

Pearson & Tuttle named Outstanding Community Partner & Student

provided by Oklahoma CareerTech

Terri Pearson, former director of Upward Bound at Western Oklahoma State College, recently received the Outstanding Community Partner/Agency Award from the Oklahoma Career and Technical Education Equity Council.

She was one of 21 Oklahomans honored at the 25th annual Making It Work Day at the Capitol on March 28. Making It Work Day recognizes individuals who are committed to removing barriers to success for single-parent families by providing educational experiences for students beyond the classroom. The ceremony also recognized nontraditional students and members who received national honors for their efforts.

Individuals were recognized on the floor of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and presentations were made at a luncheon at the Oklahoma History Center.

Pearson worked with Upward Bound, a program focusing on preparing high school students for college, for several years and provided several POWER

Program students work-based learning opportunities, said Leslie Brown, WOSC POWER Program director, who nominated Pearson for the award. She taught students how to answer a phone properly, file, organize, manage their time and lead others, Brown said.

She mentored students, helped them overcome barriers and earn income and involved them in planning events, Brown said.

"Terri Pearson has been such a wonderful asset to the POWER Program," Brown added. "We truly appreciate her contributions."

Tanganiya Tuttle, a graduate of Western Oklahoma State College, recently received the Outstanding Student/Graduate Award from the Oklahoma Career and Technical Education Equity Council.

She was one of 21 Oklahomans honored at the 25th annual Making It Work Day at the Capitol on March 28. Making It Work Day recognizes individuals who are committed to removing barriers to success for single-parent families by providing educational

experiences for students beyond the classroom. The ceremony also recognized nontraditional students and members who received national honors for their efforts.

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When Tuttle entered WOSC's POWER Program in July 2016, she had an incarcerated husband, a daughter under a year old and was living with her grandmother, said Leslie Brown, WOSC POWER Program director, who nominated Tuttle for the award.

Tuttle completed 68 credit hours in five semesters and graduated in May 2018 with an associate degree in business administration, Brown said, and she also worked 15 to 20 hours a week at Trio Program Upward Bound as a part of the work-study program at WOSC.

"Tangie is currently working and is always keeping her eye open for other opportunities that could

help her advance," Brown said.

OkCTEEC is affiliated with the administrative division of the Oklahoma Association of Career and Technology Education. The council advocates for students pursuing nontraditional careers and for resources for educating single parents.

"OkCTEEC is so very proud and honored to host the Making It Work Day award ceremony and also very excited that Oklahoma's Legislature has the opportunity to recognize those students who were nominated for outstanding achievement. This day is about recognizing not only outstanding students, but also business and community partners, instructors, OkCTEEC members and outstanding leadership. The students have incredible stories to share about overcoming barriers, but without all the partners, sometimes the barriers may not be overcome. This day is a day of celebration for all those who have vested their time and energy into seeing students succeed and rise to the occasion," said KayTee Niquette, Work Prep and

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families coordinator at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

She serves as an adviser for OkCTEEC, along with Lisa French of the Department of Human Services and Gina McPherson of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

"OkCTEEC Making It Work Day at the Capitol is about making connections, reaching out to the community and recognizing our students who have pushed through many obstacles to make completion and employment goals a reality. It is a day to celebrate our administrators and instructors who focus on making it accessible for programs involved in the process," said Angela Barnes, OkCTEEC president and coordinator of the Student Success and Opportunity Center at Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City. "OkCTEEC Making It Work Day is a day to tip our hats off to our business partners for providing their valuable services and supporting our vision and purpose. It is a great day to let

our state leaders, legislators and Oklahomans see the faces of those who go over and beyond at making a difference in our state.

"Oklahoma Career and Technical Education Equity Council is an organization devoted to equity in education and employment for disadvantaged groups. I can't emphasize it more. We are dedicated to providing real-life experiences for our students, developing leaders and maintaining relationships within communities."

OkCTEEC's purposes include promoting and supporting career and technology education, increasing its effectiveness, promoting research in the field and in educational equity, developing leadership and advocating for equity and diversity.

For more information about OkCTEEC, visit www.cteec.org/. For more information about the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, visit www.okcareer.tech.org.

Badens Join WOSC Alumni Association



Randy and Paula Baden joined the Western Oklahoma State College Alumni Association as Lifetime Members. Randy is newly retired from his position as the head of IT at AgPreference, and Paula retired from teaching at Altus Intermediate School.

"Since we have recently retired, we wanted to become Lifetime Members," Randy said. "We thought it would be a nice tribute back to an institution that has meant so much to us." While Randy did not attend classes at Western, their family certainly has a strong connection with the school. Paula took an economics class at Altus Junior College in 1972 and both of Randy's sisters are graduates of Western. The Baden's daughter took an algebra class at Western while she was a student at Oklahoma State University.

"She was struggling with just this class, but when she came to Western she succeeded because of the smaller class size and personal attention," Paula said. "She grasped the concepts and was able to move on and become very successful."

The Baden's son also attended and graduated with an associate's degree in social science. "Western was important for our son to prepare for college," Paula said. "It is a more welcoming and comfortable place for students who aren't quite ready to move off."

Randy and Paula enjoy spending time with their grandkids and playing with their dog. Paula enjoys gardening and quilting. Since retiring, Randy spends his time farming and working on his "honey-do" list. He has been a member

of the Rotary Club for 26 years and both are faithful members of the First United Methodist Church. The couple hopes to travel more now that they have free time!

We want to hear your Western story. If you are interested in becoming part of the Alumni Association, contact Whitney Graham at 580-477-7784 or email at alumni@wosc.edu. 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.

UPCOMING AT WESTERN

- June 3: Summer Semester begins
- June 3: First 4-week summer classes begin
- June 26: Summer Enrollment Event
- June 27: First 4-week summer classes end
- July 1: Second 4-week summer classes begin
- July 4: Independence Day, College Closed
- July 29: Summer Semester ends
- August 15: Freshman Connection

WOSC Foundation, Inc. establishes Zeiser Scholarship

The WOSC Foundation, Inc. is proud to announce the establishment of the Edward L. Zeiser Scholarship Endowment. Initial funds for the scholarship endowment were presented in the spring of 2019 by Edward L. Zeiser, in honor of Altus Junior College as a beginning to his pursuit of a higher education.

While stationed at Altus AFB, Edward Zeiser began his initial studies at Altus Junior College, now Western Oklahoma State College. His desire to provide scholarship assistant to active duty enlisted men and women stationed at Altus Air Force Base was influenced by the memories and encouragement of the former faculty and staff with special memories of the late Cecil R. Chesser, Academic Dean and the late Laveta Vinyard, Registrar.

He enrolled in his first classes in 1966 with continued studies through 1969. The Edward L. Zeiser Scholarship Endowment



is a perpetual reminder of his dedication, integrity and commitment to higher education and his loyalty and unselfish service to his country. The scholarship is designed to provide funding to encourage student success to those that might have experienced hardships or doubts about attending college.

To be considered for selection, the candidate should be an active duty,

enlisted airman with a rank of E4 or below stationed at Altus AFB. The recipient(s) should be pursuing an Associate Degree in any academic area of study.

For more information on planned giving, contact Larry Duffy, Western Oklahoma State College Foundation, Inc executive secretary, at 580-477-7706.

Enroll for Summer classes today!

wosc.edu/enroll