

**College Clarion
Fall 2015**

Northeastern State University

College of Education

600 N. Grand Avenue

Tahlequah, OK 74464



Preparing scholars, leaders and developers of human potential

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FACULTY AND STAFF 2015-2016



Message from the Dean

With the fall 2015 semester nearing a close, I would like to congratulate our December graduates who will move on to a host of new opportunities made available to them through their degrees earned here at NSU. As Dean, I see first-hand the impact attaining a degree can have, both personally and professionally. Lives are transformed by this attainment and the success of our graduates is a direct reflection of the care and support received from the faculty and staff in the College of Education. I look forward to seeing you all at graduation in Tahlequah!

The fall 2015 semester in the College of Education has enjoyed positive energy along with new programs, events, and anticipated accomplishments from our talented students and faculty. In recent months our students, alumni and faculty have been hard at work making strides in their fields and fostering growth within our creative community. I could not be more proud of all these accomplishments and the countless good things our faculty, staff, students and alumni do every day.

I trust you're looking forward to the upcoming break to celebrate the holidays with family and friends. Safe travels and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.





This fall we started the year with an exciting opening meeting with a full day of activities. We gathered together as faculty and staff across the campus to hear from President Turner and other cabinet members. As a college we discussed some of the exciting initiatives for this academic year.

Here are a few highlights from our opening meeting:

- CACREP Counseling Accreditation (July)
- SNAG Annual Golf College of Education Fundraiser (September)
- CAEP Accreditation Update (Ongoing)
- Robotics for Girls in Haiti Program (October)
- COE Diversity Committee Survey (April 2016)
- Faculty and Staff Awards



College of Education Faculty and Staff Awards

We honor and recognize this year's outstanding faculty and staff within the college for their commitment to excellence, scholarship and service.



- Dr. Susan Frusher, Educational Foundations & Leadership
2015 Outstanding Faculty in Advising
- Dr. Elizabeth "Bea" Keller Dupree, Psychology & Counseling
2015 Outstanding Faculty in Research
- Dr. Karen Carey, Teacher Education
2015 Outstanding Faculty in Teaching
- Dr. Tobi Thompson, Director of the Cappi Wadley Reading and Technology Center
2015 Outstanding Faculty in Service
- Ms. Gena Stretch
2015 Outstanding Staff Award



New Faculty and Staff in the College of Education

We are pleased to welcome new members of our teaching and learning community. We look forward to your contributions in helping us achieve our mission of preparing students to be socially responsible, global citizens.



Dr. Christopher Carver
Assistant Professor
Psychology
Broken Arrow



Dr. Min-Chi Yan
Assistant Professor
Curriculum Instruction
Broken Arrow



Dr. Maria Christian
Assistant Professor
Educational Leadership
Broken Arrow



Ms. Lori Riley,
Academic Advisor
College of Education
Broken Arrow

Congratulations!

The College of Education celebrates with our faculty who have received graduate degrees in their area of expertise.



Dr. Jodi Legnon
Doctor of Philosophy
Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum
University of Oklahoma



Dr. Anthony Rothfork
Doctor of Education
Curriculum & Instruction with Emphasis in Special Education
Northern Arizona University



Mr. Brandon Wells
Master's of Divinity
Discipleship and Church Ministries
Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary



"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." Ben Franklin

As a Licensed Professional Counselor and a counselor educator, I hear clients and students alike share about the

need for improvements in daily living. Almost without pause, the next discussion point within the conversation is diet and exercise. As an avid runner and a home-cooked-meal-advocate, I cannot deny the importance of diet and exercise as components of our physical health. That said, as a prosocial development and wellbeing researcher, I also cannot deny the importance of engaging our whole person as part of our overall wellness experience.

In 2014, I began to study the impacts of a wellness and wellbeing seminar on self-reported outcomes by undergraduate psychology and graduate counseling students. Students who participated in a 2-day seminar concerning counselor wellness and wellbeing were invited to target an area of their wellness and wellbeing over the following 8 weeks and then reflect on the experience. What we found in our study was that students overwhelmingly targeted their physical health when asked to identify a wellness/wellbeing area for improvement.

Interestingly, what we also found was that even when physical health was targeted, participants reported the *greatest impacts within their spiritual self, psychological self, and overall life balance*. Participants spoke to an “activated awareness” of the importance of wellness as well as an “awakened appreciation” of self, others, and surroundings when targeting wellness. Themes of self-worth, gratitude, forgiveness, mindful living day-to-day, and other related concepts emerged consistently. We saw a shift in content and tone

The Counselor’s Corner

Why Wellness & Wellbeing are More than Physical Health

by Elizabeth “Bea” Keller-Dupree, PhD, LPC, NCC

from mere behavioral change (physical health) to affective awareness and relational connection (with

self, others, and the world around them). From the data, findings became evident—wellness and wellbeing (and the impacts of it) extend further than physical health!

This research project has deepened my interest (and vision) for understanding the intersection of our mind, body, and spirit when promoting wellness in training. Many of the wellness evidence-based studies to date have explored the role of wellness for *clients*; my hope is to better understand components of wellness/wellbeing for *counselors-in-training* and *professional helpers*. Given the soaring rates of burnout for professionals, it’s imperative that we understand innovate and engaging ways to teach wellness through experiential and applied opportunities.

Counselor educators need the latitude to facilitate student exploration into personal spirituality, forgiveness, gratitude, relational connection—all of which are components of wellness and wellbeing. Doing so can help facilitate a meaningful understanding of and connection to wellness—beyond physical health—to the other facets of our human condition. In turn, helping professionals may also find themselves better equipped to help clients on that journey themselves.

It’s common to hear in the counseling profession that we cannot take a client further than we have gone ourselves. For me, that means that wellness and wellbeing starts with me—the professional helper. And, from this study, I am reminded that the “start” may not always be mere physical health



COE Special Invitation: White House Convening on College Counseling



NSU Faculty and Student Featured Guests

Dr. Mary Waters-Bilbo, assistant professor and Ms. Jeneshia Hicks, graduate student both representing the department of Psychology and Counseling

NSU received a special invitation to an exclusive event organized by the National Consortium for School Counseling and Post-Secondary Success (NCSCPS). In the last two years, faculty and graduate students from NSU were a part of the Oklahoma team. Those in attendance this year were, NSU graduate student, Jeneshia Hicks and NSU faculty, Dr. Mary Waters. Other members of the Oklahoma team included Dr. Sharon Heatly, Director of School Counseling in Norman, and Terri Alonso, Dean of Student Services at Tulsa Community College. The attendees collaborated with representatives from other states on how to increase college attendance and completion. One of the objectives of the conference was to identify ways that the United States may regain its position in the number of people attaining a college degree. In order for the United States to regain its position in US Census data,

Oklahoma would have to increase the number of degrees issued annually from 152,441 (2010) to between 214,000-274,000 by 2020.

The focus of NCSCPS is to affect preparation and in-service of school counselors around issues of equity and access to high-quality post-secondary education. The consortium's efforts also

target policy and research to improve outcomes for students. The conference was held at the University of North Florida and included sessions on all the issues that the consortium is addressing. The Oklahoma team was able to learn from other committed educators across the country about improving equity and access for our nation's students.

The Department of Psychology and Counseling Gains

National Accreditation



year period.

department, said he was

university. "This designation reflects that our students receive the highest levels of education and training and signifies that our program exceeds national standards."

In July 2015, Northeastern State University became the first university in the state of Oklahoma to gain accreditation in three specific counseling degree programs by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling and Addiction Counseling are run by the Department of Psychology and Counseling within the College of Education, and were accredited for a two-

Dr. Kenny Paris, chair and professor in the psychology and counseling

thrilled about the distinction which this level of accreditation brought to the

Because of this accreditation, students will now be able to pursue career opportunities with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and TRICARE, as both of these federal entities require counselors to have graduated from a CACREP program.

According to Paris, research showed students who graduated from CACREP programs performed better on the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE). Another major perk to NSU students graduating from a CACREP accredited program is eligibility for licensure outside of Oklahoma.

The path to accreditation began in October 2011, as faculty made curriculum changes, updated syllabi, and aligned courses with standards outlined by CACREP. "We knew, based on feedback from the site team, that we had made a strong case for being granted accreditation. The Board vote (by CACREP) in July confirmed this. Thus, what began in fall 2011, came to fruition in July, 2015," Paris said.

With this new accreditation, Northeastern has further positioned itself as a university of choice for a quality education that leads to successful careers for its graduates.

For more information

If you are interested in learning more about th in counseling at Northeastern State University, please contact:

Dr. Kenny Paris
parisk@nsuok.edu



*Council for Accreditation of
Counseling & Related Educational Programs*



Bagley Reunion 2015

It is always a joy to welcome the former original Bagley High School. Several of attended NSU homecoming events and Many of the alums traveled from as far as memories of their days in our very own Bagley Hall. President Turner, Provost Arant and Dean Landry each gave the group a special welcome and provided updates on the wonderful things we are doing at Northeastern and in the College of Education.

classmates, friends and alumni from the the original Bagley High School alumni the special luncheon in their honor.

Louisiana and California. They shared stories and



COE's 3rd Annual SNAG

Every year alumni, students, faculty, together to raise scholarship funds for the SNAG Golf 2015 championship were the Arvest Bank team. The purpose of this event is to endow a scholarship for future teachers and educational professionals. If you would like to be involved in our next SNAG Golf fundraiser please contact Mrs. Darla Chewey at 918-444-3720.



Golf Fundraiser

staff and friends of the College of Education come NSU students. Each year is a success and the winners of



The Robotics Academy for Critical Engagement R.A.C.E. is honored as a Hall of Fame Inductee for the VEX World Robotics Championship in Louisville, Kentucky

We are proud of Mrs. Barbara Fuller, R.A.C.E. Director and the NSU students. We wish the team well as they prepare for the 2016 World Championship Competition held in April. The mission of the academy: challenge practicing teachers, teacher candidates, public school children and business leaders to recognize, identify, demonstrate, analyze, design and assess critical thinking and problem solving skills using robotics. R.A.C.E is the only Robotics Academy focusing on the process of critical thinking using robotics in the United States. The academy stands on four components: (1) communication; (2) collaboration; (3) problem solving; and (4) critical thinking. If you would like to learn more about R.A.C.E. please contact Mrs. Barbara Fuller, Director at fullerbe@nsuok.edu.



KIPP Tulsa 7th Grade Annual College Day at NSU



The faculty, staff, students and community members at Northeastern State University believe in our local schools. Each year across the country students who attend a KIPP school have their first day on a university campus. We are pleased to have this relationship with KIPP Tulsa Academy for the ninth year. We have hosted several hundred KIPPsters on the Tahlequah and Broken Arrow campuses. The faculty and staff prepare exceptional college level lessons that are hands on, engaging and exciting. We look forward to continuing this relationship for many years to come.

Alumni Spotlight on Mr. Corey Still and Ms. Dawn Davis

Mr. Corey Still, c/o 2015 M.Ed. Higher Education Leadership



We honor and recognize Mr. Corey Still as one of our distinguished College of Education alumni. Corey is from Cookson, Oklahoma is a Gates Millennium Scholar Alumni.

Corey completed his Master of Science in Higher Education Leadership in May 2015 from Northeastern State University. He was actively involved with the Gates Scholars on campus and an integral part of the Indigenous Scholar Development Center. Currently, Corey is a key leader at the University of Oklahoma and is pursuing a PhD in Adult and Higher Education. He is also a graduate advisor for OU's Academic Advising and an adjunct instructor of American Indian Studies at Bacone College.

Corey's believes in the following quote and holds it as his own motto: "Every society needs educated people, but the primary responsibility of educated people is to bring wisdom back into the community and make it available to others so that the lives they are leading make sense." –Vine Deloria, Jr.

Ms. Dawn Davis, c/o 2007 B.S. in Elementary Education



We recognize one of our outstanding alumni Ms. Dawn Davis. Dawn graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 2007 from NSU. She also completed a Master's degree in 2012, in Technology in the Classroom, from Walden University. Dawn currently teaches in the Northwest Arctic Board School District, which is, above the Arctic Circle, in Kotzebue, Alaska. Dawn teaches in a small village, Noatak, with a population of 450 Inuits. She has been there for the last five years. Dawn has had a nine year teaching career in Alaska. The village is not on the road system, which means, you have to fly in by bush plane, or boat up-river in the summer, or my snow mobile in the winter.

Dawn has worked in this area because of her passion and to education. She stepped out of her comfort zone into an area similar to a developing country. Subsistence living is still a way of life in the remote villages. Fishing, picking berries, hunting done provide food and some clothing for families. From Elders to small children, everyone has a part.



commitment area that is year round to small children,

Dawn has been involved with the Youth Leader Program, as a Advisor, at the high school/middle school level for seven years. This advisor position works closely with the children and adults in the village there are concerns of suicide, bullying, alcohol, tobacco use. This district was averaging 6 youth suicides a year, but from 2009-2014 the rate of suicides has significantly decreased and there have been no deaths.

Youth Leader years. This

My motto: Look for opportunities when life is challenging, YOU can make a difference.

Life is challenging every day. Be compassionate, you will have students that have not bathed in days, many are hungry, some are abused, yet they still come to school for an education.



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