

Western student attends Nigh Leadership Academy

Western Oklahoma State College sophomore Ambassador and cheerleader, Kinsey Wilmes, had the opportunity to attend the George and Donna Nigh Leadership Academy in Oklahoma City this month.

This was the 20th year for the academy, which is named after the former Oklahoma governor and his wife. The George and Donna Nigh Scholarship Program was established by the 1999 Oklahoma Legislature to provide scholarship opportunities to outstanding students who are preparing for careers in public service. Each college and university may nominate one scholarship recipient per year.

Wilmes traveled with student representatives from other Oklahoma public higher education institutions. The academy, held from February 8 to February 12, incorporated the motto "you can do it from here," highlighting the state's history of accomplishment.

"I learned so much about politics and local government that I didn't know before," Wilmes said. "I also learned the importance of staying up-to-date on current events and how I can be a better Oklahoman."

Attendees had the chance to engage with George and Donna Nigh, the Oklahoma Historical Museum, the Oklahoma

State Regents, Downtown Boathouse District, Oklahoma City Thunder, Oklahoma City Memorial, Oklahoma City legislators, Lt. Governor's office, Oklahoma Regional Food Bank, Express Personnel and Ranch, Tinker Air Force Base, OKC Rotary and Naturalization, Devon Tower and the Oklahoma Publishing Company.

Wilmes said the opportunity to attend the Nigh Leadership Academy was such a unique experience.

"I tried to ask every guest speaker at least one question," she said. "I knew the Nigh Leadership Academy gave me the opportunity to learn and become a better leader, so I

wanted to take advantage of that."

She said that each speaker and experience opened her eyes to the opportunities available in the state.

"We visited many businesses and spoke with individuals who weren't necessarily involved in politics, which allowed me to see opportunities I didn't even realize I had," Wilmes said.

Throughout the academy, Wilmes and other students had the chance to volunteer, meet state legislators and visit special spots across Oklahoma City, like the Oklahoma City Memorial. Wilmes said each visit was fun and engaging.



Kinsey Wilmes represented Western at the Nigh Leadership Academy this year.

"The information and tools I received from attending the academy will, without a doubt, help me in my future career," Wilmes said. "I believe I will be a

better leader, in academics and in life. I learned to step out of my comfort zone and network with individuals from across the state."

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. For more information, visit wosc.edu.

Lady Pioneers raise money for Breast Cancer Research Foundation



The Lady Pioneer Basketball team showed their support for breast cancer survivors this month in a unique way.

Each February, the Western Oklahoma State College basketball team wears pink uniforms to every home game throughout the entire month. This is in an effort to increase awareness about breast cancer.

This year, the team decided to sell pink T-shirts as a fundraiser.

The team raised \$600 to

donate to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

The team had a special presentation at the home basketball game on Monday, February 25, honoring those affected by breast cancer.

To learn more about Western Oklahoma State College athletics, visit wosc.edu/sports.

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Pioneer Baseball

February 27 | 2 & 4 p.m.

COMPETE AGAINST FRIENDS, FACULTY AND STAFF AT WESTERN'S FOURTH ANNUAL LIP SYNC BATTLE!

MARCH 7 @ 7 P.M.

Herschel H. Crow Fine Arts Center

Sign up with Maegan Martin by March 1

580.477.7875 | maegan.martin@wosc.edu



LIP SYNC BATTLE

WESTERN EDITION

Scholarship Applications

Due March 1 | wosc.edu/scholarships

Air Force Association Donates to AAFB Mighty 97th Scholarship

The Western Oklahoma State College Foundation, Inc. is pleased to honor the Air Force Association Chapter 342 and Bob Beers for their generous donations to the AAFB Mighty 97th Scholarship Fund. The WOSC Foundation established the AAFB Mighty 97th Scholarship Fund to provide support for active duty military at Altus Air Force Base. These funds offset the cost of fees and textbooks that the Department of Defense does not cover.

The Air Force Association is an independent, non-profit, aerospace organization. They seek to promote the United States Air Force,



Photo 1: Bob Beers (left) presented Larry Duffy and the WOSC Foundation, Inc. with a donation for the Mighty 97th fund. Photo 2: Riq Baldwin, AFA chapter president, Gary Beach, AFA board member, Larry Duffy, and Tangie McCall, AFA treasurer.

a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and the Air Force heritage. The AFA Chapter 342 has been part of Altus and the Altus AFB community for over

30 years. The group has 130 members comprised of individuals and community partners. These members strive to support the men and women of the US Air



Force and promote aerospace education.

Bob Beers is a long-time member of the executive council of the Altus Chapter #342 of the Air

Force Association. He served during World War II with the United States Army. He was married to the late Georgia Beers and retired from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol after 33 years. Civic and church duties are also an important part of Bob's life. He is a long-time member of the First United Methodist Church in Altus. He is also active with the Altus Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and an honorary member of Altus Rotary Club. Bob has been a great friend to Western and the WOSC Foundation. Both the AFA and Bob displayed their dedication to the men and women of the

Air Force by donating funds that assist these students in pursuit of a degree from Western. If you are interested in supporting the Mighty 97th Scholarship, please contact the Foundation office at 580-477-7706.

The Western Oklahoma State College Foundation provides the opportunity to invest in the future by offering many ways to give. The WOSC Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 organization and exists to generate support for the students and programs of Western Oklahoma State College. For more information on the WOSC Foundation and ways to give, visit wosc.edu/give.