

ISSUE

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Yearly

Newsletter

# College of Education Northeastern State University Alumni Newsletter



this issue

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We are so pleased to share the third annual NSU College of Education alumni newsletter! Our College of Education is continuously looking for innovative ways to connect and collaborate with our alum. In each issue you will find information on upcoming events within the College of Education, new programs available and program changes being implemented, as well as a spotlight on alumni making a difference within our nation, state, and/or community.

### A message from Dr. Vanessa Anton, Dean of the College of Education:

Greetings! It has been an interesting semester. However, the effort, teamwork, positivity, and caring that our faculty, staff, students and community partners have exhibited has been phenomenal. We will offer a wide range of delivery mode choices for our students moving into the spring 2021 semester, and we will continue to offer a broad range of immersive learning and community service activities. Recruitment and retention efforts to prepare top-notch **educators, counselors, and fitness/health professionals** for our communities are in full swing. Whether your career goals center around teaching in the schools, working with those seeking healthier physical and mental lifestyles, or attending graduate college for advanced preparation, we want to help you reach your dreams.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season and stay in touch!



## COE Hosts Annual SNAG Golf Fundraising Event



The NSU College of Education hosted the annual SNAG Golf Fundraising tournament on September 11, 2020 at the Burnt Cabin SNAG Golf Course with social distancing and other Covid precautions. 100% percent of player and sponsorship funding will go to a scholarship account through the NSU Foundation.

Participants from the College of Education, university, and community volunteers enjoyed playing golf, eating, and spending time with colleagues, friends, and family. This event is played every Fall, and alumni are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Dr. Vanessa Anton.



## NSU COE Alumni Spotlight Kelli Buck

School Counselor at Darnaby  
Elementary in Union Public Schools  
M.S. Counseling, 2015



**The College of Education is proud to feature alumni in each newsletter who have positively impacted his/her community and field of study.**

In this issue, we are honored to introduce Kelli Buck, School Counselor. The teachers at Darnaby Elementary nominated Kelly to be the "teacher of the year" in 2018 for her work in providing a comprehensive school counseling program to her students where all students received Tier 1 services. These services reduced classroom referrals, increased attendance, and helped students achieve more. Kelly learned about developing a comprehensive school counseling program during her graduate training and applied it to her school. This year, she has also applied to the Oklahoma State Board of Behavioral Health to peruse her Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) candidacy.

*"The counseling program at Northeastern State University provided me with essential coursework and skilled professors who advanced my knowledge and skill set in the counseling field. NSU has fostered partnerships with agencies and educational settings that allowed me to have internship experiences with agencies such as CREOKS Behavioral Health Services at Spring Creek Recovery Center and Union Public Schools. My experience and application during my internships have paved the way for my current career path in the counseling field as an Elementary School Counselor. The supervision and guidance I received from Northeastern University deepened my passion and respect for the counseling profession. The program has given me the opportunity to teach, model, and implement essential Social Emotional Learning skills and programing for kids Pre-Kindergarten to Fifth Grade. The program also taught me the skills necessary to collaborate with teachers, education professionals, stakeholders, families, and community partners as well as advocate for all students to have an equitable education and access to the resources and tools necessary to foster social, emotional, and academic success."*

Are you interested in obtaining your Master's Degree? NSU College of Education offers the following master's programs. Click on the links for further information:

[Counseling, M.S.](#)

[Early Childhood Education, M.Ed.](#)  
(available online)

[Health & Sports Science, M.S.](#)

[Leadership, M.S.](#)  
(available online)

[Instructional Leadership, M.Ed.](#)  
(available online)

[Library Media and Information Technology, M.S.](#)  
(available online)

[Reading, M.Ed.](#)  
(available online)

[School Administration, M.Ed.](#) (available online)

[Special Education-Autism Spectrum Disorders \(ASD\), M.Ed.](#) (available online)

## NSU COE Alumni Spotlight

### Jonathan Herrick Graduate Student B.S. HHP, 2019



The College of Education is also honored to introduce Jonathan Herrick. He graduated with Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Health and Human Performance in 2019 and will graduate with his Master's degree in Athletic Training from Oklahoma State University in May 2021. Jonathan has been successful in his athletic career, including serving as the captain for the McAlester High School football team in 2015. He was awarded the Burlsworth Character Award in 2016 and was a part of the Rho Theta Sigma chapter at NSU.

Johathan is currently working on a research about Early Therapeutic Exercise versus Rest, Ice, Compression, and Elevation in the acute treatment of lateral ankle sprains. For Athletic Trainers, ankle sprains are one of the most common injuries seen during a season. His research has shown that the earlier therapeutic exercise is implemented after an ankle sprain occurs the quicker the athlete is able to functionally return to play. This research has the potential to impact communities and sports medicine.

*"The NSU College of Education was instrumental in preparing me for the next step in furthering my education. I was thankful to have professors who were incredibly knowledgeable and who prepared me to further my academic career at Oklahoma State University. The dedication and continued support from everyone in the HHP/kinesiology department set me up with the tools and guidance necessary for me to further my academic career and receive a master's degree."*

### Get Involved

- Would you or someone you know like to be recognized in the spotlight section of our newsletter? If so, please complete the following form. \*Please note: Not all entries will appear in the spotlight section. [Nominate yourself or someone here.](#)
- Would you like to share your NSU story with us? We are seeking alumni quotes and stories to help tell about your experiences at NSU. If you are interested, please visit the following form. [COE Alumni Stories](#)

# COE Department Updates



**Curriculum and Instruction:** Faculty/Staff updates: Dr. Reed is the new department chair for C & I (since January 2020). Donna Davis is the new Secretary. Rhea Fears is the new Clinical Education Director. Dr. Ingrid Massey is the new Reading Clinic Director for Broken Arrow. Dr. Sophia Sweeney and Tonya Garrett are teaching Elementary Education courses for the ELED Program. Dr. Sarah Ramsey is the new Reading Program Chair. Kristin Korte is a new Instructor for the Special Education Program. Curriculum updates: The Early Childhood Program has a completely online graduate degree available. The Special Education Program has an accelerated degree option. Students admitted to the Accelerated B.S.Ed. Special Education-Mild/Moderate Disorders to M.Ed. Special Education-Autism Spectrum Disorders degree program will complete 8 hours of graduate level credit to apply toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees.

**Educational Leadership:** The Department of Educational Leadership continues to move forward during the pandemic. The overall enrollment in all four programs for the department was up this fall which is encouraging to see during somewhat difficult times this year. The department faculty and staff want to congratulate Dr. Susan Frusher who retired in the spring with more than 30 years working for NSU. She helped to build the M.S. in Leadership into what it is today. Remaining faculty continue to work with courses and have made adjustments to do advising for candidates through remote environments this fall semester. There is still research occurring among the faculty as many were invited to make presentations in Oklahoma and around the country until the pandemic cancelled many educational conferences. Congratulations go out to Dr. Maria Gray (Christian) who was awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor at the end of last year.

**Health and Kinesiology:** H & K offers the Master of Science in Health and Sports Science with two options (i.e., Health Education option and Sport Administration/Management option) from fall 2020. Former undergraduate student, Janilee Emerson, moved to the Master of Occupational Therapy program at NSU. Former undergraduate student, Ryan Schwab, moved to Doctorate of Physical Therapy at OU. Former undergraduate student, Wren Makayla, was hired as a physical education teacher at Elementary school in Springdale, AR. Former graduate student, Jeananne Hearon, was hired for teaching HHP classes at OSU-Tulsa.

**Psychology and Counseling:** Dr. Ashlee Hurst is collaborating with faculty from OSU on a study named, "*Women's Aggressive and Hormonal Response to Relationship Threats from Friends and Non-Friends*." Both Dr. Hurst and Dr. April Phillips have student researchers accepted for a presentation at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference to be held in Feb. Dr. J. M. Kirk has three student research teams' projects accepted to the Southwest Psychological Association conference in March 2021. Laura Hix, a BS in Psychology graduate, has been accepted into an online graduate program at Harvard and is currently trying to raise money to cover her costs for the program. Here is the link for Laura's GoFund me page: <https://gf.me/u/yqmvis> Curriculum updates: New courses student can choose include classes in Forensic Psychology, Health Psychology and Evolutionary Psychology. The department in collaboration with Department of Health and Kinesiology will be offering a new interdisciplinary minor, Health Psychology, which supports student learning and investigation of the connections between health, wellness and mental health.

## Grow Your Own Teachers Program Expands

High School students interested in education take EDUC 3001 as a concurrent course and learn about teaching and participate in an internship. Current partnerships are expanding. For more information, contact Dr. Lisa Bisogno, Associate Dean.

## COE Graduate Program Rankings

Do you need another reason to continue your education at NSU? The COE Graduate Programs have earned several rankings in the last academic year. These include:

Early Childhood Program has been ranked #27 in the Top 85 Most Affordable Early Childhood Programs by [Discover Early Childhood EDU](#).

COE graduate programs were ranked #1 in the country as 10 Best Affordable Colleges for Online Master's in Education Degrees by [EduRef](#).

Library Media & Information Technology Program has been ranked #1 by [OnlineU](#) as the 2020 Most Affordable Online Master's in Library Science.

NSU College of Education has been ranked #2 for Best Online Teaching & Certification Programs from [Study.com](#).

## NSU Counseling Alumni Feedback

We welcome your feedback. Please take this brief survey [Counseling Alumni Survey](#).

## Moreland on News on 6

*Dr. Meagan Moreland continues to share innovative, unique, and fun literacy strategies on the News on 6 each month. This fun back to school session aired on August 20, 2020.*



## "Cappi" Wadley Staff



*The staff of the Capitola "Cappi" Wadley & Technology Center is ready to help with your child's reading needs. They are located on the TQ campus. Hours are 9am-7pm Monday through Thursday, and 9am-5pm on Friday. The team consists of (from left to right) Renae Blossom, Clifton Harris, Tobi Thompson, Sophia Harrod, and Sarah Garrett. They also welcome teacher candidates who work as tutors. For more information, call 918-444-3313.*

## RiverHawk Scholars



*Finding their wings. Members of the RiverHawk Scholars Program gather with student mentors and program director Justin Chase for a group picture Fall 2020. . In May 2018, NSU joined LeadLiveLearn to create a four-year, fully inclusive certificate program for students with mild/moderate intellectual and/or developmental disabilities--the first of its kind in Oklahoma.*

# Additional Events & Information

## Innovation & Discovery Education Academy (IDEA) Grand Opening

On Oct. 1, the College of Education celebrated the latest milestone of its flagship engagement program with a ribbon cutting for its new location and the announcement of a new name more reflective of its future vision. Since its founding in 2012 as a collaborative effort between NSU's College of Education and the Cherokee Nation, the Race Academy of Critical Engagement has continued to expand—adding classrooms and STEAM maker labs on multiple campuses, graduating more than 2,000 teachers from the program, and serving more than 10,000 PK-12 students.

From its new location, the 20+ room Special Services building located behind Bagley Hall, the program will now go beyond Summer Youth Academies to offer after school programs, maker classes for the community, as well as NSU faculty and staff, and professional development for NSU future and master's teachers. The expansion includes not only more robotics and larger maker spaces, but additional opportunities to discover and explore the arts, astronomy, podcasting, virtual reality, quilting, gardening, butterfly and bee sanctuaries and many other experiences. The newly named Innovation & Discovery Education Academy, led by Barbara Fuller, looks forward to many new initiatives to serve the NSU community and its communities at large. For more information, email [idea@nsuok.edu](mailto:idea@nsuok.edu) or call 918-444-3725.



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<https://www.facebook.com/NSUOKEducation>