

## Healthcare and Western Oklahoma State College

In a recent opinion article, Gary Davidson of the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges highlighted the growing need for nurses in rural Oklahoma. Answering that call is the staff and faculty of the Nursing program at Western Oklahoma State College.

Western has offered an associate degree program for nurses since 1981. Last year, over 100 students graduated from Western with a nursing degree, including 28 students who completed the online LPN to RN program. The online program began in 2019 thanks to funding from a Telligen Community Initiative grant and is available to license practical nurses. Since it began, it has had great success. This



year, Learn.org recognized Western's program as one of the top online associate degree in nursing programs. When students

graduate from an accredited nursing school with an associate degree in nursing, they are fully prepared to provide high quality care

while having received the education needed to pass the registered nurse licensure exam.

In 2019, over 80 percent

of Western's nursing graduates successfully passed the professional nursing exam, the NCLEX, the passage of which is a requirement to become a registered nurse in Oklahoma. Beyond that, 97 percent of graduates are actively licensed RNs.

"We are extremely proud of our nursing program," said Chrystal Overton, Western vice president for academic affairs. "Through partnerships with local hospitals and various grants, Western is working to secure additional funding to support this high cost program. Western feels it is part of our mission as a community college to meet the workforce needs in healthcare for southwest Oklahoma."

For more information

on the Western nursing program of to apply today, contact Nursing Director Stacey Machado at Stacey.machado@wosc.edu.

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. For more information, visit wosc.edu.

## Concurrent Enrollment continues to Rise at Western

Western Oklahoma State College ended the fall 2019 semester with record breaking enrollment.

Thanks to the support of the Oklahoma Legislature, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have been able to reimburse colleges the tuition waived for seniors enrolling in up to 18 credit hours. Western's administration decided to take the concurrent program a step further, offering waivers to high school juniors, as well.

That caused a spike in concurrent enrollment last semester. Over 330 students in southwest Oklahoma enrolled concurrently at Western, which is a 35 percent increase from last year.

Those students came from 33 high schools, including Epic Charter Schools and local home school chapters.

enrollment is a huge benefit to the students in our service area," said Chrystal Overton, Western vice president for academic affairs. "The ability of students to complete college courses while in high school decreases the time to degree completion while also allowing students to leave college with less debt."

Overall, enrollment was up 1.14 percent for the fall 2019 semester. This is the first increase in enrollment the college has experienced since 2016.

"Every day our institution focuses on enrollment growth," said Dr. Chad Wiginton, Western president. "As the population of southwest Oklahoma continues to decline, this is an uphill battle for Western. However, the creativity of our campus coupled with a customer service mindset has us moving in the right direction. The majority

of Oklahoma colleges and universities saw a decrease in fall 2019 enrollment, so we are extremely proud of a modest increase."

For more information on concurrent courses, high school juniors and seniors are encouraged to visit with their school counselors or principals, or contact the Western Admissions office at 580-477-2000.

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. For more information, visit wosc.edu.

COMPETE AGAINST FRIENDS, FACULTY AND STAFF AT WESTERN'S FIFTH ANNUAL LIP SYNC BATTLE!

### MARCH 5 @ 7 P.M.

Herschel H. Crow Fine Arts Center  
Sign up with Maegan Martin by March 2  
580.477.7875 | maegan.martin@wosc.edu

## Justice Richard Darby named Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee

The Western Oklahoma State College Alumni Association is pleased to announce Justice Richard Darby, of Altus, as the 2020 Alumni Association Hall of Fame Inductee.

Justice Darby will be honored at the Hall of Fame Banquet in April in the Pioneer Heritage Center at Western Oklahoma State College. The evening will honor Darby's significant contribution to his community and the state of Oklahoma.

Darby attended Western from 1976 to 1977 before transferring to Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and then onto the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Darby has served as both a special judge and an associate district judge for Jackson county. He has also served as a judge in several southwest Oklahoma districts including Jackson, Tillman, Kiowa, Harmon and Greer counties.

In April of 2018, then Governor Mary Fallin named Darby to serve as a justice on the Oklahoma Supreme Court where he currently represents the 9th District.

Darby is married to Dana Darby, Ph.D., superintendent of Altus Christian Academy and Western Oklahoma State College Board of Regent Secretary. They have two children,



Ben and Jon.

The WOSC Alumni Hall of Fame, established in 1996, recognizes and honors Altus Junior College and Western Oklahoma State College alumni who, through leadership, character and hard work, have made exceptional contributions in their field, in their community, and at WOSC. This is the 25th year the Alumni Association has bestowed this honor.

More details on the event will be released at a later date. For any questions, please contact the Development and Alumni Office at 477-7706 or foundation@wosc.edu.

The Western Oklahoma State College Alumni Association joins together all communities of southwest Oklahoma in an effort to enhance the leadership of Western Oklahoma State College in higher education for the students of today and tomorrow. The Western Alumni Association represents outstanding students, staff, faculty, administration, and friends bonding together to instill integrity, pride and dedication to Western Oklahoma State College. For more information on joining the Western Alumni Association, visit wosc.edu/alumni.

# Scholarship Applications

## due March 2!

wosc.edu/scholarships

## Get Social with Western!

## UPCOMING AT WESTERN

- March 5: Lip Sync Battle, 7 p.m., Herschel H. Crow Auditorium
- March 11: Ambassador Applications Due
- March 12: Job & Career Fair in the LRC, 12 p.m.
- March 16 - 20: College Closed, Spring Break
- March 26: The Western Experience Enrollment Event