



Northwestern

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

IMPACT

Serving generations, changing the world.

SPRING 2019



SPRING 2019

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Greetings from the Program Chair

On behalf of the Department of Social Work, I welcome you to Spring 2019 edition of Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Social Work Program newsletter. Spring is always an exciting time for us with students completing field practicums, celebrating social work month, highlighting student achievements, participating in service learning projects, contributing to our role of advocacy by attending LEAD: Legislative Education & Action Day, and hosting our annual "Primp for Prom" event. In this edition we take time to honor a special alumna, Diana Nolan, and applaud her innovative and passionate approach to social work practice. We also are thrilled to announce the construction of our Social Work Virtual Reality Lab and describe the meaningful service learning projects and activities our students participate in. We would like to congratulate our advisory board member, Kevin Evans, on his recognition and Morgan Lopez for her inclusion into the NEW Leadership Institute. Social Work faculty are actively working on the reaffirmation of accreditation self-study and will submit documents to the Council on Social Work Education in April 2020. As always, we 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 hosting an open house for our Virtual Reality Lab in the Fall and hope all of you can attend and try out this amazing technology.

Elevate Social Work - Ride, Rangers, Ride!



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

A message from the Field Director

The journey as the Director of Field Education for the Department of Social Work at Northwestern has been quite a ride! With departmental numbers growing, we are eager to begin utilizing new techniques with students such as virtual reality. While construction of a new social work virtual reality lab is taking place on the Enid campus, I have been focusing my energy on working with field students. Student placements this semester have ranged from Tulsa to Woodward, so site visit travels have been fun and left me feeling grateful to the agencies we work with and the support they provide to our students.

Our student organization, Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT), has been growing in student and event participation! During the past two years, we have been able to host the annual Dignity Drive, participate in university events, and volunteer for community events such as fostering a wooden child and decorating a blue ribbon tree to advocate for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

I continue my work with the National Association of Social Workers – Oklahoma (NASW-OK) as the Northwest Branch Chair and as a NASW-OK Diversity Committee Member. I also continue to serve on the Board of Directors at Youth and Family Services where I have the pleasure of helping with their annual gala fundraising event. Being involved with many organizations and events has allowed me to demonstrate to students the importance of being connected to your community in order to make a difference.

I am looking forward to all the new developments in the department and excited to see the benefits these developments bring to our social work students!



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

Alumni Highlight: Diana Nolan

Diana Nolan received her Associate of Arts degree from Northern Oklahoma College (NOC) in 2014, then came to Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) to complete her Bachelors of Social Work. During her time at NWOSU, Nolan was nominated and served on the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Board of Directors for the Oklahoma chapter as an undergraduate representative. Nolan was also awarded Undergraduate of the Year by the NASW OK Chapter in 2017.

In 2017, Nolan was accepted into the advanced social work program at the University of Oklahoma (OU) and graduated with her Masters in Social Work in May 2018.

Nolan completed her undergraduate and graduate practicum instruction with Youth and Family Services of North Central Oklahoma (N.C.O.) under the supervision of former NWOSU graduate and Clinical Director, Pamela Bookout. After graduating from OU, Nolan became officially employed by Youth and Family as a school-based counselor at Enid High School providing individual, group and family therapy.

"Completing my practicum instruction at Youth and Family Services opened my eyes to so many of the hardships that adolescents must face right here in my hometown. Youth and Family Services in conjunction with the Oklahoma Food Bank provides pantries in all of the elementary, middle and high school for students in Enid experiencing food insecurities. While working at one middle school pantry during my undergrad practicum, a female student asked me if we had pads or tampons. The pantry did not supply these for the female students at that time. As I began to speak to the student and learn a little more about her, I discovered she was using socks due to her family not being able to afford feminine hygiene products. That one incident propelled me into action. I began to do a little research and realized that this is a problem across the world. While I can't solve it globally, I'm doing what I can in my hometown by raising an awareness



From the Enid News and Eagle article dated July 24, 2018 "A Matter of Dignity" written by James Neal, Staff Writer

Nolan said low-income teenage girls face both a social stigma surrounding menstruation and a lack of funds to buy their own feminine hygiene items.

"We treat the natural human function of waste elimination with dignity and respect by providing toilet paper," Nolan said. "Menstrual cycles are also a natural human function and should be treated with dignity and respect. Until society's views on menstruation change, we're starting small by helping in our own community."

and soliciting donations. As a result, Youth and Family now provides free feminine hygiene products to girls in need at all the schools in Enid they serve."

"My approach to the feminine hygiene problem is two-sided. Due to the outpouring of donations from our community, we are able to address the immediate need, however, I also try

to address it from a macro perspective by spreading an awareness and attempting to change our perspective overall. Schools and public places provide toilet paper and hand towels for the natural human function of waste elimination, but we do not provide pads and tampons for the natural human function of menstruation. I believe menstruation deserves the same dignity and respect. We don't expect students to bring their own toilet paper to school or ask a friendly teacher for help when they can't afford them. We should approach feminine hygiene products in the same manner."

Diana recently became engaged to be married and has moved to Stillwater to be with her fiancé'. She is now employed with DHS of Payne County as a Case Worker II in the Permanency Division. Nolan plans to continue her efforts to raise an awareness about access to feminine hygiene products. Youth and Family continues to support her feminine hygiene project in the Enid Public Schools.

SW program earns grant to build virtual reality lab , resource center

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's social work program has been awarded a \$40,000 grant by the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) Student Payback Fund Grants to construct a social work virtual reality lab and resource center on the Enid campus.

This grant project will create a state-of-the-art virtual reality lab in which social work students will wear a headset or goggles transporting them into various virtual environments to learn professional practice skills. The virtual reality curriculum will center upon experiences such as home visits, assessing child risk, social worker safety, interviewing skills, courtroom testimony, cultural awareness and disaster response. Dr. Kylene Rehder, chair of the department of social work and program director, authored the grant and will serve as the project's principal investigator.

"This is one of the most exciting projects I have ever worked on," Rehder said. "The opportunities to educate social work students with this technology is limitless, as we have the abilities to change the practice environment and the nature of the clients."

Simulation training is a well-established feature in most professional practice programs, therefore the department of social work is proud to provide a safe environment for students to practice skills in an accelerated format, better preparing them for the field experience and "real world" social work practice.

"The social work virtual reality lab will provide students with an immersive learning experience, combining visual, auditory and kinesthetic learning modalities," Rehder said. "The integration of this technology will

transform the learning experience of students at Northwestern and will result in more qualified and professionally skilled social workers in the field."

Jennifer Pribble, director of social work field education, will serve as the virtual reality lab coordinator and direct all experiential and simulations experiences for social work students.

"Virtual reality in social work education will not only enhance the core

curriculum, but will also enhance field experiences by allowing us to guide and strengthen student's skills before their placements in practicum settings," Pribble said. "I am excited to see the overall increase in confidence students will have related to the implementation of core competences. Strengthening skills and practice confidence is my ultimate goal with the development of the social work virtual reality lab and resource center."

The social work seniors enrolled in Rehder's Social Research and Evaluation course served as contributing partners during the grant development process by gathering background research on the effectiveness of virtual reality training. Students included Rhema Abercrombie of Enid, Heather Bettencourt of Alva, Mirissa Branine of Woodward, Jordan Cremers of Alva,



The grant announcement was made to students on the Enid campus in the location of where the virtual reality lab will be constructed. Front Row (left to right) Dr. Wayne McMillin, Jordan Koehn, Emma Reed, Madeline Turner, Marsellia Rael, Alicia James, Katelyn Van Vickle, Ashley Neal; Back Row (left to right) Professor Jennifer Pribble, Jessica Goodballet, Elizabeth Fox-Shipley, Scott Messenger, Keilah Pool, Denise Tyrell, Morgan Lopez, Linda Smith from the University of Oklahoma, and Dr. Kylene Rehder.

Continued to page 13

Students enter social work field

Fifteen Northwestern Oklahoma State University senior social work majors started their spring semester by entering practicum agencies in Northwest Oklahoma to complete 420 contact hours, demonstrate 31 practice behaviors and master the program's nine core competencies as outlined by the Council on Social Work Education.

"The signature pedagogy of the social work program is the field experience component," said Jennifer Pribble, assistant professor of social work and director of social work field education. "By allowing students to immerse themselves into field practicums they are able to develop the skills to become a generalist social worker upon graduation."

Each student in their field practicum is assigned to a field instructor, someone with specific credentials in the agency, to reinforce social work ideas, practice behaviors and competencies.

"The Field Instructors are crucial to the educational development of these social work students," Pribble said. "Without them volunteering their time to contribute to the education of social work students, field practicums would not be possible."

Students completing their field practicums with hometowns and their practicum agency placements are (Top Row, Left to Right) Rhema Abercrombie of Mulhall, 4RKids in Enid; Heather Bettencourt of LaHarpe, Kansas, Bill Johnson Correctional Center in Alva; Mirissa Branine of Woodward, Big Five Headstart in Woodward; Jordan Cremers of Ponca City, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services – Vocational Rehabilitation in Alva; Elizabeth Fox-Shipley of Laverne, Woodward Public Schools in Woodward; (Middle Row, Left to Right) Jessica Goodballet of Mooreland, Western Plains Youth and Family Services in Woodward; Alicia James of Laverne, Western Plains Youth and Family Services in Woodward; Jordan Koehn of Hooker, Utica Park Clinic in Tulsa; Keilah Pool of Woodward, United Methodist Circle of Care in Woodward; Marsellia Rael of Woodward, Oklahoma Department of Human Services in Woodward; (Bottom Row, Left to Right) Emma Reed of Freedom, Northwest Family Services in Alva; Jennifer Ruppel of Woodward, Northwest Domestic Crisis Services in Woodward; Madeline Turner of Enid, Youth and Family Services in Enid; Denise Tyrell of Vancouver, British Columbia, Oklahoma Department of Human Services in Tulsa; Katelyn Van Vickle of Shattuck, United Methodist Circle of Care in Woodward.



SWAT participates in child abuse prevention initiatives

Northwestern Oklahoma State University Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) members have taken part in Child Abuse Prevention Month initiatives including the “Wooden Children” project sponsored by the Garfield County Child Advocacy Center. They also have designed a blue ribbon tree on the Northwestern-Woodward campus.

Blue Ribbon Trees are sponsored by The Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Action Committee, led by the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

The blue ribbon is an international sign for child abuse prevention and is a constant reminder that all individuals have a duty to protect children. This is the 11th year in Oklahoma that communities have been encouraged to display a “Blue Ribbon Tree” during the month of April for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue ribbon trees are registered with the Oklahoma State Department of Health, and photos of the trees are displayed at the Annual Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect Conference, hosted by the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect.

“Being able to grow our activities for Child Abuse Prevention Month to other campuses shows that we are growing in the area of awareness of child abuse and neglect in the state of Oklahoma,” Jennifer Pribble, SWAT sponsor and assistant professor of social work, said.

The “Wooden Children” project is designed to bring awareness to the number of child abuse cases that are investigated each year. In 2018, 332 confirmed cases of child abuse were reported in Garfield County.

Each wooden figurine is approximately 2- to 3- feet high and were cut out by volunteers from Vance Air Force Base. Once the forms were cut out, the Junior Welfare League and other individuals painted on the faces and hair.

Organizations, businesses, groups and individuals were asked to “foster” a wooden child for \$25. The group sponsoring the child dressed and displayed them where they chose throughout March. On April 1 the Wooden Children were taken to the courthouse lawn to be displayed through the month of April for Child Abuse Prevention Month. This is a subject not many enjoy discussing, but is a subject that all individuals need to be aware of as mandated reporters of child abuse in this state,” Pribble said. “Visual reminders of this act brings the awareness that there are children experiencing child abuse and neglect in this state and, it takes all of us to protect these vulnerable children.”

Pictured are (left to right) Kallie Jones, Enid junior, SWAT member; Jennifer Pribble, SWAT sponsor; and Morgan Lopez, Goltry senior, SWAT Enid vice president, with the “Wooden Children” at the Garfield County Courthouse.



Pictured are (left to right) Alicia James, Laverne senior, SWAT secretary; Reba Finley, Arnett junior, SWAT member; and Jennifer Pribble, SWAT sponsor, with the blue ribbon tree at the Northwestern-Woodward campus.



SWAT hosts self-defense night

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University chapter of the Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) organization recently played host to a “Self-Defense Night” for Northwestern students. The events took place at and were sponsored by RYSE Academy of Mixed Martial Arts in Woodward and Family Martial Arts in Enid.

These two events allowed various students an opportunity to begin to develop basic self-defense techniques.

“Allowing students to be introduced to self-defense and understanding the importance of knowing how to protect themselves in the field is very important,” Jennifer Pribble, SWAT sponsor and director of social work field education, said. “Empowering students to develop these skills will hopefully assist them in the future, if or when they are ever needed.”

Pribble said in professions such as social work, responding to clients exhibiting high levels of emotion and reacting in potentially threatening situations are vital aspects of the job.

“The department of social work is always proud of SWAT as they never fail in cultivating experiences that focus on professional development or address community and campus needs,” Dr. Kylene Rehder, chair of the department of social work, said.

Social work students identified that self-protection education allows them to feel more confident and capable in the field.

“In today’s world, going into the field of social work can be quite intimidating,” Chanel Martin, SWAT president, said. “Sometimes we have to put ourselves in unpredictable situations, for the betterment and best interest of our clients. Surviving most life and

death situations often depends on a person’s ability to successfully react in dangerous situations. Going to the self-defense class was such an amazing experience. We were able to learn about the different types of violence that most people face and also develop techniques on how to defend ourselves accordingly. Thank you RYSE MMA and Family Martial Arts for such a fun, educating and empowering class.”



Students from NWOSU’s Woodward campus participated in the SWAT “Self-Defense Night” at the RYSE Academy of Mixed Martial Arts in Woodward to learn more about self-defense techniques. Taking part in the event are (Left to Right) SWAT sponsor Jennifer Pribble, Tyann Purvis, Reba Finley, Chanel Martin, Katelyn Van Vickle, Alicia James, Marcy Rael, Jennifer Ruppel, Angelica Jaquez and RYSE MMA instructor Michael Wickware.



Students from NWOSU’s Enid campus participated in the SWAT “Self-Defense Night” at the Family Martial Arts in Enid to learn more about self-defense techniques. Taking part in the event are (left to right) Rhema Abercrombie, Denise Tyrell, Isabella Abercrombie, Family Martial Arts instructor Alex Evers, SWAT sponsor Jennifer Pribble, Madeline Turner, Ashley Neal and Quin Newman.

100s OF DRESSES GIVEN AWAY AT PRIMP FOR PROM EVENT



Hundreds of dresses were given away for free to students from 20 high schools during the annual Primp for Prom event recently held in the Woodward High School Practice Gym.

This year more than 400 dresses and nearly 100 pairs of shoes were donated to the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Social Work and Woodward High School Key Club who co-sponsor the event.

“Primp for Prom is an event that always highlights the generosity of others and the kindness that exists in our local communities,” Dr. Kylene Rehder,



Top left: Dr. Kylene Rehder and Miss Oklahoma Teen USA, Abigail Billings. Bottom right: hundreds of dress, shoes, accessories and men’s clothes set up ready to be tried on by happy teens.

Department of Social Work chair, said.

Appreciation from members of the Department of Social Work to those who helped with the event’s success goes to Woodward High School Key Club members and sponsor Beth Baker; Stefanie Alexander; Woodward High School; Woodward Leadership Advisory Board; Tom and Dr.

Deena Fisher, Woodward campus dean; Drs. Steven and Angela Pharris; Northwestern social work student volunteers; Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) campus organization; Woodward High School employee volunteers; Venture Foods of Shattuck; Dillard’s; LJ Creations; and all the generous dress and accessory donors from across northwest Oklahoma. A very special thanks goes to the administration of Woodward Public Schools for hosting the event and to Miss Oklahoma Teen USA Abigail Billings.

“The Department of Social Work and the Key Club is always honored to sponsor this event,” Rehder said. “This event is about more than dresses for us; we see it as a means to embody our university mission to build a sense of community and an opportunity to serve others.”

CWPEP SESSION TO EDUCATION SOCIAL WORK MAJORS

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University department of social work recently played host to a Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) informational session to educate social work majors about an opportunity to work in public child welfare.

The presentation was conducted by Linda Smith, CWPEP program coordinator from the University of Oklahoma’s Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work. CWPEP is a Title IV-E partnership between the University of Oklahoma, [The Oklahoma Department of Human Services](#), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. The Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work coordinates the contract with Northwestern and other participating accredited undergraduate social work programs including East Central University and Oral Roberts University.

The purpose of this partnership is to enhance and support Oklahoma's public child welfare workforce. It affords interested students financial support by covering books, fees and in-state tuition in return for a specified employment obligation in a Child Welfare position with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) or a Tribe with which DHS has a Tribal/State Agreement. The stipend amount for a 12-month employment obligation is \$7,876. This program is funded by OKDHS, Children and Family Services Division through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

To be eligible to apply to the program, undergraduate students must be fully admitted to the social work program and demonstrate through an application and a written essay a career interest in the field of child welfare. All applicants are required to have a criminal background check and a driving records check to be considered for the program. Applicants must be citizens of the United States or legal permanent residents of the U.S. Students accepted into the CWPEP Program are required to take child welfare-related courses, to attend the OKDHS CORE Training Program and to have a field placement in OKDHS Child Welfare county offices. Upon completion of the BSW degree, social workers enter OKDHS employment as Child Welfare Specialists.

Departmental Spotlight News

EVANS RECEIVES AWARD



Congratulations Kevin Evans for receiving the 2018 Pat Potts Visionary Award presented by the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits! We are so proud to have him as an advisory board member.



CSWE site visit

In December, Dr. Rehder and Assistant Professor Pribble had the opportunity to visit the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Headquarters in Alexandria, VA to learn more about the reaffirmation of accreditation process. The social work program will be reviewed for reaffirmation in February 2021.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Meet Denise Tyrell, a senior social work major from Vancouver, British Columbia. She is the NWOSU Student Spotlight for the social work program this Spring. She had this to say about our program:

“When I enrolled in my first Social Work class I had no idea of the direction it would take me. I learned about the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) and was very excited as this was the area I wanted to work in. I applied and was accepted for this wonderful stipend. I am now completing my practicum in the Rogers county Department of Human Services (DHS) office in child welfare in the Family Centered Services (FCS) division. This is proving to be a perfect fit for me and is a great opportunity to help families stay together. I am so grateful for this learning experience.”

NWOSU CELEBRATED SOCIAL WORK MONTH

The NWOSU Social Work department celebrated Social Work month in March by decorating their main office in Alva. This year’s theme “Elevate Social Work” has provided an opportunity for social workers around the nation and their supporters to educate the public about the invaluable contributions of the profession.

The theme has created a platform for a conversation to help social workers get better compensation for the work they do. Despite the invaluable services social workers give to others, social work salaries tend to lag behind those of others helping professions. This is troubling, considering there is a rising need for social workers in the United States to help us cope with societal problem. The goal is to elevate the public image of the profession and explore ways to boost compensation for one of our nation’s fastest growing professions.



SOCIAL WORK
ELEVATE

Spotlight News cont.

LEAD DAY AT CAPITOL

Social work students, alumni and faculty from Northwestern Oklahoma State University were among the attendees who gathered in April at the Oklahoma Capitol for the National Association of Social Workers, Oklahoma Chapter (NASW-OK) Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD).

“Legislative Education and Advocacy Day provides an opportunity to participate in public policy issues and social justice advocacy, both key components of social work education and practice” said Dr. Kylene Rehder, chair of the department of social work.



Pictured (left to right): Dr. Kylene Rehder, Department Chair, Denise Tyrell, Jennifer Ruppel, Jordan Koehn, Keliah Pool, Alicia James, Elizabeth Fox-ShIPLEY, Jessica Goodballet, Sierra Miller (BSW alumni), Annie Moss (BSW alumni), Dana Kausek (BSW Alumni), and Jennifer Pribble, Director of Field Education.

ANOTHER SPRING GALA SUCCESS



Professor Jennifer Pribble catches up with former NWSU social work graduates at the Youth and Family Services Casino Masquerade Gala in Enid. Professor Pribble serves on the

agency’s Board of Director and the Gala Committee. *Pictured (left to right): Annie Moss, Dana Kausek, Professor Jennifer Pribble, and Sierra Miller*



NWSU social work students attended a Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers (OSBLSW) board meeting in April and are pictured with OSBLSW Executive Director, James Marks. *PICTURED: Front Row (left to right) Emma Reed, Jordan Koehn, Jennifer Ruppel, Marsellia Rael, Kathryn Hess, Katelynn Van Vickle, Alicia James, Isis Quilimaco, and Dr. Kylene Rehder. Back Row (left to right) James Marks, Heather Bettencourt, Jessica Goodballet, Chezni Far-rand, Reba Finley, Keliah Pool, Elizabeth Fox-ShIPLEY, Baylee Chance, and Johnathan Wales.*

STUDENT SELECTED FOR N.E.W. LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Morgan Lopez, social work major from the Enid campus, has been accepted into the National Education for Women’s (N.E.W.) Leadership Institute.

N.E.W. Leadership is an intense, five-day program that takes place each year on the University of Oklahoma’s Norman campus and is designed specifically for undergraduate women from colleges and universities across the state of Oklahoma. Participants reside at the Alpha Phi House, and the entire experience, including housing and meals, is offered at no cost to students. This year the event will be May 17-21.

“Morgan is an exceptional student who is focused on public service and policy development that advances societal well-being,” Dr. Kylene Rehder, social work department chair, said. “The department is excited for her opportunity to learn from some of the state’s most prominent women.”



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The award-winning program educates and empowers undergraduate women to participate actively in politics and public service. The program connects students to policy makers and community activists to engage them in shaping the public agenda. Launched in 2002, the program is part of the N.E.W. Leadership National Network at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

Continued on page 13

Dignity drive held during holidays

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University student organization, Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) accepted donations for personal hygiene products as part of the "Compassion in Action Dignity Drive" on all Northwestern locations this fall. This year SWAT gathered donations for the United Methodist Circle of Care, a foster care agency serving Northwest Oklahoma.

SWAT is a student-run organization that seeks to enhance the social work learning experience. One of SWAT's purposes is to employ community service projects while supporting our community partners and their consumers. The Compassion in Action Dignity Drive is one of the community service projects SWAT students host to give back to the community. Approximately \$500 worth of donations included feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, lotion, mouthwash, lice kits, deodorant, and more were accepted.

"The Dignity Drive was once again a success and has

allowed SWAT to provide basic needs to children and

families in Northwest Oklahoma," Jennifer Pribble, SWAT sponsor and Assistant Professor of Social Work, said. "This year's donations are being given to the United Methodist Circle of Care, which provides safe, temporary homes for children and youth in crisis. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent you may contact United Methodist Circle of Care."

SWAT members would like to thank everyone who assisted with putting this event together and those who were able to donate from all three Northwestern locations. "Giving back

to our communities is something the SWAT organization loves being able to do," Morgan Lopez, SWAT Vice President of the Enid Campus said, "This would not be possible without the great students, faculty, and staff that all participated during this drive. Thank you all for making this such a success!"

SWAT plans to have their next Compassion in Action – Dignity Drive at the same time next year. Donations are welcome on all three campuses starting in November through the beginning of December in 2019.



From Left to Right: Morgan Lopez, Enid Campus Vice President; Raquel Razien, Circle of Care Regional Program Director; Keli Caffey, Circle of Care Family Specialist; Jennifer Pribble, faculty sponsor

VIRTUAL REALITY PRESENTATION BY SOCIAL WORK FACULTY



Dr. Kylene Rehder and Jennifer Pribble presented "Virtual Reality: Bridging the Gap between Knowledge and Skills in Social Work Education" at the National Technology and Social Science Conference in April.



Virtual Reality cont. from page 5



Construction is underway at the new VR lab. Projected completion date is August, 2019.

Elizabeth Fox-Shipley of Laverne, Jessica Goodballet of Mooreland, Alicia James of Woodward, Jordan Koehn of Alva, Keilah Pool of Woodward, Marsellia Rael of Woodward, Emma Reed of Freedom, Jennifer Ruppel of Woodward, Madeline Turner of Enid, Denise Tyrell of Enid, and Katelyn Van Vickle of Woodward.

“It was an amazing opportunity to be able to apply classroom knowledge to a real life project,” Turner said. “I’m grateful to be a part of a program where faculty value students and integrate them into professional social work practice.”

Linda Smith, from CWPEP at The University of Oklahoma Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, delivered the grant news to social work students in person on the Enid campus on Thursday, Nov. 1.

“It was so cool to hear the news in person for the first time that we earned the grant we had all invested some much time in,” Reed said. “After the announcement, we busted into cheers and had an afternoon of celebration.”

This grant is being administered by the University of Oklahoma on behalf of the OKDHS in order to assist the department in retaining quality professional social workers in the public child welfare system.

“An excellent, well-rounded education is not a one-dimensional experience with only textbooks or lectures,” Fox-Shipley said. “Technology has transformed every facet of our lives, and university education is no exception. As a social work student, I know how valuable this virtual reality lab will be in preparing students for real world practice. Northwestern Oklahoma State University continues pushing into the future by staying on top of cutting edge technology such as this.

Leadership continued from page 11

The program includes hands-on projects, skill-building workshops, keynote speakers and panels featuring prominent female officeholders, public administrators, community advocates and business leaders. N.E.W. Leadership includes networking opportunities with women leaders and culminates in a day spent with elected officials at the State Capitol.

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



Chanel Martin, SWAT President,
Northwestern Oklahoma State University



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

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

In memory of Orren Dale, PhD, MSSW



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



Raquel Razien, Family Specialist,
United Methodist Circle of Care



Tricia Mitchell, Executive Director,
4RKids Foundation