



**Northwestern**

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

# IMPACT

Serving generations, changing the world.

Fall 2018



FALL 2018

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# Greetings from the Program Chair

On behalf of the Department of Social Work, I welcome you to Northwestern's Social Work Program newsletter, Fall 2018 edition. We are thrilled to report the Department of Social Work is thriving with many new students developing interest in the field, increased numbers in enrollment, and with significant contributions being made our faculty, students, and alumni.

In this edition, we introduce you to one of our alumni, Codi Harding, and explore where her social work degree has taken her. We also take the time to recognize faculty for their hall of fame awards presented by the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at OU, congratulate Professor Pribble for her accomplishment as a Faculty Champion of Diversity, and celebrate our Spring graduates. In addition, we honor Dana Kausek as being recognized one of Northwestern's Outstanding Seniors, and Katelyn Van Vickle for receiving the university's top service learning award, the deSERVING Ranger. We are proud of our rich involvement in NASW-OK and reflect on our students' participation in LEAD: Legislative Education & Action Day at the capitol. We also announce our departmental scholarship recipients, spotlight a current student, and offer remembrance of a beloved graduate, Ms. Caitlyn McOsker.

I would like to personally thank my social work students who nominated me for a teaching award. Being named the John Sheffield Teacher of the Year was a true highlight of my career, as the award signified true appreciation from my students and the progress of the social work program. I invite you to get involved with the Department of Social Work by joining our service learning initiatives, donating to our department scholarship funds, or providing us with an update so we can share. As always, we would like to express our gratitude to our advisory board, community partners, external stakeholders, and alumni as the accomplishments of the past year could not have been achieved without your collaborations and important partnerships.

Shaping Tomorrow Together - Ride, Rangers, Ride!

Dr. Kylene Rehder



**Dr. Kylene Rehder, LCSW**  
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Kylene Rehder".

## A message from the Field Director

I am excited to say that field education in Northwest Oklahoma is growing! Students are currently applying for their field education experiences and this is the largest group of students I have worked with since beginning as the Director of Field Education. I am looking forward to working with previous agencies and also getting to build relationships with new ones.

Like the Department of Social Work at Northwestern, the Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) student organization has also grown. We are excited to begin more volunteer activities at all of our campus locations. SWAT is in the process of beginning their Compassion in Action – Dignity Drive that gathers donations of hygiene products to donate to a community organization. This year we will be gathering donations to donate to an organization in Woodward.

Not only am I excited that the Department of Social Work at Northwestern is growing, but also the states involvement with the National Association of Social Workers – Oklahoma Branch. I have served as the Northwest Branch Chair for a little over a year now and am excited to see what the next year brings! Students have begun accessing NASW-OK as a resource for connections into the field of social work and have been motivated to increase networking within the field to expand their knowledge. I am excited for the Department of Social Work and the new opportunities that are arising for our department at Northwestern.

Ride, Rangers, Ride!

Jennifer Pribble, LCSW



**Jennifer Pribble, MSW, LCSW**  
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Pribble MSW, LCSW".

# Alumni Highlight: Codi Harding

Codi Harding began her journey at NWOSU during the fall 2014 semester as a “non-traditional” student. She received her Associates of Arts in Childhood Development from Northern Oklahoma College in May, 2014 and thought she wanted to become a Psychologist and started pursuing a degree in psychology.

“As I was studying psychology,” Harding said, “I was told I might want to look into social work and the opportunities that program had to offer. I asked Professor Shelby Hall of the Social Work Department and a professor of the Psychology department if they could explain the differences in the degrees. I was surprised at how similar, yet how different they were. Social work seemed to resonate better with me, so I decided to start on my social work degree. I want to help as many people as I could live productive lives. I believed social work could help me achieve this goal.”

Harding participated in many activities on the NWOSU Enid campus during her time here. She was part of the Enid Leadership Council, serving in multiple roles as Historian, Vice President, and later President. She participated as a member and later President of the Psychology Club and served as a member of Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT). Harding was honored with multiple awards while at NWOSU including the Enid Rotary Student of the Month, received The deSERVing Ranger Award for extraordinary student service to the Northwestern communities during the 2016-2017 school year, and was awarded the Psychology Student of the Year award for the 2016-2017 school year.

“I graduated with my BSW as well as a BS in Psychology in May, 2017 and went directly into graduate school in June at the University of Oklahoma. At OU, I completed a program through the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center called Empowering Patients through Inter-professional Collaboration (EPIC),” said Harding. “The EPIC program is a program designed to integrate students from the OU School of Social Work and the various health centered colleges. The students work together in teams to treat a patient at the Good Shepard Clinic in Oklahoma City. I also was part of the Phi Alpha Honor Society and graduated with my MSW in May of 2018 from the University of Oklahoma.”

Harding noted that the NWOSU Social Work program and practicum prepared her for the MSW. Harding said she felt prepared and confident going into the OU School of Social Work program and that Professor Pribble and Dr. Rehder both were there for me anytime she had questions or doubts through both the BSW and MSW programs. Harding said she felt honored to have had them as professors and now as colleagues.

As a current Licensed Social Worker Associate (LSWA), she is under supervision for her Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) licensure. Harding is currently employed at Youth and Family Services, NCO, as a school-based therapist. She provides elementary school-based counseling to children (preschool through fifth grade) and their families. After school, she provide counseling to clients in the Youth and Family Services emergency youth shelter. Harding is currently finishing her training for Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and incorporating PCIT children with problematic sexual behavior. Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) is a short-term, specialized behavior management program for young children experiencing behavior and/or emotional

difficulties. PCIT teaches parents and children appropriate ways to relate and improve overall behavior, as well as, reduce parent stress. This certification will help bring Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) to Northwest Oklahoma where there is a shortage of this kind of therapy right now. Harding plans on pursuing more training to

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# Two faculty receive awards at Hall of Fame ceremony

Northwestern Oklahoma State University faculty members Dr. Kylene Rehder and Raquel Razien recently received awards at the annual Board of Visitors Social Work Hall of Fame luncheon and ceremony.

Rehder, an associate professor, director of the Social Work Program and chair of the Department of Social Work at Northwestern, was named the 2018 Social Work Educator honoree. Razien, who served as an adjunct instructor in social work at Northwestern-Woodward, was named the 2018 Rural Social Worker honoree.

Rehder and Razien received their awards Friday, June 15, at the JJ Rhyne Community Room in Zarrow Hall at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Nominations for these awards are sought by social workers in Oklahoma and then selected by the awards committee of the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work's Board of Visitors. Each year several Hall of Fame awards are given to those who have made important contributions to social work in Oklahoma.

"For me this award signifies the incredible success of the social work program and its graduates," Rehder said. "Only in my wildest dreams did I envision the advancements social work services could make in Northwest Oklahoma. The transformation is in large part due to the support of Northwestern's administration allowing the program, faculty and students to flourish."

Rehder has worked at Northwestern since 2005 and is credited with leading the social work program to external accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Northwestern's social work program is only one of five CSWE accredited universities in the state and is the only one in western Oklahoma. With the development of a social work program in the region, the landscape of social services in Northwest Oklahoma has been transformed.

Rehder was honored within the university and her profession for her contributions to social work numerous times. She is the Jake and Jayne Lindsay Endowed Chair in Social Work at Northwestern, the university's 2012 Distinguished Service Award recipient, the John Barton Distinguished Teaching and Service Award recipient in 2013 and the John Sheffield Teacher of the Year Award recipient in 2018. In 2017, Rehder was recognized as an honoree during the 100th anniversary celebration of the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, and the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers presented her with the Social Worker of the Year Award in 2018.

Rehder earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Northwestern (2001) and a Master of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma (2003). In 2013, she completed a doctorate degree from North Central University, where her dissertation research focused on the use of technology in social work education and practice. Rehder is a licensed clinical social worker and a board

approved clinical supervisor by the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers. She has a rich history of involvement in the NASW-OK, holding key roles such as Northwest Branch Chair, Chapter Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identity (CCNLI), and the steering committee for the Social Work Public Education Campaign.

Her research efforts on licensure laws, titles and requirements provided the necessary foundation for legislative changes, bringing Oklahoma's Social Work Practice Act in alignment with other jurisdictions and the Social Work National Model Act. In 2015, Rehder was appointed by the governor to serve on the State Board of Licensed Social Workers and currently is the board's secretary. She is an advisory board member for the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP), which



# Pribble selected as Champion of Diversity

Jennifer Pribble, Director of Field Education in the Department of Social Work, was selected as a Champion of Diversity at NWOSU. Pribble's recognition comes from her diversity awareness initiatives on and off campus and her work on the Compassion in Action-Dignity Drive each year. This project gathers donated hygiene products annually and distributes them to non-profit agencies across Northwest Oklahoma.

The Diversity Program at Northwestern is a collaborative effort by the Diversity Committee, which is comprised of faculty, the Student Services Programs, and the Dean of Students and Enrollment Management. Furthermore, various academic departments, student services staff, athletics staff, and administrative office staff ensure that the diversity recommendations are implemented each academic year. Diversity Training opportunities are created and delivered each year based on the needs of faculty, staff, and students.



## Celebrating our spring graduates



"We are so proud of our graduates who are taking impressive generalist practice social work positions and who have decided to pursue graduate degrees. BSW graduates possess the intellectual, practical, and professional skills needed to promote beneficial change in the lives of their clients and in society at large. It is exciting to know the department of social work is addressing community needs by producing degreed, professional social workers in the region." said Dr. Kylene Rehder, chair of the department of Social Work.

Spring graduates include: Sierra Dezort, Kanani Jones, Dana Kausek, Denise Lively, Sierra Miller, Annie Moss, Mario Perez, and Levi Sanders.

# Kausek named Outstanding Senior at Spring Reunion ceremony

Twelve Northwestern Oklahoma State University students were recognized as Outstanding Seniors at this year's Spring Alumni Reunion Awards Ceremony, Saturday, April 28, at 5:15 p.m. in the Northwestern Student Center Ranger Room.

This award honored outstanding graduating seniors and was sponsored by the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association. Recipients must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, have completed at least 60 credit hours at Northwestern, never been subject to academic or disciplinary action, be involved in campus and/or community activities and show promise future achievement.

Dana Kausek, an Enid, Okla. native, graduated with her bachelor's in social work with a minor in psychology in the spring of 2018.

In 2007, Kausek received her dental assistant certificate from Autry Technology Center, and following that, she received her associate's degree in healthcare administration from Oklahoma State University (Oklahoma City).



*Kausek receiving the Outstanding Senior award from Dr. Bo Hannaford, Vice President for Academic Affairs.*

Kausek has been actively involved in social work organization at Northwestern serving as vice president of the Social Work Association of Tomorrow (SWAT), vice president of the Psychology Club and a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). She is member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, was on the President's Honor Rolls at OSU-OKC and Northwestern, and Vice President's Honor Roll at Northwestern. Kausek completed a field practicum at Millennium Healthcare and is currently pursuing her master of social work degree at the University of Oklahoma.

# Van Vickle named deSERVING Ranger recipient at ceremony

Katelyn Van Vickle was nominated for her commitment and leadership to the Social Work Major and her work at United Methodist Circle of Care and Western Plains Youth and Family Services in Woodward. She was nominated by Jennifer Pribble, Assistant Professor of Social Work and Director of Field Education. At Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

"Throughout Van Vickle's time at Northwestern, she has expanded her knowledge in the helping profession focusing on youth and families. While in the social work program, I have observed her

**7** unwavering commitment to social justice in our region and in our state in various service learning projects,



*Van Vickle receiving the deSERVING Ranger award from Dr. Bo Hannaford, Vice President for Academic Affairs.*

university participation, and civic engagement activities." said Pribble.

"Van Vickle has served a vital role on the Woodward campus and is a student leader focused on bridging the gap between the university and its communities through service," Pribble continues. "Van Vickle is highly involved in the Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) student organization serving as the Vice President for the Woodward Campus. She has shown great leadership in her efforts to include her campus in volunteer opportunities such as gathering donations for the Compassion in Action – Dignity Drive which gathered over 500 donations

among all three campuses. Van Vickle also volunteered at a 5K Color Fun Run which benefited the United Methodist Circle of Care in Woodward on May 5, 2018."

# Social Work department attends Legislative Day at Capitol

Many social work students and practitioners from across the state gathered last April at the Oklahoma Capitol for the National Association of Social Workers, Oklahoma Chapter (NASW-OK) Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD).

Social work students and faculty from Northwestern Oklahoma State University were among the attendees ready to learn about current legislation impacting the profession of social work and the populations they serve. 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 they will potentially serve; as well as allowing students to understand how to access public policy and interact with their legislators.



Attending the National Association of Social Workers, Oklahoma Chapter (NASW-OK) Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD) were (left to right) Morgan Lopez, Jennifer Pribble, Katie Barrows, Levi Sanders, Annie Moss, Sierra Miller and Jamie Metcalf.

“Legislative Education and Advocacy Day provides the opportunity for students to learn about and participate in two very important components of social work education, public policy and social justice advocacy,” Jennifer Pribble, assistant professor of social work and director of field education for the Department of Social Work, said.

The day started with a welcome message from NASW-OK Board President Frannie Pryor, followed by The Honorable Don Anderson, LCSW, ACSW, former state legislator, and former commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. A panel comprised of NASW-OK Executive Director Steven Pharris, LCSW, JD and Sabine Brown, Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator, was moderated by Dallas Pettigrew, MSW. The day concluded with opportunities to engage with legislators.

## In Remembrance: **Caitlyn McOsker**

The Celebration of Life for Caitlyn McOsker was held on Saturday, September 29, 2018, at the First Baptist Church in Alva, Oklahoma, for Caitlyn McOsker. McOsker passed away on September 23, 2018 after a long battle with cancer.

McOsker attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University where she was active in the Social Workers Association of Tomorrow, and graduated with a Bachelors degree in Social Work in May 2014. Caitlyn worked for the Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services. Caitlyn was passionate about protecting children, about helping families heal and be well. Her career goal was to work in adoptions, after her youngest brother and oldest niece joined the family by adoption.

She was loved by many family members and friends. She will be missed by all.





# Departmental Spotlight News

## 2018 TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Dr. Kylene Rehder was named the John Sheffield Teacher of the Year at NWOSU. Rehder was awarded the top teaching prize during the spring awards ceremony held in April.

Rehder said, "I want to personally thank my social work students who nominated me for the John Sheffield Teacher of the Year. The nomination video they made brought tears to my eyes and was a true highlight of my career, as the honor was derived from the appreciation of students. What a privilege it is to be a social work educator!"

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Meet Madeline Turner, a senior social work major from Enid. She is the NWOSU Student Spotlight for Social Work for the year. She had this to say about our program:

*"After becoming familiar with the social work program at NWOSU, I felt confident this was the major for me. The curriculum reflects real life experiences and I am excited to apply this knowledge into the professional field of social work after graduation."*

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The 2018-2019 scholarship recipients for the Social Work program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University were Jordan Koehn and Elizabeth Fox-Shipley. Koehn received the Ruth Ann Devery VanLandingham scholarship. Fox-Shipley received the Steve and Janet Valencia scholarship.



Jordan Koehn  
Senior, Alva

The Ruth Ann Devery VanLandingham scholarship recipient must be a full time student majoring in Social Work, be an upper division student with 60 hours or more and have a minimum of 3.0 CGPA.

"I am very thankful and appreciative for the VanLandingham scholarship. It was an honor to be given it and it has helped me continue to pursue my BSW. My plan after graduation is to pursue a masters degree in Social Work at the University of Oklahoma," said Koehn.

The Steve and Janet Valencia scholarship recipient must be a full-time Social Work student with a CGPA of 2.5 or better and must be a continuing student.



Elizabeth Fox-Shipley  
Senior, Laverne

"Because of the generosity of people like Steve and Janet Valencia, students like me are able to continue their education. I am extremely thankful to have been awarded this scholarship. My hard work will continue, in part, to demonstrate my gratitude for this opportunity," said Fox-Shipley. After graduation, Fox-Shipley plans to continue her education at the University Of Oklahoma in the Advanced Standing MSW program.

## Harding continued from page 4

help bring more services to Northwest Oklahoma area.

Harding has been married to her high school sweetheart for 14 ½ years. They have three children: one daughter and two sons. If we are not on a court or field of some kind, we like to go to the lake. Harding and her husband like to ride their motorcycles on trips as often as they can get away.



## Hall of Fame continued from page 5

focuses on strengthening child welfare services in Oklahoma. In addition, she is a board member of Freedom West Community Development Corporation, a non-profit development entity in Northwest Oklahoma that works to revitalize rural communities to increase community sustainability through proactive social and economic change efforts.

Rehder serves as a clinical consultant to many Northwest Oklahoma agencies and is a member of the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps (OKMRC), where she serves as a disaster mental health responder.

Razien, a 2015 graduate of Northwestern's social program, also is thankful for this recognition.

"I feel so privileged to be able to wake up every day and do work that I truly love and am passionate about," Razien said. "I am thankful to the social work department at Northwestern for starting me off on my social work journey and for continuing to contribute to my ability to impact rural social work through providing me an opportunity to adjunct and provide practicum opportunities to social work students."

Razien earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma (2016) and received her Licensed Master of Social Work credential in 2016. She currently is a family specialist for United Methodist Circle of Care. Razien received credit for opening in 2016 the Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care office in Woodward. She actively recruits people to be foster parents in Northwest Oklahoma. Since opening, she has signed up 15 new families to provide safe homes for children in need. With her drive to provide better services in Northwest Oklahoma, her two-person agency now provides services to more than 25 children.

Razien also serves as the Chair for the Woodward Area Coalition. This position allows her to advance community health and well-being by increasing collaboration among several social service agencies in Northwest Oklahoma. Razien also serves on the Social Work Advisory Board for Northwestern to enhance and support the profession of social work in rural Oklahoma. As an instructor, her teaching competencies include courses in child abuse and neglect and domestic violence. She provides practicum opportunities as a field instructor for social work students and mentors them.

Other 2018 honorees who received awards at the ceremony include Dolores Subia Bigfoot, Social Welfare Leader; Rita Hart, Professional Development Leader for the State of Oklahoma; Edwina Luker, Outstanding Service to Veterans and their Families; Jim Rosenthal, Lifetime Achievement Award; and Pam Stark, Social Work Practice Professional.



# 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.



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

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



**Kevin Evans**, Executive Director,  
*Western Plains Youth and Family Services*

**Raquel Razien**, Family Specialist,  
*United Methodist Circle of Care*



**Chanel Martin**, SWAT President,  
*Northwestern Oklahoma State University*



**Tricia Mitchell**, Executive Director,  
*4RKids Foundation*



**Trudy Hoffman**, Executive Director,  
*Northwest Center for Behavioral Health*



**Pamela Bookout**, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Director,  
*Youth and Family Services of North Central Oklahoma, Inc.*



*In memory of Orren Dale, PhD, MSSW*