



Fall 2020

IMPACT

Serving generations, changing the world.

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A Message From the Department

On behalf of the Department of Social Work, we welcome you to the Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Social Work Program newsletter. This newsletter is updated biyearly and includes the most recent news from the department of social work throughout all of our campuses. Here you will see our most recent projects, upcoming events, student spotlights and more!

We would like to thank those whose efforts assist us in preparing competent, effective Northwest Oklahoma generalist practice social workers. We are so grateful to our field agency partners, field instructors, adjunct instructors, and Social Work Advisory Board Members for enhancing and improving social services in our region. We look forward to all the new developments in the department and are excited to see the benefits these developments bring to our social work students.

Social Workers: Generations Strong – Ride, Rangers, Ride!

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Congratulations, Graduates!

Jonathan Wales and Reba Finley, Spring 2020 graduates, participated in a graduation ceremony this December as their graduation was canceled last spring due to the global pandemic. We are thrilled you finally had an opportunity to walk across that stage!

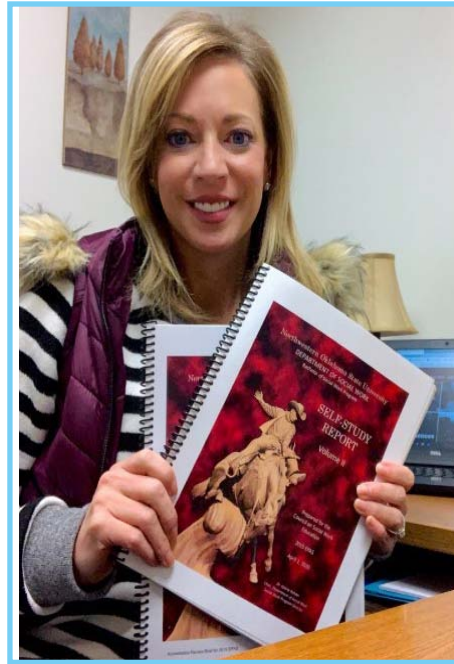


Students Accepted into Honor Society



Isis Lair (left) and Wynter Standridge (right), social work majors on the NWOSU Woodward campus, have been admitted to the prestigious international honor society of Pi Gamma Mu. Pi Gamma Mu is an international social sciences honor society dedicated to promote excellence in social sciences and uphold scholarship, leadership, and service. Congratulations to both our hardworking students!

Council on Social Work Education



The Social Work Program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). CSWE is a national association preserving and enhancing the quality of social work education for practice and promoting the goals of individual and community well-being and social justice. Social work education programs accredited by CSWE meet a series of rigorous standards designed by leading social work educators and practitioners to ensure students are adequately prepared for professional practice. The profession of social work in the United States looks to CSWE-accredited programs to produce social workers with the knowledge and skills to be professional social workers. The social work program recently underwent a site visit from CSWE for reaffirmation of accreditation of its baccalaureate social work program. NWOSU welcomed site visitor, Dr. H. Stephen Cooper, from the Stephen F. Austin State University on a virtual visit on September 30, 2020. The program has completed a formal response to the site visit report and is awaiting a final determination of reaffirmation from CSWE's Commission on Accreditation (COA) February 2021 meeting.

A special thank you to all of the following for their participation during the site visit: University Administrators- Janet Cunningham, University President; James Bell, Associate VP for Academics & Dean of Faculty, and Bo Hannaford, Executive Vice President. Social Work Students- Sara Houchin, Isis Lair, Cyntyia Lloyd, Scott Messenger, Jamie Metcalf, Sydnee Miller, Mazzy Priest, Rebecca Wasson, Jessica Wildman and Heather Wilkinson. Field Instructors and Advisory Board Members: Codi Harding, Karen Harrison, Tricia Mitchell, Raquel Razien, Amy Whitson and Kevin Evans.



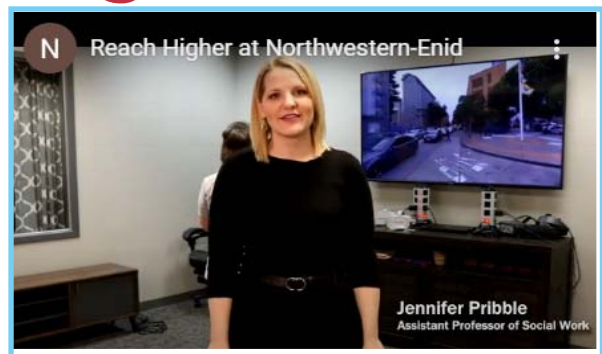
Dr. Rehder Awarded for 15 Years of Service

Dr. Kylene Rehder, Chair of the Department of Social Work and Professor of Social Work, was one of five recipients to be recognized for 15 years of service at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. We are proud of the hard work and dedication that she has put into our department and applaud her for her strength, hard work, and determination.



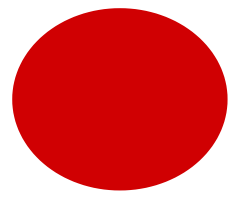
Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president (center), joins Northwestern’s 15-year service award recipients are (left to right) Skeeter Bird, Dr. Kylene Rehder, Dr. Eric Schmaltz and Jake Boedecker.

ReachHigher



Please visit <https://www.nwsu.edu/reach-higher> to learn more about Reach Higher, the degree completion programs offered on Northwestern’s Woodward and Enid campuses. On the webpage you can view videos including Dr. Kylene Rehder and Professor Jennifer Pribble.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT



Assistant Professor of Social Work & Director of Field Education

Position Available

Nine-month, full-time, tenure-track assistant professor of social work and director of social work field education. Salary, based on qualifications and experience, is determined by the vice president for academic affairs and university president and approved by the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO).

General Information

Northwestern Oklahoma State University is a multi-campus, state-assisted regional institution in the Oklahoma System of Higher Education and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The student population is approximately 2,000 students.

Available

August 2021

Duties and Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be based on the NWOSU—Enid campus. Faculty members in the department carry 27 credit hours of load per academic year. The load of the director of field education is reduced by 25% for administrative duties. The director of field education will develop and manage all aspects of the social work field education program. Compensated summer teaching is available but not required. Tenure-track positions include an expectation of committee participation and student advisement beginning in the second year of employment.

Qualifications

An earned doctorate in social work from a CSWE-accredited program. The preferred applicant will hold a license to practice social work and have teaching experience in higher education.

Minimum Qualifications

A master's degree in social work from a CSWE accredited program, with at least two years of post-MSW social work practice experience.

Closing Date

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Send Information to

Dr. James Bell, Dean of Faculty
Northwestern Oklahoma State University
709 Oklahoma Blvd.
Alva, OK 73717
Email: jlbell@nwosu.edu

Applicants should provide a cover letter, curriculum vita that includes contact information for at least three professional references, NWOSU application for faculty (<https://www.nwosu.edu/uploads//exempt-employee-app-fillable.pdf>), academic transcripts (unofficial transcripts sufficient for application; official transcripts required before appointment), and brief statement of teaching philosophy. Electronic applications are preferred, via email as PDF attachments.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants who would enrich the diversity of the campus community are encouraged to apply. Only applicants who are authorized to be employed in the United States need apply.

Student Spotlight

Sydnee Miller, Senior



“When I decided on Northwestern Oklahoma State University to complete my undergraduate degree in social work, I had no idea the impact it would have on my future. Before coming to NWOSU, I did not have ambition to pursue a master’s degree but because of the excellent social work program and amazing professors I fell in love with the social work profession. I am so grateful for the experiences of this program.”

Student Spotlight

Cyntyia Lloyd, Treasurer/Secretary of SWAT

“Social work is more than a study or curriculum; it’s training and preparation for various career options that range anywhere from the medical to law fields of work. The professors, advisors, and mentors have been exceedingly supportive, informative, and intelligible throughout my entire studies here at NWOSU. I know through practicing classes, specialized electives, and the student led organization (SWAT) I will be prepared to take on my field practicum, career as a social worker, and graduate school knowing that I’ve attained qualifying skills, expansive competency, self-awareness, and professional behavior. I look forward to and feel greatly confident starting my career thanks to the NWOSU Social Work Department.”



Service Learning in Social Work

Every semester, social work students engage in service learning projects across Northwest Oklahoma while enrolled in SOCW 2121 Service Learning in Social Work. The intent of the course is to promote civic responsibility and prepare students for life-long engagement in their communities. This Fall, many social work students volunteered at the university's Campus Cabinet. The Campus Cabinet was created in early 2018 after members of the NWOSU Art Society with help from sponsors, Angelia and Valarie Case, noticed a need among Northwestern students and employees. The pantry fills a vital community need and we are so proud of the service our social work students provide to the Campus Cabinet.



Megan Lehr (right), president of the Bank It: A Habit of Helping Foundation, presents a mini-grant of \$1,000 to Northwestern Campus Cabinet coordinator Angelia Case (center) and student volunteer Shelby Porter, Cherokee sophomore majoring in social work.

SWAT Trunk-or-Treat



SWAT members, Cyntyia Lloyd and Scott Messenger, help pass out treat bags for the drive-thru Trunk or Treat hosted by Fowler Early Childhood Center in Enid



Primp for Prom

DONATION
EVENT



**DRESSES, SHOES, AND JEWELRY CAN BE
DONATED AT WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL AT
13TH AND DOWNS AVENUE IN WOODWARD.**

TO DONATE IN THE **WOODWARD** AREA, CONTACT DR. KYLENE
REHDER AT KDREHDER@NWOSU.EDU OR STEFANIE
ALEXANDER AT (580) 256-2858

TO DONATE IN **ALVA**, PLEASE CONTACT LEAH MAPLE,
SECRETARY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
AT LFMAPLE@NWOSU.EDU

TO DONATE IN **ENID**, PLEASE CONTACT
JENNIFER PRIBBLE AT
JLPRIBBLE@NWOSU.EDU

**PRIMP FOR PROM IS AN ANNUAL EVENT HELD IN
WOODWARD FOR NW TRI-STATE AREA HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PICK OUT A FORMAL DRESS
AT NO CHARGE. SPONSORED BY NWOSU
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND WOODWARD
HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB**



Social Work Department Welcomes Virtual Reality Lab

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work is home to a state-of-the-art Virtual Reality (VR) Lab. This facility features VR headsets and hand controllers that transports students into various virtual environments to learn professional practice skills. This semester, the program has been engaged in program evaluation to assess the impact VR training has on the development of "practice" core competencies. The program looks forward to releasing evaluation data in the Spring. The facility and equipment was funded through the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) Student Payback Funds Grant operated by the University of Oklahoma's Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work.



Social Work Virtual Reality Lab



Sara Houchin, social work senior, participating in the program evaluation of virtual reality in social work education.



Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program Awards Two Recipients

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work announces Northwestern-Enid seniors Jamie Metcalf and Heather Wilkinson are the stipend recipients of the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) for the 2020-2021 academic year. CWPEP provides funds for students who plan careers in child welfare services in Oklahoma. The stipends are awarded to full-time students majoring in social work and provide money toward educational expenses to participating students. Students who receive the stipends complete educational internships in child welfare agencies within the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). Upon graduation, students are assured employment in the participating DHS programs. CWPEP is a Title IV-E partnership between the University of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Council, and Social Work Education (CSWE) in accredited social work programs in Oklahoma. The University of Oklahoma manages the child welfare consortium. Other partners along with Northwestern include East Central University and Oral Roberts University.

Funding for the educational program is provided by Title IV-E of the social security act, called the Child Welfare Training program.

"The social work program is proud to administer the CWPEP program and play an essential role in securing and retaining quality social workers in the public child welfare system," Dr. Kylene Rehder, department of social work chair, CWPEP coordinator, and professor of social work, said. "CWPEP at Northwestern has graduated 17 students, resulting in more than \$130,000 being awarded in educational assistance."



Heather Wilkinson

“I am honored to be selected as a recipient as I have dreamed of working with families and children for as long as I can remember. As a child welfare specialist, I plan to be an advocate for those families and be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. I am excited for the opportunity to work in child welfare, and I cannot wait to put the knowledge I have gained from Northwestern into practice.

“I would like to thank my wonderful professors for encouraging me to apply for this program and providing social work students at Northwestern with all the tools they need to be successful. I am also grateful for my family and friends for constantly supporting me throughout my college career and pushing me to be the best I can be.”



Jamie Metcalf



“It is an honor to be selected to receive the CWPEP grant. I have dreamed of the day I could make a true difference and impact the lives of children and families. To know that I will be given the chance to work alongside other social workers in the state of Oklahoma, is a wish come true. Thank you for recognizing me and my hard work. This is the chance of a lifetime, to follow the career of my dreams.”

Advisory Board Members

The Social Work Program Advisory Board is comprised of social workers, practitioners, and leaders in our local communities that foster and support the continued development of social work education in the region. While members come from different communities, the committee is seen as one functional unit and focuses on the overall development of the program. The primary purpose of the board is to maintain active communication between the social work practice community and the program to ensure continued improvement.

The Social Work Program Advisory Board addresses the following: student preparation to meet community and agency needs, expectations for students in field education, program assessment outcomes, input on educational policies, student recruitment and retention, job placement, research initiatives, and identifying agency needs that the social work program can address to contribute to community betterment.



Kevin Evans, Executive Director
Western Plains Youth and Family Services



Wynter Standridge, SWAT President
Northwestern Oklahoma State University

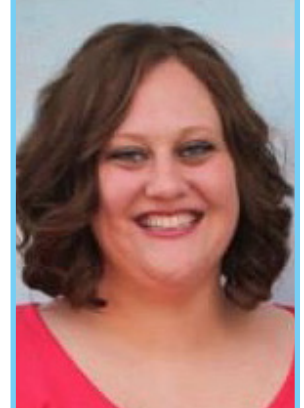


Pamela Bookout, MSW, LCSW, Integrated Health Specialist
Great Salt Plains Health Center, Inc.

Amy Whitson, Child Welfare Deputy Director
Region I, Oklahoma Department of Human Services



Raquel Razien, Regional Program Director
United Methodist Circle of Care



Tricia Mitchell, Executive Director
4RKids Foundation



Nancy Prigmore, MSW, JD, Manager
Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma