



SPRING 2022

# IMPACT

Serving generations, changing the world.



**Northwestern**

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK



# 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 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.

The Time is Right for Social Work – Ride, Rangers, Ride!

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# ***BISHOP BUCK- STUDENT SPOTLIGHT***



I came to Northwestern having no clue what I wanted to do with my future. A senior social work major spoke to my Ranger Connection class, and I was immediately drawn to the program. I always knew I wanted to work in a helping profession, and social work was the best fit. From the first class I took, there was no shadow of a doubt that I was where I was meant to be. Social work promotes social change and empowers all people. All of the faculty in this program have been nothing but eager to teach and help the students understand the necessary information. I feel as though I will be fully equipped with the proper knowledge when practicing in the field. I have been pushed and challenged through the social work program, and for that I am truly grateful. I look forward to utilizing all I have learned through NWOSU social work, and tackle my future career as a social worker in the following years.

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**#nwosusocialwork  
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# SPRING SHOWCASE 2022



## CELEBRATING SOCIAL WORK MONTH IN MARCH

The Department of Social Work helped celebrated Social Work month in March. The theme “The Time is Right for Social Work” highlights how social workers have enriched our society for more than a century and how their services continue to be needed today. There are nearly 720,000 social workers in our nation. That number is expected to grow by 12 percent by the end of the decade, making social work one of the fastest growing professions in the nation, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Social workers have been an integral part of our nation for decades. Social workers played key roles in the Civil Rights and Women’s Rights movements and pushed for social programs we now take for granted, including the minimum wage, a 40-hour work week, Social Security and Medicare. The time is always right for social work. However, more people are entering the field because the life-affirming services that social workers provide are needed more than ever. This is especially true as our nation continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic racism, economic inequality, global warming, and other crises. The social work profession attracts people who have a strong desire to help individuals, families, communities, and our nation overcome issues that prevent them from reaching their full potential. That is why the theme for Social Work Month 2022 is “The Time is Right for Social Work.” (Adapted from the National Association of Social Workers, 2022)



## TYPES OF SOCIAL WORKERS

**Social workers hold more than 700,000 jobs in the United States**

In thousands of ways, social workers help people help themselves. They assist people of every age and background, in every corner of the country – and in many different industries and settings.



### Mental Health and Clinical Social Work



- Clinical social workers are one of the nation's largest groups of mental health service providers.
- In rural areas social workers may be the only available licensed provider of mental health services.
- Most provide direct services to individuals, families and groups.
- Many work in solo or group private practices helping people experiencing relationship issues, anxiety, depression, and other disorders.
- Focusing on a person in their environment is central to the clinical social work practice.



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### Policy and Planning Social Work



- Policy and planning social workers seek to have an influence on large numbers of people and solve a social problem.
- Social workers in this field address such issues as child abuse, homelessness, poverty, violence and racism.
- They analyze policies, programs and regulations to see what is most effective in addressing a social problem.
- They identify social problems, study needs and related issues, conduct research, propose legislation and even foster coalitions of groups with similar issues to address a problem.
- These social workers each day work with the media, policymakers, lawmakers and others to bring about change.



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### Health Care Social Work



- Since the early 1900s, professionally trained social workers have helped people deal with personal and social factors that affect health and wellness.
- Some health care social workers, of which there are 180,000 nationwide, are in direct services and concentrate on individuals, families, and small groups.
- Others work in settings where the focus is on planning, administration, and policy.
- In the health care setting, social workers may conduct research, develop programs, and administer social work and other departments.



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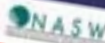
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### School Social Work



- School social workers help students address issues that could interfere with their learning.
- Social workers in schools act as a connection for school, home and community services to help children with emotional, developmental and educational needs.
- They help identify and find the best fit and the difficulties a child may be experiencing at home or in the classroom and provide and refer services to solve more serious problems, such as depression, drug and alcohol abuse, and truancy.
- Most school social workers work in public and private schools although a small percentage may work in social service agencies, treatment programs, or residential treatment centers for children who are emotionally disabled.



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### Occupational and Employment Assistance Program (EAP) Social Work



- Occupational social workers work in corporations, businesses and associations to help them – engineer their structure and methods to improve efficiency, productivity and morale.
- They may also work for a union and be involved in job counseling and organizing.
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) social workers have varied daily tasks. They can help an executive cope with the stress of an impending corporate takeover or counsel an anxious young trainee.
- EAP social workers provide services in substance use, domestic violence, single parenting, and vocational rehabilitation issues.
- Many EAPs also manage mental health services for corporations.



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### Public Welfare Social Work



- Social workers in public welfare help facilitate income and support services for some of society's most vulnerable people.
- These social workers may work with children, older adults and people living with chronic medical or disabling conditions.
- Those with chronic medical or disabling conditions have both human needs, other social needs and financial needs.
- Public welfare social workers help these populations meet both human needs, other social needs and financial needs through direct services or as supervisors, managers and program evaluators of the public welfare system.
- Public welfare social work entails planning, administering and financial programs, training and supervising staff, and setting and evaluating standards and criteria for service delivery.



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### Justice and Corrections Social Workers



- Justice and Corrections social workers can be found in courts, jails, prisons, probation and parole departments, and in the community.
- They help inmates focus on rehabilitation by providing therapy, drug and alcohol treatment and life skills training. This helps ex-offenders function once they get back to their communities.
- Social workers can be involved in pre-arrest or parole officers. They can help arrange for services such as job training, finding a group home, child care and transportation.
- They can be expert advocates in restitution and victim assistance services.
- Social workers in police departments can work with attorneys.
- Critical incident services to law enforcement officers.



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# **CONGRATULATIONS SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES**



**RACHEL BEAVER**



**ALISSA CARLSON**



**LIZZY DENNETT**



**JULIE MAYER**



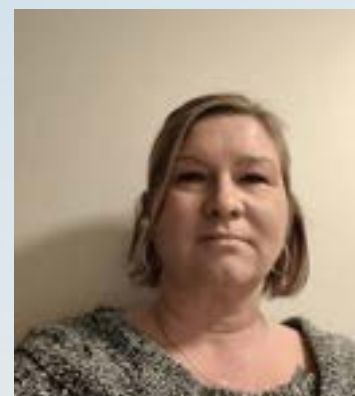
**ARIEL FORSYTH**



**KATIE GARDNER**



**KORI SALINAS**



**BRANDY LUCAS**



**KAILIE MARTIN**



**KRISSIE MAY**



**PERLA FONSECA TORRES**



**BARBARA  
MCPHERSON**



**JEWEL SHEPHERD**



**BRIANNA WISBY**







**NORTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY SOCIAL WORK SENIOR CHANTAL ROCHA OF  
WOODWARD HAS BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE  
NATIONAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN'S (N.E.W.) LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**



Each year, about 35 students are selected for the institute through a competitive application process.

Rocha was chosen based on numerous factors including, but not limited to: individual leadership potential, maturity, ability to deal with challenges, capacity to reflect on one's personal strengths and weaknesses, special interests, unique characteristics or diverse experiences that contribute to the N.E.W. Leadership learning goals, interest in politics, public service or public policy, and a commitment to participate fully in the N.E.W. Leadership Institute.

"I am excited and grateful to have been chosen to participate in the N.E.W. Leadership program,"

Rocha said. "As a future social worker, participating in this program will help me develop my leadership skills, see different perspectives and opinions, and learn how to become a better advocate for others."

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. This year the event will be May 20-24.

"Chantal is an extraordinary student who is focused on public service 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 people."

The award-winning program educates and empowers undergraduate women to participate actively in politics and public service. The program connects students to policymakers 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.

"I am very happy that Chantal was selected for the N.E.W. Leadership Conference," said Dr. Bo Hannaford, executive vice president. "I have Chantal in our Leadership Northwestern class, and I know she will represent herself and the university well. These types of experiences are important for our students to have. Leadership is an important part of our mission here at Northwestern, and Chantal will be able to demonstrate her talents with this opportunity."

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 Oklahoma State Capitol.



# ***ANNUAL PRIMP FOR PROM A SUCCESS!***

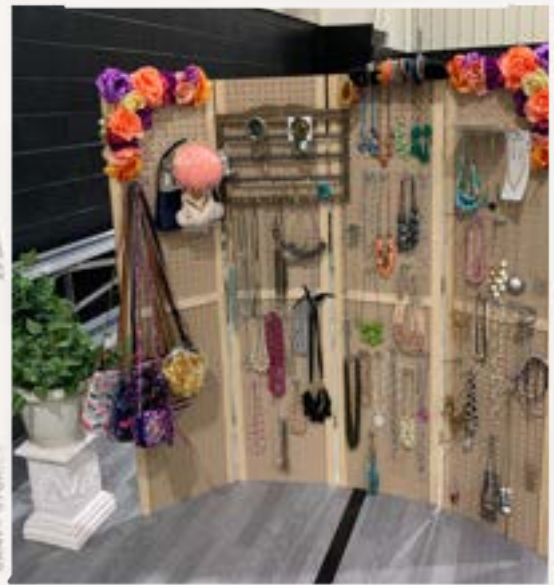


More than 300 dresses were given away to students from 17 high schools in three states during the annual Primp for Prom event recently held in the Woodward High School Practice Gym. This year more than 400 dresses and nearly 100 pairs of shoes were donated to the Northwestern Oklahoma State University department of social work that co-sponsors the event with members of the Woodward High School Key Club.

“It’s always fun to see groups of girls come in and have the prom dress shopping experience,” said Key Club sponsor Stefanie Alexander. “My favorite part of the event is seeing the look on the girls’ faces when they find the perfect dress for them.” Lizzy Dennett, a Northwestern senior from Enid, sees Primp for Prom as being an important community event for high school students unable to attend prom due to the expense. Several students attending the event noted that it can be expensive to purchase a prom dress so they were thankful for those who donated dresses and accessories. Kailie Martin, a Northwestern senior social work major from Protection, Kansas, loves her volunteer experiences with Primp for Prom. Her favorite part is assisting girls in finding the perfect dress and watching their self-confidence soar.

“I think it is important to note that this event is about more than dresses; we see it as a means to embody our university commitment to serve,” Rehder said. “This community event provides financial support to families, builds a sense of community, role models service, and promotes positive self-images, confidence and empowerment to young people.”







# ***SOCIAL WORK FACULTY ATTEND SPRING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT***

Social Work Faculty attended The Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors- 39th Annual Conference; the National Association of Social Workers- Oklahoma Annual State Conference; Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Faculty Institute; and the 14th Annual Oklahoma Service -Learning Conference, Building Trust and Bridges One Project At A Time



Nicole Schacher and Heather Wilkinson graduates of our BSW program presented to the Child Abuse and Neglect class this Spring.



A special thanks to Jim Marks, Executive Director at Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers, for preparing our graduates for licensure and professional social work practice.





Thanks to Johnnie Brown and Michelle Baird from Northcare for presenting to our socialwork students!



Western Plains Youth & Family Services and NWOSU received the State Regents Business Partnership for Excellence Award. WPYFS and Northwestern's Social Work department partner to provide students experience that will guide them in their future field.





**YWCA-Enid receives donations from the Northwestern Oklahoma State University SWAT Compassion in Action Dignity Drive. (Left to right) Courtney Strzinek, YWCA Enid executive director, with senior social work major Julie Mayer, SWAT vice president, and Codi Harding, SWAT sponsor and assistant professor of social work.**

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 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. This year SWAT was able to gather donations for the YWCA in Enid filling their personal hygiene product needs. YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. YWCA-Enid provides emergency crisis-intervention services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. "Items needed for personal hygiene and everyday care are often not thought of as we give to others," Julie Mayer, SWAT vice president and Enid senior, said. "It can be very uncomfortable having to ask for personal care items; even worse is going without them. Northwestern students and employees are fortunate to be able to recognize the need and respond accordingly." 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. "The Dignity Drive is an amazing opportunity for Northwestern students and employees to come together and give back to our community," Perla Fonseca Torres, SWAT secretary and Enid senior, said. "On behalf of SWAT, thank you to all who participate and continue to make the Dignity Drive possible each year." Northwestern's SWAT members and social work majors, with their hometowns, classification and SWAT involvement include Ty Albers, Woodward senior, member; Natalie Haskins, Woodward junior, member; Camryn Beaner-Howard, Woodward junior, member; Kori Leech, Kiowa, Kansas, senior, member; Patricia Lugo, Enid senior, member; Barbara McPherson, Enid senior, president; April Schultz, Alva junior, member; Jewel Shepherd, Mooreland senior, member; Fonseca Torres and Mayer.

## ***NORTHWESTERN SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT RECEIVES POTTS FAMILY FOUNDATION GIFT***



Northwestern Oklahoma State University's department of social work has received a \$1,000 gift from the Potts Family Foundation out of Oklahoma City. Dr. Kylene Rehder, social work department chair and professor of social work, said that the funds from this gift will provide continued support for a focus on infant health in the curriculum. The department also will be able to use the funds to join the Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health, which promotes awareness, understanding and excellence in infant and early childhood mental health through education, workforce development, multi-disciplinary collaboration and advocacy for best practices. Rehder added that the department is honored to be supported by the Potts Family Foundation, whose mission is to provide support for sustainable early childhood initiatives and nonprofit capacity building. Rehder said the social work program is focused on developing professionals able to support the healthy social-emotional development of infants, toddlers and their families.

**(Left) Kevin Evans, a board member of the Potts Family Foundation and executive director of Western Plains Youth & Family Services, presented the gift to Dr. Kylene Rehder, social work department chair and professor of social work.**



The Department of Social Work cheering on Ranger baseball at Northwestern's Baseball, Hot Dogs & Apple Pie event at David Allen Memorial Ballpark in Enid.



***SOCIAL WORKERS  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!***

***"THE TIME IS RIGHT  
FOR SOCIAL WORK"***





# **NORTHWESTERN SWAT PARTICIPATING IN CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION INITIATIVES ACROSS CAMPUSES**



**PICTURED (LEFT TO RIGHT) JEWEL SHEPHERD, SENIOR SWAT MEMBER; KATIE GARDNER, SENIOR SWAT MEMBER; AND CODI HARDING, SWAT SPONSOR, WITH THE BLUE RIBBON TREE AT THE NORTHWESTERN-WOODWARD CAMPUS.**



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 blue ribbon trees on the Northwestern campuses. 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 14th 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.

“These activities prove we are making strides in the awareness of child abuse and neglect in Oklahoma by expanding our activities for Child Abuse Prevention Month to other campuses,” Codi Harding, SWAT sponsor and assistant professor of social work, said.

2022 Wooden Children Enid Courthouse Lawn  
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. The “Wooden Children” project is designed to bring awareness to the number of child abuse cases that are investigated each year. In 2021, 289 confirmed cases of child abuse were reported in Garfield County.

**PICTURED (LEFT TO RIGHT) BAILEY PELLAND, JUNIOR SWAT MEMBER; ELIZABETH DENNETT, SENIOR SWAT MEMBER; BRIANNA WISBY, SENIOR SWAT MEMBER; BISHOP BUCK, JUNIOR SWAT MEMBER; AND KORI SALINAS, SENIOR SWAT MEMBER, WITH THE BLUE RIBBON TREE AT THE NORTHWESTERN-ALVA CAMPUS.**



**PICTURED IS JULIE MAYER, SENIOR SWAT VICE PRESIDENT, WITH THE BLUE RIBBON TREE AT THE NORTHWESTERN-ENID CAMPUS.**





# 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



Barbara McPherson, SWAT President  
Northwestern Oklahoma State University



Pamela Bookout, MSW, LCSW, Integrated Health  
Specialist  
Great Salt Plains Health Center, Inc.

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

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



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



Tricia Mitchell, Executive Director  
4RKids Foundation

