

Meet Western's new Child Development Instructor



Erin Sturgeon, Child Development Instructor

Meet Western's new Child Development instructor, Erin Sturgeon.

The Child Development program at Western is a completely online program in order to best meet the needs of our students. Most of their students already work in child development centers and attend college simultaneously. They are looking to gain knowledge that will help them best serve the children with whom they work while also furthering their careers. In just 18 college hours, students can earn a Child Development Assistant Certificate. From there, they can decide to take their education further with one of three associate degree options: Child Development, Infants and Toddlers, or Early Childhood.

Erin grew up in Fort Worth/Arlington, TX but she has been in Rocky, OK, for eighteen years. She did her undergraduate work at Oklahoma State University and received her master's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. She has been at Western for one wonderful month!

Why did you choose to work at Western? Several factors were at play in my decision to work at Western. One was certainly the idea of being on a college campus. Colleges are so alive with people taking action to improve themselves

in some way, that I am always energized when I am one in one. I love that I now get to be a part of this important step that students are taking for their futures.

What is your favorite aspect of Western? I don't know that I can say a favorite part yet, but one aspect that I am impressed with is a desire to be on the forefront of change. An example I have seen is being among leaders of colleges transitioning to a 100% online bookstore.

What advice would you give students to help them succeed?

When I worked with high school students, I always told them to make sure their professors know who they are from as early in the semester as possible. Their instructors will be impressed with their initiative and know who they are if/when they need help or have a problem. I also want students to know that they don't need to try to navigate college alone, and their instructors aren't their only resources. Colleges are staffed with people whose jobs are to help them succeed, and there are plenty of places for them to get help. Be it tutoring, counseling, or general guidance, they should take advantage of all the college has to offer.

Is there a specific person at Western who has made a difference in your life? It's only been a month, so I wouldn't quite say that anyone has changed my life yet, but I have been impressed with the faculty and staff as a whole. Not only has everyone been friendly, but many people have gone out of their way to be extra helpful.

What most are you looking forward to in your position?

My students are making careers of working with young children. The work they do will impact the lives of their students for years to come. I consider this opportunity to guide future educators an honor and a responsibility that I take very seriously.

UPCOMING AT WESTERN

Sept 22 | WINDS Fort Worth Trip

Sept 23 | WINDS BDay Bash | 12 PM | WINDS lab

Sept 29 | Coffee & Canvas | 6 PM | The Band Hall

Oct 1-31 | Find a Ghost in the LRC

Oct 6 | Pentathlon Organization Competition
6 PM | A wing

Oct 14-17 | Fall Break- Campus Closed

LRC Open House



Left to Right: Kaycee Finch- Testing Specialist, Magali Sanchez- Director of Learning Resources and Testing, and Gabby Garcia- LRC clerk



The Learning Resource Center (LRC) hosted an Open House on Tuesday, September 13th to showcase to students all the resources available. "We wanted students to visit the LRC and meet our wonderful staff," said Magali Sanchez, Director of Learning Resources Center & Testing.

This is Sanchez's first semester at Western and in her role as director. One of the biggest goals she has for the LRC is to create a space for students to feel welcome and eager to utilize the resources. Sanchez said, "This year I'm looking forward to seeing the LRC pivot and engage students in new ways. We also hope to foster a welcoming space where students can connect with one another and learn new skills. We're open to ideas and suggestions on how we can better serve our WOSC community."

Increase in enrollment for fall 22

Western Oklahoma State College is pleased to announce an increase in enrollment for fall 2022. The total student population rose to 1,304 which is an increase of 3.66% compared to last fall. Credit production hours increased 3.12% and full time equivalent (FTE) enrollment also increased by 3.13%. On a national level, community college enrollment has dropped over 20% since spring 2020. With rising tuition and fees and a strong economy, many potential students are choosing to enter the workforce. "At Western, we have worked very hard to stay affordable. Our board is always perceptive to the needs of our students and very conservative when it comes to adding costs," said Dr. Wiginton, WOSC President. Data continues to show that as educational attainment increases, so does an individual's earning capacity. Associate degree holders earn a median income 25% higher than those with only a high school diploma.

Western prides itself on the relationships built with local high schools through the concurrent enrollment program. This fall there are 389 high school students enrolled concurrently which is 13.4% higher than last year. High school seniors who meet the eligibility requirements are entitled to receive tuition waivers for up to 18 credit hours and high school juniors can receive tuition waivers up to 9 credit hours. Students are responsible for fees and related textbook costs. Dr. Chad Wiginton said, "Not only is concurrent enrollment a huge savings, it gives students the ability to ease into the college classroom while still under the watchful eye of high school counselors and parents. Our instructors do an outstanding job helping students with this transition."

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Student Spotlight

David Rodriguez Poggio

Hometown: Guatemala
Major: Physical Sciences and Technology
Why Western? I came here because one of my dreams was to be able to come to the USA to play basketball and study at a college. Western gave me this opportunity and I took it.
Activities at Western: Basketball and Hispanic Student Association
Favorite thing about your culture: I really like the way we celebrate holidays or birthdays, we use fireworks for all celebrations and it's a lot of fun, and the holiday meals.
What does Hispanic Heritage month mean to you? Well, I think that it is something very important for countries since most of them celebrate their independence day at this time and that is something very significant for the countries.

SPONSORED BY THE HISPANIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION

COFFEE and canvas

Sign up with Kayla by Sept. 27th in the activity office or at events@wosc.edu

SEPT. 29 AT 6 P.M.
THE BAND HALL
 \$5 for students
 \$15 for non-students



TEXT WOSCEVENTS TO 81010 FOR STUDENT ACTIVITY ALERTS

Get Social with Western!

