

Justin and Amy Abernathy Named Western's Newest President's Partners

Justin and Amy Abernathy are Western Oklahoma State College's newest President's Partners.

The WOSC Foundation, Inc. President's Partners Program is designed to enhance educational opportunities and student learning experiences by providing necessary funding for scholarships, program funding, endowments and other development for the college. Each President's Partner pledges an annual contribution to the WOSC Foundation, Inc. of at least \$1,000 to support college programs.

Justin and Amy have a long-standing history with Western. They both attended Western after high school, then continued their education at Oklahoma State University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Now, they are happy to be in southwest Oklahoma, raising their four children, Kason, Kenzie, Kreed and Kolter.

"Chad is a great friend of ours," Justin said. "We are incredibly excited about his new endeavor as Western's president."

Justin and Amy are active members of the Altus community, and are proud to have such strong ties to Western. Justin is a cotton farmer and Amy actively volunteers at Altus Christian Academy.

"The President's Partners program is just another way we can connect to the community," Amy said. "We are raising our children in southwest Oklahoma, and we are thrilled to support Western so that someday, our children will have the opportunity to continue their

education here."

Dr. Chad Wiginton, Western president, said he considers Justin and Amy part of the Pioneer family.

"When I think of the 'Pioneers' that have come before us, the words faith, family and community come to mind," Dr. Wiginton said. "Justin and Amy Abernathy embody this spirit in the way they are raising their children, working daily to sustain and improve a generational family farm, and giving back to our community in countless ways. We are truly grateful for their support of our President's Partners program and their Western pride."

The Western Oklahoma State College Foundation provides the opportunity to invest in the future by offering many ways to give. The WOSC Foundation,



From left: Larry Duffy, WOSC Foundation, Inc. executive secretary, Justin Abernathy, Kolter Abernathy, Amy Abernathy and Dr. Chad Wiginton, Western President.

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.

Southwest Oklahoma Unveils First of Its Kind Apprenticeship Program



From left: Lisa Griffith, CADC Head Start Director; Shannan Walton, OK State Director of Apprenticeship, U.S. DOL; Brent Morey, Executive Director CADC; Chad Wiginton, President Western Oklahoma State College; Michael Balderas, Assistant Head Start Director SOCAG; Jenna Morey, State Director of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning, OOWD

A first of its kind registered apprenticeship program will help job-seekers earn full-time wages while they receive certifications in childhood development has been unveiled in southwest Oklahoma.

The Community Development Corporation (CADC), based in Frederick, and Southwest Community Action Group, based in Altus, have teamed up with Western Oklahoma State College (WOSC) to offer job-seekers a way to earn certifications and full-time wages at the same time.

The program will allow apprentices to receive two years of on-the-job training as teaching assistants within Headstart programs. At the same time, those apprentices will attend WOSC in Altus to complete 18 hours of college credit and receive their Child Development Assistant (CDA) Certification.

"We are committed to expanding and diversifying apprenticeship throughout our state, said Jenna Morey, State Director of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning.

"Apprenticeship can be a game-changer for Oklahoma employers and for the careers of apprentices and we are excited to

see more apprenticeship opportunities take root in southwest Oklahoma."

Both community action agencies will cover the cost for apprentices to attend WOSC and receive CDA certification. Both agencies have also committed to continuing to support apprentices' education should they wish to continue on past certification to obtain an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree in education. WOSC hours gained through the CDA certification are transferrable.

"We continually have a need for qualified, caring teaching assistants to serve the children enrolled in our Head Start programs. We believe that this Registered Apprenticeship program will help us recruit and retain the workers we need while also allowing us to make a meaningful investment into the lives of our apprentices," said Brent Morey, CADC Executive Director.

"These programs came to fruition through the cooperation of a number of partners," said Michael Balderas, Assistant Head Start Director SOCAG. "We are particularly grateful to Western Oklahoma State College for working with us to create the curriculum we need in an online

format so that apprentices can work, learn, and attend to their families at the same time."

Both community action agencies have also worked closely with their local workforce development boards, the South Central Oklahoma Workforce Board and the Western Oklahoma Workforce Development Board.

This Registered Apprenticeship program was established through the cooperation of the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development, the U.S. Department of Labor, and WOSC.

Oklahoma Works is designed to increase the wealth of all Oklahomans through facilitating quality employment for workers and ready availability of highly skilled talent for business and industry. Oklahoma Works' strategic priorities are coordinated by the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development. The initiative was implemented by Gov. Mary Fallin and is a coalition of state agencies, educational institutions, businesses and other partners. Learn more at www.oklahomaworks.gov.



Meet the Pioneers!

Tuesday, November 6 | 6 p.m.
Western Oklahoma State College Gymnasium

MEET PLAYERS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE
DANCE-OFF WITH PIONEER GUY
SLAM-DUNK CONTEST
PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS
FREE HOT DOGS
FACE PAINTING



wosc.edu | 580.477.2000

Rotaract Students Volunteer at Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge



From left: Alex Shiplet, Randy Powell, Bryanna Froehlich and Elicia Shiplet.

Western Oklahoma State College Rotaract students volunteered at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Bison Auction on Thursday, October 18.

Students Randy Powell, Bryanna Froehlich and Elicia Shiplet attended the

event and had the chance to help the refuge.

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.