



Fall 2019

IMPACT

Serving generations, changing the world.

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A Message From the Department

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

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

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

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Social Work Virtual Reality Open House- A Beaming Success

Northwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Social Work recently played host to an open house for its new Virtual Reality lab and Resource Center at the Enid campus.

This facility features a state-of-the-art VR lab in which social work students wear a headset and operate hand controllers that transports them into various virtual environments to learn professional practice skills. The VR lab offers an opportunity for students to interact with a virtual environment while the images displayed on the goggles are broadcasted to large wall-mounted monitors for faculty instruction with observing students.

The open house event was attended by more than 40 individuals who were able to engage in both entertainment and educational VR experiences. Attendees were entertained by going on African safaris, riding roller coasters, diving with sharks, visiting the limits of space, walking with dinosaurs, and interacting with a puppy-like alien in which participants got to pet, feed and play fetch with.

Attendees learned of the room's educational capabilities through walking with a homeless man living in the streets of San Francisco, stepping into the shoes of a 16-year-old with autism as she attends a birthday party to hear her inner thoughts and experience the event from her perspective, and through attending a home health visit in which suspected child abuse has occurred.



Senior Baylee Chance demonstrates the capabilities of the Oculus Quests in Social Work curriculum.



The Department of Social Work is integrating this technology into their curriculum on all three campus locations through 11 VR headsets. The VR curriculum centers on student development of core competencies, empathy building and cultural awareness.

Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president, attended the event and was the first to try out the technology at the open house.

"This technology will set our social work department apart from others," Cunningham said. "It gives our students an advantage in developing skills in real-life situations. New technologies are going to help our students learn a new environment and I am proud of Dr. Rehder for embracing this technology with her faculty and students."

This facility was made possible through a \$40,000 grant by the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) Student Payback Funds Grant awarded nearly a year ago. Dr. Kylene Rehder, social work department chair, authored the grant and is thrilled to bring innovative educational methods to students of Northwestern.

"A project of this caliber requires the support of innovation, and the Department of Social Work is grateful to an administration committed to academic excellence and embracing the role of technology in the educational process," Rehder said. "Simulation training is a well-established feature in professional practice programs, and the department is proud to utilize cutting edge VR technology to advance skills and produce more qualified and competent social workers in the field."

Jennifer Pribble, assistant professor of social work and director of field experience, serves as the VR lab coordinator and directs all experiential and simulations experiences for social work students.

"I am proud to have had the opportunity to help develop the virtual reality lab at Northwestern and look forward to implementing the new technology into curriculum with social work students. The ability to immerse students into practice-like experiences allows them an additional way to develop social work skills before practicum placements," Pribble said.

The Social Work Virtual Reality Lab and Resource Center was funded by the University of Oklahoma's Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work on behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) to assist in retaining quality social workers in the public child welfare system.

"We would like to express our appreciation to the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma and OKDHS for their tremendous support of this project and thank everyone who attended our open house," Rehder said.



President Janet Cunningham explores the world of virtual reality at the open house.

An Opportunity for Growth

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 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. Upon completion of the BSW degree, social workers enter OKDHS employment as Child Welfare Specialists.



Social work faculty, Jennifer Pribble (left) and Dr. Kyleene Rehder (middle) are pictured with Linda Smith, CWPEP program coordinator from the University of Oklahoma.



From L to R: Jonathan Wales, Baylee Chance, Asst. Professor Jennifer Pribble, Chanel Martin, and Wynter Standridge show off their ranger pride.

Social Work Faculty Attend NASW State Conference

Northwestern Oklahoma State University social work faculty recently attended the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) 44th annual Oklahoma state conference held at the Sheraton Reed Conference Center in Midwest City.

The opening address was presented by Oklahoma's first lady Sarah Stitt, who addressed mental health concerns and the importance of the social work profession.

NASW is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with 132,000 members. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies.



Dr. Kyleene Rehder (left) and Jennifer Pribble (right), are pictured with Oklahoma's first lady Sarah Stitt while attending the National Association of Social Workers 44th annual Oklahoma state conference.



Student Spotlight: Sara Houchin

"As a freshman I was advised to consider social work as a major. When I took the first class I knew that I belonged in this program. I know that I am being prepared for professional life outside of college through the classes here. I am being taught applicable skills that I can use in my future career as a professional social worker and I am getting a solid foundation to pursue a masters in social work in an advanced format if I chose to further my education."

SOCIAL MEDIA WORK



May Social work graduates celebrating with faculty at the Woodward Graduation Dinner.
Pictured L to R: Assistant Professor Pribble, Elizabeth Fox-Shipley, Jessica Goodballet, Katelyn Van Vickle, Marsellia Rael, Alicia James, Jennifer Ruppel, Mirissa Beavers, Dr. Rehder



Pictured L to R: Dr. Rehder, Jonathan Wales, Marsellia Rael, Reba Finley, Chanel Martin, and Assistant Professor Pribble at the inductee ceremony. Not pictured were Elizabeth Fox-Shipley, Morgan Lopez and Ashley Neal

Pi Gamma Mu is an international social sciences honor society dedicated to promote excellence in social sciences and uphold scholarship, leadership and service. Requirements for membership include a minimum 20 hours of social sciences credits, a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 and must be in the top third of the graduating class. Recipients received a society certificate, pin and honor cord.



Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) campus organization from the Department of Social Work being recognized for their outstanding community service with a state certificate from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Pictured: back row L to R - Dr. Fisher, NWOSU Woodward Campus Dean; Elizabeth Fox-Shipley, Jessica Goodballet, Kitty Frech, DAR Woodward Treasurer; Alicia James, Katelyn Van Vickle, Roberta Chance, DAR Woodward Chapter Regent; Mirissa Beavers, Reba Finley, Dr. Janet Cunningham, NWOSU President. Front row L to R - Jennifer Pribble, Social Work Assistant Professor; Jennifer Ruppel, Marsellia Rael, Dr. Kylene Rehder, Department Chair and Professor of Social Work.



Enid spring graduating seniors L to R: Rhema Abercrombie, Madeline Turner, Denise Tyrell, Asst. Professor Jennifer Pribble



Senior social work students are exploring graduate education options at the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work on the Norman Campus. On October 31st, Dr. Lori Franklin and Jonathan Kratz discuss the MSW program on the Tulsa campus with seniors social work students via Zoom.

2020 Senior Social Work Majors L to R: Jonathan Wales, Baylee Chance, Chanel Martin, Reba Finley.

Ongoing Event:

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University chapter of the Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) organization and Psychology club are accepting donations for personal hygiene products as part of the "Compassion in Action Dignity Drive" at all Northwestern locations through December.

"Being a part of the SWAT Dignity Drive allows social work majors to employ a community service project while also supporting a local service agency," Morgan Lopez, social work senior and SWAT president for the Woodward campus, said. "This year we have been able to partner with the Psychology Club, which has enabled SWAT to encompass other helping professions in our mission to provide basic needs to vulnerable populations."

This year SWAT and the Woodward and Enid Psychology clubs will be gathering donations for the YWCA located in Enid. The YWCA provides emergency crisis-intervention services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. These services also include an emergency shelter for survivors of domestic violence.

Items needed are shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, diapers, baby hygiene products, lice kits, body lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss and other personal care items. Donated items can be dropped off at the Northwestern-Enid Commons Area, the Northwestern-Alva Housing Office, and the Northwestern-Woodward Commons Area. Contributors will also be entered to win a NWOSU Swag Bag of items.



**COMPASSION IN ACTION
DIGNITY DRIVE**
Please make donations of the following items to benefit families in need in Oklahoma!

**ACCEPTING DONATIONS
UNTIL DECEMBER 1ST!**

Each donation gets an entry to win this NWOSU SWAG BAG!

Donation List:
Shampoo & Conditioner
Diapers
Soap & Deodorant
Lice Kits
Baby Hygiene Products
Feminine Hygiene Products
Body Lotion
Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
Dental Floss
Etc...

DONATION BOXES ARE LOCATED ON THE ENID AND WOODWARD CAMPUSES IN THE BUSINESS OFFICES AND IN ALVA IN THE HOUSING OFFICE

Sponsored by NWOSU Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) and Enid and Woodward Psychology Club
questions? contact SWAT sponsor Jennifer Pribble at jlpribble@nwosu.edu

Upcoming Event:



IT IS TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL
Primp for Prom
DONATION EVENT

Want to Donate a Dress or Accessory?

Dresses can be dropped off at Woodward High School at 13th and Downs Avenue in Woodward.

To donate in the Woodward area, contact Dr. Kylene Rehder at kdrehder@nwosu.edu or Stefanie Alexander at (580) 256-2858

To donate in Alva, please contact Ashley Fischer, secretary for the Department of Social Work, at affischer@nwosu.edu

To donate in Enid, please contact Jennifer Pribble, assistant professor of social work, at jlpribble@nwosu.edu

Primp for Prom is an annual event held in Woodward for NW tri-state area high school students to pick out a formal dress at no charge. Sponsored by Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work and Woodward High School Key Club

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work and Woodward High School Key Club are once again partnering up for our annual Primp for Prom. This is an annual spring event held in Woodward for northwest tri-state area high school students to pick out a formal dress and accessories at no charge. The event is set up like a department store with volunteers ready to assist shoppers with finding the perfect dress. We are currently seeking formal dresses, shoes and jewelry donations.

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.



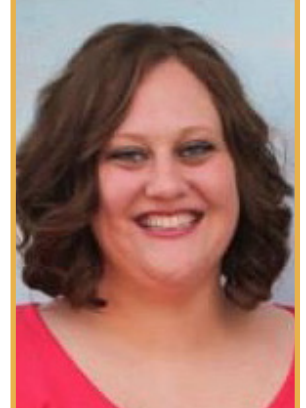
Amy Whitson, Child Welfare Deputy Director
Region I, Oklahoma Department of Human Services



Kevin Evans, Executive Director
Western Plains Youth and Family Services



Raquel Razien, Regional Program Director
United Methodist Circle of Care



Morgan Lopez, SWAT President
Northwestern Oklahoma State University



Tricia Mitchell, Executive Director
4RKids Foundation



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