragile X.

Berryhill has only been involved with K-INBRE for one year, and this was his first Symposium. He was excited for the opportunity to present his research, and he’s grateful for the connections with other student researchers he’s been able to make through the program so far.

“It feels good,” Berryhill said. “I’m very honored to have gotten this chance and award. I feel more confident in my ability to do more research and maybe continue it.”

Simmons and Berryhill both became involved with K-INBRE after doing research with Dr. K.J. Abraham, a biology professor in LU’s Department of Natural Sciences. Dr. Abraham saw potential in both young men and invited them to join the program, connecting them with his program colleagues in Kansas.

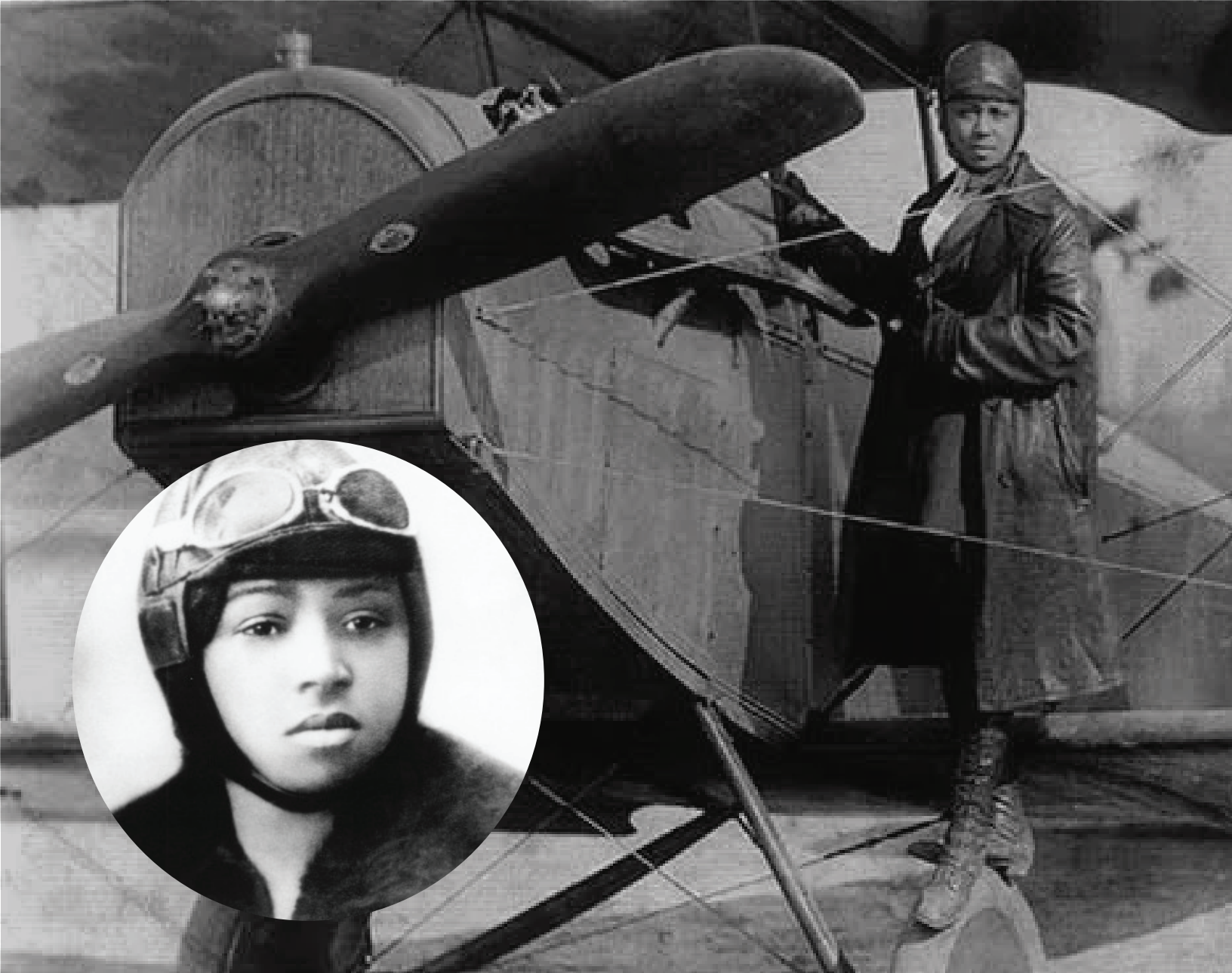
After their summers doing research, Simmons, Berryhill and the rest of the LU K-INBRE cohort returned to Dear Langston for the fall semester. As the Symposium approached in January, they worked with Dr. Abraham, Dr. Lindsay Davis and Dr. Sharon Lewis to practice, tweak and refine their presentations. Now that the Symposium is over, they’re both grateful to have had this undergraduate research experience.

“It’s been valuable in my educational journey,” Berryhill said. “It’s been valuable for networking and working with others, giving me better insight into how genes work and how that might affect one’s body.”

As Simmons prepares to graduate this spring, he knows that K-INBRE was a valuable experience not only to add to his resume, but also to prepare him for life after LU.

He wants to go to graduate school and pursue a career either as a physician assistant or an anesthesiologist assistant, and he knows having a research background will help him get wherever he wants to go.

“I hope this shows that I was active on my campus, but also active with my major,” Simmons said. “I was able to come to Langston and get out of my comfort zone, do research stuff. So when I go into future projects, who knows? I maybe could still do research while I’m in medical school or go into different graduate programs where I have opportunities to do more research.”



Bessie Coleman stepped onto the wheel of her Curtiss JN-4 biplane, often called her canary, and hopped into the cockpit. Word of Queen Bess's performance had spread like wildfire. An audience had gathered in the pasture.

The engine growled beneath her as the propeller spun quicker and quicker. Bessie eased her canary forward, the nose lifting quickly. Soon, she was among the clouds, the roar of the audience becoming a distant rumble.

Showtime.

The wind screamed in her ears as she worked her canary into a loop, watching the earth twist and spin below her. Over and over she looped into figure eights. She couldn't hear the crowd's cheers from so high up, but she didn't have to hear them to know they were impressed. Bessie continued to twist and roll in the sky with her canary. Each

trick a triumph; each stunt a defiance. Every time she stepped into her plane, soared in the sky and performed for the masses was an opportunity to defy all those who had told her, "No."

Bessie was born in a one-room cabin on Jan. 26, 1892, in Atlanta, Texas, as one of 13 children born to Susan and George Coleman. Her birth was neither recorded via birth certificate nor written in the family Bible, for her parents could not read nor write. Despite the violence and barriers of the Jim Crow era south, George purchased a small plot of land in Waxahachie, Texas, where Bessie grew up.

She began attending her racially segregated school in 1898. The one-room building held grades one through eight, with only one teacher for all grades. Bessie walked four miles to school every day and quickly developed a love for learning and a determination that she carried with her throughout the rest of her life.

THE WOMAN WHO WOULD NOT BE GROUNDED

BY JET TURNER

Bessie always dreamed of leaving Waxahachie and briefly did when she attended the Colored Agricultural and Normal University (later named Langston University).

It was here where she learned about flying.

Although she could only afford one semester of college, that single semester sparked a lifelong passion for aviation when she read about the Wright Brothers' first flight and the first American female pilot, Harriet Quimby.

Bessie couldn't help but wonder what it would be like to fly like a bird.

Eventually, Bessie decided to chase her dream. Around the age of 27, she applied to nearly every American flight school but was continuously rejected because of her race and gender. When she

realized that even the skies above America were segregated, she began applying to French aviation schools.

On Nov. 20, 1920, Bessie sailed from New York City to France. She spent a year applying to French flying schools, learning the language and saving up for her travels. When she arrived, she selected the Ecole d'Aviation des Frères Caudron at Le Crottoy in the Somme. After seven months of training, she took the qualifying test for a license from the renowned Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), the only organization at the time whose recognition granted one the right to fly anywhere in the world. She was the first American of any race or gender to be directly awarded these credentials.

She returned to New York in September 1921 and quickly began traveling across the country, performing shows and advocating for equality. She dreamed of one day opening her own aviation academy for Black students.

In April 1926, while preparing for a show, an accident led to Bessie's untimely death. Although she was only 34 years old, her advocacy and bravery continue to inspire generations. Bessie's story is a testament not only to Black excellence and determination, but also to the impact education can have on an individual's trajectory. In just one semester at Langston University, Bessie Coleman found her lifelong passion and pursued that passion across the ocean and back, and she used it to fight for the equality of others.

Langston University is proud of the legacy carried by alumni like Bessie Coleman, whose courage reshaped what was possible. Her life stands as enduring proof that access to education can ignite dreams powerful enough to challenge injustice, open doors for others and change history itself.



LANGSTON UNIVERSITY



DAY *of* GIVING

MARCH 12, 2026

The power of one Langston Lion is immeasurable. Imagine the impact of all our Lions uniting for one day. That day is almost here! From midnight to midnight on March 12th, we are coming together for our annual **Day of Giving**. However, you don't have to wait to make an impact! Making an early gift today builds momentum that inspires others to join in.



**GIVE
TODAY**





LION TALK

BY LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

Listen on
Spotify



Listen on
Apple Podcasts



*New episodes¹²³ the last day of each month.
Available where you get your podcasts.*

The poster features a blue-tinted background. The top half shows a close-up of a person in a marching band uniform, including a tall hat with a plume and a microphone. The bottom half shows a group of cheerleaders in white and blue uniforms performing a routine on a field. The text is overlaid on the image.

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY
HOMECOMING 2026

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 11-17, 2026

MEET THE STAFF

'E ROAR IS PRODUCED BY
THE LANGSTON UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE? SEND US YOUR NEWS:

If you have any accomplishments
or upcoming events in your
department and you want them
publicized, please send to the LU
Office of Public Relations via the
online project request form found at
www.langston.edu



THERESA POWELL
Vice President for Operations



HELEEN SHEETS
Director of Public Relations



JET TURNER
Assistant Director of Communications
Editor-in-Chief



ELLIE MELERO
Media Relations Specialist
Contributing Editor



BRANDON CLEMONS
Senior Graphic Designer/Photographer
Design and Layout

FROAR

MAGAZINE



D - PERSONNEL ACTIONS in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03

Personnel actions pertaining to appointments, reappointments, changes in salary, changes title or rank, personnel leaves, etc.

Board approval is requested for the following personnel actions:

Name	Action	Effective Date	Salary/Rate
Albright, Elizabeth	Promotion to rank of Associate Professor of Psychology with an annual salary increase	02/17/2026	\$1,200 annually (12-month basis)
Allen, Jonathon	Promotion to rank of Assistant Professor of Music with an annual salary increase	02/17/2026	\$1,000 annually (12-month basis)
Sylvester, Donna	Promotion to rank of Associate Professor of Physical Therapy with an annual salary increase	02/17/2026	\$1,200 annually (12-month basis)
Woodward, Kimberly	Extend appointment of Interim Director of Physical Plant & Facilities Management	01/01/2026	\$2,000 monthly stipend
Miller, Calvin	Appointment as Interim Head Football Coach	03/01/2026	\$85,500 annually

The following personnel items are listed for informational purposes only:

Name	Title	Type	Effective Date	Service Time
Sourie, Shauntae	Director of Human Resources	Resignation	1/31/2026	10/30/2023-1/31/2026

VI. OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

President Jim Hess and other members of the administration came before the Board to review the Agenda and present the business of OSU. (The OSU Agenda is attached to this section and considered a part of these minutes.)

A-1 Remarks by President Jim Hess

President Hess congratulated Regent Franklin on his reappointment. He thanked Mr. Ramsey for all the years they worked together in his capacity as the Board CEO, and he said he looks forward to working with Mr. Ramsey in his new role at OSU. He said Mr. Ramsey will continue to do a great job and he is blessed to have him as his friend. Mr. Ramsey thanked President Hess for his remarks. President Hess also thanked First Cowgirl Hess and the individuals in the OSU President's Office who make the Board meeting experience a great pleasure.

Last month, OSU Agriculture announced a new wheat variety named after National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) National Champion Heavyweight Wrestler, Mr. Wyatt Hendrickson. This new wheat variety will be on display at market this fall. The administration is extremely proud of Dr. Brett Carver, inventor of this new wheat variety, because 70 percent of all wheat production in OK is conducted with OSU wheat varieties.

President Hess recognized Dr. Raj Singh, Regents Professor in the College of Engineering, for being named a Big 12 Faculty of the Year Honoree. In addition, 23 students were named Outstanding Seniors by the OSU Alumni Association (AA) for their academic achievement, campus and community involvement, and work ethic. He thanked OSUAA President, Dr. Ann Caine, for recognizing those students. President Hess also recognized Mr. Juan Lopez, a senior in the College of Education and Human Sciences, who was named 2025 OK Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

He said the hard work of faculty and staff continues to elevate OSU's reputation: OSU was named in the top 25 percent of America's Best Employers by Forbes Magazine. USA News and World Report continues to rank OSU highly as 63rd for online bachelor's degree programs; 10th for online Master in Business Administration (MBA) program; and 24th for online Master in Audio Engineering program.

Lastly, President Hess said tournaments for OSU Wrestling will begin this weekend, and he is confident in the wrestling coach and believes the team will do well.

A-2 Career Services Presentation by Dr. Brent Marsh, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Kellie Ebert, Director of Career Services

VP Marsh said it is his pleasure to share a few highlights of the landscape of Career Services (CS) at OSU, along with a few things the administration is excited about for the future as they continue

to invest in students and their career readiness following graduation. He then introduced Ms. Ebert to begin the presentation.

Ms. Ebert began on page 2, which shows how CS is structured. There is a central office of 22 team members in the Student Union, which serves the entire campus. There are 15 additional staff members embedded in the Colleges across campus, and one staff member at OSU-OKC, OSU-Tulsa (TUL), and OSU Institute of Technology (IT). Ms. Ebert said CS staff in Stillwater are excited about the relationship they have built with OSU-OKC and OSUIT over the last year and a half. They hold quarterly meetings with those campuses to plan, collaborate, and work on projects. She said page 3 highlights student-facing team members, such as Career Coaches, which is a network of team member embedded in the Colleges who specialize in the majors and programs within the College. The central student-facing team supports that relationship, the College's endeavors, and certain student populations, such as graduate and international students.

She then moved to page 4. There is an employee-facing team in the central office that conducts two different types of work: recruiting, such as on-campus interviews, job postings, and Career Fairs; and engagement, such as ensuring employers and students engage with one another through classroom visits, student organizations, presentations, and networking events. Page 5 provides data about career fairs, which is the most visible part of what CS does. There are 13 Career Fairs each year that serve different student groups across campus. Ms. Ebert said CS is proud of the Career Fair model and has consistently received positive feedback from employers and students about those events.

Ms. Ebert briefly highlighted page 6 and said the fun part of her job is hearing great feedback about students. The two words she hears the most often from employers are "humble" and "hardworking." Other words shown on the page are motivated, engaged, and articulate. Those words are music to the ears of those within CS as they work everyday with students to prepare them for interactions with employers.

Ms. Ebert said the "First Destination Survey" shown on page 7 is CS's effort to determine where students are going after graduation. It is a national survey, of which most institutions use in some variation to try to determine student outcomes. For the last two to three years, CS has worked closely with the SLATE team and Institutional Research to revamp the First Destination Survey to obtain more accurate and comprehensive data about graduates. Ms. Ebert said the data displayed on this page is from Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. There were 6,012 graduates that year. CS knows where 73.22 percent of those graduates are; of that 73.22 percent, 90.75 percent have a positive career outcome, meaning they obtained a job, continued their education, or joined the military.

VP Marsh said CS is very fortunate not only to have wide-spread employer participation through events like career fairs, networking events, engagements with students in class presentations, and mock interviews, but also to have companies who provide financial support and opportunities to OSU students, such as those listed on page 8. Those long-standing partners provide critical and meaningful support to students. VP Marsh said CS is also thankful for donors who have shown

interest and become involved with students and their career readiness. When a donor recognizes a need on campus, big things can happen. For example, OSU alumna, Ms. Claudia Humphreys, saw that well-prepared students often lack one key thing: professional attire for interviews. Ms. Humphreys came forward to join the CS staff to develop “Claudia’s Career Closet” as shown on page 9, which opened in the Student Union earlier this year. He encouraged Board members to go to the Student Union to see this endeavor. VP Marsh said the Closet has made an immediate impact and will only grow as students and donors gain awareness and excitement about this new service for students. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for the Closet in Fall 2026.

VP Marsh highlighted page 10, which features the Eastin Center for Career Readiness (ECCR) in the Spears School of Business (Spears). The ECCR sets the standard for walking students through a logical and intentional career development pathway and represents Spears’ branch of the CS network previously mentioned. As an undergraduate, a student will complete five total credit hours across three courses between their sophomore and senior years, which include required career coaching appointments, a framework to develop career readiness skills, and learning industry-aligned competencies and professional development. Looking to the future, CS hopes to build upon and expand the prudent success of the ECCR model.

Moving to page 11, VP Marsh said CS would like all students to receive career coaching and professional mentorship opportunities. One important consideration for developing career readiness will be possible curricular alignment, along with providing students with more opportunities for career exploration and experiential learning. CS is thrilled that career readiness is an important focus of “The Code Calls” campaign, and the administration believes donors will be eager to invest in the career readiness journeys of OSU students.

VP Marsh thanked President Hess for the opportunity to share this information with the Board.

Regent Baetz asked when CS surveys student graduates regarding their employment after graduation and if it is over a one-year period. Ms. Ebert said it is for one academic year. Regent Baetz asked how this compares to most peer institutions. Ms. Ebert said there is a wide range, and it depends on whether the institution makes it a priority. For example, some institutions require a response to the survey, but some do not. It is complicated to require responses and often comes down to how and when the survey is administered and how it is integrated into the campus. Ms. Ebert said OSU’s placement rate is great, but there are still ways to improve it, which is what CS is working toward. Regent Baetz said he is a firm believer that a happy student is an employed student. Ms. Ebert said accuracy is a big part of the First Destination Survey. The data shown is about six months after graduation; that is, six months after graduation a student has some type of positive career outcome. The challenge with this, as with many similar things, is if a student answers the survey the day they graduate and indicates they do not have a job, then never answers the survey again after they do obtain a job, the data will show the student does not have a job when they really do. There is a continual challenge to ensure accuracy. CS is working toward better and more intense outreach to students who have graduated to try to obtain their status six months after graduation.

Regent Baetz asked if CS conducts a survey of student graduates to determine student satisfaction with CS. Ms. Ebert said CS conducts several different satisfaction surveys but tries to keep that data separate from the data about where students go after graduation. Many of the satisfaction surveys tend to be at a departmental or college level. CS conducts surveys broadly from the central CS office, but most are specific to a program. Regent Baetz said this is good to know.

Regent Arthur said she feels like most of the focus is on connecting students with the right employer. While CS highlighted the great qualities of OSU students, she asked if there is good dialogue with companies about where OSU is missing the mark in educating students. If so, she asked how that information is channeled back to the colleges. Ms. Ebert said yes, CS has strong employer partners, boards, advisory groups, and focus groups with employers to continually gather data and feedback to incorporate into the student experience from all angles, including the classroom, micro-credentials, training programs, student organizations, and workshops. Regent Arthur asked if Ms. Ebert could choose one area in which students are missing the mark. Ms. Ebert said during a recent conversation with an employer partner yesterday, she was told there is a significant difference within the last year regarding professional communication. This employer recruits heavily from Spears and has noticed those students have received progressive coursework to grow their professional communication skills throughout their time at OSU. She said the employer partner sees the results of that type of access for students. VP Marsh said this employer also sees a marked difference between students who have obtained a layered and scaffolded experience at Spears versus students coming to them from other disciplines who have not had the same opportunity.

Regent Franklin asked what negative feedback CS receives from employer partners about student graduates and that is communicated to the colleges. Ms. Ebert said lack of professional communication is the main thing CS hears from employers, and CS will continue to work with students in this area.

Regent Baetz asked if CS is actively looking for more internship programs, and what kind of feedback both students and employers provide about them. Ms. Ebert said one of the main goals CS has with employer partners is to develop an internship program if they do not already have one, and to ensure there is intentional competency development for student interns. CS is also working with its employer partners to increase opportunities for students to serve not only in internship programs but in other high impact practices as well, such as studying abroad, undergraduate research, and experiential learning that is meaningful and significant. CS wants to ensure students develop skills intentionally so they can communicate that value articulately on their resume and during an interview.

B-1 Adoption of Memorial Resolutions for Perry McNeill, JoAnn Ryan, Milton Usry, Jr., Barbara Walker, and Russell Emery Wright

President Hess presented the Memorial Resolutions and read aloud the statement about each individual's service at OSU.

Regent Baetz moved and Regent Franklin seconded to adopt the Memorial Resolutions as presented in Item B-1 of the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

D-1 Approval of personnel actions; items not requiring Board action are provided for informational purposes only

- a. 4 new appointments
- b. 3 changes in appointments
- c. 2 sabbaticals
- d. 10 retirements or separations for informational purposes

Regent Callahan moved and Regent Poole seconded to approve the personnel actions as presented in Item D-1 of the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

E-1 Approval of curricular changes

- a. OSU-STW
 - i. 3 new programs/certificates
 - ii. 30 program modifications
- b. OSUIT
 - i. 3 new programs/certificates
 - ii. 4 program modifications

President Hess said this Item was discussed with members of the AAPP Committee. AAPP Committee Member Poole said the Committee acted to recommend Board approval of this Item.

Regent Poole moved and Regent Franklin seconded to approve Item E-1 as presented in the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

G-1 Approval of peace officer actions (OSU System)

- a. Three commissions

<u>Name</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Commission No.</u>
Dakota Leach.....	Stillwater.....	849
Jacob Richardson.....	Stillwater.....	850
Judith Coalwell.....	OSU-TUL.....	851

b. One decommission

<u>Name</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Commission No.</u>
Curtis Burns.....	Stillwater.....	541

Regent Taylor moved and Regent Poole seconded to approve Item G-1 as presented in the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

G-2 Approval of actions required to finance a potential project to replace compressed natural gas fueling station equipment in Stillwater, OK

President Hess said the cost of this project totals \$2 million; \$1.8 million to replace the equipment and \$120,000 to operate and maintain the equipment. He said this project will be funded through the Master Lease Program. President Hess noted this Item was discussed with members of the Finance (FINC) Committee. FINC Committee Chair Baetz said the Committee acted to recommend Board approval of this Item.

Regent Baetz moved and Regent Taylor seconded to approve Item G-2 as presented in the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel.
The motion carried.

G-3 Approval to enter into and execute a ground lease agreement with Teledyne FLIR Defense, Inc.

President Hess said this is a 50-year lease agreement with an option to renew for two additional 25-year terms. Teledyne FLIR Defense, Inc. is purchasing the building, which is currently owned by the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce. This building sits on ground owned by OSU. Revenue will exceed \$9,000 per year with a 3 percent escalation clause per year. He noted this Item was discussed with members of the FACS Committee. FACS Committee Chair Hall said the Committee acted to recommend Board approval of this Item.

Regent Hall moved and Regent Poole seconded to approve Item G-3 as presented in the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

G-4 Approval to transfer funds for space renovations in the Nancy Randolph Davis West building

President Hess said \$597,000 will be moved from Fund 290 to Fund 295 for space renovations for the nursing program in Rooms 201 and 202. The cost of these renovations is funded by student fees assessed by the College of Education and Human Sciences. This Item was also discussed with members of the FACS Committee. FACS Committee Chair Hall said the Committee acted to recommend Board approval of this Item.

Regent Hall moved and Regent Taylor seconded to approve Item G-4 as presented in the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

G-5 Approval to waive bidding requirements for a 340B wholesale supplier (OSU-CHS)

President Hess said a 340B pharmacy is a federal government designation that allows certain entities, such as universities and non-profits, to purchase drugs at greatly reduced prices. The administration previously had an agreement with another vendor, but that vendor could not integrate with Walgreens, which is the pharmacy in the clinical building at the OSU Center for Health Sciences (CHS). This caused a need to find a different 340B wholesale supplier. President Hess said this request is for the administration to enter into an agreement with Cencora, a national company and wholesale 340B pharmacy provider, to allow continued purchase of drugs at a wholesale price with the patient as the beneficiary.

Regent Franklin moved and Regent Arthur seconded to approve Item G-5 as presented in the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

H-1 Approval to enter into a contract with the City of Stillwater to fund an Airline Service Guarantee Participation Agreement

President Hess said the maximum liability over a two-year period is \$2 million, so the service period for this contract will begin on March 1, 2026, through February 29, 2028. This is often referred to as a “minimum revenue guarantee” arrangement with American Airlines. President Hess said the amount may be less than the contractual amount depending upon the volume of air traffic between Stillwater and Dallas, Texas. \$2 million is OSU’s portion of the minimum service guarantee; the other half will be paid by the City of Stillwater. He noted this Item was discussed with members of the FINC Committee. FINC Committee Chair Baetz said the Committee acted to recommend Board approval of this Item.

Regent Hall asked how this amount compares to the previous agreement. President Hess said it is about the same.

Regent Baetz moved and Regent Hall seconded to approve Item H-1 as presented in the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

J-1 Approval of five purchasing items

a. Sole Source and Special Request

1. Authorization is requested for Fire Service Training to purchase American Heart Association (AHA) educational training materials from AHA in the estimated amount of \$275,000

Regent Hall moved and Regent Callahan seconded to approve Item J-1, sub-item a.1, as presented in the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

b. Revolving and Appropriated Funds

1. Authorization is requested for the Spears School of Business to purchase replacement computers for Spears’ staff in the estimated amount of \$400,000

President Hess said the administration routinely rotates old computers out and purchases new ones. Regent Baetz asked how many total computers will be purchased. President Hess said he is not certain, but he can check. Regent Baetz said his only concern is the cost of computers increases exponentially by the day, so the more that can be purchased at one time will help save on additional costs in the future. President Hess said the administration will look into this.

Regent Arthur asked if this allows a runway to purchase computers in the future considering the frequency of bidding changes. Mr. Schlotthauer said yes, there is a regular rotation cycle for computer purchases, so this purchase is for the next fiscal year.

Regent Baetz moved and Regent Poole seconded to approve Item J.1, sub-item b.2 as presented in the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

2. Authorization is requested for Human Resources to award and execute a contract with Employer Advocates as the benefits broker/benefits consulting firm to provide strategic advisory and brokerage/consulting support for the OSU/A&M employee and retiree benefits portfolio, including the University's self-funded healthcare plan

President Hess said the administration has had the same advisor for health insurance brokerage for many years, and he believes it is appropriate and wise to bid this process out. Employer Advocates was the recommended provider to assist the administration with segregating certain portions of the self-funded insurance plan in an effort to reduce costs. President Hess noted this Item and the next were discussed with members of the FINC Committee.

c. Auxiliary Enterprises Funds

1. Authorization is requested for OSU Athletics to increase the previously approved estimated amount of \$285,000 to \$375,000 for its engagement with Huron to cover additional services to complete the project

President Hess said the cost increase will help accomplish the following: update key peer benchmarking analysis with up-to-date FY 2025 data and creation of an additional financial model, which the administration believes will increase financial stability and the ability to produce more revenue within OSU Athletics.

Regent Baetz moved and Regent Poole seconded to approve Section J, Item 1, sub-items b.2 and c.1, as presented in the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

d. Plant Funds

1. Authorization is requested to demolish Kerr Hall, Drummond Hall, and Kerr Drummond Cafeteria, and for Facilities Management to purchase the necessary demolition services in the estimated amount of \$4,649,411

President Hess said this Item was discussed with members of the FACS Committee. FACS Committee Chair Hall said the Committee acted to recommend Board approval of this Item.

Regent Hall moved and Regent Taylor seconded to approve Item J-1, sub-item d.1, as presented in the OSU Agenda.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

M. Recognition agreements for interior spaces

President Hess said Integris Health will be naming the reception area on level 1 of Scott-Parker-Wentz Hall.

The business of OSU being concluded, President Hess and other members of the University's administration were excused from the meeting.



Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, Oklahoma

Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents for OSU and the A&M Colleges
March 6, 2026

Dear Board Members:

Subject to budgetary limitations and availability of funds, the following expenditures are submitted for Board approval with purchases to be coordinated through the Chief Procurement Officer, Oklahoma State University. We recommend the following business for your consideration and approval.

A-GENERAL INFORMATION/REPORTS REQUIRING NO ACTION BY THE BOARD

1. Remarks by President Jim Hess.
2. Career Services Overview by Dr. Brent Marsh, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Kellie Ebert, Director of Career Services.

B-MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

1. Request adoption of Memorial Resolutions for Perry McNeill, JoAnn Ryan, Milton Usry Jr., Barbara Walker, and Russel Emery Wright – (*Ref. Doc. B-1*).

C-POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES -- None

D-PERSONNEL ACTIONS in compliance with Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03

1. Request approval of personnel actions. Personnel items not requiring action by the Board are provided for informational purposes only – OSU SYSTEM (*Ref. Doc. D-1*).
 - a. 4 new appointments
 - b. 3 changes in appointments
 - c. 2 sabbaticals
 - d. 10 retirements or separations, for informational purposes only

E-INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

1. Request approval of curricular changes – OSU SYSTEM (*Ref. Doc. E-1*).
 - a. OSU-STW
 - i. 3 new programs/certificates
 - ii. 30 program modifications
 - b. OSUIT
 - i. 3 new programs/certificates

- ii. 4 program modifications

F-BUDGETARY ACTIONS -- None

G-OTHER BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Request approval of peace officer actions – OSU SYSTEM (*Ref. Doc. G-1*).
2. Request approval of actions required to finance a potential project to replace compressed natural gas fueling station equipment in Stillwater, Oklahoma – OSU-STW (*Ref. Doc. G-2*).
3. Request approval to enter into and execute a ground lease agreement with Teledyne FLIR Defense, Inc. – OSU-STW (*Ref. Doc. G-3*).
4. Request approval to transfer funds for space renovation in the Nancy Randolph Davis West building – OSU-STW (*Ref. Doc. G-4*).
5. Request approval to waive bidding requirements for a 340B wholesale supplier – OSU-CHS (*Ref. Doc. G-5*).

H-CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS (other than construction and renovation)

1. Request approval to enter into a contract with the City of Stillwater to fund an Airline Service Guarantee Participation Agreement - OSU-STW (*Ref. Doc. H-1*).

I-NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF FACILITIES -- None

J-PURCHASE REQUESTS

1. Request approval of five purchasing items – OSU-STW (*Ref. Doc. J-1*).

K-STUDENT SERVICES/ACTIVITIES -- None

L-NEW BUSINESS UNFORESEEN AT TIME AGENDA WAS POSTED -- None

M-OTHER INFORMATIONAL MATTERS NOT REQUIRING ACTION OF THE BOARD

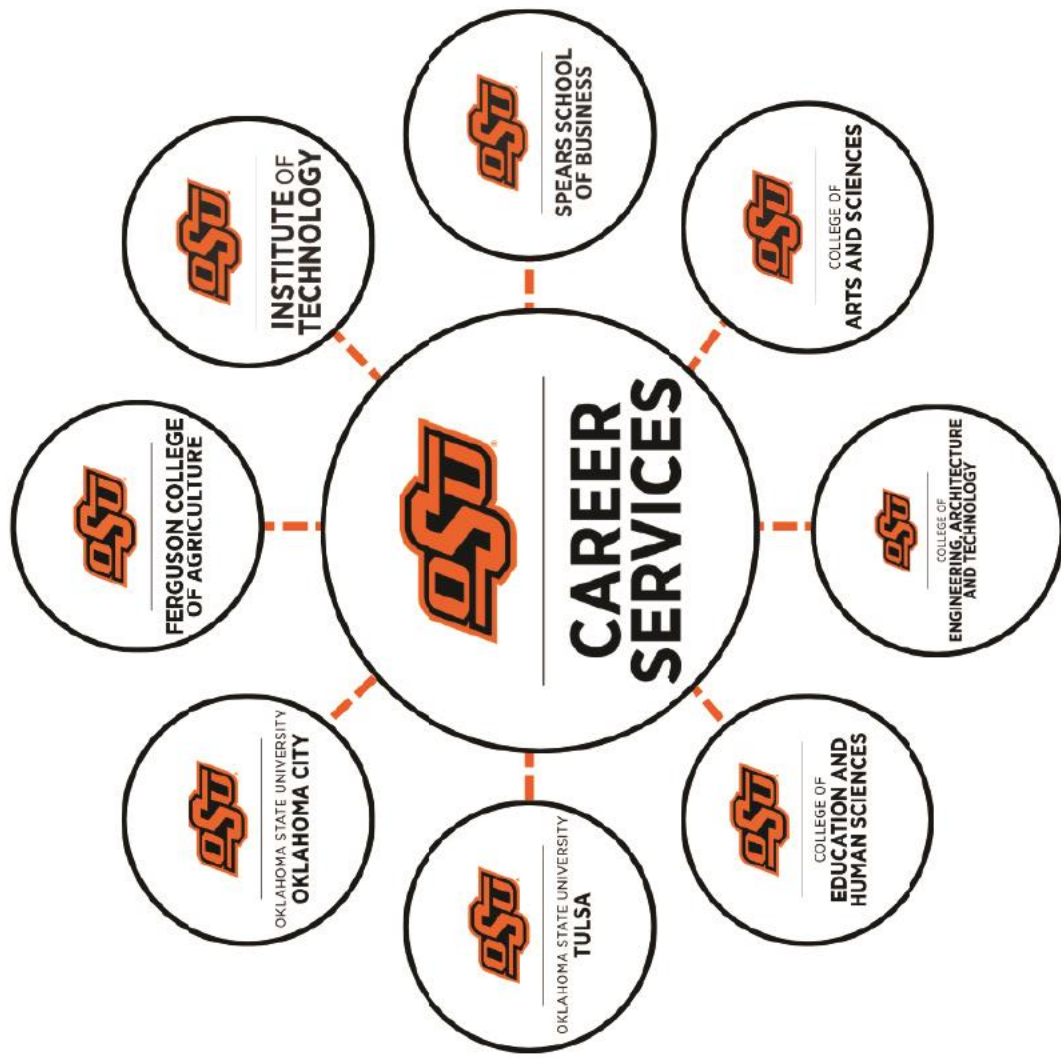
1. Recognition agreements for interior spaces – OSU-STW (*Ref. Doc. M-1*).

CAREER SERVICES OVERVIEW

Dr. Brent Marsh, Vice President for Student Affairs
Kellie Ebert, Director of Career Services



CAREER SERVICES NETWORK AT OSU



CAREER SERVICES NETWORK AT OSU

OSU's career services network provides campuswide support to help students explore pathways, gain experience and successfully launch careers.

Core Services Include:

- Major and career exploration guidance
- Part-time employment and work-study support
- Resumé and interview preparation
- Internship and job search assistance
- Offer evaluation and salary negotiation guidance
- Graduate and professional school preparation

Career Readiness Programming

- Classroom presentations
- Student organization workshops
- Skill-building events and training sessions

Fall 2025 Impact

3,333

Individual
student
appointments

9,612

Program and
presentation
attendance

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

Fall 2025 Career Services Impact

1,676

On-campus
interviews

4,134

Job postings

Employer Perspective

"I always have an incredible time recruiting at OSU — whether at career fairs, on-campus events or conducting interviews. Collaborating with department heads and career services to connect gifted, ambitious students with our company is so rewarding."

"This fair is always one of our most successful, and this time was no different! We had fantastic interviews. So great, in fact, that my sales manager had to call the market manager and request to add another intern spot!" — Mill Creek



EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT: CAREER FAIRS

OSU hosts 13 career fairs annually, connecting students with employers across varied industries and career pathways.

Fairs	Employers	Students
Part-Time Job and Volunteer Fair	52	822
CEAT Career Fair	250	2,264
Business Career Fair	175	1,881
Agriculture Career Fair	109	1,409
Construction Industry Career Fair	117	300
OSU-Tulsa Fall Career Fair	62	103
STEM Career Fair	152	560
All Majors Career Fair	132	805
Architecture Career Fair	74	213
OSU-Tulsa Spring Career Fair	46	48
Hospitality Days Career Fair	27	79
Education Career Fair	65	113
Health, Vet and Law	34	92
Total	1,295	8,689

WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

“We spoke with over 100 students throughout the event and collected approximately 60 resumes from highly qualified candidates. The level of engagement and preparedness from the students was impressive, and we enjoyed having meaningful conversations about internships and career opportunities.”

— Paul Logistics

“Oklahoma State University Career Services is an exceptional partner to employers. Their team creates an experience that is organized, intentional, and relationship-driven, whether at career fairs or during on-campus interviews. We consistently leave impressed not only by how smoothly events are executed, but by the quality of OSU students. They are articulate, prepared, and genuinely motivated, a reflection of a university that takes career readiness seriously.” - InterWorks



FIRST DESTINATION SURVEY

Total Graduates

6,012

Known Outcomes

4,402

Knowledge Rate

73.22%

Career Outcomes Rate

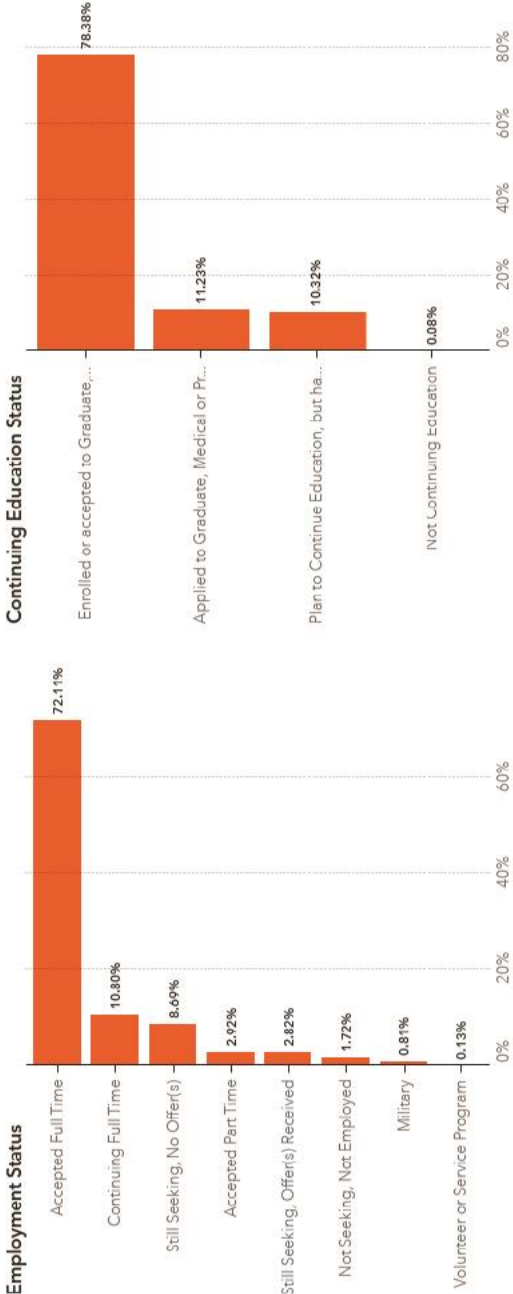
90.75%

Employment Rate

60.79%

Continuing Education Rate

29.96%



	Total Graduates	Known Outcomes	Knowledge Rate	Career Outcomes Rate	Employment Rate	Continuing Education Rate	Median Salary
Total	6,012	4,402	73.22%	90.75%	60.79%	29.96%	\$61,000
Arts and Sciences >	1,537	931	60.57%	92.70%	43.72%	48.98%	\$49,920
Education and Human Sciences >	1,037	601	65.67%	95.90%	40.46%	37.44%	\$50,000
Engineering, Architecture and Technology >	802	596	74.31%	90.77%	73.49%	17.28%	\$72,000
Ferguson College of Agriculture >	806	515	63.90%	88.35%	48.93%	39.42%	\$50,000
Spoars School of Business >	1,688	1,540	91.23%	92.21%	73.64%	18.57%	\$63,000
Professional Studies >	2	2	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	\$60,000
Global Studies >	12	10	83.33%	90.00%	70.00%	20.00%	\$44,000
Graduate College >	64	47	73.44%	85.11%	59.57%	25.53%	\$57,000
Veterinary Medicine >	104	80	76.92%	100.00%	97.50%	2.50%	\$115,000

KEY PARTNERSHIPS: CORPORATE PARTNERS

Orange Sponsor (\$15,000)

- ONEOK
- Phillips 66
- Williams

Platinum Sponsor (\$10,000)

- Cintas
- Enterprise Mobility
- Interworks
- Midfirst Bank
- Gold Sponsor (\$5,000)**
- ConocoPhillips
- Love's Travel Stops
- Occidental Petroleum Company (OXY)
- OGE Energy Corp

Career Fair Sponsors

- APAC
- Benham
- Cintas
- Cowan Construction
- Crossland Construction Company
- Devon Energy
- ICM
- International Paper
- JL Earthworks & Design LLC
- ONEOK
- SEMA Construction
- Thompson Construction
- The Tom James Company
- Webco Industries, Inc.
- Western Specialty Contractors
- Zeeco

KEY PARTNERSHIPS: CLAUDIA'S CLOSET

Made possible through a generous gift from OSU alumni Claudia Humphreys



First Month Impact

627
students served

1,417
professional clothing
items distributed

Soft launch: Jan. 21, 2026

Location: Student Union basement

Grand opening: Fall 2026

Providing immediate access to professional attire, removing financial barriers and increasing student confidence for interviews, internships and career fairs.

EASTIN CENTER

Eastin Center for Career Readiness in Spears School of Business

What is the Eastin Center?

The Eastin Center, the career services function within the Spears School of Business, helps students to launch meaningful careers through structured coaching, real-world skill development and direct employer engagement.

Located on the first floor of the Business Building, the center provides:

- Resume reviews and interview preparation
- Personalized career coaching
- Experiential learning and industry connections
- Support from college to career launch

A comprehensive, embedded career readiness model

- Five credit hours of required career readiness coursework
- Required one-on-one coaching appointments built into classes
- Progressive, multi-year skill and competency development
- Strong industry partnerships integrated into curriculum and programming



THE FUTURE OF OSU CAREER SERVICES

Expanding a proactive, student-centered career readiness model

- Early career coaching
- Professional mentoring program
- Potential integration into curriculum
- Progression of career development
- Focus on career exploration and experiential learning



PERRY MCNEILL

Perry McNeill was born on May 3, 1936, in Princeton, West Virginia. He maintained a lifelong connection to Oklahoma State University, first as a student and later as a faculty member and academic leader. He earned an associate degree in Electronics Technology from OSU in 1962, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics (1965), a Master of Science in Natural Science with an emphasis in electrical engineering and mathematics (1967), and a Doctor of Education in Higher Education with a specialization in electronics technology in 1973.

Dr. McNeill worked with Sandia Corporation and Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, bringing practical, real-world expertise into the classroom. His international consulting work helped establish and modernize technical education programs abroad, particularly in electronics and operational engineering education.

Dr. McNeill served numerous roles within the Division of Engineering Technology, including Associate Professor, Department Head, and Project Director. He led and oversaw programs in electronics technology, electrical power technology, and radiation and nuclear technology. Notably, he directed the Electrical Power Continuing Education Conference, expanding professional development opportunities through innovative delivery models such as mobile teaching laboratories that reached working technicians across the region.

A prolific author, Dr. McNeill published textbooks, journal articles, and technical guides on electronics, electrical power technology, and engineering technician education. His co-authored textbook, *Electrical Power Technology*, became a significant resource in electronics and power technology programs, reflecting his commitment to rigorous, applied instruction.

Deeply committed to student success and workforce development, Dr. McNeill strengthened OSU's reputation as a training ground for professionals entering industry, government, and national service, including graduates who pursued careers in nuclear and defense-related fields. His legacy endures through the programs he built, the faculty and students he mentored, and the lasting impact of his work at the intersection of higher education and industry. He is remembered as a forward-thinking educator whose vision expanded access to technical education and elevated professional standards in engineering technology.

Dr. Perry McNeill passed away on December 16, 2025, at the age of 89.

JOANN RYAN

JoAnn “Jody” Ryan was born on December 16th, 1940, in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. She first pursued a career in education, working as a high school biology teacher in Edmond, OK, where she was named Oklahoma's Outstanding Biology Teacher for 1978 by the National Association of Biology Teachers. Realizing she had reached the pinnacle of her high school teaching career, JoAnn exemplified her philosophy of “leave them wanting more” and steered her life in a new direction, toward Tulsa.

Jody returned to school and earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences in 1983. In September 2004, Dr. Ryan joined Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine as a medical professor and was named Chair of the College of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine.

In this role, she advanced the integration of osteopathic principles and manipulative treatment into the medical curriculum, helping ensure that graduates developed strong clinical skills and a holistic approach to patient care. Her leadership preserved and strengthened the identity and quality of osteopathic education at OSU.

An exceptional and devoted educator, Dr. Ryan was widely respected for her ability to engage, challenge, and inspire students. She cultivated a learning environment that emphasized clinical reasoning, professionalism, and compassionate care. Her teaching extended beyond the classroom and laboratory, as she served as a trusted mentor and advisor to students, residents, and junior faculty. Her commitment to student development and academic excellence helped shape generations of physicians who continue to reflect her values in their practice.

Dr. Ryan was recognized for her significant contributions with the A.T. Still Award of Excellence. Her service to OSU extended through professional and alumni leadership, including service as Past President of the OSU-COM Alumni Association and the Tulsa Osteopathic Medical Society.

She retired from teaching and medical practice in 2017, leaving the osteopathic community and patients “wanting more.” Dr. Ryan’s legacy is reflected in the countless students and colleagues she inspired throughout her career.

Dr. JoAnn “Jody” Ryan passed away on December 26, 2025, at the age of 85.

MILTON USRY, JR.

Milton Usry, Jr., was born on August 31, 1931, in Mineola, TX. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Baylor University and began his professional career with the public accounting firm Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, & Co. Following military service, he worked at Shell Chemical Company, where he passed the Certified Public Accountant examination. He later completed a master's degree in accounting at the University of Houston and a PhD from the University of Texas, combining professional practice with teaching and scholarship throughout his career.

In 1961, Dr. Usry joined the Oklahoma State University faculty as an assistant professor of accounting, becoming one of the earliest strategic hires in a deliberate effort to elevate the stature of the accounting program and strengthen the College of Business Administration. His arrival marked the beginning of a sustained period of growth that helped position the OSU School of Accounting for long-term success.

During his 25-year tenure at Oklahoma State University, Dr. Usry was awarded Outstanding Teacher in the College of Business Administration three times and was known for his rigor in the classroom, his fairness, and his unwavering commitment to student success. He excelled in scholarly contributions and was appointed the College's first Regents Professor. He supervised numerous doctoral dissertations, and his students consistently expressed gratitude for his time, counsel, constructive criticism, and encouragement. He also served as Coordinator of Graduate Programs.

Dr. Usry's influence extended well beyond Stillwater. He co-authored a highly influential cost accounting textbook, published extensively, and served on editorial boards for leading academic and professional journals, including *The Accounting Review*, *Journal of Accountancy*, and *Journal of Accounting Education*. He was actively engaged in national professional organizations, serving on the Board of Examiners of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; the Board of Regents of the Institute of Certified Management Accountants; the National Board of the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education; and the Education Committee of the American Accounting Association.

Dr. Usry retired from Oklahoma State University in 1986 and later continued teaching at the University of West Florida for 20 years.

Dr. Milton Usry, Jr., passed away on August 8, 2025, at the age of 93.

BARBARA WALKER

Barbara Walker was born on August 9, 1946. She graduated from Bartlesville College High School in 1964, then went on to earn three degrees from Oklahoma State University: a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, a Master of Science in Reading Education, and a Doctor of Education in Reading Education, launching her 30-year career in higher education.

From 1981 to 1999, Dr. Walker served as a professor at Eastern Montana College, later named Montana State University Billings. She then returned to her alma mater, Oklahoma State University, where she served as Professor Emeritus, directed the on-campus reading clinic, and was named a Regents Distinguished Professor. She retired from OSU in 2011, cherishing her years back on campus, particularly working in Willard Hall—the same building in which she had lived as an undergraduate.

Throughout her career, Dr. Walker was a lifelong advocate for literacy and a widely respected leader in reading education. She authored numerous books on reading instruction, including *The Diagnostic Teaching of Reading*, which went through seven editions. In 1997, she received the A.B. Herr Award for outstanding contributions to the field, and she served as the president of the International Reading Association from 2008 to 2009.

Dr. Barbara Walker passed away on November 12, 2025, at the age of 79.

RUSSELL EMERY WRIGHT

Russell “Russ” Emery Wright was born June 19, 1939, in Muscatine, Iowa. He began his higher education at the University of Dubuque on a track scholarship before transferring to Iowa State University, where he earned a B.S. in Zoology in 1963 and an M.S. in Entomology in 1966. He completed his Ph.D. in Entomology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1969.

Dr. Wright began his academic career as a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Biology at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, where he served from 1969 to 1976. In 1976, he joined the Department of Entomology at Oklahoma State University, where he served with distinction as an instructor, researcher, and mentor. In 1992, he was appointed Department Head, a role he held until his retirement in 2004. His leadership included guiding the successful merger of Entomology and Plant Pathology.

Throughout his career, Dr. Wright authored more than 60 peer-reviewed journal articles and produced over 30 OSU and Extension publications. He presented his research widely at scientific conferences and professional meetings. As a medical-veterinary entomologist, his work focused on livestock pests, including flies, mosquitoes, ticks, and mites, contributing significantly to agricultural and public-health practices in Oklahoma and beyond. He taught medical-veterinary entomology throughout his OSU tenure and was widely respected for his clear instruction, supportive mentoring, and commitment to student success.

Professionally, Dr. Wright was active in numerous organizations, including the Entomological Society of America, the Entomological Society of Canada, the Southwestern Branch of ESA, and the Society of Southwestern Entomologists, where he held several officer roles, including president. His service to the university extended well beyond his department, including participation on committees within OSU’s Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and service to both the DASNR and OSU Faculty Councils.

Following his retirement, Dr. Wright remained engaged with OSU through active involvement in the OSU Emeriti Association, where he held every officer role, including president.

Dr. Wright passed away on December 19, 2025, at the age of 86.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS
in compliance with
Board Policies 3.01, 3.02, and 3.03
March 6, 2026
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF INDIVIDUALS

ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF INDIVIDUALS

WITHIN COLLEGE/DIVISION

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Appointment

Change

Sabbatical

Correction

Separation/Retirement - For Information Only

OSU/A&M Board of Regents' approval is sought for the following personnel actions except for separation, retirement and death which are included as information items only.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF INDIVIDUALS

Name	College/Division	Action
Banakar Subhasappa, Raviraj	Agriculture	5
Cassity, Skyler	Athletics	4
Coyne, Matthew	Business	1
Dai, Hokwok	Arts and Sciences	10
Faruque, Imraan	Engineering, Architecture and Technology	8
Griswold, Sarah	Arts and Sciences	11
Lopes, Marco	Veterinary Medicine	2
Malayer, Jerry	Veterinary Medicine	7
Malayer, Jerry	Veterinary Medicine	17
McGuire, John	Arts and Sciences	12
Milner, Daniel	Business	14
Nabar, Sandeep	Business	13
Peaster, Jonathan	Health Sciences	19
Ritchey, Jerry	General University	18
Schaefer, Kurt	Agriculture	6
Spitler, Jeffrey	Engineering, Architecture and Technology	9
Walker, JT	Veterinary Medicine	3
Weiser, Mark	Business	15
Wijetunge, Mallkarachchige Nishan	Education and Human Sciences	16

ALPHABETIC INDEX OF INDIVIDUALS WITHIN COLLEGE/DIVISION

Name	Action
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	
Banakar Subhasappa, Raviraj	5
Schaefer, Kurt	6
<u>ARTS AND SCIENCES</u>	
Dai, Hokwok	10
Griswold, Sarah	11
McGuire, John	12
<u>BUSINESS</u>	
Coyne, Matthew	1
Milner, Daniel	14
Nabar, Sandeep	13
Weiser, Mark	15
<u>EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES</u>	
Wijetunge, Mallkarachchige Nishan	16
<u>ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE AND TECHNOLOGY</u>	
Faruque, Imraan	8
Spitler, Jeffrey	9
<u>VETERINARY MEDICINE</u>	
Lopes, Marco	2
Malayer, Jerry	7
Malayer, Jerry	17
Walker, JT	3
<u>GENERAL UNIVERSITY</u>	
Ritchey, Jerry	18
<u>ATHLETICS</u>	
Cassity, Skyler	4
<u>HEALTH SCIENCES</u>	
Peaster, Jonathan	19

New Appointment

		<u>Effective Dates</u>		<u>Pay Rate</u>	<u>Action</u>
		<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>		
BUSINESS	HOSPITALITY & TOURISM MANAGEMENT				
Coyne, Matthew		8/1/2026	5/31/2030	9mths	1
Assistant Professor					
VETERINARY MEDICINE	CLINICAL SCIENCES				
Lopes, Marco		12/8/2025		11mths	2
Clinical Assoicate Professor					
Walker, JT		1/31/2026		11mths	3
Clinical Assoicate Professor					
ATHLETICS	ATHLETICS				
Cassity, Skyler					4
Defensive Coordinator, Football					
Board approval is requested to grant authority for the President or his designee to approve and execute a buyout of Coach Cassity's contract with the University of North Texas in the amount of \$291,496.00. Prior to beginning a four-year contract with Oklahoma State on 12/16/2025, Coach Cassity was under contract with the University of North Texas through 1/31/2027. This item has been reviewed and approved by Board Legal Counsel.					

Change in Appointment

	<u>Effective Date</u>		<u>Action</u>
AGRICULTURE BIOCHEMISTRY & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY			
Banakar Subhasappa, Raviraj	3/7/2026	11mths	5
Research Assistant Professor			
Change in title.			
AGRICULTURE DIV OF AGRICULTURAL SCI & NAT RSRCS			
Schaefer, Kurt	3/7/2026	11mths	6
Associate Professor and Director			
Change in title to include administrative duties.			
VETERINARY MEDICINE PATHOBIOLOGY			
Malayer, Jerry	3/7/2026		7
Senior Associate Dean, Regents Service Professor			
Change in title from Senior Associate Dean, Professor to Senior Associate Dean, Regents Service Professor.			

Sabbatical

	<u>Effective Dates</u>		<u>Action</u>
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE AND TECHNOLOGY	MECHANICAL & AEROSPACE ENGR		
Faruque, Imraan Associate Professor	7/1/2026	6/30/2027	8
Spitler, Jeffrey Regents Professor, Chair	8/1/2026	4/30/2027	9

Retirement or Separation - For Information Only

	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
ARTS AND SCIENCES COMPUTER SCIENCES		
Dai, Hokwok	6/30/2026	10
Associate Professor		
Retirement with no annual leave due.		
ARTS AND SCIENCES HISTORY		
Griswold, Sarah	8/31/2026	11
Associate Professor		
Separation with no annual leave due.		
ARTS AND SCIENCES MEDIA & STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS		
McGuire, John	6/1/2026	12
Professor, Chair		
Retirement with no annual leave due.		
BUSINESS ACCOUNTING		
Nabar, Sandeep	7/6/2026	13
Associate Professor, Faculty Fellow		
Retirement with no annual leave due.		
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & LEGAL STUDIES		
Milner, Daniel	5/31/2026	14
Assistant Professor		
Non-reappointment.		
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SCIENCE & INFO SYSTEMS		
Weiser, Mark	5/8/2026	15
Professor		
Retirement with no annual leave due.		
EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES DESIGN & MERCHANDISING		
Wijetunge, Mallkarachchige Nishan	5/31/2026	16
Assistant Professor		
Separation with no annual leave due.		

Retirement or Separation - For Information Only

	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
VETERINARY MEDICINE PATHOBIOLOGY		
Malayer, Jerry	4/10/2026	17
Senior Associate Dean, Professor		
Retirement with no annual leave due.		
GENERAL UNIVERSITY VETERINARY PATHOBIOLOGY		
Ritchey, Jerry	6/1/2026	18
Interim Dean, Professor		
Retirement with no annual leave due.		
HEALTH SCIENCES EMERGENCY MEDICINE		
Peaster, Jonathan	2/2/2026	19
Clinical Assistant Professor		
Separation with no annual leave due.		

OSU/A&M Board of Regents

March 6, 2026

OSU-Stillwater**New Degree Program Requests****College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology****Bachelor of Science in Construction Management (New)**

New program request

- Delivery method: Electronic
- Total credit hours: 123
- Reason for requested action: To provide access to rural Oklahomans and former military, an online degree program can provide opportunities for students to earn a degree and impact their local communities. Geared toward students with an associate's degree.

New Certificate Requests**College of Education and Human Sciences****Undergraduate Certificate in Aging, Disability, and Community Living (New)**

New certificate request

- Delivery method: Traditional
- Total credit hours: 18
- Reason for requested action: To prepare students with the foundational knowledge and applied skills needed to support individuals and families across the lifespan, particularly those navigating the challenges of aging and disability.

Spears School of Business**Embedded Undergraduate Certificate in Finance: Commodity Trading and Risk Management (New)**

New embedded certificate request

- Embedded in the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Finance (446)
- Delivery method: Traditional
- Total credit hours: 18
- Reason for requested action: To prepare students for dynamic careers in the energy and commodities sectors by providing a strong foundation in the principles, practices, and technologies that drive modern commodity markets.

Curricular Modifications (e.g., changes in delivery method, removal of barriers to admission, option or program suspensions or deletions, and changes in coursework to accommodate workforce and accreditation needs, modernization of programs, and efficiency of course offerings)

Ferguson College of Agriculture

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in Agricultural Leadership (458)

Option deletion

- Delete option in Extension Education
- One student is currently enrolled and will be allowed to continue or change to the general option and complete extension-related coursework.
- Delete option in International Studies
- Two students are currently enrolled and will be allowed to continue or change to the general option and complete international agriculture-related coursework.
- Reason for requested action: The options are no longer viable with student interest and enrollment.

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (026)

Option Addition

- Add option in Secondary Education
- Total credit hours: 120
- Reason for requested action: To prepare students for careers as secondary school science teachers, Career and Technical Education instructors, post-secondary faculty (vocational schools, colleges and universities), biochemists, biological technicians, and medical scientists. To provide a pathway for students to obtain a dual degree in Secondary Education: Science.

Master of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (027)

Course requirement change

- Thesis option
 - Remove Combination of core courses and other requirements to equal 24 hours. Specify that 13 hours of core and 11 hours of electives are required.
 - Remove 2 Advanced Biochemistry 6000-level courses
 - BIOC 5120, the graduate research colloquium, is now required within the "additional hours" category.
- Non-Thesis option
 - Remove Combination of core courses and other requirements to equal 20 hours. Specify that 15 hours of core and 15 hours of electives are required.
 - Add BIOC 5930
 - Remove 2 Advanced Biochemistry 6000-level courses
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: To bring course offerings up-to-date and reorganize degree requirements to improve clarity for students.

Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (028)

Course requirement change

- Remove duplication of BIOC 5753
- Require BIOC 5120, the graduate research colloquium
- Total credit hours will not change
- Embedded in the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Finance (446)
- Delivery method: Traditional
- Total credit hours: 18

- Reason for requested action: To bring course offerings up-to-date and reorganize degree requirements to improve clarity for students.

Doctor of Philosophy in Crop Science (056)

Degree requirement change

- Specify degree requirements for students applying to the program with a bachelor's degree.
- Students entering the program with a master's degree may apply up to 12 credit hours to the PHD with committee approval. This corrects an error that occurred in 2023.
- Total credit hours listed in the catalog will change from 48 to 60 credit hours. Students entering the program with a bachelor's degree will complete 78 credit hours.
- Reason for requested change: To correct an error in how total credit hours are listed in the catalog (with no change in practice).

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in Food Science (361)

Option addition

- Add option in Business, Pre-Law
- Total credit hours: 120
- Reason for requested action: To provide a pathway for students with an interest in starting their own food businesses, direct-marketing food products to consumers, and sales/marketing of food products to consumers, or pursuing a law degree to work for major food industry companies or practice in firms with increased knowledge of the food industry. This will attract students who can easily transition to the workforce or open their own food businesses.
- Add option in General
- Total credit hours: 120
- Reason for requested action: To provide a pathway for students with a general food science interest in a variety of areas. This will attract students who can easily transition to the workforce in the food industry.

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in Horticulture (128)

Course requirement change

- Add HORT 1011, HORT 3011, and HORT 4011
- Remove 3 hours from other areas of the degree requirements
 - Horticultural Food Safety option: Select from HORT 4143 or HORT 4233
 - Horticultural Business option: Reduce HORT or Ferguson College of Agriculture courses from 5 to 2 credit hours
 - Horticultural Science option: Reduce related courses from 12 to 9 credit hours from Ferguson College of Agriculture
 - Landscape Management option: Select hours from AGECE 3323/AGECE 3423/AGECE 3713/LSB 3213, MGMT 3013, and MKTG 3213
 - Public Horticulture option: Reduce PBIO or Ferguson College of Agriculture courses from 5 to 2 credit hours
 - Turf Management option: Remove 4 hours of MGMT or Ferguson College of Agriculture courses and add 1 credit hour of electives
 - Urban Horticulture option: Reduce courses from Ferguson College of Agriculture from 12 to 9 credit hours
- Total credit hours will not change

- Reason for requested action: To advance career preparedness across the curriculum.

Doctor of Philosophy in Soil Science (187)

Degree requirement change

- Specify degree requirements for students applying to the program with a bachelor's degree.
- Students entering the program with a master's degree may apply up to 12 credit hours to the PHD with committee approval.
- Total credit hours will not change for students entering the program with a master's degree. Students entering the program with a bachelor's degree will complete 78 credit hours.
- Reason for requested change: To be more competitive with similar programs.

College of Arts and Sciences**Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry (046)**

Course requirement change

- Increase guided electives from 20 to 21 credit hours
- Decrease dissertation research hours from 54 to 23 credit hours
- Total credit hours will decrease from 90 to 60 credit hours
- Reason for requested action: To simplify the process for students to develop their plan of study and encourage students to complete the PhD candidacy in a timely manner.

Professional Science Masters in Geoscience (310)

Program suspension

- Effective immediately
- Program will be reinstated or deleted within three years
- Reason for requested action: Program needs to be reorganized and undergo a change in advertising and recruitment strategy to attract a wider applicant pool.

Master of Music in Music (408)

Option in Applied Music

Course requirement change

- Remove MUSI 5890, MUSI 5733, MUSI 5842
- Add focused tracks that require 10 credit hours
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: Replacing unnecessary pedagogy courses with courses that will serve as a greater benefit to students.

Bachelor of Science in Physics (161)

Option in Applied Physics

Course requirement change

- Remove CHEM 1515
- Add 5 hours of Math and/or Science
- Add course equivalents to the required course list
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: Adding flexibility to degree requirements to attract students to add the program as a second major.

Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology (178)

Program name change

- Change program name from Psychology to Psychological Sciences

Option name change

- Change option name from Experimental Psychology to Experimental

CIP code change

- Change CIP code from 42.0101 (General Psychology) to 42.2799 (Research and Experimental Psychology)
- Reason for requested change: Updating to be consistent with recommendations from the American Psychological Association.

College of Education and Human Sciences**Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology (552)**

Course requirement change

- Remove EPSY 5320
- Add FDEP 6123 and SPSY 5320
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: Replacing temporary course numbers with approved course numbers.

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology (070)

Course requirement change

- Option in Educational Psychology
 - Remove EPSY 5320
 - Add EPSY 6001
 - Require EPSY 6153
 - Increase Domain II guided electives from 9 to 15 credit hours
 - Decrease Domain III from 12 to 9 credit hours
 - Total credit hours will decrease from 69 to 68 credit hours
 - Reason for requested action: To better prepare students as they enter the job market.

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (074)

Option addition

- Add option in Special Education
- Total credit hours: 124
- Reason for requested action: To prepare teachers to work in special and elementary education settings. The option will fulfill a persistent need for more special education teachers while also offering more employment options for graduates.

Master of Science in Family and Community Services (304)

Course requirement change

- Remove HDFS 5543 and HDFS 5923
- Total credit hours will decrease from 36 to 30 credit hours
- Reason for requested action: To align the degree program with the IDEA consortium partners.

Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Science (094)

Option in Family and Consumer Sciences Education

Course requirement change

- Remove 3 hours of courses designated (S)
- Add HDFS 2113 as a required (S) course
- Remove HDFS 1112
- Add HDFS 1113
- Remove DM 2913 or DM 2204
- Add HDFS 2123
- Add HDFS 4433 as an alternative to EDTC 3123
- Total credit hours will decrease from 122 to 120
- Reason for requested action: Updating requirements based on feedback from program alumni and to better prepare students interested in cooperative extension job opportunities.

Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology (535)

Degree requirement change

- Remove GRE requirement for admission
- Adding an option to the degree sheet for students entering the program with a Master's degree
- Reason for requested action: To remove barriers for admission and provide a pathway for students who have already earned a Master's degree.

Course requirement change:

- Remove REMS 6013, REMS 6663, EPSY 6153, SPSY 6143, EPSY 5463, EDHS 5910, and EDHS 5910
- Add SPSY 6153, SCFD 6983, FDEP 5493, SPSY 5110, and SPSY 6310
- Remove PSYC 6563 as an alternative to FDEP 5183
- Add HDFS 5293 as an alternative to EPSY 5103
- Add 6 credit hours of specialized coursework preapproved by the advisory committee
- Remove select 3 hours of guided coursework from Direct Service/Psychotherapy
- Total credit hours will decrease from 128 to 126 credit hours
- Reason for requested action: Updating the curriculum to provide more relevant coursework to students.

Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (182)

Option in Science

- Add a Biochemistry track that aligns with the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology: Secondary Education program
- Reason for requested action: To allow students to complete professional education courses that lead to certification in secondary chemistry.

Course requirement change

- Remove 6 hours of (H) and require 3 hours of (H) and 3 hours of (DH)
- Remove PHIL 3933
- Change college/departmental electives from 0-11 hours to 4-12 hours
- Remove SMED 4023 and SMED 4723
- Add CIED 4724
- Total credit hours will not change

- Reason for requested action: To provide a pathway for students to obtain a dual degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology: Secondary Education.

Master of Arts in Social Foundations of Education (529)

Course requirement change

- Remove SCFD 5873
- Reduce Research and Inquiry courses from 9 to 6 credit hours
- Require SCFD 5913
- Total credit hours will decrease from 36 to 30 hours
- Reason for requested action: To be more competitive with similar programs.

Degree requirement change

- Add Creative Component track
- Total credit hours: 30
- Reason for requested action: Graduate College recommended separate tracks for thesis/non-thesis options.

College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology**Master of Science in Engineering Technology (519)**

Course requirement change

- Option in Fire Safety and Explosion Protection
 - Switching the order of the listing of FEMP/IEM/FSEP courses
 - Total credit hours will not change
 - Reason for requested action: Listing the FSEP course first is more appropriate for Engineering Technology students.

Master of Science in Fire and Emergency Management Administration (414)

Course requirement change

- Remove FEMP 5113 and FEMP 5123
- Add FEMP 5133 and FEMP 5143
- Remove FEMP 5653 as an alternative to FEMP 5023 and FEMP 6013 (Thesis option)
- Remove FEMP 5013 (Non-Thesis option)
- Add 12 hours of FEMP coursework to Non-Thesis option
- Add course-work only and creative component tracks to the Non-Thesis option
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: To facilitate the need for master's students to have more applied management knowledge and skills. To provide additional pathways for students earning the degree through the Non-Thesis option.

Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology (079)

CIP code change

- Change CIP code from 43.0201 (Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services – Fire Protection – Fire Prevention and Safety Technology/Technician) to 15.9999 (Engineering/Engineering-Related Technologies/Technicians)
- Reason for requested change: Updating CIP code to better fit the purpose of the program.

Spears School of Business**Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration (036)**

Degree requirement change

- Option in Finance
 - Require 3 letters of recommendation
 - Reason for requested action: Updating admission requirements based on feedback from the Graduate College.

Course requirement change

- Option in Finance
 - Reorganize courses into different categories
 - Remove FIN 5773
 - Total credit hours will decrease from 69 to 60 credit hours
 - Reason for requested action: To improve the student experience.
- Option in Marketing
 - Remove MKTG 6413, MKTG 6913, and MSIS 6343
 - Add MGMT 6353, MGMT 6383, and MGMT 6553
 - Decrease electives from 27 to 21 credit hours
 - Total credit hours will not change
 - Reason for requested action: Updating curriculum to remove obsolete courses and better prepare students for employment opportunities.

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Economics (445)

Course requirement change

- Remove ECON 3613
- Increase upper-division ECON courses by 3 credit hours
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: ECON 3613, a course in international economic relations, is not necessary for the degree program.

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management (449)

Course requirement change

- Remove MGMT 3011
- Remove ENGL 3323 as an alternative to BCOM 3113 or BCOM 3323
- Remove SPCH 3723 as an alternative to BCOM 3223
- Increase electives from 13 to 14 credit hours
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: To remove redundancy in the curriculum.

Graduate Certificate in Marketing Analytics (494)

Program deletion

- No students are currently enrolled
- To be effective immediately
- Reason for requested action: Content from this graduate certificate has been incorporated into the Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics and Data Science

Master of Science in Quantitative Finance (431)

Course requirement change

- Add FIN 5343 as a required course
- Decrease electives from 12 to 9 credit hours
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: Updating program requirements to remain competitive with similar programs.

Veterinary Medicine

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (400)

Course requirement change

- Remove VCS 7342 as a core rotation and move it to electives
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: No longer able to offer this ophthalmology rotation to all students in the program

OSU-Institute of Technology

New Degree Program Requests

School of Technology, Arts, Sciences, and Health

Associate in Applied Science in Logistics Technician and Supply Chain Technology (New)

New program request

- Delivery method: Online
- Total credit hours: 60
- Reason for requested action: The proposed program is in response to sustained workforce demand for logistics and supply chain professionals across Oklahoma and the region. The program will provide targeted education and skills that demonstrate job-ready competencies and workforce readiness, address labor market demand and limited program availability, and aligns with OSUIT's institutional mission and existing academic portfolio by leveraging current faculty expertise, online instructional infrastructure, and student support services.

School of Transportation and Heavy Equipment

Associate in Applied Science in John Deere Tech (New)

New program request

- Delivery method: Traditional
- Total credit hours: 66
- Reason for requested action: The proposed program will address a current shortage of technicians and entry-level programs with training focused on John Deere technologies. The program will provide targeted, industry-aligned education and training that prepares graduates to strengthen the workforce pipeline in Oklahoma and surrounding regions, supports local and national employers, and aligns with OSUIT's mission to provide industry-driven technical education that meets both student and employer needs.

New Certificate Requests

School of Technology, Arts, Sciences, and Health

Embedded Certificate in Health Careers Foundations

- Embedded in Associate in Science in Allied Health Sciences (123)
- Delivery method: Traditional and Online
- Total credit hours: 18
- Reason for requested action: The certificate in Health Career Foundations, embedded in the AS in Allied Health Sciences (123) provides students with essential clinical knowledge and a strong science foundation needed for entry-level health roles or continued study in nursing and allied health programs. This stackable, embedded certificate will support workforce readiness and academic progression and align with OSUIT's mission and existing academic portfolio.

Curricular Modifications (e.g., changes in delivery method, removal of barriers to admission, option or program suspensions or deletions, and changes in coursework to accommodate workforce and accreditation needs, modernization of programs, and efficiency of course offerings)

School of Technology, Arts, Sciences, and Health

Associate in Applied Science in 3D Modeling and Animation (034)

Program deletion

- 28 students are currently enrolled in the program
- Students will be allowed to complete their program requirements.
- Reason for requested action: The AAS in 3D Modeling & Animation is proposed for deletion due to sustained low productivity, stagnant enrollment trends, unsuccessful remediation efforts, and documented shifts in industry demand. Enrollment data over a five-year period demonstrates consistently low headcount with no meaningful growth trajectory. The deletion allows responsible reallocation of resources while minimizing student impact and incorporation of content into an existing program.

Associate in Applied Science in Applied Technology (875)

Option addition

- Add option in Food Service Management
- Total credit hours: 60
- Reason for requested action: The option addition addresses continued demand for skilled food service workers and managers who can support institutional safety, efficiency, and customer-focused food operations across a wide range of settings. The option prepares graduates to transition from entry-level positions into leadership roles in restaurants, institutional food service, hospitality, and related industries. The curriculum's applied, workforce-driven focus aligns with OSUIT's mission to support regional economic needs and provides students with a practical pathway to immediate employment and long-term career growth in the food service industry.

Bachelor of Technology in Information Technologies (094)

Option name change

- Change option in Cyber Incident Response to Applied Artificial Intelligence

- Change option in Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics to Cybersecurity
- Reason for requested action: For the Cyber Incident Response option, the proposed name change to Applied Artificial Intelligence is in response to receipt of a supporting grant, strong industry advisory committee support, associated changes to course rotations to better reflect option content, and changes in industry standards. For the Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics option, the proposed name change to Cybersecurity is in response to faculty, student, and advisory board feedback, changes to industry standards and emphases, and a need to update the curriculum for better student preparation.

Degree requirement change

- Remove the program admission requirement of holding an AAS prior to BT program entry.
- Reason for requested action: Currently, students wishing to pursue the BT in Information Technologies must complete an Associate's Degree (AAS) prior to program entry. The proposed change would remove the requirement of completion of an Associate's degree prior to program entry. For students, the proposed change will provide a more flexible and accessible educational pathway, attract a broader range of applicants, and support timely progression toward earning the BT degree.

Course requirement change

- For all options:
 - Replace ITD 4809 with ITD 4806.
 - Decrease upper-division IT core requirements from 19 to 16.
 - Increase upper-division option requirements from 18 to 21.
- For Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics option:
 - Add ITD 3653 and ITD 4203 to upper division option requirements.
- For the Cybersecurity Incident Response Option option
 - Add ITD 3113, ITD 3213, ITD 3313, ITD 4133, ITD 4233, and ITD 4333
 - Remove ITD 3543, ITD 3643, ITD 3653, ITD 4203, and ITD 4223 from the upper-division option requirements.
- Total credit hours will not change.
- Reason for requested action: The proposed changes to option requirements will provide students with greater flexibility in choosing electives to complete their program and address changes to industry standards as well as advisory board feedback.

School of Transportation and Heavy Equipment

Associate in Applied Science in Toyota T-Ten (105)

Program deletion

- 22 students are currently enrolled in the program
- Students will be allowed to complete their program requirements
- Reason for requested action: The AAS in Toyota T-Ten is proposed for deletion due to sustained low productivity, stagnant enrollment trends, unsuccessful remediation efforts, and lack of industry demand to continue the program. Enrollment data over a five-year period demonstrates a consistently low and slightly declining headcount, with no foreseeable growth. The deletion allows responsible reallocation of resources while minimizing student impact and transition to more viable programs.

Approval of Peace Officer Actions (OSU SYSTEM)

Board approval is requested for the peace officer actions listed below.

Commission:

Dakota Leach - OSU-STW

Jacob Richardson - OSU-STW

Judith Coalwell - OSU-TUL

Decommission:

Curtis Burns - OSU-STW (Retired) BOR Commission #541

This request is submitted under the provisions of Title 74, Section 360.15 O.S. and the Board's regular commissioning procedures.

Approval of Actions Required to Finance a Potential Project to Replace Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station Equipment in Stillwater, Oklahoma (OSU-STW)

Board approval is requested to award a contract to the successful bidder for the replacement of CNG equipment at the fueling station at an estimated cost of \$1,800,000. Approval is also requested to award a contract to the successful bidder to operate and maintain the CNG fueling station at an estimated annual cost of \$120,000. This purchase will be in accordance with OSU Purchasing Policy and Procedures. Funding is available through the resale of CNG to the transit system.

Board approval is also requested to submit the appropriate documents to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and to take all necessary action to include in the Master Lease Equipment Program, one new equipment project: Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station equipment replacement located at the corner of Lakeview and Western in Stillwater.

The estimated financed amount is \$1,800,000, plus the cost of issuance.

To the extent the university utilizes its own funds or borrowed funds for said purposes, it is the intent of the Board of Regents for proceeds of the Master Lease Bonds to reimburse the university and/or repay said borrowed funds. Any such expenses incurred prior to the receipt of bond proceeds will be made from legally available funds.

Approval of this agenda item constitutes the Board of Regents declaration of official intent as is required under Section 1.150-2 of the Internal Revenue Code, which will be further supported by a reimbursement resolution to be executed by the Board of Regents Chief Executive Officer.

Required debt repayment will be made from legally available Transportation Services funds.

Mitchell Emig, A&F Business Operations, and Steve Spradling, Parking & Transportation Services, are coordinating this item.

Approval to Enter Into and Execute a Ground Lease Agreement with Teledyne FLIR Defense, Inc. (OSU-STW)

Board approval is requested to enter into a ground lease with Teledyne FLIR Defense, Inc. (Teledyne) for the 5.99-acre property located at 1024 S. Innovation Way, Stillwater, Oklahoma, for a period of fifty years. This includes the option to renew for two additional twenty-five-year terms as described in the attached Letter of Intent.

Board approval is also requested to authorize the OSU President, or a designee, to execute the lease. All documents will be reviewed by the Office of Board Legal Counsel prior to execution.

Teledyne currently occupies the building pursuant to a lease agreement with the owner, the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce. Teledyne intends to exercise its option to purchase the building and seeks a long-term ground lease to support this purchase. This will significantly increase the lease revenue from the property and will replace and simplify the existing series of lease and sublease agreements among the OSU Research Foundation, the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce, and Teledyne.

No funding is required.

Mitchell Emig, Administration & Finance Business Operations, and Kenneth Sewell, Division of the Vice President for Research, are coordinating this item.

Teledyne FLIR Defense
1024 S. Innovation Way
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074
Email: Kathy.white@teledyne.com
Phone:

VIA EMAIL

Date: December 18, 2025

Kenneth Sewell
Oklahoma State University
106 Whitehurst
Stillwater, OK 74078

Subject: Letter of Intent for Long-Term Land Lease Agreement for 1024 S. Innovation Way Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074

Dear Kenneth

Teledyne FLIR Defense, Inc. ("Teledyne FLIR"), respectfully submits this Letter of Intent to Oklahoma State University ("OSU") for a long-term lease of the land located at 1024 S. Innovation Way, Stillwater, Oklahoma ("Leased Land"). This proposal is in connection with our pending acquisition of the building located at the same address ("Building"), which is currently owned by the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce.

As Chris and I discussed with you, Teledyne FLIR has been committed to the Stillwater area for more than 25 years. During this time, we have regularly employed OSU graduates and provided intern opportunities for OSU students. Teledyne FLIR's intention to purchase the Building reinforces our commitment to the Stillwater community and with our anticipated growth, we expect to create more pre and post graduate opportunities for OSU students. Accordingly, we seek a long-term lease for the Leased Land so that Teledyne FLIR can move forward with its investment in the community with confidence. With this in mind, we propose the following terms for a long-term land lease:

Lease Term

- **Initial Term:** Fifty (50) years
- **Renewal Option:** Two (2) additional twenty-five (25) year terms, exercisable with at least six (6) months' prior written notice by Lessee to Lessor prior to expiration of the then-current term.
- **Commencement Date:** The date that Teledyne FLIR Closes on the Building purchase, which pursuant to the terms of the lease must occur within 90 days of providing notice of our intent to purchase.

Financial Terms

- **Current Lease Rate:** \$20 per month
- **Proposed Annual Lease Rate:** \$750 per month or \$9,000 per year.
- **Annual Lease Escalation:** 3% per year, applied to the prior year's lease rate, effective on each anniversary of the Commencement Date.
- **Payment Schedule:** Monthly or Annual payments at Lessor's direction.
- **Inclusive Services:** Lease rate includes maintenance of primary access road, storm drains, Leased Land utility infrastructure (water, gas, electric, phone/cable, etc.), and other essential services serving the Leased Land.
- Continued compliance with all land use continues to comply with zoning and land use rules based on Teledyne's current and future use, which includes: Technology research and development, manufacturing, service, office and administrative ("Use").

Lessee Responsibilities

- Maintenance of the Leased Land, including driveways, landscaping, fencing, site-controlled access, and similar cost typically borne by land Lessees.
- Payment of all utility costs associated with the property.
- Payment of applicable property taxes, assessments, and fees. Landlord shall provide a schedule of fees in response to this proposal.
- Compliance with all relevant regulations and ordinances associated with its Use.

Additional Provisions

- **Improvements:** Teledyne FLIR has no current expansion plans but will likely need to expand in the future. Teledyne FLIR will seek OSU approval for any expansion plans, provided such permission is not unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed.
- **Assignment/Subletting:** Allowed without OSU's consent to companies affiliated with Teledyne FLIR. Teledyne FLIR will seek consent from OSU for assignment/sale/subletting to non-affiliated companies, which will not to be unreasonably withheld.
- **Insurance:** Lessee will maintain appropriate liability and property insurance, naming OSU as additional insured and with minimum coverage limits as reasonably required by OSU.
- **Indemnification:** Teledyne FLIR will indemnify OSU against claims arising from its use of the Leased Land, except to the extent caused by OSU's gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- **Right of First Refusal:** at any time OSU elects to sell the Leased Land or the larger Technology Park that the Leased Land is associated with, Teledyne FLIR shall have the right of first refusal to purchase the Leased land at the then fair market value.

Condition Precedents

- **University Zoning Compliance:** The execution of a Land Lease pursuant to this LOI is contingent on Teledyne FLIR confirming to its satisfaction that the activities it has carried out and will continue to carry out meets the criteria for the "U" or "University Zoning" designation, and if not, Teledyne FLIR is able to secure a variance or special use permit ("Variance"). For the avoidance of doubt and if required, OSU will assist Teledyne FLIR as reasonably requested in obtaining such a Variance.
- **Building Acquisition Closing:** The effective date of the Land Lease will be simultaneous with the

successful closing of Teledyne FLIR's acquisition of the building located on the Leased Land.

Finally, as we also discussed, while there has been moderate collaboration between the University and Teledyne FLIR and its predecessors over the past 25 years, we agree that there should be a more concentrated effort to cultivate more collaborations. Some of the areas where we believe that there are significant opportunities to expand include:

- Strategic partnerships with the OAIRE Group, particularly in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Counter-UAS research;
- Joint research initiatives, technology transfer programs, and co-development of advanced defense and security solutions; and
- Participation in academic advisory boards, guest lectures, and student mentorship programs.

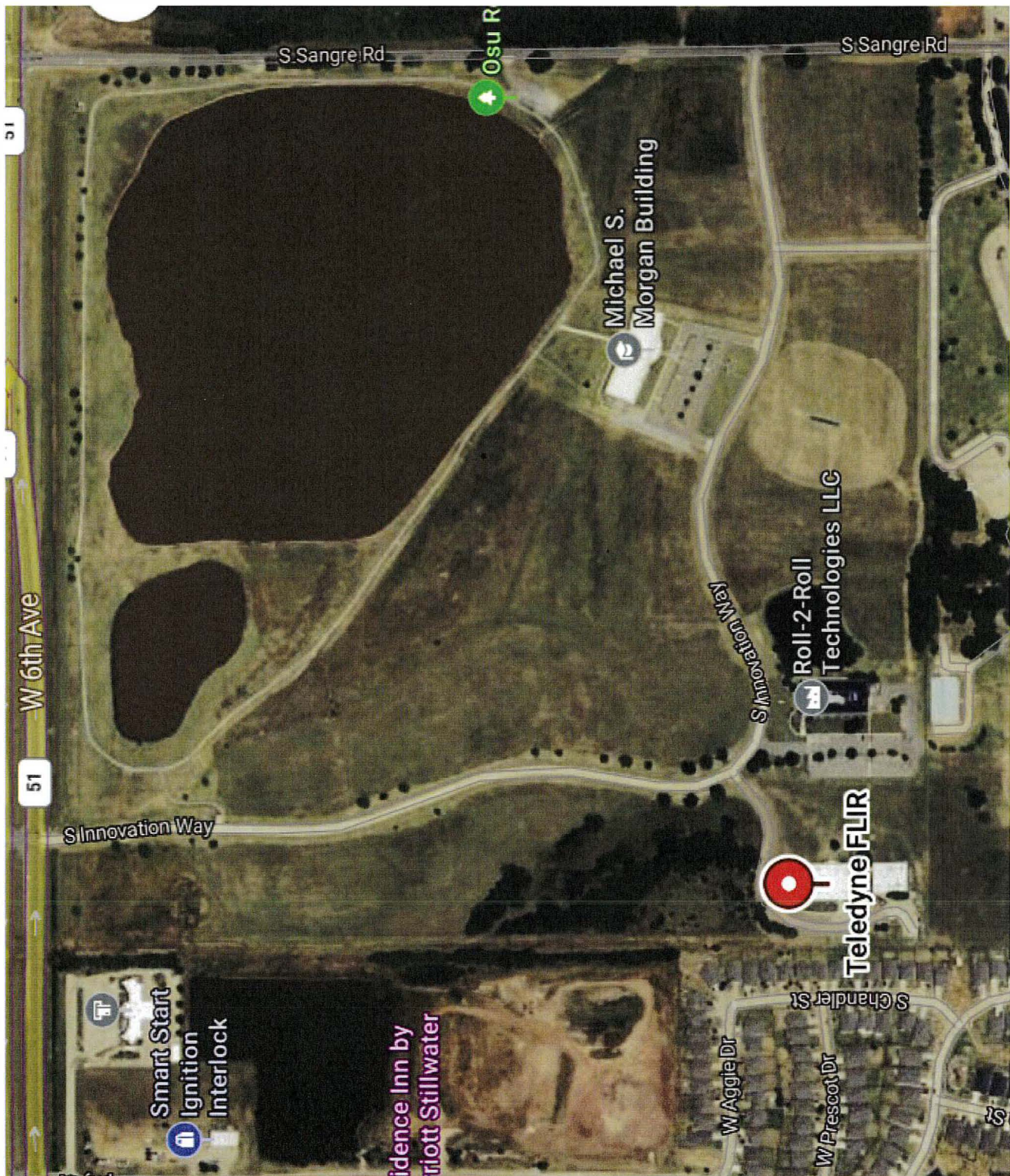
We believe this lease proposal reflects a fair and forward-looking partnership that benefits both OSU and Teledyne FLIR. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal further and work collaboratively toward a formal agreement. If you have any questions or would like more detail on our proposal, please do not hesitate to contact Clint Wichert (clint.wichert@teledyne.com) or myself.

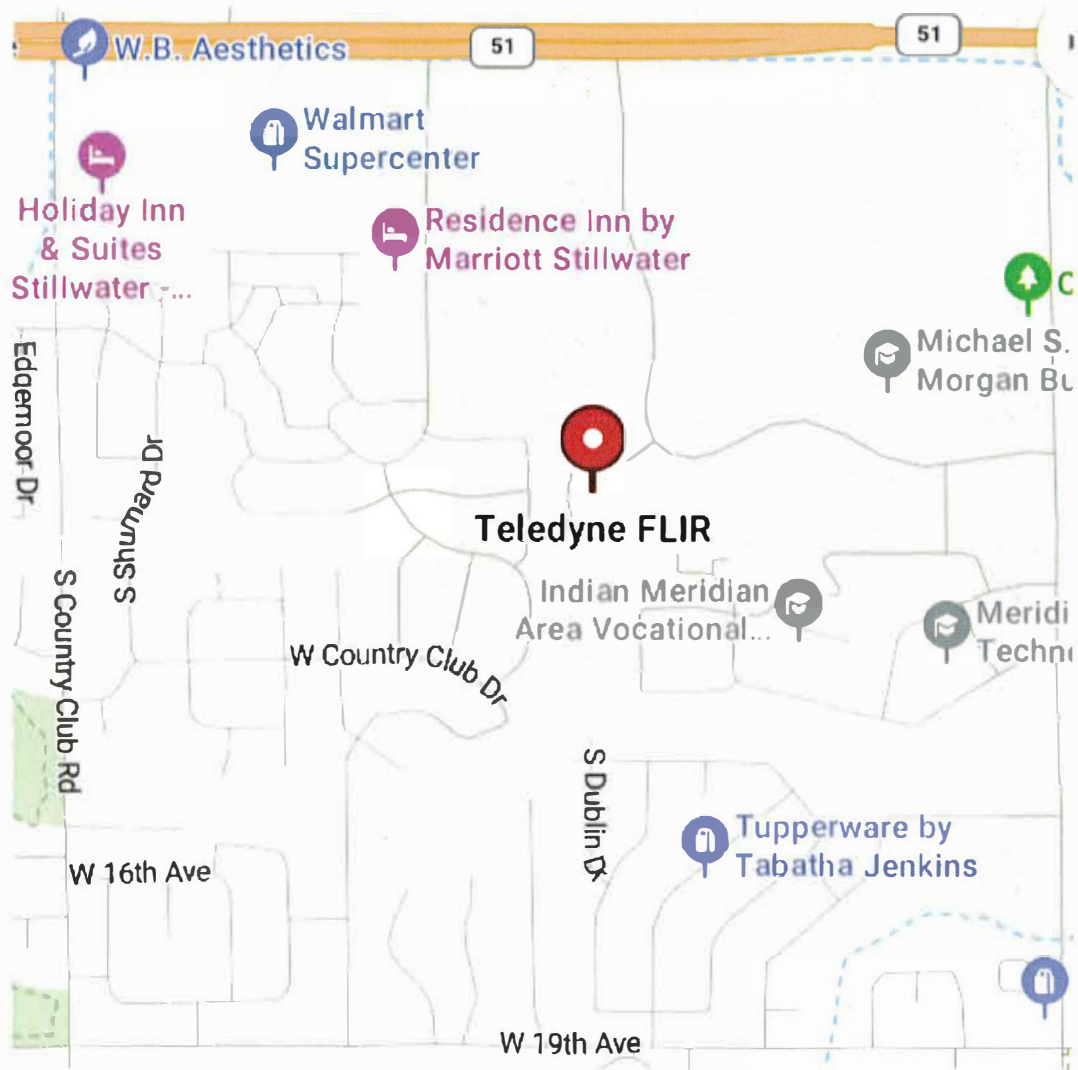
Best regards,

Name: Kathy White
Title: Associate Vice President,
Global Real Estate, Travel, and
Corporate Communications

Approved and Accepted by Oklahoma State University

NAME and TITLE





Approval to Transfer Funds for Space Renovation in the Nancy Randolph Davis West Building (OSU-STW)

Board approval is requested to transfer \$597,000 from State Fund 290 (Educational and General Operations Revolving Fund) to State Fund 295 (Capital Improvements Revolving Fund) for space renovation in the Nancy Randolph Davis West building.

Board approval is further requested to expend transferred funds to renovate rooms 201 and 202 at Nancy Randolph Davis West.

Funding will be from student fees assessed within the College of Education and Human Sciences.

Tammy Eck, Office of the Associate Vice President for Finance, is coordinating this item.

Approval to Waive Bidding Requirements for a 340B Wholesale Supplier (OSU-CHS)

Board approval is requested to waive bidding requirements related to the purchase of 340B pharmaceuticals from Cencora, in order to utilize the same wholesale supplier as our 340B pharmacy services provider, Walgreens. The aggregate fiscal year purchasing volumes are anticipated to exceed the \$250,000 purchasing threshold.

OSU Center for Health Sciences (OSU-CHS) solicited an onsite 340B pharmacy services provider and subsequently contracted with Walgreens. OSU-CHS then selected a wholesale pharmaceutical supplier through an existing contract; however, the supplier was not fully integrated with Walgreens, and the program was never successfully launched. The Department of Internal Medicine Specialty Services now seeks to attempt the program again but would like to use the existing preferred wholesale provider to enhance the opportunity of having a successful program. The program will be more efficient if the university can purchase the 340B pharmaceuticals from the same wholesale supplier already integrated with the pharmacy service provider.

OSU-CHS will purchase the qualified 340B drugs at a deeply discounted price and then be reimbursed by Walgreens, less any fees and taxes associated with the transaction and inventory carrying cost. This includes providing free or low-cost care to uninsured/underinsured patients, expanding services, or supporting community health programs.

No funding is required.

Kevin Holmes and Jeffrey Stroup, OSU-CHS, are coordinating this item.

Approval to Enter Into a Contract with the City of Stillwater to Fund an Air Service Guarantee Participation Agreement (OSU-STW)

Board approval is requested for OSU to enter into a contract with the City of Stillwater to help fund an Air Service Guarantee Participation Agreement. The purpose of said agreement is to induce American Airlines to continue providing daily commercial air service between Stillwater Regional Airport and Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Board approval is also requested for the OSU President, or a designee, to execute the agreement with the City of Stillwater.

As more fully described below, OSU's maximum liability under this agreement for the service period, March 1, 2026, through February 29, 2028, is \$2,000,000 across two fiscal years.

March 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026	\$ 333,333
July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027	1,000,000
July 1, 2027, through February 29, 2028	<u>666,667</u>
Total	\$2,000,000

This agreement will be reviewed by Board Legal Counsel prior to execution.

Funding will be provided by E&G funds.

Chris Kuwitzky, Office of the Senior VP and Chief Financial/Administrative Officer, and Brandee Hancock, Office of Board Legal Counsel, are coordinating this item.

AIR SERVICE GUARANTEE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

This agreement is entered into on this 9th day of February 2026, between the City of Stillwater, a municipal corporation ("Stillwater") and Oklahoma State University, a public land grant university ("OSU").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Stillwater owns and operates Stillwater Regional Airport; and

WHEREAS, continuation of daily commercial air service at Stillwater Regional Airport will directly benefit both Stillwater and OSU as a transportation utility and as a tool for economic development; and

WHEREAS, American Airlines ("American") has been providing daily commercial air service between Stillwater Regional Airport and Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport; and

WHEREAS, American is willing to continue such air service only if it is able to limit its economic risk by receiving a revenue guarantee; and

WHEREAS, Stillwater, OSU, and American have negotiated an extension of the existing Air Service Agreement that provides for revenue guarantees ("Air Service Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, Stillwater is unable by itself to provide a sufficient revenue guarantee; and

WHEREAS, collectively, Stillwater and OSU can provide such an incentive to American; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of Stillwater and OSU to jointly extend the "Air Service Guarantee Participation Agreement."

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MUTUAL COVENANTS HEREINAFTER CONTAINED TO BE KEPT AND PERFORMED BY THE PARTIES HERETO AND UPON THE PROVISIONS AND CONDITIONS HEREINAFTER SET FORTH, STILLWATER AND OSU DO HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Revenue Guarantee: The parties agree to share the liability for the revenue guarantee contained in the "Air Service Agreement," substantially in the form of Exhibit "A," which is attached hereto and made a part of this agreement.

2. Limitation on Liability: The maximum liability for the revenue guarantee for OSU under the Air Service Agreement for the Air Service Period of March 1, 2026 through February 29, 2028 is as follows:

\$1,000,000 per year during the Air Service Period, with a \$333,333 cap for March 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, a \$1,000,000 cap for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and a \$666,667 cap for July 1, 2027 through February 29, 2028.

3. Payment of Funds: Stillwater shall remit to American Airlines the revenue guarantee payment upon receipt of a quarterly invoice from American Airlines. Stillwater will submit an invoice to OSU for one-half of the amount paid to American Airlines, with such cumulative amounts not to exceed the maximum liability amount for the given agreement period as set forth in Section 2 above. OSU will remit payment to Stillwater upon receipt of the invoice. Stillwater shall use these funds solely for paying American Airlines for any revenue shortfall(s) required by the Air Service Agreement.

4. Records: All records available to Stillwater under the Air Service Agreement shall be made available to OSU upon request.

5. Audits: Stillwater, at the request of OSU, shall exercise its right under the Air Service Agreement to conduct an audit of American's records. OSU shall bear the cost of conducting any such audit.

6. Benefit of Parties: This agreement is for the sole benefit of Stillwater, OSU, and American. Nothing in this agreement is intended to confer any rights or remedies on any other person or entity.

7. Authority of Signatories: The signatories to this agreement, by signing this agreement, represent that they have obtained authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of the respective parties to this agreement and bind such parties to all terms and conditions contained in this agreement.

8. Counterparts: This agreement may be executed by the parties in more than one counterpart, each of which may be deemed as an original instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this agreement on the day and year first written above.

CITY OF STILLWATER
a municipal corporation

William H. Joyce, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa Kadavy, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

Kimberly Carnley, City Attorney

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Jim Hess, President

Approval of Five Purchasing Items (OSU-STW)

Board approval is requested for the following purchasing items. All purchases will comply with Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges Policies and Procedures, as well as applicable State statutes:

- a. Sole Source and Special Request
 - 1. Authorization is requested for Fire Service Training to purchase American Heart Association (AHA) educational training materials from AHA in the estimated amount of \$275,000. Funding will be provided by Auxiliary Enterprises Funds. (sole source)
- b. Revolving and Appropriated Funds
 - 1. Authorization is requested for the Spears School of Business to purchase replacement computers for Spears' staff in the estimated amount of \$400,000. The equipment will be purchased through the OSU contract with Dell or other contracts or bidding if required. (OSU contract, bid)
 - 2. Authorization is requested for Human Resources to award and execute a contract, through a competitive RFP process, with Employer Advocates as the selected benefits broker/benefits consulting firm to provide strategic advisory and brokerage/consulting support for the OSU/A&M employee and retiree benefits portfolio, including the university's self-funded healthcare plan. Services are expected to include benefits market analysis and benchmarking, plan design, and cost-containment strategy, renewal and vendor negotiation support, and consulting assistance for benefits-related procurements and compliance initiatives. The contract is anticipated to be structured as an annual not-to-exceed amount, with total annual cost not expected to exceed \$375,000, subject to final contract terms and satisfactory performance. (contract/bid)
- c. Auxiliary Enterprises Funds
 - 1. Authorization is requested for OSU Athletics to increase the previously approved estimated amount of \$285,000 to \$375,000. This scope amendment covers two high priority tasks identified in early January. The additional services from Huron are expected to complete the project by 1.) updating key peer benchmarking analyses with FY25 data, and 2.) creation of an additional financial modeling element which provides a more aggressive financial sustainability path. (contract)
- d. Plant Funds
 - 1. Authorization is requested to demolish Kerr Hall, building 0067, located at 1217 W Farm Road; Drummond Hall, building 0065, located at 1218 W Drummond Lane; and Kerr Drummond Cafeteria, building 0066, located at 218 N. Kerr Lane and for Facilities Management to purchase engineering

demolition design services, asbestos abatement services, and demolition services in the estimated amount of \$4,649,411. (contract, bid)

Recognition Agreement for Interior Space (OSU-STW)

The following recognition agreement is informational in nature and presented to the Board as such.

College of Education and Human Sciences			
Donor	Building	Location	Name
Integrus Health, Inc.	Scott-Parker-Wentz Hall	Reception, Level 1	Integrus Health Reception Area

Stephanie Jones, University Planning, is coordinating this item.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A-1 Comments by Mr. Michael Mann Regarding the OSU Hockey Club

Mr. Mann quoted T. Boone Pickens and said, “I have always believed that it is important to show a new look periodically. Predictability can lead to failure.” Mr. Mann said he represents students who are members of the OSU Hockey Club (Club). The Club was started a few years ago by a gentleman who is now serving in the military. The Club was then taken over by a former student who is now a full-time OSU employee. It is the No. 1 Club Hockey Team in the country and will have a budget of \$2 million next year. They have sold over \$600,000 in merchandise. These 50 students are building the Club from a vertical, top-down perspective and do not receive any help. This is the first time in history that a club of students has been able to accomplish this.

Mr. Mann said there is a plan to make this Club an NCAA Division I Hockey Team by 2030, which will include a \$200 million arena. He understands that it appears there is no money to achieve this, this endeavor has been and will continue to be privately funded. Donors to this Club are not OSU donors, but people who have vested interest to see hockey grow across the country.

He said other university teams with whom OSU competes against are outperforming the Club for one simple reason: their donor pool has expanded. When Mr. Mann spoke with the OSU donor pool, he was asked repeatedly, “What is my return on investment (ROI)?” One thing the Club has been unable to do is create ROI for its biggest donors. With an entertainment district, he believes hockey will be able to provide revenue and cash flow for the University that has never been seen before. Many of the students involved in the Club are involved in Sports Management and Marketing, Architecture, and Hospitality. Mr. Mann said the Club plans to announce three, six-figure sponsors next year that have all been brought in by the students. The students of the University are building this Club single-handedly.

The Club will compete in the 2026 American College Hockey Association National Championships next week. The Club has been able to recruit former Division I athletes because it is the only club team in the country that provides full scholarships. The scholarship fund has been created with funds from donors. The OSU Foundation and its President, Ms. Blaire Atkinson, have been very supportive in helping to establish that fund. Mr. Mann said this scholarship fund is a big part of how the Club has been able to compete. He reiterated that this is a student-run organization, and there has never been a club team in the history of the U.S. that has gone to compete in NCAA Division I that was built by students. Mr. Mann said there are advisors and individuals on the board, such as himself, who provide general oversight of the Club, but never in history has something like this been accomplished by students. The student base will expand to about 70 students in the upcoming season.

Mr. Mann said the Club played against the University of Oklahoma’s club team last weekend and that game sold 15,000 seats at the BOK Center in Tulsa, OK. The Club also sold over \$100,000 in merchandise, including merchandise created and copyrighted by the Club.

In conclusion, he stated that the Club plans to announce an outdoor game to be held at T. Boone Pickens Stadium in January 2027 and desires to sell out the stadium. He hopes the drive for the

Club will continue so they can show how it will benefit the University and utilize different resources.

Chair Walker thanked Mr. Mann for his comments.

A-2 Comments by Mr. Carl Weinaug Regarding Lake Carl Blackwell

Mr. Weinaug said he enjoyed the presentations today and they increased his confidence that the administration will address his concerns; they are a public safety issue and deserve the attention of the Board. In the documents he previously provided to the Board, Mr. Weinaug outlined six points that he believes will save lives, can be accomplished by the administration, and cost the administration almost nothing. If there are any doubts on those points, he is happy to answer any questions.

He proposes the administration provide Mr. Brandon Neal, Director of Energy Services Administration, and Mr. Casey Shell, Chief Facilities Officer, with resources to calculate the potential flood depths if the dam at Lake Carl Blackwell bursts. A month ago, Mr. Neal stated he did not have the resources to do so. Mr. Weinaug would like to see the implementation of real-time dam monitoring equipment for early protection against a dam failure. He would also like to see the administration commit to the county's mitigation action plan. He said Mr. Neal and Mr. Shell are loyal employees and await the administration's direction. Mr. Weinaug said the dam is like a senior citizen who looks great for their age but needs extra attention and care. He asked that the dam be given the care it has faithfully earned.

Chair Walker thanked Mr. Weinaug for his comments.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Academic Affairs, Policy and Personnel Committee

No report. All recommendations made by this Committee were presented during the business of OPSU and OSU.

B. Audit, Risk Management and Compliance Review Committee

No report.

C. Facilities Committee

No report. All recommendations made by this Committee were presented during the business of NEO and OSU.

D. Finance Committee

No report. All recommendations made by this Committee were presented during the business of OSU.

E. Regents Steering Committee

1. Update on the CSC Presidential Search Process

Regent Taylor said the work of the CSC Presidential Search Committee continues to progress well. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9th on the Warner campus of CSC, where members will discuss and identify applicants to invite for interviews. The Committee is currently reviewing a pool of 191 candidates for consideration. Following the March 9th meeting, interview dates will be established, and those candidates selected for interviews will be notified accordingly.

IX. OTHER BOARD OF REGENTS' BUSINESS

D. Personnel Actions

1. Executive Session, if approved by the required number of members present, for the purpose of discussing/considering candidates for the position of Chief Executive Officer for the offices of the Board of Regents and Secretary of the Board. (Oklahoma Open Meeting Act §307B.1.)

Executive Session

Regent Taylor moved and Regent Baetz seconded that the Board convene in executive session at approximately 11:47 a.m.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

Open Session

Regent Baetz moved and Regent Taylor seconded that the Board convene in open session at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

2. Consider or take any action with reference to the matter contained in the immediately preceding item.

Regent Hall moved and Regent Taylor seconded that the Board hire Ms. Kristi Ice as the Chief Executive Officer for the offices of the Board of Regents and Secretary of the Board at an annual salary of \$225,000.

Those voting Aye: Board Members Arthur, Baetz, Callahan, Franklin, Hall, Poole, Taylor, and Walker. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Harrel. The motion carried.

Chair Walker congratulated Ms. Ice on her appointment.

(Ms. Ice was recognized with applause.)

Mr. Ramsey also congratulated Ms. Ice. He said it has been the honor and privilege of his life to serve as the Board CEO. He appreciates everyone's support throughout the years and said he will do his best to support President Hess and the OSU System in his new role.

Chair Walker thanked Mr. Ramsey for all his hard work over so many years.

(Mr. Ramsey was recognized with applause.)

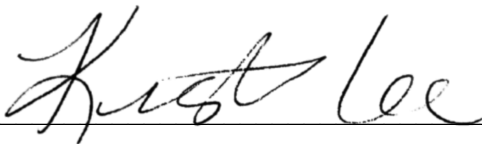
K. Meeting adjournment

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:07 p.m.

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE OKLAHOMA
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES

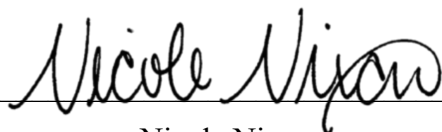
By: 

Rick Walker
Board Chair

ATTEST: 

Kristi Ice
Chief Executive Officer

Certified correct minutes subject to approval of the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges on April 24, 2026.



Nicole Nixon
Executive Administrative Assistant