## For immediate release

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## WINDS Trio Grant Program Renewed for Another Five Year Cycle

Altus, Okla. – Western Oklahoma State College-WINDS (Westerns Initiative for Developing Students), a US Department of Education Trio Grants Program was recently awarded funding for another five year cycle.

WINDS has been with Western for twenty (20) years and focuses on assisting first generation, low income, disabled and underrepresented students to successfully attend and complete their degree here at Western and then transfer to a four-year university.

WINDS educational services are heavily utilized at Western and demand is expected to increase as COVID-19 creates new accessibility and accountability issues for students. Western and WINDS is committed to successfully fulfill their vital mission of providing high quality education, support student success, and empower individuals to become productive members of local, regional, and global communities.

The five year grant awarded to WINDS is \$1,441,575 dollars.

Mike Pate is the Project Director on campus, with Bruce Wilson Assistant Director and Leigh Sheridan Student Success Specialist.

Western Oklahoma State College is the oldest original municipal two-year college still in existence in the state of Oklahoma. Its mission is to provide high quality education, support student success, and empower individuals to become productive members of local, regional and global communities. Western offers high-quality associate degrees and certificates to its five-county service area and beyond

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