

# THE RIVERHAWK CENTER FOR TEACHER EXCELLENCE



Monthly Newsletter

**COMING UP:**

Teacher Induction Ceremony (TQ) | April 3

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Teacher Induction Ceremony (BA) | April 15

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Finals Week | May 5 - 9

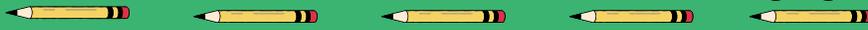
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Teacher Appreciation Week | May 5 - 9

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Classroom Management Seminar | July 8

## LOOKING AHEAD




*Save the Date*

# Classroom Management Seminar

July  
8th  
2025

 NSU-BA campus

An interactive event for all current Oklahoma teachers, paraprofessionals, NSU Education majors, and NSU ACE students! All grade levels will be targeted. Come learn with and from each other!

Hosted by the RiverHawk Center for Teacher Excellence

## WHO ARE WE?

The RiverHawk Center for Teacher Excellence is a grant-funded organization whose aim is to recruit and retain P-12 teachers of diverse backgrounds in an effort to address Oklahoma's teacher shortage and put educators in classrooms whose unique identities reflect that of their students. At our centers on both the Tahlequah and Broken Arrow campuses, we offer a multitude of services such as tutoring, counseling, workshops, scholarships, as well as just a place to hang out and study. We have coffee, tea, snacks, and various school supplies donated especially for Education majors like you!

# Don't forget



Has it been awhile since you've met with your Academic Advisor? To ensure you are successful in staying on track with your degree plan, it's important to meet with your advisor at least once a semester!

**"IN DIVERSITY  
THERE IS BEAUTY  
AND THERE IS  
STRENGTH."**

-Maya Angelou

# Congratulations!

The RCTE would like to congratulate the following Fall 2025 Teacher Inductees!

*Barker, Britney*  
*Bates, Jasmine*  
*Bottorff, Devin*  
*Bowen, Shaylie*  
*Bracken, Tori*  
*Bristol, Brian*  
*Brown, Makayla*  
*Burns, Megan*  
*Childress, Gabriel*  
*Collins, Emily*  
*DeArmond, Kayelee*  
*Duncan, Macie*  
*Escobar, Maida*  
*Field, Audra*  
*Gentry, Holly*

*Gritts, Madaline*  
*Hardin, Brady*  
*Haynes, Cynthia*  
*Hebb, Jessica*  
*Hendrickson, Taylor*  
*Hokit, Kenly*  
*Hubler, Leyla*  
*Hunter, Yaffa*  
*Jones, Tamika*  
*Kilian, Justin*  
*Lester, JaiCee*  
*London, Kynzi*  
*Marshall, Cheree*  
*McDonald, Emily*  
*McMahan, Courtney*  
*Merritt, Darci*

*Mullen, Steven*  
*Muller, Mattison*  
*Payne, Victoria*  
*Reynolds, Malynn*  
*Stinson, Mackenzie*  
*Strader, Saylor*  
*Swanner, Kylin*  
*Taylor, Amanda*  
*Thompson, Pei*  
*Underwood, Rylee*  
*Wallace, Jayla*  
*Waller, Addison*  
*Webster, Paige*  
*Whiteside, Libby*



## SURVIVAL KITS ARE COMING

**April 21-24**

For TQ students, Jamie will be set up outside certain buildings, handing out kits to all education majors. For BA students, Katie will be set up outside classrooms in BAED to hand out kits!

**More info coming soon!**

Has the RCTE impacted you positively in the last year? We'd love to hear about it! Please note that your response might be shared to our Instagram page.

**TELL US ABOUT IT!**



# Summer scholarships opening soon!

**Q** When will they open?

**A** RCTE summer scholarships will open on May 1st. We will send out a mass email to all Education majors at this time and also announce it on our Instagram page and the COE Facebook page.

**Q** When will I know if I receive a summer scholarship?

**A** Scholarships will close on May 23rd and be awarded on May 30th. As is typical with most scholarships, we only notify those who have been awarded a scholarship. We will notify students via email if they are a summer scholarship recipient.



You do have access to both the BA and TQ centers over the summer. Just be sure to pay attention to your email and our Instagram for unforeseen center closings.



## 2025 Summer Institute

Do you know someone interested in attending NSU in the Fall who is planning on majoring in Education? We have the perfect opportunity for you to share with them! This summer the RCTE will host its first ever Summer Institute where prospective NSU students interested in teaching can get hands-on learning experience from seasoned educators!



## Let's talk about Financial Literacy!

Did you know that the NSU website has information on how to budget wisely as a college student? Creating a well-organized budget can sound intimidating, but there are a lot of resources out there that can help you tackle financial planning so you can set yourself up for success. Visit the links below to learn more!



# NEEDING TO PREPARE FOR THE OSAT? THE RCTE AND OEA HAVE YOUR BACK!



## FREE OSAT/PPAT REVIEW SESSIONS

Spring 2025 dates & times:

TOPIC:	DATE & TIME:
Purpose by Design: PPAT 101	1/6, 5:00 - 7:00pm
Elementary Constructed Response	1/24, 6:45 - 8:45pm
Elementary Reading Sub-Area 1	2/4, 4:00 - 6:00pm
Purpose by Design: PPAT 101	2/11, 5:00 - 7:00pm
All OSATs Constructed Response	2/12, 5:00 - 7:00pm
Elementary Reading Sub-Area I	2/18, 4:00 - 6:00pm
Early Childhood Competencies, I & II	2/20, 4:00 - 6:00pm
Early Childhood Competencies, III & IV	2/27, 4:00 - 6:00pm
US History	3/3, 4:00 - 6:00pm
US History/Oklahoma History	3/4, 4:00 - 6:00pm
Elementary Constructed Response	3/5, 5:00 - 7:00pm
Government/Economics	3/6, 4:00 - 6:00pm
Purpose by Design: PPAT 101	3/11, 5:00 - 7:00pm
Elementary Math Competencies 5-6	3/12, 4:00 - 7:00pm
Elementary Math Competencies 7-8	3/13, 4:00 - 7:00pm
Purpose by Design: PPAT 101	4/1, 5:00 - 7:00pm
All OSATs Constructed Response	4/4, 6:45 - 8:45pm
Special Education Mild/Moderate	4/4, 9:00 - 12:00pm
Special Education Mild/Moderate	5/2, 9:00 - 12:00pm

Also, don't forget that the RCTE has Mometrix OSAT study books available for checkout in various subject areas! Visit your respective center or email us at [rcte@nsuok.edu](mailto:rcte@nsuok.edu) for more info.



## SUPPLIES ARE IN!

We recently asked you all to complete a survey that asked what types of materials and supplies you need to supplement your coursework, and we listened! Visit your respective centers to see what's new. Thank you to everyone who took time to fill out the survey!

**Color printing**

**Colored pencils**

**Laminator**

**... and more!**

# NEED SOME HELP? SCHEDULE WITH A COACH OR MENTOR!

Dena Pace  
(TQ - Coach)



Dena has a background in Psychology and Mental Health, and her passion in life is coaching! Fun fact: She feels most at home in the water or on the tractor.

Machele Potter  
(TQ - Coach)



Machele has been serving in education for almost 25 years & is currently the Superintendent at Moseley Public Schools. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from NSU. She is married to her high school sweetheart & has two daughters, as well as a Maltipoo.

Dr. Reubin McIntosh  
(BA - Coach)



Reubin is the Lead Principal at the 6th & 7th grade Academy in Muskogee. He has Academic Coaching experience and 6 years of classroom experience. He has a Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degree.

Erin Gilmore  
(Mentor Teacher)



Erin earned her Bachelor's degree from NSU in 2011 & has over 10 years of teaching experience. She is married to her husband, Spencer, & they have a 2 year old son. Fun Fact: Erin did her Pre-Il internship in Vienna, Austria!

Tobi Kula  
(BA - Coach)



Tobi is an elementary principal with Broken Arrow Public Schools & has been in education for 20 years. Tobi earned her B.S. from NSU & her M.S. from OSU. She has 3 children, one dog, & lives in Mounds where she raises chickens & horses.

## BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

 [RCTE-BA.YOUCANBOOK.ME](https://RCTE-BA.YOUCANBOOK.ME) (BA)

 [RCTE-TQ.YOUCANBOOK.ME](https://RCTE-TQ.YOUCANBOOK.ME) (TQ)

You can now schedule an appointment with an academic coach on your respective campus by using the links listed above OR by scanning the following QR codes:



**BROKEN ARROW**



**TAHLEQUAH**

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A COACH AND A MENTOR?

Academic Coaches are here to help you tackle any issues you may face during your time at NSU whether it's time management, work/life balance, certification test support, classroom management, etc.

Mentor Teachers will only assist students who are in their Pre-1, Pre-2, and Full internships. They can come observe you, offer advice on lesson plans, provide classroom management support, etc. Our mentor teacher, Erin, is available to both TQ & BA students.

# THIS AND THAT!



@[nsu\\_rcte](#)  
 RCTE Video  
[bit.ly.com/teacher\\_excellence](http://bit.ly.com/teacher_excellence)



Follow us!   
  
 @nsu\_rcte



**SUGGESTION**

**DO YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR HOW WE CAN IMPROVE OUR SERVICES? WE'RE ALL EARS!**

On our "returning" check in form that is located in each center, the very last question asks you if you have any suggestions for what we could be doing to better serve you. Please don't be shy! Maybe you have a good idea for a workshop? Or perhaps you have suggestions for items we need to have available in our centers. Whatever it is, we would love to hear your ideas so that we can serve you to the best of our ability!

## DON'T FORGET!

Please remember to check in every time you visit your respective center using the QR code that applies to you. There are QR codes for check-in located throughout both centers.

Thank you! 

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

### Businesses & Organizations:

Metro Merch, Crumbl Cookies, Love Bottling, Target, Arrow Heights Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Tahlequah, Sunrise Donuts, Countryside Wellness, LLC, The Lift, Tropical Smoothie Cafe, Starbucks, Junie's Closet, QuikTrip, Raising Cane's, McKee Foods, Chick-fil-a, McDonalds, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Hideaway Pizza, Imperial Co.

### Individuals:

Sandy Ross, Dee McAffrey, Lauren Ross, Lori Fogerty, April Bardell, Kelly Callaway, Tobi Thompson, Nichole Sumpter, Kristy Eubanks, Emily Blakley, Niki Kottre