

## Reverse Transfer Degrees Offer Unique Opportunities at Western

Students across the state of Oklahoma have had the opportunity to complete their associate's degree through the reverse transfer program for nearly ten years. One of Western's very own did just that.

Reverse transfer is a statewide program for students who have completed at least 15 credit hours with a 2-year institution and moved on to another institution. Once they complete the required courses needed for an associate's degree, they can transfer their transcripts back to the 2-year institution they originally attended to receive their degree, all while they are working on their bachelor's degree.

Terri Pearson, Western Oklahoma State College Student Support Services vice president, said the reverse transfer program is something she has always seen as an incredible opportunity.

"Reverse transfer is a great opportunity to secure a degree at a community college, while a student is pursuing another degree elsewhere," she said.

"Securing an associate's degree ensures that credit hours do not lose value if a student has to postpone college classes for any period of time. All degrees can be listed on a résumé and are testament to a student's ability to persevere and finish."

She finally took that opportunity into her own hands this semester.

"I attended Western in the fall of 1977 after graduating from Duke High School," Pearson said. "I transferred to Southwestern Oklahoma State University after my freshman year to pursue a degree in education."

At that point, Pearson never completed a degree at Western. She took the credits earned at Western and went on to complete her bachelor's and master's degrees.

"My associate's degree from Western is over forty years in the making," she said. "Western holds such a special place in my heart, and it's exciting to have a degree from this institution that means so much to me."

Reverse transfer has

given students just like Pearson the opportunity to receive a degree from Western Oklahoma State College.

Lana Scott, Western Admission and Registrar director, has been tracking reverse transfer degrees at Western over the last five years.

"Roughly forty students have received reverse transfer degrees at Western during that time period," Scott said. "It is great to see so many students take advantage of this opportunity."

Pearson's degree is especially unique, because it is the first to bear Dr. Chad Wiginton's signature as president of the college. Pearson and Wiginton have a long history on campus, both working in the WINDS Department when the grant program first began on campus.

"I am probably more excited about this degree than I was when I earned my master's degree," Pearson said. "The most exciting thing of all is knowing that I was the first to receive a diploma with President Wiginton's signature. Chad



Dr. Chad Wiginton, left, presents Terri Pearson with her Western Oklahoma State College degree.

and I, together with the rest of the WINDS staff, built the grant program from a notebook up. Chad is leading Western in a way that makes me extremely proud to be his friend and a part of his executive team."

Reverse transfer degrees provide unique opportunities just like Pearson's. If you have completed 15 credit hours at Western Oklahoma State

College and moved on to complete a degree elsewhere, you may qualify to receive a reverse transfer degree. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 580-477-7717.

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.

## Bob Jones named New WOSC President's Partner

Harold Bob Jones is Western Oklahoma State College's newest President's Partner, but he has quite the history with the college and Western's president, Dr. Chad Wiginton.

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.

Jones currently works on campus as a Wellness Center staff, and has been in that position for nearly 10 years.

"I was born here in Altus in the 1940s," Jones said. "I have deep roots here. I attended Altus High School and graduated in 1959, then went on to attend Altus Junior College."

Jones continued his education at Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma, but he credits Altus Junior College, formerly known today as Western Oklahoma State College, for all he's accomplished.



Dr. Chad Wiginton, left, thanks Bob Jones for committing to Western's President's Partners Program.

"Today, I am able to help people become healthier on campus," Jones said. "Western is a fun place to work. It has excellent facilities and good, helpful people to work alongside. Becoming a President's Partner is incredibly important to me, because I know it will help students reach their goals."

Western president, Dr. Chad Wiginton, said he considers Bob Jones part of the Pioneer family.

"Bob Jones has a passion for Western and a deep desire to see people live a healthy lifestyle which makes him a perfect fit for our Wellness Center," Wiginton said. "For years

he has devoted his time and personal resources to improving our cardio and weight room facilities. Bob exemplifies a Pioneer work ethic and is a great role model for our students."

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](http://wosc.edu/give).

## UPCOMING AT WESTERN

January 9: Spring 2019 semester begins

January 16: Student Senate, 12 p.m., H-9

January 17: Welcome Back Bingo, 6:30 p.m., PHC

January 21: College Closed, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 7: Pioneer Preview

**W WESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE**  
**PIONEER PERKS**  
**CARD 2019 | \$10**

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- Benny's Mexican Food And Pizza – 10% Off Total Purchase (Excluding Alcohol)
- Billy Walker Carpets – 15% Off Carpet Cleaning
- Black Orchid Floral – Free Delivery or 10% Off In Store Item
- Castle Concessions / TRUTH Food Truck – \$1 off any combo
- Chicken Express – 10% off Total Purchase
- Elite Bulldog Auto Detail – \$25 off a full detail with steam cleaning
- Elite Nutrition – 15% off Total Purchase of Menu Items
- Fancy Nails – \$2 Off Full Set & \$2 Off Pedicure
- Gems Etc. – 10% Off All Regular Priced Items
- H&H Furniture – 10% Off Total Purchase
- Lazy C Western Wear – 15% Off Total Purchase (Sale Items Excluded)
- Life is a Batch – 10% Off Total Purchase
- Maurices – 20% Off Any Full-Priced Single Item
- Papa Johns – 30% Off Regular Menu Price Items. Not Valid With Any Other Offer.
- Rexco – 10% Off Regular Priced Gift Items
- Shear Excellence – 10% Off Any Aveda Product
- Southwest Tax – 20% Off Of One Year Income Tax Preparation Fee For New Clients
- Subway – (Altus Locations) 15% Off Every Meal Deal. Not Valid With Any Other Offer.
- Taqueria Hernandez – 10% Off Total Purchase
- WOSC Student Store – 15% Off Total Purchase

Available for purchase at:

Black Orchid Floral • H&H Furniture • Lazy C Western Wear • Shear Excellence • WOSC Alumni Office • WOSC Alumni Board Members • WOSC Student Organizations

[wosc.edu/alumni](http://wosc.edu/alumni)

# PIONEER BASKETBALL

January 17  
vs. NEO

5:30 | Women's Game  
7:30 | Men's Game