

## Western Expands College Access Through Concurrent Enrollment

Two hundred and sixty-three juniors and seniors from 31 state high schools are enrolled this semester at Western Oklahoma State College. This is up from last year's enrollment by nearly 12 percent.

"We are excited about the significant increase in concurrent enrollment," said Dr. Chad Wiginton, Western president. "Last year, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education provided more flexibility in the way juniors and seniors can take college classes, and that has certainly been beneficial. The high school counselors and administrators have been very supportive, as well, which allows these students to get a jump start on college and ultimately save time and money."

Though some of the high school students come to the Altus campus to take classes, many of them take classes at their high schools through an interactive video format. These classes are taught by Western faculty members, but they are broadcast to off-campus high schools using cameras and TV monitors. High school students participate

in class and interact with faculty and students on campus.

Juniors and seniors can take the college classes without leaving their high schools.

"Concurrent enrollment through Western has been an awesome opportunity," said Payson Ramirez, Blair High School student. "After high school graduation, I will have earned over 30 credit hours, which will greatly accelerate my time working towards a college degree."

High schools participating in the concurrent-enrollment program at Western this year are: Altus, Anadarko, Big Pasture, Blair, Cache, Comanche, Cordell, Duke, Elk City, Frederick, Geronimo, Grandfield, Granite, Hammon, Hobart, Hollis, Indianola, Leedey, Lone Wolf, Mangum, Merritt, Mountain View, Navajo, Riverside, Sentinel, Snyder, Sweetwater, Tipton, Velma-Alma and home school students.

Mark Harmon, Hobart High School principal, said concurrent enrollment is a great opportunity for students to gain college credits

during their high school years.

"Hobart High School is very thankful for the partnership we have with Western Oklahoma State College," Harmon said. "It is a tremendous advantage for our students."

Overton said the classes will help students transition to full-time college students after high school graduation.

Duke High School student, Amber Bustos, was incredibly complementary of Western's faculty and staff.

"They are always willing to go above and beyond for students," Bustos said.

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.

## UPCOMING AT WESTERN

October 9: Second 8-week classes begin

October 9: Coffee and Canvas, 7 p.m.

October 15 – 19: Campus closed for Fall Break

October 24: Spring Enrollment Opens

October 27: Pumpkin Patch, 3 – 6 p.m.

October 31: BOO Bash, 4 – 6 p.m.

## Upward Bound Receives \$36,000 Grant

Western Oklahoma State College's Upward Bound program has been awarded a one-time supplement of \$36,774.

This award comes from the Department of Education.

"This award will be used to develop a mobile STEM Lab," said Terri Pearson, Western Vice President for Student Support Services. "It will be available to use anywhere on campus or at Upward Bound target schools."

Pearson said they were

notified of this grant opportunity this past June. All Upward Bound programs had the opportunity to receive additional STEM education funding, and Western submitted their proposal early in July.

"This award will provide resources to students who are pursuing a degree in the field of science and technology," she said.

The grant is a one-time award, but the mobile lab will be something Upward Bound students will enjoy for years to come.

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## Get Ahead. Get Enrolled.



Spring Enrollment opens on

# October 24

wosc.edu/enroll

## Western Competes in Cotton Pickin' Chili Cookoff



The Western Oklahoma State College Alumni Association and Staff Senate competed in this year's Cotton Pickin' Chili Cookoff on Saturday,

October 6.

Pioneer Guy, Western cheerleaders, and staff served Pioneer's Choice Chili to judges and those who attended the event.

The group won second place in the Large Booth Award!

For more information on Western events, visit [wosc.edu/calendar](http://wosc.edu/calendar).

## Western Faculty Present at Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges

Western Oklahoma State College's Science Department faculty member, Dr. David Goodman, presented at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Conference this past Friday.

Dr. Goodman presented on Global Collaborative Learning, which is an excellent tool.

Global collaboration engages students, solidifies students' understanding of

their role in a global economy, and results in lifetime friendships and global networking.

Dr. Goodman's presentation examined the what, why and how of global collaboration.

The Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges is comprised of 13 member institutions in 31 locations throughout Oklahoma. Member institutions provide a wide

range of quality, accessible and affordable educational programs for high school graduates and adults of all ethnic and economic backgrounds. Oklahoma two-year colleges are a powerful resource for economic and educational development providing relevant technical instruction in high-demand career fields. For more information about OACC, visit [okcommunitycolleges.com](http://okcommunitycolleges.com)