

For immediate release

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Reverse Transfer Degrees Provide Unique Opportunities at Western

ALTUS, Okla. – Students across the state of Oklahoma have had the opportunity to complete their associate’s degree through the reverse transfer program for nearly ten years. One of Western’s very own did just that.

Reverse transfer is a statewide program for students who have completed at least 15 credit hours with a 2-year institution and moved on to another institution. Once they complete the required courses needed for an associate’s degree, they can transfer their transcripts back to the 2-year institution they originally attended to receive their degree, all while they are working on their bachelor’s degree.

Terri Pearson, Western Oklahoma State College Student Support Services vice president, said the reverse transfer program is something she has always seen as an incredible opportunity.

“Reverse transfer is a great opportunity to secure a degree at a community college, while a student is pursuing another degree elsewhere,” she said. “Securing an associate’s degree ensures that credit hours do not lose value if a student has to postpone college classes for any period of time. All degrees can be listed on a résumé and are testament to a student’s ability to persevere and finish.”

She finally took that opportunity into her own hands this semester.

“I attended Western in the fall of 1977 after graduating from Duke High School,” Pearson said. “I transferred to Southwestern Oklahoma State University after my freshman year to pursue a degree in education.”

At that point, Pearson never completed a degree at Western. She took the credits earned at Western and went on to complete her bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

“My associate’s degree from Western is over forty years in the making,” she said. “Western holds such a special place in my heart, and it’s exciting to have a degree from this institution that means so much to me.”

Reverse transfer has given students just like Pearson the opportunity to receive a degree from Western Oklahoma State College.

Lana Scott, Western Admission and Registrar director, has been tracking reverse transfer degrees at Western over the last five years.

“Roughly forty students have received reverse transfer degrees at Western during that time period,” Scott said. “It is great to see so many students take advantage of this opportunity.”

Pearson's degree is especially unique, because it is the first to bear Dr. Chad Wiginton's signature as president of the college. Pearson and Wiginton have a long history on campus, both working in the WINDS Department when the grant program first began on campus.

"I am probably more excited about this degree than I was when I earned my master's degree," Pearson said. "The most exciting thing of all is knowing that I was the first to receive a diploma with President Wiginton's signature. Chad and I, together with the rest of the WINDS staff, built the grant program from a notebook up. Chad is leading Western in a way that makes me extremely proud to be his friend and a part of his executive team."

Reverse transfer degrees provide unique opportunities just like Pearson's. If you have completed 15 credit hours at Western Oklahoma State College and moved on to complete a degree elsewhere, you may qualify to receive a reverse transfer degree. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 580-477-7717.

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.

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