## Eastern Oklahoma State College Hosts Gathering to Enhance Forestry Education and Workforce Development

Eastern Oklahoma State College hosted a gathering on Sept. 17 aimed at advancing educational initiatives in the forestry sector, addressing the increasing demand for skilled professionals in southeastern Oklahoma and surrounding regions. The event was held at the Southeastern Oklahoma State University McCurtain County Campus, a facility it shares with EOSC.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from local industry leaders, to discuss new and enhanced programs in forestry. As part of a collaborative effort, attendees explored opportunities for industry partnerships and innovative educational pathways designed to equip students with the skills needed to thrive in the forestry workforce.

"With the growing demand for forestry professionals, it's crucial that we provide accessible education and training right here in southeastern Oklahoma," said Dr. Randy Harp, EOSC Vice President of Academic Affairs. "Our goal is to create programs that allow students to stay close to home while pursuing quality education and advancing their careers in an industry which is vital to our region's economy."

The focus of the gathering was to identify the most effective methods and timing for course delivery, ensuring that local students can engage with relevant programs without needing to travel far from their communities. By bringing educational resources to the area where the forestry industry thrives, EOSC aims to support workforce development while enhancing career opportunities for residents.

EOSC remains committed to enhancing educational offerings and building a sustainable future for the forestry industry in southeastern Oklahoma. For more information about upcoming programs and partnerships, please contact Dr. Randy Harp at rharp@eosc.edu.



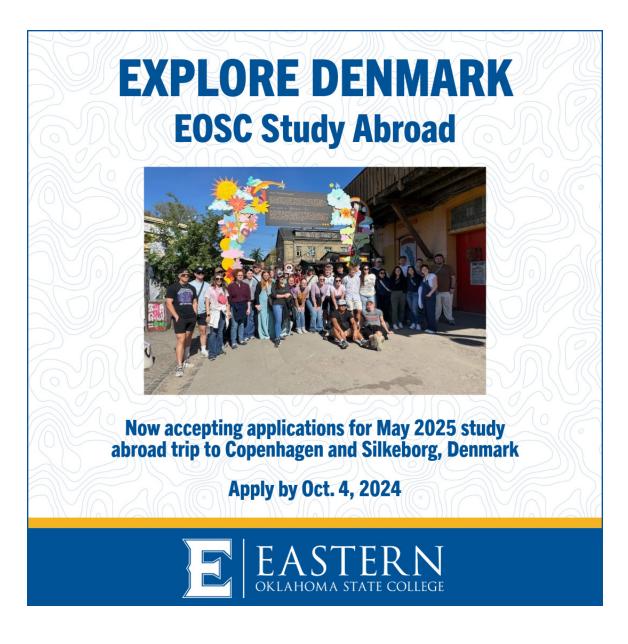
## **Building Boonies II: Your Brick, Your Legacy**

Eastern launched a brick fundraiser to help furnish Boonies II and other campus atmosphere projects in September. For more information, scan the QR code in the flyer below or visit www.fundraisingbrick.com/ eosc/

EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE
Building Boonies II: Your Brick, Your Legacy
Meditation Garden 4x8 W/Out Clipart 3 Lines-20 Char/Line Meditation Gard 4x8 W/Clipart 3 Lines-15 Char
Personalize Your Brick Today 4X8 Brick Without Clipart \$125 4X8 Brick With Clipart \$150 8X8 Brick Without Clipart \$250 8X8 Brick With Clipart \$300 Tor questions, please contact Candace Raney at craney@eosc.edu Scan the QR Code to order online or visit: www.fundraisingbrick.com/eosc/
Get ready to take Boonies II to the next level with Phase II and III of our exciting project: We're transforming our outdoor spaces into a hub of fun and relaxation for students. With your support, we'll be decking out the area with lively cornhole and horseshoe sets, stylish outdoor furniture, and a state-of-the-art digital jukebox to set the perfect vibe. Plus, we'll add a variety of outdoor games to keep everyone entertained. It's all about creating a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere where students can unwind, connect, and enjoy their time at Boonies II. Join us in bringing this vision to life and make Boonies II the ultimate student hangout spot!

## **Explore Denmark: EOSC Study Abroad**

Eastern will once again host a group of students and staff from College360 in Silkeborg, Denmark, in the spring. A group of Eastern students and staff will make a reciprocal visit to Denmark in May. Information about the program can be found at www.eosc.edu/studyabroad.



### Saturday Spotlight: Emma Beck

What is your name? Emma Beck

What is your title? Administrative Assistant & Cheer Coach

What is your hometown? Hartshorne, OK

What is your educational background? Hartshorne High School

When did you start working for Eastern? 2024

What is your favorite thing about working at Eastern or your favorite memory? All of my coworkers that have become friends outside of work.

What do you enjoy outside of work? I enjoy going to the lake and traveling.

What is a fun fact about you? I help coach a competitive cheer team in McAlester.



#### Welcome to Eastern, Chickasaw Cycling Club!

On Sept. 26, Eastern was honored to welcome the Chickasaw Cycling Club as they made a stop in Wilburton during their Chickasaw Homeland Removal Ride. This journey from Mississippi to Oklahoma serves as a powerful tribute to the strength and resilience of the Chickasaw people as they honor the history of the Trail of Tears.

Eastern stands with you in remembrance and reflection as you continue this incredible ride. Safe travels and thank you for including our community in this special moment. #TheE #MoveMountains









#### Eastern Oklahoma State College President Attends Historic Gold Medal Ceremony

Eastern Oklahoma State College President Dr. Janet Wansick attended the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony at the U.S. Capitol honoring the trailblazing women featured in the film Hidden Figures on Sept. 18. Wansick was invited to witness this historic tribute by Rep. Frank Lucas, as one of the leading female educators in Oklahoma.

The honorees, including mathematicians Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and engineers Mary Jackson and Christine Darden, were recognized for their pivotal roles in NASA's space race, breaking barriers as some of the first black women working in STEM at NASA.

The ceremony highlighted the legacy of these extraordinary women, whose calculations made critical contributions to missions like John Glenn's orbit of Earth. The event was attended by various leaders in education, science, and government, paying homage to the extraordinary perseverance and intellect of these women.

"Their contributions continue to inspire future generations of scientists, engineers and innovators," Wansick said. "As an educator, it's empowering to see how their legacy shapes our students' aspirations, especially young women in STEM."

This recognition comes as a powerful reminder of the impact of diversity in science and technology, a mission that EOSC shares through its commitment to fostering innovation and opportunity for all students.



Rep. Frank Lucas (left) poses with Eastern Oklahoma State College President Dr. Janet Wansick at the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony on Sept. 18.

### Saturday Spotlight: Paige Mouser

What is your name? Paige Mouser

What is your title? Academic Specialist

What is your hometown? Hartshorne, OK

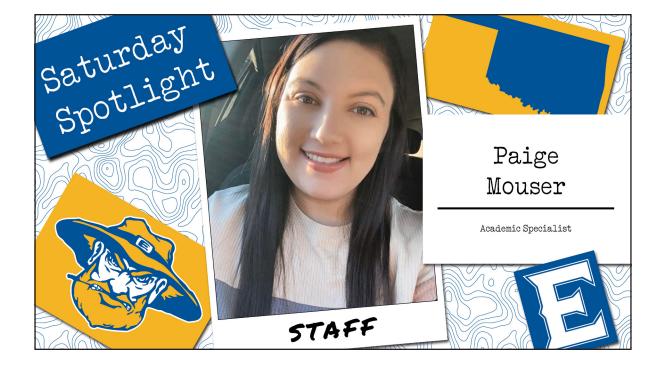
What is your educational background? Hartshorne High School (May 2015), EOSC-General Studies (May 2017), and Southeastern - Liberal and Applied Studies (May 2023)

When did you start working for Eastern? 2023

What is your favorite thing about working at Eastern or your favorite memory? My favorite thing about Eastern is helping students get to where they need to be, my favorite memory is going to the POW-WOW last year with our TRiO students.

What do you enjoy outside of work? I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, and taking my daughter on adventures.

What is a fun fact about you? I am left handed.



#### Four EOSC Staff Members Complete Leadership Latimer County

Four Eastern Oklahoma State College staff members completed the Leadership Latimer County course on Thursday.

Student Support Services Career/Transfer and Academic Counselor Colby Carpenter, Executive Assistant to the President Candace Raney, Director of Marketing and Communications Jacob Sitton, and Vice President of Business Affairs Trisha White were honored at the graduation ceremony for Cohort 2 held at Serendipity Event Center in Wilburton last week.

Leadership Latimer County was created in 2022 by the Wilburton Area Chamber of Commerce to develop local leaders and encourage civic involvement in the county. Members of the program explore area businesses and government offices to better understand the community in which they live.

Cohort 2 took trips to Robbers Cave State Park, the Choctaw Nation Healthcare Center in Talihina, Wilburton City Hall, the Latimer County Courthouse, the Edwards Store in Red Oak and more throughout their time in the program.

"Completing the Leadership Latimer County program has been a great experience," Raney said. "I learned a lot about our community and the different aspects of leadership, from local history to economic development. Meeting with local leaders helped me see how we can all work together to make a difference in Latimer County."



Eastern Oklahoma State College Director of Marketing and Communications Jacob Sitton (left), Executive Assistant to the President Candace Raney, Vice President of Business Affairs Trisha White, and Student Support Services Career/Transfer and Academic Counselor Colby Carpenter were honored at the graduation ceremony for Cohort 2.