

Spring 2024

# IMPACT

Serving generations, changing the world.



**Northwestern**<sup>TM</sup>  
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



# FACULTY

## 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 bi-yearly 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.

Empowering Social Workers - Ride Rangers Ride



DR. KYLENE REHDER, LCSW  
Professor of Social Work  
Social Work Program Director  
Jesse Dunn 308 Alva Campus  
(580) 327-8135  
kdrehder@nwosu.edu



# Senior Spotlight-Bailey Pelland

"The Social Work Program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University has prepared me for a career in my passion for helping others. Having small class sizes allowed me to get to know my classmates and professors well and excel in my coursework. Every professor in the program is supportive and encouraging. I plan to enter the workforce after graduation in May, but not ruling out a Masters of Social Work degree in my future."



Practicum Site: Kansas Department for Children & Families in Hutchinson, KS

## Spring Showcase



The Department of Social Work was proud to participate in the Spring 2024 Showcase. Pictured: Professor Harding, Laney Anderson, and Hunter McMillin



#SWMonth2024  
#EmpoweringSocialWorkers  
#nwosusocialwork



Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work helped celebrate Social Work Month in March with the theme "Empowering Social Workers: Inspiring Action, Leading Change," a campaign that gives the public ways to support the profession in address our nation's challenges.

Social workers are people who enter the profession because they truly want to improve the lives of others and are uniquely qualified to handle complex societal issues. They go through years of education, training, and supervision so they can do the delicate, but important work of helping others achieve goals.

Social workers are trained to work in holistic ways, assisting not only individuals but families, organizations, communities, and even society at large. Social workers are employed everywhere - in hospitals, schools, local, state, and federal government, social service agencies, corporations, and veteran centers.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), social work is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States. It predicts nearly 800,000 people will work as social workers in the by 2032, an increase of seven percent over the decade."Social workers have been behind many initiatives we continue to benefit from, including Social Security, a minimum wage, Medicare, and improved workforce safety," said Dr. Kylene Rehder, professor of social work and chair of the department of social work. "As our nation continues to face challenges, it is important that our society empower and support social workers so they can continue to help millions of Americans improve their lives." During Social Work Month and beyond, we can support the profession through legislation that increases social work salaries, improves social work safety, and promotes mental health services (adapted from the National Association of Social Workers, 2024).

# Professional Development

The 2022 Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards of CSWE affirms and strengthens the enduring commitment of social work education to principles of anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI). CSWE continues to support social work programs in developing a workforce of social workers who are knowledgeable about the ways positionality, power, privilege, and difference affect practice areas, and how social workers challenge systems of oppression that affect diverse populations.



Dr. Rehder & Professor Harding attended ADEI in the Social Work Curriculum in February 2024 hosted by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

# 2024 Oklahoma State Capitol



Professor Harding and a group of ten social work students embarked on a tour of the Oklahoma State Capitol. During the visit, the students gained firsthand insight into advocacy efforts and witnessed legislative processes in action.



SWAT participated in The Salvation Army of Enid Spruce Up A Life program. This program helps people in the community that may need a little more help this time of year celebrate Christmas. The participants receive a decorated tree and anyone over the age of 13 in the household receive gifts. SWAT also participated in The Angel Tree program, this program helps families receive gifts for their children who are 12 years and under. Thank you Ashley Garner, President of SWAT and Mickenzie Turner, member of SWAT for helping provide Christmas for a family this year.

# Wooden Children 2024

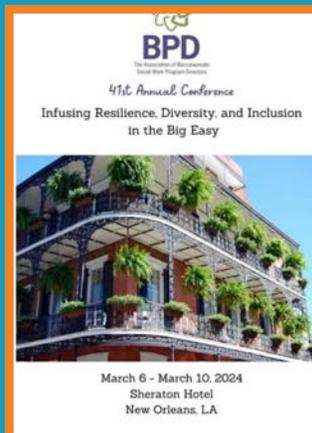
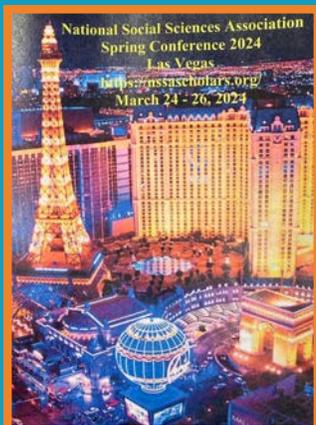
April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month! Members of the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) have taken part in the "Wooden Children" project sponsored by The Care Campus.

The "Wooden Children" project is designed to bring awareness to the number of child abuse and neglect cases that are reported each year. In 2023, 271 confirmed cases of child abuse were reported in Garfield County, the number has increased from the previous year. The Care Campus, previously known as The Garfield County Child Advocacy Council, has conducted the Wooden Children Program annually for more than a decade. Each wooden figurine is approximately two to three feet high and was cut out by volunteers from the Garfield County community. Volunteers also painted on the faces and hair. Organizations, businesses, groups and individuals were asked to "foster" a wooden child for \$35. The group sponsoring the child dressed and displayed them. On April 5th the Wooden Children were taken to the courthouse lawn to be displayed for all of April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. To volunteer with The Care Campus or become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) call 580-242-1153.

Codi Harding, SWAT sponsor and assistant professor of social work, emphasized, "This initiative aims to increase awareness of the prevalence of child abuse and neglect within our communities. SWAT hopes this project will remind the community that we have a responsibility in safeguarding children. We also would like to remind the public, they are mandated reporters in the state of Oklahoma."



## Professional Conferences

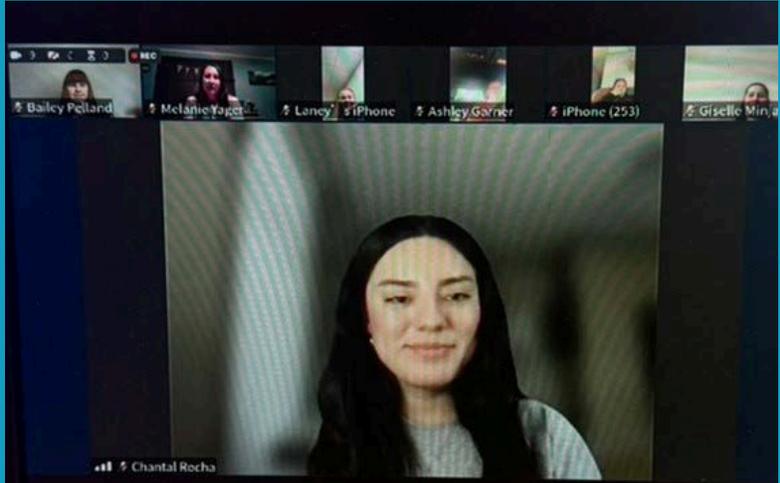


**NASW Oklahoma 2024 Virtual Conference**  
March 1, 2, 8 & 9

# Guest Presentations



The Department of Social Work was honored to welcome Holly Good, Family Treatment Court Coordinator at Youth and Family Services to our Child Abuse and Neglect class for an outstanding presentation.



**Bishop Buck & Chantal Rocha** spoke to the Senior class about life after the NWOSU BSW and the MSW programs at the Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at The University of Oklahoma



Thank you OKDHS, Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers, Northwest Family Services, Northcare and Journey Women's Center for presenting!

# NASW-OK LEAD DAY



Northwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Social Work students and faculty joined social work students and practitioners from across the state in April at the Oklahoma Capitol for the 2024 National Association of Social Workers, Oklahoma Chapter (NASW-OK) Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD). Social work students and faculty from Oral Roberts University, East Central University, and the Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work from The University of Oklahoma were also in attendance to learn about current legislation impacting the profession of social work and the populations they serve. The day started with a welcome message from NASW-OK Board President Stacey Blaylock and concluded with meetings with legislators. "Legislative Education and Advocacy Day provides an opportunity for participation in public policy issues and social justice advocacy, both key components of social work education and practice," Dr. Kylene Rehder, professor of social work and chair of the department of social work, said. Rehder said participating in LEAD provides an opportunity for social work students to engage in macro-level social work and learn effective ways to advocate for populations; as well as allowing students to understand how to access public policy and interact with their legislators.

# Field Experience for Nine Social Work Seniors in Oklahoma & Kansas



Rebecca Faubion

Melanie Yager

Mickenzie Turner

Allysa Donaldson

Laney Anderson

Maci Howell

Giselle Minjares

Ashley Garner

Bailey Pelland

Nine Northwestern Oklahoma State University senior social work majors began their field practicum assignments at agencies throughout Oklahoma and Kansas this spring semester. These students must complete 420 contact hours, demonstrate 20 behaviors and master the program's nine core competencies as outlined by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Field Education is a signature pedagogy for social work that instructs and socializes students to the fundamental dimensions of professional practice. During field education, students are able to immerse themselves in practice and apply the skills and knowledge they have attained. "Each student in their field education is assigned to a field instructor who volunteers their time to assist in the education of students, as well as reinforce social work ideas, behaviors and competencies," Codi Harding, director of field experience and assistant professor of social work, said. "We appreciate all of our past and present field instructors."

Students currently in their field practicums, hometowns, and their practicum agency placements: Laney Anderson of Stratford, Northwest Family Services in Alva; Allysa Donaldson of Elk City, Oklahoma Department of Human Services in Beckham County; Maci Howell of Attica, Kansas, Horizons Mental Health Center in Hutchinson, Kansas; Ashley Garner of Perkins, Stillwater Public Schools in Stillwater; Rebecca Faubion of Covington, healthcare corporation; Bailey Pelland of Pratt, Kansas, Kansas Department for Children and Families in Hutchinson, Kansas; Giselle Minjares of Woodward, Western Plains Youth and Family Services in Woodward; Mickenzie Turner of Enid, Oklahoma Department of Human Services in Enid; and Melanie Yager of Woodward, Oklahoma Department of Human Services in Woodward.

# Primp for Prom

More than 300 dresses were given away to students from 30 high schools in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas during the 10th annual Primp for Prom event recently held at Woodward High School. This year more than 500 dresses and 100 pairs of shoes were donated to the Northwestern Oklahoma State University social work department that co-sponsors the event with Woodward High School.

On behalf of her department, Dr. Kylene Rehder, chair of the department of social work, social work program director and professor of social work, expressed appreciation to those who helped with the event's success including her co-director Stefanie Alexander; Woodward High School students and staff; Northwestern-Woodward campus dean Dr. Jonathan Thomason; former Woodward campus dean Dr. Deena Fisher; Mayor Tom Fisher; Woodward Leadership Advisory Board members; Tres Jolie of Edmond; Roberta Chance; Gamma Club of Woodward; Alison Collier; Northwestern social work student volunteers; social work alumni and professional social workers; Celebrations of Woodward; and all the generous dress and accessory donors from across northwest Oklahoma. She noted a special thanks to the administration of Woodward High School for playing host to the event.

**“Please understand this event is about more than dresses,” Rehder said. “We see it as a means to embody our university and professional commitment to serve. This community event provides financial support to families, builds a sense of community, celebrates inclusion, models service, and promotes positive self-images, confidence and empowerment to young people.”**







A special thank you to Tres Jolie for their gorgeous dress donations to Primp for Prom.



Congratulation to our Social Work Advisory Board Member, Kevin Evans, for winning Woodward Citizen of the Year 2024.



Congratulation to Elaine Akin, CWPEP Program Evaluator, on her retirement. Current and former social work educators from across the state attended the retirement celebration.



Congratulations to Carol Stocking, Social Work Adjunct Faculty, for being named to the Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health Board of Directors.



Thank you to the Gamma Club of Woodward for inviting Dr. Rehder to present about Primp for Prom.



Congratulations to Jennifer Pribble (NWOSU BSW & Adjunct Social Work Faculty) and Chantal Rocha (NWOSU BSW) on their respective awards. Jennifer is the recipient of the "Heart of a Social Worker" Field Instructor of the Year Award through The University of Oklahoma. Chantal is the recipient of The Nadine J. Roach Memorial Award which honors students for outstanding performance in practicum.

A huge congratulations to Jocelyn Long, a BSW graduate of 2023, for being recognized as the Practicum Student of the Year at University of Missouri-Kansas City's MSW program!



SWAT's donations to the Salvation Army during United Way's Day of Kindness was highlighted during United Way of Enid & NW Oklahoma's Annual Meeting.



# 100 SOCIAL WORK JOBS

## HEALTH & MEDICAL

Medical Social Worker  
Healthcare Social Worker  
Hospice & Palliative Care Social Worker  
Health Clinic Social Worker  
Integrated Health Social Worker  
Behavioral Health Social Worker  
Public Health Social Worker  
Mental Health Therapist  
Geriatric Social Worker  
Behavioral Health Care Specialist  
Rehabilitation Social Worker  
Psychiatric Social Worker

Patient Advocate  
Child Life Specialist  
Medical Case Manager  
Home Health Social Worker  
Hospital Social Worker  
Pediatric Social Worker  
Prevention Specialist  
Emergency Room Social Worker  
Oncology Social Worker  
Dialysis Social Worker  
Community Health Social Worker

## EDUCATION

School-Based Social Worker  
School Counselor  
School-Based Mental Health Therapist  
Social Work Educator  
Student Support Specialist  
School Behavioral Interventionist

## MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)  
Mental Health Advocate  
Substance Abuse Counselor  
Marriage & Family Therapist  
Assessment Specialist  
Psychiatric Social Worker  
Addiction Counselor  
Crisis Intervention Specialist  
Behavioral Health Specialist  
Dual Diagnosis Therapist  
Rehabilitation Counselor  
Case Manager  
Outreach Worker  
Program Coordinator  
Crisis Therapist  
Intake Specialist  
Recovery Social Worker  
Eating Disorder Specialist  
Mental Health Program Director  
Community Mental Health Worker

## SPECIAL POPULATIONS, ISSUES & SETTINGS

Child Welfare Specialist  
Certified Sports Social Worker  
Veterinary Social Worker  
Disaster Relief Social Worker  
Infant Mental Health Specialist  
Forensic Social Worker  
Homelessness Social Worker  
Adoption Specialist  
Disability Services Social Worker  
Foster Care Social Worker  
Expert Witness  
Rural Social Worker  
Trauma Based Social Worker  
Residential Treatment Specialist

Military & Veteran Affairs Social Worker  
Domestic Violence Social Worker  
Child Protection Services Social Worker  
Gerontology Social Worker  
International Social Worker  
Tribal Social Worker  
Juvenile Services Specialist  
Legal Aid Social Worker  
Correctional Treatment Social Worker  
Re-Entry Specialist  
Victim Advocate  
Senior Services Specialist  
Grief Therapist

## ADMINISTRATION, POLICY & RESEARCH

Social Policy Researcher  
Policy Developer  
Community Outreach Director  
Nonprofit Administrator  
Public Policy Manager  
Program Developer  
Research Associate  
Employee Assistance Program Specialist  
Politician  
Strategic Planner  
Policy Advisor  
Lobbyist

Community Program Manager  
Director of Social Services  
Policy Analyst  
Program Director  
Research Coordinator  
Grant Writer  
Program Evaluator  
Community Organizer  
Legislative Advocate  
Author  
Project Manager  
Data Analyst



@NWOSU\_SOCIALWORK



Ellis Career Career Fair  
We love sharing about the profession of social work and all the amazing jobs in the field!

# DESERVING RANGER AWARD

Ashley Garner, senior social work major at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, has been honored with this year's deSERVING Ranger Award from the Service-Learning and Civic Engagement (SL/CE) program. Kaylyn Hansen, director of assessment and institutional effectiveness who also leads the service-learning and civic engagement program, said each spring the award recognizes an outstanding Northwestern student who demonstrates the following :

- Dedication to service and a sense of responsibility to the Northwestern service-learning and civic engagement vision
- Serves as a community service model for other students
- Exceptional leadership and organizational skills and
- Consistent work ethic and availability

The Perkins native has completed more than 100 service hours in volunteer opportunities including the Compassion in Action Dignity Drive, Primp for Prom, Campus Cabinet Food Drive, Kindness Day, Garfield County Child Advocacy Center Wooden Children Project and the Northwestern Baseball and Apple Pie event. "Ashley embodies 'service' and helps above her self-interest on a daily basis," Dr. Kylene Rehder, professor of social work and chair of the department of social work, said. "She is an excellent role model and exemplifies servant leadership." Garner has served as the president of Northwestern's Social Workers of Tomorrow (SWAT) chapter since the 2022 fall semester, and serves on the Social Work Advisory Board. "Receiving the deSERVING Ranger Award for civic engagement is a truly humbling honor," Garner said. "I am deeply grateful to be recognized for my contributions to our communities. I am blessed with an amazing family to support me, a cohort at Northwestern that believes, as I do, and mentors in our department who guided me greatly along this journey."

Codi Harding, SWAT sponsor and assistant professor of social work, said Garner shaped the social work student organization as a member and now as president. "She is always willing to help fellow students and the community succeed," Harding said. Both Harding and Rehder emphasized that Garner served an instrumental role in the success of all their service-learning projects. "Ashley has demonstrated commitment and leadership to the university through service learning since she arrived on campus," Rehder said. "She volunteers her time to help anyone in need and has transformed the student organization SWAT." Garner is encouraged to see what the future holds. "I believe that together, we can continue to make meaningful strides towards a brighter future for all," Garner said. "Thank you for the inspiration to keep striving for positive change."



# Haruv USA at OU Tulsa

 **HARUV USA**  
at OU - Tulsa  **Northwestern**  
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Haruv USA for Northwestern Oklahoma State University:  
**Exploring the Intersection Between Infant  
Mental Health and Child Maltreatment**



**April 22, 1pm-4pm**  
**Woodward Convention Center**  
3401 Centennial Ln, Woodward, OK 73801  
**Ashleigh Kraft, LPC-S**  
3 hours FREE CEUs available for social work and LPC  
Afternoon refreshments provided  
**REGISTER HERE**



# GRADUATION

A huge round of applause for the newest cohort of Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) graduates! 🎓



# SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM



**Northwestern**<sup>TM</sup>  
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

The Social Work Program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University is part of the Department of Social Work and is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education's Board of Accreditation. The program requires 45 hours for majors and includes field education in a community agency. Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) graduates are prepared to provide competent, effective, generalist practice social work services. BSWs are also eligible for advanced standing in graduate social work programs offering the MSW degree.

For more information about the NWOSU Department of Social Work, contact us at: (580) 327-8134 or on the web @ <https://www.nwosu.edu/school-of-arts-and-sciences/social-work>



SCAN ME

### WHAT DO SOCIAL WORKERS DO?

Professional social workers are found in every facet of community life - in schools, hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, elected office, private practices, prisons, military, corporations, and in numerous public and private agencies that serve individuals, families & communities in need. They often specialize in one or more of the following practice areas:

Mental Health Therapy · Disaster Relief · Military Social Work · Rural Social Work · Adoption & Foster Care · Child Welfare Services · Family Preservation Services · Homeless Family Assistance · Eating Disorders · Community, Maternal & Child Health · Medical Social Work · Crisis Intervention · School Social Work · Hospice & Palliative Care · Depression · Institutional Care · Outpatient Treatment · Development Disabilities · International Social Work · Advocacy, Consulting & Planning · Community Mental Health · Employee Assistance · Private Practice · Veterans Services · Child Abuse & Neglect · Domestic Violence · Political Development · Parent Education · Recreation & Socialization Services · Family Planning · Veterinary Social Work · School-Based Programs · Gerontology Services · Community-Based Services · In-Home Services · Sports Social Work · Dementia & Alzheimer's · Addictions: Prevention/Treatment · Criminal Justice · Housing Assistance · Public Welfare · Employment Services

### SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Kylene Rehder, LCSW  
Professor of Social Work  
Social Work Program Director  
Department Chair  
Jesse Dunn 308 Alva Campus  
(580) 327-8135  
kdrehder@nwosu.edu



### SOCIAL WORK COURSE SEQUENCE FOR MAJORS

Year & Number	Hrs	Course Title
<b>Sophomore Year</b>		
SOCW 2113	3	Social Work: A Helping Profession *
SOCW 2121	1	Service Learning in Social Work co-requisite* →
<b>Junior Year</b>		
<i>Admission to the Major</i>		
SOCW 3214	4	Human Behavior and the Social Environment
SOCW 3543	3	Diversity and Social Justice
SOCW 3143	3	Social Welfare Policies & Services
SOCW 3293	3	SOCW Practice with Individuals
<b>Senior Year</b>		
<i>Admission to the Practicum</i>		
SOCW 4023	3	SOCW Practice with Families and Groups
SOCW 4143	3	Social Research and Evaluation
SOCW 4113	3	SOCW Practice with Organizations and Communities
SOCW 4205	5	Field Experience I: Spring
SOCW 4215	5	Field Experience II: Spring or Summer
SOCW Electives	9	SOCW or SOC Electives (9)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	* Courses are co-requisite-prior to admission to social work

Social work is a challenging and rewarding profession, one that is dedicated to the greater good in our society and for our clients. Social work is an art, a science, and a profession that helps people solve personal, group, family, and community problems.



# 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

