

WOSC and SWOSU Partner to Address Nursing and Teacher Shortages in Oklahoma

Western Oklahoma State College and Southwestern Oklahoma State University have partnered to increase collaborations in the critical fields of nursing and education. The partnerships signed on March 8 promote degree completion for students and enable both institutions to collaborate in these areas of critical need. The first of the two partnerships enable pre-education majors at WOSC to qualify for the Inspired to Teach Scholarship while at WOSC, transfer to SWOSU after completing an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts in Pre-Education and maintain their active status in the Inspired to Teach scholarship. This articulation agreement, supported by the Inspired to Teach scholarship, is a joint effort between SWOSU and WOSC to address the ongoing teacher shortage in Oklahoma. The second partnership provides a transfer pathway for students from WOSC in the Applied Science in Nursing (ADN) program to pursue SWOSU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program specifically for licensed registered nurses. The partnership will help support students as they continue their nursing educational journey from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree in nursing. It will also provide WOSC students with an Associate's degree in



WOSC President Dr. Chad Wiginton (left) with SWOSU President Dr. Diana Lovell following the signing of the articulation agreement.

Pre-Education the opportunity to complete a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at SWOSU. Our commitment during this critical time of need is to support Oklahoma in addressing its nursing and teacher shortages, ensuring that our healthcare and education systems are strengthened," said SWOSU President, Dr. Diana Lovell. "We would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Wiginton and WOSC for partnering with us on these meaningful agreements." The articulation agreements between the two institutions were signed by SWOSU President Dr. Diana Lovell and WOSC President Dr. Chad Wiginton at a ceremony held in the Loweta Chesser Conference Center at Western Oklahoma State College on March 8, 2023. Upon successful completion of required courses, eligible WOSC students will be able to complete their bachelor's degree at SWOSU.

UPCOMING AT WESTERN

- April. 13 | Reach Higher Enrollment Event | 1-6 PM
- April 13 | Hot Tea & Karaoke | Band Hall | 6-8 PM
- April 15 | Pioneer Shoot Out
- April 17 | WINDS Grant Aid Due
- April 19 | Cheer Clinic | wosc.edu/cheertryouts
- April 20 | 2000s Disney Trivia | Band Hall | 6-8 PM
- April 23 | Cheer Tryouts | wosc.edu/cheertryouts
- April 27 | Mystic Picnic | 11 AM - 1 PM | North Lawn
- April 29 | Alumni Hall of Fame Banquet

"With an agreement in place that provides a clear pathway for Western's nursing graduates into SWOSU's BSN program, the process is simplified, ensuring a smooth transition from one institution to the other," said WOSC President, Dr. Chad Wiginton. "With President Lovell's support, we are both working diligently to do our part in addressing the nursing shortage and providing quality healthcare employees for Western Oklahoma and beyond."

Interested students should contact their academic advisor. To learn more about SWOSU, visit swosu.edu and to learn more about WOSC, visit wosc.edu.



Dr. Chad Wiginton (left) and Dr. Diana Lovell (right) with two WOSC students, Karsyn McQueen and Kayla Peeler, who are following the pre-education pipeline to SWOSU.

CHANGES COMING TO WESTERN'S ONLINE BOOKSTORE SUMMER 2023

- No more \$25 book fee
- Each textbook must be purchased through Western's Online Bookstore or through an independent seller
- Financial Aid vouchers will be given through Western's Financial Aid office

*More information coming soon!

Rachel Randall named AFA Chapter 342 Teacher of the Year



Richard Baldwin, AFA Chapter 342 president presenting Rachel Randall with certificate.

Western Oklahoma State College faculty member, Rachel Randall, was named AFA Chapter 342 Teacher of the Year (9-12). Randall combines eight years of teaching experience and many years of outside work experience to give students a well-rounded view outside the classroom.

Randall is a Biology instructor at Western and teaches General Biology to high school students through a unique partnership with Southwest Technology Center (SWTC) in the Biomedical Science program. "I am proud to help bring these applied learning experiences to high school concurrent students at a college level," said Randall. Randall also teaches various biological science courses, including General Biology, Biology I and II, Botany, Zoology, and Medical Terminology, to both concurrent and traditional college students.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication from Tarleton State University, she has gained many years of experience that she brings to her students. Randall has farmed and ranched her entire life, worked in the oilfield reporting oil/gas and environmental issues, worked for the USDA, and returned to school to become a certified hospital lab technician. During her time as a lab technician, she taught primary and secondary science classes. She obtained her Master of Science in Forensic Biology and began teaching at Western in January 2022. "I think I bring my outside-world experience to the classroom and the lab. Only a few students learn from sitting through a lecture. I believe it requires hands-on experience and real-world applications," said Randall.

Randall begins each day with a quote by Rick Rigsby, "Everyday, ask yourself, how you livin'? Don't judge, show up early, be kind and make sure that the servant's towel you hold is huge and used."

Outside of teaching, Randall actively serves as a board member of the Oklahoma State Society of American Medical Technologists and the American Medical Technologist Continuing Education Committee. "It is essential to stay active in other fields so that I can bring application and knowledge back to my students," said Randall, "I am committed to meeting them where they are and guiding their progression to the next level."

The AFA Chapter 342, located in Altus, Oklahoma, recognizes some of the outstanding leaders at all levels at Altus Air Force Base and its supporting community. Many of these individuals are the best at what they do, and all of them have provided leadership to their peers, subordinates, and charges through both the outstanding execution of their expertise and their unfaltering example as to how to get the job done right!



Rachel Randall assisting student in Biology class.



Bob Oakley Day | April 29th



Western Oklahoma State College is excited to announce Bob Oakley Day and invite you to celebrate with us on Saturday, April 29th at 12 P.M. at the Western baseball field.

Bob Oakley was a 1970 graduate of Altus High School, where he was a three-year starting athlete in three sports. Oakley was awarded for his athletic accomplishments and was offered and accepted to play baseball on a scholarship for the 1971 Inaugural baseball team at Altus Junior College, now Western Oklahoma State College.

Fifty (50) years later, Oakley and his teammates were recognized and inducted into the Western Oklahoma State College Alumni Hall of Fame in 2021. After a cancer diagnosis in 2022, Bob Oakley passed away in December 2022. He did not allow cancer to define him; He allowed it to refine him. Bob leaves behind his wife Liz (Anderson) Oakley; two sisters: Brenda Beauchamp and Suzie Brock; several nieces and nephews; many friends and his teammates on the 1971 team.

Oakley's widow Liz will throw out the 1st pitch before the Pioneer baseball game on Saturday, April 29th, at 12 P.M. We hope to see you at the ballpark!



Members of the 1971 Inaugural baseball team at Altus Junior College during Hall of Fame banquet



WOSC President's Partners Welcomes Dillon and Katy Butchee



Left to Right: Larry Duffy, Executive Secretary for WOSC Foundation, Dr. Chad Wiginton, WOSC President, Katy and Dillon Butchee, Monica Taylor, Director of Development and Alumni

Western Oklahoma State College welcomes Dillon and Katy Butchee as new President's Partners. Dillon and Katy live in the Altus community and have two children, Boe and Josy. Dillon and Katy are Western graduates and both went on to obtain their Bachelor's and Master's degrees in agricultural economics and plant and soil science from Oklahoma State University. They are now both agents at Legacy Insurance Group. Dillon and Katy follow a long line of family members who attended Western Oklahoma State College.

Dillon's grandfather, Dee Butchee, served on the Board of Regents from 1990 - 1994. Dillon and Katy were both very active on campus, serving as Ambassadors and Katy playing on the Lady Pioneers basketball team. Dillon says of their decision to become President's Partners, "We are proud of Western and proud to be supporters. We want to be a part of giving back and helping the college be successful."

Dr. Wiginton, Western Oklahoma State College President, says of the Butchees, "Part of my journey at Western was being the sponsor for the President's Academic Leadership Team which we call the Ambassadors. In 2005 and 2006, I had the privilege of working closely with two young people who were fantastic representatives of the college and went above and beyond in every aspect of their positions. Dillon and Katy's love and passion for Western has never wavered and to this day they are still Ambassadors at heart. They are devoted parents and community members and are part of a thriving agriculture-based business. We couldn't be more proud of them and are honored they are part of our President's Partner program and Pioneer family." Western Oklahoma State College is thankful to the Butchees and all of the President's Partners for providing financial support above and beyond operational funding provided to the college by the Oklahoma Legislature. Katy added for those considering becoming a President's Partner, "Don't take for granted how important the college is for the community. It is a big part of what makes Altus successful. Being an instructor at Western for 7 years, I know first-hand the importance of community support."

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 President's Partner Program or other ways, you can support, visit wosc.edu/give or call our office at (580) 477-7706.

PIONEER ATHLETICS AT HOME

4/13/23 | softball | 2 PM
4/14/23 | baseball | 1 PM
4/15/23 | baseball | 1 PM
4/20/23 | softball | 2 PM
4/25/23 | baseball | 1 PM
4/27/23 | softball | 2 PM
4/29/23 | baseball | 1 PM

*Games are doubleheaders and subject to change due to weather. Make sure you check Western's social media pages for updates!

Ready, Set, Enroll!

Meet us at the Finish Line!

JOIN US FOR OUR ENROLLMENT EVENT!!

APRIL 13 | 1-6 PM

- Enroll for the summer and/or fall semester
- Grab dinner from 4-6 PM!
- All who enroll will receive a FREE T-shirt!
- Visit with advisors, faculty, staff, and current students
- Schedule an appointment with your advisor today!



WOSC.EDU/ENROLL | 580.477.2000



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JOIN US FOR THE 2023 PIONEER Shoot Out

**SATURDAY
APRIL 15TH**

Pryor Shooting Range
20029 E CR 169
Olustee, OK

TEAM ENTRY \$500

5 man team

INDIVIDUAL ENTRY \$125

10 team limit in each shoot.

Pre-register to secure your spot!

Morning slots must be filled first.

PRIZES

- HOA Male
- HOA Female
- 1st Place Team
- 2nd Place Team
- \$400 Tuition Scholarship

Highest overall male and female planning to attend Western in 2023-2024

EVENTS:

- 25 Trap Targets
- 25 5-Stand Targets

SIDE EVENTS:

50/50 pot | \$10/shooter/round

- Flurry
- Wolf Chase

Pre-register at
wosc.edu/pioneershoot
or by scanning the QR code



Questions about the event: 580.512.1625
Questions about sponsorships: 580.477.7784

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

PIONEER SPONSOR \$1,000

- Large Banner
- 1 Team Entry

GREEN & GOLD SPONSOR \$500

- Medium Banner
- 1 Individual Entry

MASCOT SPONSOR \$250

- Small Banner

Contact WOSC Foundation Office for a customized sponsor package.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE WOSC SHOOTING TEAM

Hosted by the WOSC Foundation, Inc.

8 AM	Registration begins
9 AM- 12 PM	Morning shoot
12 PM	Free lunch
1 PM - 4 PM	Afternoon shoot

Lunch provided by Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma



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