

## Western Opens new Veteran's Lounge



Front row from left: Dennis P. Sweigart, Linda Pinkham, Debbie Hurd, Erica Wilson, Jeff Bourgeois, Jamie Morgan  
Back row from left: Ken Pike, Larry Hurd, Gerrid Kendrix, Peter Burbank, Chad Wiginton, Kenny Mendez-Diaz, and Bruce Wilson

Western Oklahoma State College is excited to announce the newest addition to campus, the Veteran's Lounge, honoring active and/or reserved service members and veterans. The lounge is located in A-20 and will be open Monday-Friday from 8:30 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.

Spring of 2019, several Western employees attended the Oklahoma Military-Connected Student Success Conference at the Oklahoma of University. During the event, they listened to veteran speakers and visited OU's veteran's lounge. "This sparked an interest to have a place on Western's campus to help veterans feel at ease and a sense of belonging, said Terri Pearson, vice president of Student Support Services. Under Pearson's leadership and a team made up of two veterans on campus, Bruce Wilson, assistant director of WINDS and Kenny Mendez-Diaz, director of Upward Bound, the brainstorming and planning began.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not

to utter words, but to live by them." "I would hope this lounge will convey how the staff and faculty of Western Oklahoma State College truly feel about the veterans living in our surrounding community. It was my pleasure to assist in its creation", said Bruce Wilson.

"When our Vice President of Student Support Services, Terri Pearson, first mentioned this to me last year, I was eager to start this project. It was truly an honor to be a part of the intel-gathering, reconnaissance, phase planning, rehearsal and execution of this mission. Serving our country has been my biggest honor and having been a part of the Veterans Lounge project feels like a reward to me. I have no doubt that our veteran students and members of our community, active and retired, will feel gratitude for what Western and its employees have given them as a way of saying Thank You for Your Service", said Kenny Mendez-Diaz.

Western has many faculty and staff on campus who have served our

country. Those include Bruce Wilson-PSI(FMF), 20 years, Kenny Mendez-Diaz-SFC, US Army, 13 years, serving four 12-month deployments to Iraq and two to Afghanistan, Timara Rex-Padgett- CPT Army Nurse Corps, IRR, 8 years, Hunter Sawders- MAJ, USAF for 25 years, Jeff Bourgeois-TSgt / E-6, USAF, 20 years, Stewart Gay- TSgt, USAF 19, 13 years active duty and 11 years active reserve, Stacey Machado- SPC-P, US Army, 4 years, Linda Pinkham- MSgt, USAF, 24 years, and Kheela Smith- Maj., 22 years, US Army.

All six military branches are represented in the lounge showcasing their seals, with the newest addition of the United States Space Force. Another beautiful focal point in the lounge is a large painting of an eagle with the American flag. During the 2009 commencement ceremony, speaker, Richard Hight, painted the beautiful piece while speaking and donated it to Western.

The lounge is fully equipped with computers, printing capabilities, Wi-Fi, a big screen TV and coffee. The free coffee is courtesy of the WOSC Foundation President's Partner Program. Reserved Purple Heart parking can also be found on campus. Beginning in November, the Region 11 VA representative, Jamie Morgan, will have an office located on campus in A-16 on Wednesdays from 9 AM - 3 PM. He will be available to meet with veterans to help with any benefits and education claims.

Western is pleased to have the opportunity to provide a place for our servicemen and women to enjoy while they are on our campus or simply looking for a place to fellowship. We hope you can stop by soon!

### UPCOMING AT WESTERN

- October 5: National M&M day
- October 16-19: Fall Break
- October 21: Research Paper Writing Workshop- LRC 12 PM
- October 22: Enrollment Event
- October 24: Pumpkin Patch | 3-6 PM
- October 27: Flu Clinic
- October 29: Pentathlon Competition
- October 30: Campus Wide Trick or Treat & Costume Contest

### SECOND 8-WEEK CLASSES BEGIN

*October 13th*

**ENROLL TODAY!**

## SPRING 2021

**ENROLLMENT  
OPENS**

**OCTOBER 22**

## FAFSA 21-22 Applications now open

"I applied for FAFSA on October 1st my senior year, which helped me qualify for more free money! After my bill is covered, the extra money I receive goes towards rent!"

**High School:** Bray-Doyle  
**Involvement at Western:** Ag Ambassador and rodeo team  
**Why Western:** "I wanted to go straight to OSU and had never heard of WOSC, but stopped by the info table at a college fair in Duncan. Then when you guys came to my high school, I made my decision"

**KYLEE PATTERSON FRESHMAN**

**APPLY FOR FAFSA TODAY!**

FAFSA applications for 21-22 are now open!! The sooner you get your application in, the more free aid you will receive (if you qualify)!

Freshman, Kylee Patterson from Bray-Doyle, knew the importance of filling the application out the day it opened!! She completed her application on October 1st, her senior year, which gave her money to use!

Thanks to the low cost of Western's tuition and fees, she now has money left over each semester that she uses to pay her rent!!

When asked why she chose Western, Kylee said it was thanks to the Western Ambassador team at a college fair! Her plans were to go straight to OSU, but decided to stop at Western's table to get information! She had never heard about Western! After the Ambassador team visited her high school, her decision was made!

While on campus Kylee has made the most of her time! She is an Ag Ambassador and a member of the rodeo team! We are so happy Kylee chose to be part of our Pioneer family!! Make sure you complete your FAFSA, as soon as possible.

For more information about FAFSA, contact our financial aid office at 580-477-7709! For more information about joining our Pioneer Family, contact the office of recruitment at 580-477-7743!

## Reconnect and Enroll

**OCT. 22ND | 1 - 6 P.M.**  
**PIONEER HERITAGE CENTER**

**JOIN US FOR OUR SPRING ENROLLMENT EVENT!**

- Enroll for the spring semester
- Visit with advisors, faculty, staff and current students
- Grab dinner while you're here
- All who enroll will receive a FREE T-shirt!

**WOSC.EDU/ENROLL | 580.477.2000**

## Reach Higher Week on Campus

Reach Higher is teaming up with Western for a week of events to celebrate Reach Higher Week! The Reach Higher program is designed to help adults who have earned some college credit complete a degree while balancing family, work, and financial obligations.

To kick off the week, there will be a spring enrollment event, October 22nd from 1 PM-6 PM in the Pioneer Heritage Center. Advisors will be available to enroll for spring 2021 and representatives from financial aid, testing, and admissions will be available for any questions. Students will be able to test and enroll. First time students must bring their official HS

transcript and ACT scores. All students that enroll will receive a free t-shirt. Dinner will also be available.

Saturday, October 24th there will be an information table at the Pumpkin Patch from 3 PM-6 PM to answer any questions about re-connecting to your education and enrolling.

Lastly, Western will be offering Reach Higher extended hours on Tuesday, October 27th, staying open until 6 PM.

For more information about Reach Higher on Western's campus, contact Emily Cox at 580-477- 7940.

## Pioneer Preview

**NOV 5TH | 9 AM- 12 PM**

Spend a day on campus to learn why you should join our Pioneer family!

- Free t-shirt
- \$100 tuition waiver
- Meet faculty & staff

**Register at [wosc.edu/pioneerpreview](http://wosc.edu/pioneerpreview)**

