

Fall Semester is off to a Fun Start

Classes have begun and students enjoyed a week full of fun activities during Welcome Week. The student activity offices planned many activities throughout the week for students to meet new friends.

Monday- Party at the Point
 Tuesday- Bowling Night
 Wednesday- Movie Night
 Thursday Day- Game Night
 Friday- Parking Lot Party

All events were free for students and over 100 Pioneers attended each night!



From left to right: Tiona White, Madison Scallion, Raquel Quihui, Raigan Rodrigues, Vastina Chea, Caroline Gaye



From left to right: Zoe Grubaugh, Baylee Pence, Holley Garton, Ashlynn Majors



Students enjoying the blow up slide!
 From left to right: Joi Chappel, Lilyana Gonzales

UPCOMING AT WESTERN

- Aug 29 | Chad Cargill ACT Prep | 8: 30 AM | PHC
- Aug 30 | TI-84 Calculator Training | 1 PM | WINDS Lab
- Aug 31 | Welcome Back Bingo | 6 PM | PHC
- Sept 4 | Labor Day | Campus Closed
- Sept 6 | WINDS Finaid Workshop | 1 PM | WINDS Lab
- Sept 7 | WINDS Finaid Workshop | 1 PM | WINDS Lab
- Sept 14 | Scooterball Competition | 7 PM | Gym
- Sept 20 | Note Taking Workshop | 12 PM | WINDS Lab
- Sept 28 | Coffee & Canvas | 6- 8 PM | Band Hall

WELCOME BACK PIONEERS!!

UpBound Visits New Orleans for End of Summer Trip

TRIO Upward Bound had an eventful summer taking 20 well-deserving students on the end-of-summer Top 20 trip to New Orleans, Louisiana!

While there, the group experienced and learned many things! On their first day in New Orleans, they went to the Audubon Zoo! The Audubon Zoo has an award-winning Louisiana Swamp and Jaguar Jungle! Afterward, they enjoyed Mulate's Cajun Restaurant for a wonderful dinner and a night of dancing!

On their second day, the group went to see the National World War II Museum, which was full of rich history and educated the students on the true impact of the war. Then they got to explore Mardi Gras World and took a tour where they learned all about the history of Mardis Gras and the floats used in the parades!

Later the "Roland Through New Orleans" bus tour taught them all about the history of New Orleans. To round up the night, the group went on a Ghost Tour through the French Quarter that taught them more about the history of the French Quarter and the people who once called New Orleans their home. On day three, they started with a tour of the beautiful campus of Tulane University. They then went on a swamp tour, saw the gorgeous plants and wildlife, and even held a baby alligator! To finish out day three, the group went to the Whitney Plantation Guided Tour, where they learned about the plantation's history as well as the history of slavery in Louisiana.

On the group's last day, they toured the University of New Orleans and got to experience the "Katrina Tour."



From left to right: Front row - Journey Garcia, Cloey Taylor, Ashlyn Rothchild, and Hayden Kessler. Second row - Sarah Buckew, Bella Puentes, Emely Gutierrez, Bayli Puentes, Kymberly Ponce De Leon, Reality Atkins, Julie Pendergraft, Karely Mingura, Alexia Bermudez, and Kimberlie Borrego. Third row - Mattie Brown, Payton Walker, Bruce Wilson, Brayden Breezee, Trenton Ervin, Harmony Birmingham, Jaden Dean, Matthew Jensen, and Jaxon Wright.

Driving all over the areas greatly affected by Katrina, the tour guide educated the students about the significant impact Katrina had on the city of New Orleans. The group then packed up and headed back home!

33rd Annual Jim Holland Memorial Golf Tournament held August 12, 2023

The 2023 Annual Tournament will provide approximately \$18,000.00 in additional funds to the WOSC Foundation Jim Holland Memorial Scholarship Endowment. This year's benefit will increase the endowment to nearly \$380,000.00, with only the interest earned from the endowment providing scholarships on an annual basis.

The 2023 Tournament Champion Team was Team McMahan, sponsored by Frazer Bank, winning with a score of 55 – an unbelievable score of 16 under par. Team members included Kyle McMahan, Jake Wyatt, Barry Kille, and Braddock Abernathy.

There were nine Prize hole winners winning a dozen Titleist PROVI high-quality golf balls each.

Over the 33 years of tournament play, teams have evolved from three generations of golfers. Many of our teams began with father and son groups, and currently, teams have consisted of grandchildren stepping up to fill a team. The tournament is about more than golf. It is about fellowship, family, scholarships, and a 33-year heritage of golf on the same course year after year.

Jay Holland, the son of the late Jim Holland, was 24 when he played in the first tournament to honor the memory of his dad. Jay plays every year with his now 22-year-old son, Carter Holland.

The annual tournament has received financial support on a continued basis from local businesses, longtime friends, and former students of the late Jim Holland. Linda Holland Copeland, who has never missed a tournament, is always moved by the continued support of the Jim Holland Memorial Scholarship Tournament.

The WOSC Foundation would like to thank our numerous sponsors and Greg Daugherty at the Greens of Altus for hosting our tournament.

The Golf Ball Drop was held at the conclusion of the tournament. One hundred golf ball tickets were sold at \$100 each. Fifty percent of the proceeds go to the Jim Holland Scholarship Endowment, and the remaining 50 percent goes to the winner of the golf ball drop.



2023 Winning team. From left to right: Carter Holland, Braddock Abernathy, Linda Holland Copeland, Kyle McMahan, Barry Kille, Jake Wyatt, Jay Holland, Dr. Chad Wiginton, WOSC President

The Jeff Wilmes Family has participated in the golf ball drop since its inception five years ago by purchasing a total of ten tickets and designating them to ten not-for-profit charitable organizations in the community. This year, the winning ticket was for ball #23, purchased by Wilmes Chevrolet-GMC and designated to the ALTUS SALVATION ARMY!!!

Congratulations to the Altus Salvation Army, and a big THANK YOU to the Jeff Wilmes Family and Wilmes Chevrolet-GMC! We are grateful for your support of the WOSC Foundation, Inc.

WOSC Agriculture Receives Research Grant



Western Oklahoma State College is proud to partner with Oklahoma State University, Northern Oklahoma College, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Louisiana State University, receiving grant funding from the National Science Foundation to focus on the effects of climate change in rural communities throughout the United States due to their strong dependence on natural resources. This project will substantially advance rural climate resilience research and generate lasting improvements in rural STEM opportunities.

This NSF award is part of a \$56 million investment in 11 projects, spanning 21 institutions in 19 jurisdictions through NSF's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). "This is an amazing opportunity for Western students to collaborate with other college and

university students on research involving an issue that is vital to southwest Oklahoma.

The National Science Foundation has a long history of innovative research and we are pleased to be a part of this consortium that will focus on natural resources," said Western President Dr. Chad Wiginton.

This initiative aims to involve rural communities in collaboratively developing frameworks that enhance their climate resilience. The project will involve assessing the effects of climate change and envisioning scenarios for community resilience. Additionally, it seeks to broaden opportunities in the fields of social, economic, and STEM workforce development, particularly for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds. This endeavor involves establishing partnerships spanning across Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Nebraska.

"The WOSC Ag Department is excited about the opportunity to work alongside faculty from OSU, NOC, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln, and LSU. Components of the project research will take place in six focus counties/parishes (in Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Louisiana) including rural Jackson County, OK, and provide hands-on research opportunities for WOSC Agriculture students as Rural Scholars. WOSC Agriculture students selected for the research project will be awarded tuition scholarships and summer research stipends," said Dr. Jennifer Hammack.

Western Among Beneficiaries of Enhanced Network Connectivity



The National Science Foundation (NSF) has bestowed a significant grant of \$1,179,147 upon the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) and OneNet to fortify campus cyberinfrastructure through the Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC*) program. This transformative grant aims to extend the reach of the OneOklahoma Friction Free Network (OFFN), fostering technological advancement across academic institutions. Western Oklahoma State College (WOSC), situated at the heart of Western Oklahoma, stands out among the beneficiaries of this pioneering initiative.

In collaboration with OneNet, OSRHE secures its fourth CC* grant to expand the OFFN network, amplifying its capabilities and benefits. Administered by NSF's Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure, the CC* grant program strategically invests in enhancing campus-level cyberinfrastructure, catering to the needs of scientific applications and research endeavors.

The grant, spanning a two-year cycle, is poised to empower several educational institutions, including Mid-America Christian University (MACU), Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU), Oklahoma State University Biomedical Imaging Center (OSU-BIC), Rose State College (RSC), and notably, Western Oklahoma State College (WOSC).

These campuses will gain access to an enriched OFFN network connection, paving the way for groundbreaking advancements in various scientific disciplines.

OFFN is an innovative research network that operates at 10 and 100 Gbps, delivering dedicated pathways to the internet and research networks. Unlike conventional internet routes, OFFN presents an accelerated route, enabling researchers to seamlessly transmit data at remarkably higher speeds. This infrastructure revolutionizes the landscape of scientific exploration by providing an efficient platform for data-intensive projects.

The CC* project's impact will reverberate across an array of scientific domains, including cybersecurity, natural science, biomedical imaging, nursing, and STEM-related education. With these upgraded connections, researchers and educators at the newly connected institutions will be poised to collaborate and innovate on a grand scale, pushing the boundaries of what is achievable in their respective fields.

In Western Oklahoma, the connectivity at Western Oklahoma State College will surge to 10 Gbps, enhancing the institution's capacity to engage in cutting-edge research and facilitate collaborative learning experiences. This development reinforces WOSC's commitment to fostering a dynamic and progressive academic environment. "This is a phenomenal opportunity that will provide the technical infrastructure to connect Western Oklahoma State College to Oklahoma's Science DMZ, effectively providing access to supercomputing resources and fast data transfer for research and learning," said Jeremy Bennett, Interim Chief Information Officer at WOSC.

Under the aegis of OneNet, the state's comprehensive digital communications entity, the grant will be prudently managed to ensure that the intended impact is realized across all participating campuses. The collaboration between OSRHE, OneNet, and the NSF sets an inspiring precedent for technological advancements in education and research.

As the OFFN network expands its reach through the diligent efforts of OSRHE, OneNet, and their academic partners, the future of scientific discovery and education in Oklahoma and beyond is poised to reach unprecedented heights.

Congratulations to the 2023 Organization Fair Winners



Best Activity | WINDS
From left to right: Shelby Lucas, Recruitment/Student Activities Specialist, Cecelia McCabe, Noah Daigle, Carolyn Estes, Assistant Director of WINDS.



Best Food | Rotaract
From left to right: Shelby Lucas, Recruitment/Student Activities Specialist, Alisha Stewart, Debbie Valerio, Rotaract Sponsor, Sarah Bucklew.



Best Activity | Black Student Union
From left to right: Ariel Browne, Jukwan (Svnen) Russell, Shelby Lucas, Recruitment/Student Activities Specialist.

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