



FALL 2023

# IMPACT

*Serving generations, changing the world*



**Northwestern**  
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY™

# Social Work Faculty

ACCREDITED BY THE



Board of Accreditation



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 biannual 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 Work Breaks Barriers  
Ride, Rangers, Ride!  
Dr. Kylene Rehder, LCSW  
Professor of Social Work  
Social Work Program Director  
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**SOCIAL WORK**  
**BREAKS BARRIERS**

# Northwestern Scholar Ambassadors



Two of the nineteen students selected for a year-long adventure as members of Northwestern Scholar Ambassadors (NSA) are social work students: Laney Anderson (left) and Jenna Maier (right).

NSA is a group of academically high achievers led by Ethan Sacket. We are so proud of them!

# Northwestern Announces New Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Minor



Northwestern Oklahoma State University officials have announced that a new interdisciplinary minor will be offered in the fall 2023 semester. The infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) minor emphasizes the importance of supporting the developing parent-infant relationship and promoting secure attachments.

The minor will consist of 20 credit hours in the fields of education, psychology, and social work. It will be administered through the Department of Social Work and be is designed for students in a helping profession with an interest in integrating knowledge of infant and childhood mental health into their professional practice. The coursework guides professionals in understanding the complexities of infant and early childhood mental health for practical application in their major disciplines.

# 2023 Club Fair & Ice Cream Social



## Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (S.W.A.T.)

participating in the Club and Organization Ice Cream Social Event and visiting with students about our outstanding organization in social work.

# Why Social Work?

## Why Choose the Social Work Profession?

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet basic and complex needs of all people, with a particular focus on those who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. If you're looking for a career with meaning, action, diversity, satisfaction, and a variety of options, consider social work. Social work is different from other professions, because we focus both on the person and their environment. Social workers deal with the external factors that impact a person's situation and outlook. And we create opportunities for assessment and intervention, to help clients and communities cope effectively with their reality and change that reality when necessary. Social workers help clients deal not only with how they feel about a situation but also with what they can do about it.

In thousands of ways, social workers help people of every age and background, all across the country. The most well-known aspect of the social work profession is providing direct services or therapy directly to clients. We help guide people to critical resources and counsel them on life-changing decisions. We also advocate for change to improve social conditions and strengthen the social net.

There are more than 600,000 professional social workers in the United States, and we all either have a BSW, MSW or a DSW/PhD in Social Work. There are more clinically trained social workers than clinically trained psychiatrists, psychologists, and psychiatric nurses combined (Adapted from the National Association of Social Workers).

## New Staff



Join Us  
in Welcoming Bishop Buck  
to the Department of Social  
Work!

Bishop is serving as the secretary to the department of social work and holds a Bachelors of Social Work (BSW) from Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

# Pi Gamma Mu



**Congratulations Melanie Yager! She was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu, an international social sciences honor society dedicated to promoting excellence in social sciences and upholding scholarship, leadership and service.**

**Requirements for membership include a minimum of 20 hours of social science, a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 and must be in the top third of the graduating class.**

# Cherokee Strip Parade



PROFESSOR CODI HARDING REPRESENTED NWOSU AND THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT IN THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHEROKEE STRIP PARADE ON SEPTEMBER 16TH IN ENID, OKLAHOMA.



# NWOSU Homecoming

ROCK RANGERS ROCK





# Child Abuse Medical Examiners Training: Child Sexual Abuse & Commercial Sexual Exploitation



Laney Anderson, Harlie Altland, Jenna Maier, and Professor Harding attended a training hosted by Haruv USA in Tulsa, OK on October 25, 2023, at the OU Tulsa Learning Center. The training covered the topic of child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploration. The students and Professor Harding heard from an Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations Special Agent, OSBI Sexual Assault Tracking System Administer, Child Abuse Pediatrics Specialist, Tulsa Children's Justice Center Child Abuse Pediatrics, as well as an expert in child maltreatment and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). During the training they were able to learn how Medical Professionals collect evidence when sexual abuse or child abuse is suspected. They also explored an actual sexual abuse case and saw how Law Enforcement receives tips, investigates those tips, the process of gaining a warrant and serving a warrant, as well as arresting the person suspected of sexually abusing children.

# Halloween

The Enid NWSU Campus invited Fowler Early Education Center for trick or treating



# Guest Presenters

Thank you Charlotte Kendrick, Graduate Coordinator & Misty Stanberry, CWPEP Program Coordinator, from The University of Oklahoma's Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work for presenting to social work classes.



# Kindness Day

The Department of Social Work posted kindness notes to the cars of social service professionals at Western Plains Youth and Family Services & of Woodward campus students



SWAT collected items for the Enid Salvation Army's Food Pantry and delivered it for Kindness Day

# Primp for Prom Receives Award

The Service Learning/Civic Engagement committee awarded their Most Expressive Award to Social Workers Association of Tomorrow, “Primp for Prom.” This award is given to a club/organization that had a unique project/event. Nearly 250 dresses were given away to students from 18 high schools in three states during the 9th annual Primp for Prom event held in March at the Woodward High School Practice Gym.

“Primp for Prom is an annual event that promotes human and community well-being and highlights equity & inclusion,” said Dr. Kylene Rehder, Department of social work chair and professor of social work.



# Dignity Drive

This year SWAT will be gathering donations for The Day Center located in The Hope Center in Woodward. The Day Center assists the homeless in the local community to get out of the elements, receive a warm meal, take a hot shower, do their laundry, and provides a place to rest. Case managers and outside agencies assist the clients with developing goals for their future.

“What appears as a small act of kindness on our part, dropping an item in the box, is in truth, an immensely valuable opportunity to empower individuals in our community struggling to meet their basic needs through the restoration of their dignity and self-worth,” Ashley Garner, a senior from Perkins serving as SWAT president, said. “I want to give my heartfelt thanks to each person participating in the drive from contributing to maintaining donation boxes.”

“This year's SWAT Dignity Drive is focusing on decreasing the need for hygiene products, as some may not be able to provide for themselves and their families,” Laney Anderson, a senior from Ada serving as SWAT vice president, said. “I am excited to be a part of helping meet basic needs for vulnerable people in need.”



**8th Annual Dignity Drive**  
S.W.A.T. is collecting travel sized

Shampoo Conditioner Deodorant	Lotion Chapstick Hand Sanitizer
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Please drop off new, unused items at:

<u>Alva</u> Wellness Center Jesse Dunn Library Student Center	<u>Enid &amp; Woodward</u> Commons
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Drive Ends 12/8/23

**NWOSU**  
Approved Student Services

The poster features various travel-sized hygiene products like Chapstick, deodorant, and lotion, along with decorative colorful shapes and a list of drop-off locations.



# CWPEP Stipend Recipients



The 2023-2024 Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program recipients are (left to right): Kyra Hussey, Okeene junior; Mickenzie Turner, Enid senior; and Melanie Yager, Woodward senior. Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work has named three students as stipend recipients of the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) for the 2023-24 academic year. The recipients are Kyra Hussey, junior at the Enid campus from Okeene; Mickenzie Turner, junior at the Enid campus from Enid; and Melanie Yager, senior at the Woodward campus from Woodward. 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 22 students, resulting in \$170,000 awarded in educational assistance."

# Ranger Preview



## Professional Development



**Dr. Rehder recently completed the Applying the Quality Matters Rubric course.**

**Quality Matters (QM) is the global organization leading quality assurance in online and innovative digital teaching and learning environments. It provides a scalable quality assurance system for online and blended learning used within and across organizations. QM professional development is designed to help educators deliver the promise of quality online learning opportunities to every level of learner.**

# 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



Kailie Martin, BSW, MSW  
Community Resource Coordinator  
Northwest Family Services



Ashley Garner, SWAT President  
Northwestern Oklahoma State University

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



James Marks, MSW, LCSW  
Manager of the Clinical Division  
Centene Corporation



Raquel Razien, BSW, MSW, Former State Director  
of Community and Prevention Services  
United Methodist Circle of Care

