

Northeastern State University

College of Education

Alumni Newsletter

2023



We are so pleased to share the fifth annual NSU College of Education alumni newsletter! Our College of Education is continuously looking for innovative ways to connect and collaborate with our alumni. In each issue, you will find information on 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! I hope this message finds you well and thriving in your educational pursuits. As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of education, it is my privilege to connect with you through this newsletter as we share some exciting updates from the College of Education. In the spirit of continuous improvement, we have been working diligently on multiple grants, including scholarships, that will help us better prepare and support quality teachers, administrators and counselors. Over the past year, we have been awarded multiple grants totaling around 7 million dollars that will assist us toward this goal over the next few years. In addition, other initiatives, such as Inspired to Teach, will further support our candidates. I encourage you to take advantage of the resources and support services offered by the College of Education, and don't hesitate to reach out if you need information, have questions, or want to give us feedback. Have a wonderful and joyous holiday season!

ISSUE 5
YEARLY NEWSLETTER

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NSU College of Education Alumni Spotlight



Congratulations to NSU B.A.Ed.
English Education graduate, **Mr.
Chong Lor** (pictured left), for being
selected Tulsa Will Rogers Middle
School Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to **Mrs. Miranda Lum**
(pictured right) who was named
Poteau Upper Elementary Teacher of
the Year for 2023-2024. Miranda is a
COE Early Childhood education
graduate.



One of the best schools for online learning at the
master's level by OnlineMastersDegrees.org
(OMD)

Northeastern State University has been recognized as one of the best schools for online
learning at the master's level by OnlineMastersDegrees.org (OMD). NSU's education
programs earned top honors for overall quality, affordability, and commitment to student
success.

College of Education Award Winners

Dr. Sherry Been (Elementary Education) was named to the Circle of Excellence in Teaching, NSU's most prestigious award.

Dr. Sarah Ramsey (Reading) was awarded the NSU Presidential Award, "Model the Way," for the 2022 - 2023 academic year.

Dr. Meagan Moreland (Reading) and **Dr. Ingrid Massey** were awarded a Presidential Ambassador's Grant (PAN) from the university to pursue scholarly opportunities in the field of reading and literacy.

Drs. Lisa Bisogno, Jericho Hobson, Jodi Legnon, Kelli Carney, and Vanessa Anton received \$7,920 for the Early College Teacher Pipeline that will fund workshops for 9th and 10th-grade students as well as fees for "Grow Your Own" courses offered for Broken Arrow Public Schools and KIPP Tulsa.

Dr. Stephan Sargent (Reading), is a Co-PI on a multi-year National Science Foundation Grant for \$1,173,385 awarded to NSU's Gregg Wadley College of Science and Health Professions. This grant supports the preparation of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors who will secondary mathematics or science. Others on the leadership team include **Dr. Martha Parrott, Dr. Spence Pilcher, and Dr. Luke Foster.**

USDE Hawkins Project Grant

The COE has received a [USDE Hawkins Project grant](#). They will receive \$1,512,834 over the next four years to establish the [Riverhawk Center for Teacher Excellence](#) on the Broken Arrow and Tahlequah campuses. The TQ location is housed in Bagley Hall and the BA center is in BAED. The center provides supplemental efforts to existing programs, scholarships, and support to undergraduate teaching majors (all 12 degrees) and Alternative Certification for Educators (ACE) students, with the objective of increasing and retaining the number of well-prepared teachers from diverse backgrounds and/or bilingual/multilingual. According to the grant PI, Dr. Vanessa Anton, the charge is to recruit and retain teacher candidates (undergraduate) and teachers (graduate), thereby increasing the number of teachers who will be placed in high-need local education agencies (LEAs) or hard-to-staff schools. The center staffs 3 full-time employees and 8 part-time employees. Exciting!

Are you interested in obtaining your Master's Degree?

NSU College of Education offers the following master's programs. Click on the links below for more information!.

[Counseling M.S.](#)

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

[Health and Sport Science, M.S.](#)
(available online)

[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)

College of Education Department Updates

Curriculum & Instruction:

We have one new faculty member this academic year, Mr. Bradlee Ross. He will be joining our Teacher Education program and helping out with some elementary education courses. Dr. Benn-Duke has left our C&I family to work for an indigenous non-profit organization. She will be greatly missed, but we know this new path will be an exciting adventure that helps her utilize her many talents and skills. Dr. Kimberly Phillips received tenure and was promoted to Associate professor. Several of our faculty members and programs have received grants for various projects this year including the Project DREAM grant. Special Education received final approval to have their undergraduate degree online; Early Childhood started the process to have an online option for their undergraduate program as well.



Educational Leadership

The Department of Educational Leadership is proud to welcome Dr. Heidi Jenkins who is working in the Library Media and Information Technology Program. Dr. Jenkins assumed a position previously held by Dr. Karen Carey who retired as Professor Emeritus at the end of 2022-23. The department is excited to work with recent grants. The largest of these grants is with Dr. Rénee Cambiano and Dean Anton receiving a grant to create alternative pathways for teacher certification in the sum of 2.45 million dollars. The work on this grant will begin in the Spring semester 2024. Dr. Cambiano also received a \$15,000 grant to develop workforce microcredentials that will be expended during this same time. Dr. Jim Ferrell and Dean Anton continue to work with the American Indian Resource Center to administer a previously awarded grant of \$400,000.00 to train Native Americans as school administrators. In addition, Dr. Ferrell has also been working with a \$30,000.00 grant and Dr. Cambiano, Dr. Kari Henry-Hulett, Dr. Barbara Jones, Dr. Maria Gray, and Dr. Kathy Seibold to develop workshops associated with a curriculum manager microcredentials. They have developed four, three-day workshops that are offered on a semesterly basis over two years. The workshops are free for any school district to send attendees and will work on the basic components of curriculum management.

Health & Kinesiology

Ms. Rhea Kaltenbach retired in January 2023. Congratulations to Dr. Dee Gerlach for promotion to Associate Professor. Congratulations to a new Doctor in the department. Dr. Kimberly Seibold received a Ph.D. in Kinesiology at the University of Arkansas. The Health and Human Performance program received an accreditation of exercise science from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Also, Health and Human Performance offers online delivery now.

Psychology & Counseling

It has been a busy year! In May, Dr. Johnny Mark Kirk stepped down as department chair and was replaced by Dr. Beth Melles. At the end of May, we said goodbye to our wonderful departmental secretary for the past 5 years, Janice Stanford, and welcomed Debbie Singleton to replace her. In July, we hosted our virtual site visit from CACREP which, due to the hard work and dedication of Dr. Bea Keller-Dupree, went incredibly smoothly. Dr. Keller-Dupree stepped down as graduate program chair and CACREP liaison soon after the site visit, these responsibilities being taken over by Dr. Alex Meyers-Ellett (Graduate Program Chair) and Dr. Amanda Stuckey (CACREP Coordinator). We were thrilled to welcome Dr. Kevin Woller from RSU to join the ranks as an Associate Professor in August. Dr. Woller has taken over as the Psi Chi faculty advisor and has been busy dreaming up some exciting psychology-related plans for NSU, including a Mental Health Day and an interdisciplinary scholarly conference. Additionally, Drs. Beth Bowin and Cheri Mays were awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor and Dr. Christina Rothermel-Branham to full professor in August. We also welcomed our first cohort of five students in Addictions-track Counseling whose education is being fully funded by the Cherokee Nation. Drs. Sara Haas and Alex Meyers-Ellett have been busy developing and supervising the Play Therapy lab on the BA Campus and Drs. Bowin, Grissom, and Mays dreamed up a Forensic Psychology minor which we hope to implement in Fall 2024.

Riverhawk Center for Teacher Excellence Grand Opening!

On November 13th, both the Tahlequah and Broken Arrow campuses held grand opening ceremonies for the new Riverhawk Center for Teacher Excellence. The RCTE aims to provide support to teacher candidates and teachers through scholarships, professional development, advising, mentoring, tutoring/coaching, and other connections for overall assistance that supplement ongoing initiatives.



Alumni Spotlight

Would you or someone you know like to be recognized in the spotlight section of our newsletter? If so, please complete the following form [HERE](#). *Please note: not all entries will appear

Get Involved!

Alumni Stories

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 interested, please visit the following form [HERE](#).



Dr. Haney poses with NSU Alum, John Smithson.

Dr. Jarilyn Haney (Special Education) represented NSU at the Oklahoma Council of Exceptional Children (OKCEC) Conference



Dr. Ehteshami's Diversity Counseling Class hosted a cultural celebration in Tahlequah. Food presentations over diverse populations were done. Across many cultures food is a way to bring others together, and this celebration was a great example of that.