

Western Oklahoma State College receives grant for Rural Nursing Project

Western Oklahoma State College announced today it has received a \$49,298.00 grant from Telligen Community Initiative (TCI), an Iowa-based private charitable foundation.

These funds will support the Western Oklahoma State College Rural Nursing Workforce Strategic Initiative, with hopes to increase the registered nurse workforce throughout rural western Oklahoma, where the shortage is more acute than in urban areas.

This project will address the RN shortage by providing a one-year, on-line curriculum to allow LPNs to get the classroom courses required without taking a leave of absence from work. While the curriculum online will be

identical to the classroom program, the clinicals will be held at times more conducive to working LPNs, including nights and weekends. Western Oklahoma State College is excited to collaborate with a variety of institutions in the clinical portion of the program, including facilities in Duncan, Lawton, Elk City, Altus, and Clinton, Oklahoma, and Wichita Falls and Vernon, Texas.

“Western is excited to partner with the Telligen Community Initiative (TCI),” said Chrystal Overton, Western Vice President for Academic Affairs. “We believe their vision aligns perfectly with Western’s mission and goals.”

TCI’s mission is to

initiate and support innovative and forward-looking health-related projects aimed at improving health, social well-being and educational attainment.

“Funds from this grant will be utilized to support Western’s Nursing program’s new LPN to RN on-line track,” Overton said. “This new addition to our Nursing program will help to increase the RN workforce throughout rural western Oklahoma which is vital with the increasing shortage of RNs.”

The Western Oklahoma State College Rural Nursing Workforce Strategic Initiative was one of only 20 grants selected for TCI’s 2018 Colorado and Oklahoma funding. TCI received more than

213 grant requests for the grant cycle, awarding a cumulative total of \$867,009 (\$441,061 to Colorado and \$434,948 to Oklahoma).

“The grant funding will help support the expanding nursing program in meeting many of its strategic planning goals,” said Stacey Machado, Western Director of Nursing Education. “We will increase computer access to our distance learners, decrease some of the financial expense to our students in the online program, and facilitate the assessment and redevelopment of the nursing program curriculum in an effort to prepare the graduates from the program in meeting the complex health care needs of today.”

Telligen Community

Initiative awards annual grants through a competitive application and review process. TCI works to support projects in the priority funding areas of health innovation, health care workforce development and access to care for the underserved. Since 2013, TCI has awarded more than \$6.8 million to nearly 180 organizations in Iowa, Illinois, Oklahoma and Colorado.

The Western Oklahoma State College nursing staff is thrilled to offer such a unique program to the southwest Oklahoma area. This program was made with the rural registered nurse shortage in mind, and it will hopefully combat that shortage, and allow for more individuals to

transition from LPN to RN while still contributing to the workforce.

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.

JIM HOLLAND MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

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Payton Sirmons Named Newest Western Lifetime Alumni Member



From left: Payton Sirmons, Karyl Gray, and April Sirmons are all Western Lifetime Alumni members.

The Western Oklahoma State College Alumni Association is pleased to announce Payton Sirmons as the newest Western Oklahoma State College Lifetime Alumni member.

Payton is a third-generation WOSC Alumni Association member and a recent graduate of Western. She graduated in May 2018 with an associate’s degree in behavioral science. She plans to attend the OU Health Science Center in the fall to pursue a

bachelor’s degree in speech pathology. Payton posed for her picture with her mom, April Sirmons, and her great-aunt, Karyl Gray. Karyl has worked to establish a legacy of Lifetime Alumni members here at Western.

“In my mind, giving back to Western by becoming a lifetime member is such an easy decision,” Karyl said. “I’m lucky to have a family filled with Pioneers and lifetime members. We are thankful

for all the college does for our community.”

Besides Payton, April and Karyl, the Sirmons family has X other Lifetime Alumni Members.

We have many families who have joined the Western Oklahoma State College Alumni Association. If you are interested in joining, contact Whitney Graham at 580-477-7706, visit the website at wosc.edu or email us at alumni@wosc.edu.

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