

Western Dedicates Purple Heart Parking Spaces

Western Oklahoma State College is excited to announce the dedication of new parking spaces on campus for Purple Heart recipients.

Last spring, the Western WINDS group was traveling and made a quick stop on the road. They saw designated parking spaces for military families, and the idea to create specific parking spaces for Purple Heart recipients was born.

"As retired military, I am always looking for ways to help military families and individuals," said Bruce Wilson, WINDS Academic Specialist. "When I noticed those parking spaces on our WINDS trip, I loved the idea and ran with it."

Wilson said the opportunity to provide Purple Heart parking spaces is a free one; he did a quick Google search and found

all of the information needed to start the process. He then worked with Western's Student Support Services to finalize all of the details.

"In my mind, giving up a few parking spaces is such a small sacrifice for someone who has sacrificed so much for our country," Wilson said.

Nestled in southwest Oklahoma, Western Oklahoma State College has a long-standing tradition of partnering with the Altus Air Force Base to provide opportunities for military students and families. This year alone, the WOSC Foundation, Inc. has established the Mighty 97th Scholarship Fund and the Edward Zeiser Scholarship Endowment to help military students attend Western.

Besides scholarship opportunities and the newly

established Purple Heart parking, the college is also planning a military lounge for students, families, and retired military to use as a space to study, relax, and visit with friends.

"It is indeed an honor to pay tribute to this very special population," said Terri Pearson, Western Vice President for Student Support Services. "I commend Bruce Wilson for his service and for bringing this opportunity to our campus. Western Veterans, Wilson and Kenny Mendez-Diaz have agreed to spearhead the military connected student success effort for Western's military students and families."

For more information regarding military opportunities at Western, contact the Student Support Services office at 580-477-7708.



From left: Bruce Wilson, Kyle Bridges, Sr. Vice Commander, VFW Post 4876, Altus, Joe Roman, Commander, VFW Post 4876, Altus, Kenneth Mendez-Diaz, Upward Bound Director, Terri Pearson, and Kenneth Hall, Western student, attended the dedication of the new Purple Heart parking spaces.


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.

WELLNESS SYMPOSIUM & HEALTH FAIR

JUNE 27 | 8:30A - 5:00P
WESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE



Hosted by: Great Plains Literacy Council, Jackson County Health Department, & Western Oklahoma State College

Over 300 Students Graduate from Western

Over 300 students graduated from Western Oklahoma State College this year. Western faculty and staff were thrilled to congratulate the graduates as they walked the stage at commencement on May 10.

Over 1,500 people attended this year's commencement ceremony to cheer on their student. This year's ceremony was a little bit different than those in the past, highlighting three student speakers, instead of one commencement speaker.

"For my first graduation as President of Western, I wanted to do something outside of the norm," said Dr. Chad Wiginton, Western President. "I have been an employee of this institution for almost 18 years, and the students that we serve are the reason I continue to be excited about going to work. The opportunity to impact each and every

student that walks the halls is a tremendous blessing, and I am so thankful to be a part of a team that is all about changing lives. So, I wanted our guests to have the opportunity to hear from a few of our students that have inspired me, and I knew would inspire them."

This year's graduating class was one of the largest in the college's history, and included the largest nursing class, totaling 102. Seven students graduated with a perfect grade point average of 4.0, and over 50 students graduated with honors.

"I am so proud of these honor graduates," said Chrystal Overton, Western Vice President for Academic Affairs. "At Western, many of our students are nontraditional with families, jobs and an array of responsibilities, therefore it is even more impressive that so many have been able to graduate with honors."



President Wiginton said commencement is a time for reflection, and forward-thinking. It's a time to look back on a successful academic year, and look forward to all the great things on the horizon.

For more information on Western Oklahoma State College, and how to apply and enroll, visit wosc.edu/enroll.

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Board of Regents

June 3 | 6:30 p.m.

Jackson Joins WOSC Alumni Association

Kristie Jackson is Western's newest Lifetime Alumni member.

Jackson graduated from Western Oklahoma State College in 2016 with her associate's degree, majoring in business administration and medical office assistant. When she began her college career, she was a work-study in the Math department.

She then moved to the Upward Bound Secretary position, and served as the secretary for the Vice President of Student Services. She said she enjoyed working in student services because of the interaction with students and getting to be part of the various activities on campus.

Jackson was also the Student Senate Sophomore Class Secretary, involved with the WINDS program, and Upward Bound. After graduation, Jackson attended Wayland Baptist University and graduated in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a

specialty in human resources management.

"It was a long time coming for me to become a Lifetime Member," Jackson said. "Western has a piece of my heart and always will."

Her current position as the Administrative Secretary and Human Resources coordinator at the Great Plains Youth and Family Services provides her opportunities to help others succeed. She said she loves that she is able to direct others to Western when they are interested in pursuing their education.

"As a non-traditional student, Western was always so supportive of me," Jackson said. "The faculty and staff did not make me feel like I was any different from the other students on campus. No matter what you need, there is always someone there to help."

Jackson has a five-year-old son, Zayden. They enjoy hanging out with their family and friends, playing t-ball and having dance parties. They also enjoy



spending time at the lake. If Western has left an impression on you consider joining the Alumni Association today. 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

Enroll in Summer Classes today!

wosc.edu/enroll