

For immediate release

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Concurrent Enrollment Continues to Rise at Western

ALTUS, Okla. – Western Oklahoma State College ended the fall 2019 semester with record breaking enrollment.

Thanks to the support of the Oklahoma Legislature, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have been able to reimburse colleges the tuition waived for seniors enrolling in up to 18 credit hours. Western's administration decided to take the concurrent program a step further, offering waivers to high school juniors, as well.

That caused a spike in concurrent enrollment last semester. Over 330 students in southwest Oklahoma enrolled concurrently at Western, which is a 35 percent increase from last year. Those students came from 33 high schools, including Epic Charter Schools and local home school chapters.

“Concurrent enrollment is a huge benefit to the students in our service area,” said Chrystal Overton, Western vice president for academic affairs. “The ability of students to complete college courses while in high school decreases the time to degree completion while also allowing students to leave college with less debt.”

Overall, enrollment was up 1.14 percent for the fall 2019 semester. This is the first increase in enrollment the college has experienced since 2016.

“Every day our institution focuses on enrollment growth,” said Dr. Chad Wiginton, Western president. “As the population of southwest Oklahoma continues to decline, this is an uphill battle for Western. However, the creativity of our campus coupled with a customer service mindset has us moving in the right direction. The majority of Oklahoma colleges and universities saw a decrease in fall 2019 enrollment, so we are extremely proud of a modest increase.”

For more information on concurrent courses, high school juniors and seniors are encouraged to visit with their school counselors or principals, or contact the Western Admissions office at 580-477-2000.

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.

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