### EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE

### NEWS ROUNDUP JUNE 2025





**PRESIDENT** Dr. Janet Wansick

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#### ON THE COVER

Every year, in early summer, hydrangea plants behind Mitchell Hall bloom, bringing their own version of Mountaineer Blue to campus.

### NEWS ROUNDUP JUNE 2025

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Eastern Oklahoma State College, in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, genetic information, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, or status as a veteran, in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This provision includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. Eastern also complies with federal law in compiling an Annual Security and Fire Safety Report. This report contains the institution's policies, procedures and programs concerning safety and security, selected crime statistics, fire safety information, fire statistics for residential student housing, and other information of interest to students, faculty, staff, prospective employees and prospective students. This report is available online at http://www.eosc.edu/safety or you may request a paper copy from the Office of Student Affairs.

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### To the Eastern Community,

As I write my final letter to you as President of Eastern Oklahoma State College, I find myself reflecting on all that we've accomplished together. From the construction of new dormitories and the growth in funding and donations, to the significant strides we've made in addressing deferred maintenance—these achievements represent important milestones in our college's continued growth.

But more than the projects and progress, I am thinking about the people. I'm grateful for the dedicated colleagues and friends I've had the privilege to work alongside. I'm inspired by the students who pass through our doors, each bringing their hopes and dreams as they work toward brighter futures. And I'm thankful for the unwavering support of community members and partners who believe in Eastern's mission and have joined us in strengthening this institution.

Serving as President of Eastern has truly been the honor of my life. I will deeply miss being part of your daily lives and the important work we do together. I leave with immense pride in what we've built—and with full confidence in the future of this remarkable college.



Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. I wish you all continued success and fulfillment in the journey ahead.

Warmest regards,

Fand Warsick

Dr. Janet Wansick President

## **STAY IN THE KNOW!**

Sign up to receive our community emails!



Check out the upcoming Mountaineer Athletics schedule.





### Spring 2025 Honor Rolls

#### **President's Honor Roll**

Logan Ammons Miranda Anders Lilv Anderson Madison Arpoika Averie Bain Ellie Baird Havlee Baker Kacie Baldwin Hailey Beck Kaydence Beshear Raegan Biggerstaff Taylor Boyd Faith Brazell Iris Bringinggood Kristy Brod Aidan Brooks Addison Brown Jacv Browne **Owen Butler** Branden Campbell Davide Carmignani Shiloh Carter **Kinlev** Catron **Brylee Champion** Walker Chandler Makayla Clark Emmalea Cole Shavden Cole Danni Cozad Natalie Cummings Jadvn Dalton Tannah Davison Samantha Deblois Ashlee Dennv Brody Dobecka Brooklyn Duff Aidan Durrence Cole Edmondson Kennedy Edwards Casandra Epley Carolyn Evans Faith Fields Stanley Foulger Alicia Freeman Caden Goodson Hayden Graham Aaliyah Gray

Payton Gray Kaden Gregory Madigan Griffith Melissa Grohmann **Ezekiel Gutierrez** Khloe Haile Dakota Hall Geralyn Haney Dristan Harber Addison Harmon Dakota Harmon Tatum Hayworth **Bailyn Hill** Chloe Hill Jude Hill Cody Hugle Jace Hunter Ashlyn Jackson Jalvnn Jones Nathan Jones Jacob Keith Sonika Khadka Paris Kirby Kylee Kirkman Jessica Klassen Cyrus Kornegay Joshua Latham Maxime Legai Madison Littlejohn Cassidy Mack Shaun Mapuranga Sierra Martin Fares Maziz Laney McAlester Hedlev McGhan Connor Mills Kristina Moore Kylie Mote Cadence Myers Olga Nevrova Melissa Niedfeldt Harrison Oriakhi Isak Palmic **Alexander Pease** Stacey Pebworth Noah Platt Josie Pollet Benjamin Pollock Shayla Posey

Trey Powell Larmie Rains Maggie Rempe Melanie Richard Sashia Richards Shi Rigsby Tomina Rihpa Destinie Robinson Caitlynn Rosenow Jack Runsick Brooke Seawright Lizbeth Serrato-Tinoco Shambri Sewell Delanie Shoup Maison Sissney **Baylee Spindle** Heather Starry Hailey Steele **Bristol Strang** Brock Talbert Sarah Thomas Danielle Thompson Sierra Underwood Ruben Venter Merel Vleemink Maebrey Wallace Kaitlynn War Gracie Ward Mathew Warnock Alexis Watts Tegan Wells Hudson Williams Jessica Wilson Joshua Womble Kenidee Woods Chevann Word

#### **Dean's Honor Roll**

Calib Adams Elizabeth Adams Emily Adams Chloe Akin Jaycob Aldridge Tonya Amason Rylee Andrews Jackson Archambeau Connor Armstrong Haven Bailey-Morgan

Kayla Barnett Tatum Barrett Gracie Barrows Kendalyn Basden Rvlee Beason Noah Benjamin Braylee Beshear Carolyn Billy William Bird Shaylee Birge Austin Bland **Brailey Blue** Jaden Boatner Joseph Boles Heston Bond Lori Bratcher Kayce Brinkley O'riah Brooks Devin Brown Jordyn Brown Kavlee Brown Rebecca Brunson Haydn Bryant Sofia Camp **Dalton Carawav** Case Carlisle Chloe Carolan Azaleah Carpenter Katelyn Causey Alejandro Cazares Sherry Chapman Elisabet Chavarria Baba Cisse Letitia Clark Lexie Clawson **Delton Cloud** Mckenzie Colbert Gravson Connell Cadence Copeland Wyatt Corum Collin Cosper Alexandra Costa Katlynn Cox Carson Crain Haley Cross Aislinn Darley Colleen Darlev April Davidson Brianna Davidson

### Spring 2025 Honor Rolls

Brooklynn Davis Myka Dickerson Kathrine Diedrich Autumn Diggs Rachelle Dowell Boone Downing Charlie Drury **Cheyenne Dyer** Makadyn Eddy Jalyn Estep Joe Ezzeddine Gracie Fassino Mauro Figueroa Gomez Pheobev Finch Shelby Fitzer Landon Flusche Kavlee Ford **Broc Franklin Brionna Frver** Luis Garcia Baylie Gardner Tristan Garvin Genesis Gaytan Emiliano Gaytan Hernandez **Brianna Gillev** Mariona Gomis Diez Mason Gooding Camryn Graham Luke Graham Renee Grav Jaxon Gregory Elvis-Mac Habyakila Mia Hall Brooke Handle Madison Hanks-Posev Logan Harden Alyssa Hart Victoria Hayashibara Brittany Heath Thiis Helms Alexis Helzer **Geordan Hensley** Jacob Hermsmeyer Jenna Heydenreich **Chesney Higgins** Alexander Hilburn Melinda Hill Jaden Holland Jaden Huffman

Jaxon Hyde-Herrera Chaise Iskev Danielle James **Domenic James** Justin James Korbin Jamison Elizabeth Jeffcoat Mauricio Jimenez Samantha Jobe Serenitee Johnson Anthony Gene Jones Hunter Jones Preslev Junell Asher Kauk Shannon Kellev Geneva Kirkpatrick Katelynn Knight Lainee Knowles Madison Knowles Faith Knox Ashley Kucera Brennan Kuykendall Jonna Lacey Tlotlo Langa Emma Lawson Braxton Leflore Caden Lesnau Jenna Livingston Lacie Lott Allie Lowe Kelsee Lunsford Haylee Martin Shvlie Mason Kade Matthews Boudreaux Abigail Mavo Sebastian Mbise Jamouri Mccalister Lavnie McDowell Alondra Mercado Yadhira Mercado Abagail Miller Alvssa Miltier Stormi Mobbs Emily Mock **Rylee Monroe** Hannah Morphis Lane Morris Rylie Mote **Dylan Neely** 

Jenny Neider Cru Nolan Lukas Nolen Kaytlin Obsharsky Noah Pedersen Sarah Percifield **Bevonce Peters** Tyler Phillips Stephanie Pierce Andrew Pixley Cooper Plyler Preston Prock Crvstal Quinn Javden Radford Alexis Rector Kassandra Rector Courtney Reese Holly Roberts Diego Rodriguez Allyson Rogers Audrie Rowell Jonathan Rowlett Aubrey Runkle Alison Salver **Kirkland Sands Rodrigo Santos** Blake Sawyer Mandy Sawyer Katelynn Schrader Emalvn Scott Randi Scott Allie Scrivner **Ripley Self Chelsey Shankles** Carson Sherrill Tara Slotta Sage Smallwood Clorissa Smith Dawson Smith Grayson Smith Peyton Smith **Kyler Spencer** Jana Stacy Kirsten Stephenson Dekota Stopp Ibeth Suarez-Gonzalez Melanie Swartzlander Xavier Swindle Elijah Tackett

**Robert Taylor Keeley Teafatiller** Jeremiah Thomason Kaitlin Timmons Mason Trotter Charissa True Mason Turner Mattie Vanhook Joseph Victerv Violet Vincent Kambrie Wadsworth Kavdence Wadsworth Jack Wall Ashlev Weathers Gracie West Camden White Hailey Whitlock **Everette Whitney** Kamrvn Wilkett Lane Willbanks Sarah Willson Hailev Wilson Joe Wilson Nathen Wilson Lilv Wood Randi Workman Parker Wynne





For John H. Pfeiffer Jr., agriculture is more than a career. It is a way of life that began generations before him and one he is helping shape for future students through his service on Eastern Oklahoma State College's Agricultural Advisory Board.

Pfeiffer, a fourth-generation Angus cattle producer from the small Oklahoma towns of Mulhall and Orlando, was inducted into the Oklahoma Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2025. The honor recognized not only his lifelong dedication to the industry, but also his leadership at the state and national levels. Today, that same commitment guides his work with Eastern.

"I was born in agriculture," Pfeiffer said. "My great-grandparents came to Oklahoma the day after the Land Run in 1889. They bought their first farm for \$20 and a shotgun. We've lived in and raised Angus cattle in that same area ever since."

Pfeiffer represents the fourth generation in his family's operation, which now farms more than 3,000 acres and runs over 300 mother cows. His son is the fifth generation. A grandson may be the sixth. While his own roots run deep in north-central Oklahoma, his involvement with Eastern's advisory board is relatively new. Pfeiffer joined the board in 2024 at the invitation of Dr. Randy Harp, a longtime friend and fellow Oklahoma State University alumnus, who now serves as Eastern's president.

"Randy and I were roommates in college," Pfeiffer said. "When he came to Eastern, he called and asked what it would take to get me involved. He mentioned it would just be a couple of meetings a year—which might've been a bit of a stretch—but I didn't want to tell him no."

Since his first visit to Wilburton, Pfeiffer has been impressed by the college's commitment to revitalizing its agricultural operations.

"They've really taken ownership," he said. "They're fixing fences, cleaning things up, getting things back in place. One of the first meetings I was in, someone said, 'We think we own 4,000 acres, but we're not really sure.' Now, they're working to identify and improve that land." Pfeiffer points to the return of Eastern's stocker cattle program as an example of that progress. The hands-on experience the program provides, he said, is critical for training a new generation of producers and ag professionals.

"Agriculture isn't the same as it was in my grandfather's or even my father's day," he said. "You have to be willing to change. That's where education comes in."

Pfeiffer earned his animal science degree from OSU after a short-lived plan to become a dentist. He judged livestock and was involved in numerous ag-related activities during college before returning home to farm. Along the way, he also spent three decades in public education including a stint as a high school principal—and served on numerous boards, including as president of the American Angus Association and chair of the Certified Angus Beef Board.

That wide-ranging experience, Pfeiffer believes, allows him to bring a unique perspective to Eastern's advisory board. He said his background in production, education,

policy and marketing has given him a broad understanding of the agricultural industry, which he believes helps him offer valuable insight as the college works to prepare students for future careers.

Leadership is about more than just sharing knowledge, Pfeiffer said. It's about showing up.

"In any industry—agriculture, education, whatever—you have to give back to it if you want to be part of it," he said. "That means stepping into places that may not be easy and taking the time to be there. If students can learn that early, they're already on their way."

As Eastern continues to rebuild its agricultural foundation, Pfeiffer sees an opportunity for the college to not only serve local students, but also to act as a pipeline for those who may later attend four-year universities or enter the workforce directly.

"There's no reason why a student from out of state couldn't come to Eastern, get a strong foundation, and then go on to Oklahoma State," he said. "But there's also a real demand for people who want to work in the stocker cattle industry right now. If we can train students for those jobs, they'll have opportunities—and they'll get paid for the work they do."

For Pfeiffer, it all comes back to a belief in the value of agricultural education and the responsibility of each generation to prepare the next.

"You have to be trained to know what works for you," he said. "Tradition still matters, but you also have to be ready to adapt. And if we can help students learn that here, then we've done something right." **E** 





### News Release: Eastern Oklahoma State College Commits to Fifth Consecutive Year Without Tuition Increase

WILBURTON, Oklahoma – Eastern Oklahoma State College has announced its decision to maintain its current tuition rates for the upcoming academic year, marking the fifth consecutive year without a tuition increase. With this commitment, Eastern reaffirmed its dedication to providing accessible and affordable higher education opportunities to students across the region.

Eastern President Dr. Janet Wansick noted that over the years, Eastern has made considerable efforts to ensure that the cost of a college degree remains within reach for students. Eastern's last tuition increase, a modest 4.3 percent, occurred during the 2020-2021 academic year. The current tuition and mandatory fee rate is \$158.90 per credit hour. This rate has remained unchanged since Wansick assumed her presidency, reinforcing Eastern's commitment to provide student access to higher education.

"Our top priority is helping students reach their educational goals," said President Janet Wansick. "We recognize the financial pressures many of our students face, and by holding tuition steady for the fifth consecutive year, we aim to ease that burden and keep college accessible. I'm proud that during my time at Eastern, we haven't increased tuition and have even reduced some fees. Our commitment remains focused on supporting our students every step of the way and helping them realize their full potential."

Under Wansick's leadership, Eastern has implemented numerous initiatives to support student success, support faculty and staff, and enhance the overall college experience. These efforts include expanding scholarship opportunities, investing in academic resources and housing facilities, and providing comprehensive support services. By prioritizing these initiatives, Eastern aims to create a dynamic learning environment that empowers students to excel both academically and personally. **E** 

### News Release: Eastern to Host Fifth Native Americans Who Code Summer Camp

WILBURTON, Oklahoma – Eastern Oklahoma State College generated a total of \$70.17 million in economic output and supported a total of 672 jobs with wages of \$29.69 million in the State of Oklahoma in fiscal year 2024, according to an economic analysis conducted by the University of Cincinnati Economics Center.

Eastern received a total of \$6.33 million in appropriations from the Oklahoma Legislature in fiscal year 2024. This means that every \$1 in state appropriations resulted in \$11.09 in total economic output in the State of Oklahoma in fiscal year 2024.

"I'm thrilled with the findings of the recent economic impact study, which reveals that every dollar invested in Eastern Oklahoma State College generates a return of more than eleven dollars," said EOSC President Dr. Janet Wansick. "This confirms what we've long knownEastern is not just an educational institution, but a vital economic engine for our region. We're proud to be a strong partner in supporting our community's growth and prosperity."

The operations, student spending, and alumni of Eastern created a total of \$2.06 million in fiscal benefits for state and local jurisdictions in fiscal year 2024, which is comprised of \$1.06 million in income tax revenue and \$996,420 in sales tax revenue.

The Oklahoma state system of higher education, comprised of 25 public colleges and universities, contributed \$14.61 billion to the state's economy in FY24, directly and indirectly supported over 111,000 jobs, and generated \$461.8 million in tax revenue for state, county, and local governments, according to a recent economic impact study. Every dollar of state appropria-

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tions invested in our state system colleges and universities yields \$17.48 in economic output, demonstrating a substantial return on investment for Oklahoma taxpayers.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education contracted with the University of Cincinnati Economics Center to analyze the economic contribution of higher education in Oklahoma. The comprehensive report evaluates educational attainment levels across Oklahoma; quantifies the economic and fiscal impact of public institutions; examines postsecondary employment outcomes of graduates; assesses the community benefits generated by students, faculty and staff; and quantifies the impact of the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship program.

"The State Regents and our public colleges and universities remain focused on producing successful graduates that fulfill Oklahoma's evolving workforce needs," said State Regents' chair Dennis Casey. "The \$14.61 billion total economic impact of our state system clearly shows that public higher education is integral to Oklahoma's continued economic growth."

The number of Oklahomans age 25 and older with an associate degree or higher increased from 31.0% to 36.1% over the last 10 years. The study showed that median annual earnings increase as degree level advances. Five years after completing a degree, median wages for individuals with associate degrees were \$53,503; bachelor's degrees, \$57,336; master's degrees, \$67,270; doctorates, \$77,834; and first professional degrees, \$118,977.

The study also found that 93.7% of resident undergraduates were employed in Oklahoma one year after graduation, and notably, that 61.3% of non-resident graduates stayed and entered the Oklahoma workforce. Our public colleges and universities are not only engaging and preparing local talent, but also helping to attract and retain talent from outside the state.

"Oklahoma's public institutions play a crucial role in shaping the workforce, driving innovation, and advancing economic development," said Chancellor Sean Burrage. "Our Blueprint 2030 strategic plan prioritizes aligning academic programs to meet employment needs, with the goal to produce more educators, engineers, computer scientists, and nurses."

Beyond the classroom, students dedicated 3.78 million hours across all educational activities, reinforcing their key role in experiential learning, internships, clinical services, and service-based programs. Students, staff, and faculty volunteered a total of 355,112 hours during the 2023-24 academic year. The total economic value of these volunteer efforts is estimated at \$10.88 million.

The study also found that every dollar invested in the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship program generates \$5.88 in economic output. Employment outcomes data show the vast majority of Oklahoma's Promise recipients remain and work in the state after graduation. More than 94% of Oklahoma's Promise graduates were employed in Oklahoma one year after graduation, and 86% were still employed here five years after graduation.

Recognized by many as one of the top promise scholarship programs in the nation, Oklahoma's Promise is considered a national model that emphasizes both academic preparation and financial support for college. More than 115,000 students have earned college tuition scholarships through Oklahoma's Promise since the program's inception. For more information about Oklahoma's Promise or to apply online, visit www. okpromise.org.

The full analysis, The Economic and Fiscal Impact of the Oklahoma State System for Higher Education, is available online at https://okhighered.org/econ-dev/.



#### **Social Media Recap**



Eastern will be operating on our traditional summer hours throughout June and July. Offices will be closed on Fridays each week and federal holidays of Juneteenth and Independence Day will be observed.

Enjoy your summer, Mountaineers!

#TheE #MoveMountains



Eastern is currently accepting applications for a Vice President for Academic Affairs. Please follow the link below for more information. Applications will not be accepted via Facebook.

https://www.eosc.edu/.../staff-vice-president-of-academic...



Eastern is currently accepting applications for an Instructor of Business Administration. Please follow the link below for more information. Applications will not be accepted via Facebook.

https://www.eosc.edu/.../faculty-instructor-of-business...



*Eastern is currently accepting applications for a Software/Security Analyst I. Please follow the link below for more information. Applications will not be accepted via Facebook.* 

https://www.eosc.edu/.../staff-softwaresecurity-analyst-i...

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#### **Social Media Recap**



*Eastern is currently accepting applications for a Head Baseball Coach. Please follow the link below for more information. Applications will not be accepted via Facebook.* 

https://www.eosc.edu/.../employ.../staff-head-baseball-coach

*Out with the old. In with the new!* 

Next time you drive into or out of Wilburton on HWY 270 or HWY 2, keep an eye out for our new billboards! You might even see some familiar faces! #TheE #MoveMountains



### DIVISION OF

- Associate of Science and Associate of Applied Science
- Academic and career opportunities across all sectors of agriculture
- More than 20% of U.S. jobs directly or indirectly connected to the agriculture industry
   Degree pathways for university transfer or workforce entry after one
- to two years

  Hands-on learning supported by a 3,500+ acre instructional farm
  FFA and 4-H events serving students from Oklahoma, Arkansas.
- Texas and surrounding regions National and Reserve National Champion Judging Teams

Eastern is excited to announce the return of the Summer Highlight Series! Over the next few weeks, we will be going inside each of our six academic divisions and sharing what makes each division unique! First up: Division of Agriculture https://www.eosc.edu/.../explore-programs-majors/agriculture #TheE #MoveMountains





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### Saturday Spotlight: Zak Smith

What is your name? Zak Smith

What is your title? Broadcaster & Internship Coordinator

What is your hometown? Cleveland, OH

What is your educational background? Bowling Green State University, Broadcast Journalism

When did you start working for Eastern? 2024

What is your favorite thing about working at Eastern or your favorite memory? Broadcasting the Junior College World Series in Grand Junction.

#### What do you enjoy outside of work?

Watching and attending sporting events, spending time with my girlfriend, and playing video games with friends.

#### What is a fun fact about you?

I played saxophone in both high school and college marching band.



### Saturday Spotlight: Ace Darley

What is your name? Ace Darley

What is your title? Physical Plant Administrative Assistant

What is your hometown? Wilburton, OK

What is your educational background? Eastern Oklahoma State College

When did you start working for Eastern? 2025

What is your favorite thing about working at Eastern or your favorite memory? My coworkers there is never a dull moment on campus. What do you enjoy outside of work?

Spending time with my pets, family, and friends. Watching the weather and watching sunsets.

What is a fun fact about you? I love watching storms.





### Saturday Spotlight: Dayna Bills

What is your name? Dayna Bills

What is your title? Assistant Registrar

What is your hometown? Wilburton, OK

What is your educational background? Wilburton High School, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Oklahoma State University

When did you start working for Eastern? 2015

What is your favorite thing about working at Eastern or your favorite memory? My favorite thing about working at Eastern has been the coworkers who turned into friends over the years.

What do you enjoy outside of work? Traveling, going to concerts, spending time with my family and friends!

What is a fun fact about you? I have been on the longest zipline in Alaska!





Eastern Oklahoma State College has revived its official Flickr account to make it easier for students, families, alumni and the community to access and download

photos from campus events.

From graduation celebrations to student life snapshots, you'll now be able to relive your favorite Eastern moments anytime, anywhere.

Check it out and follow us: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ eosc/albums





# PAY IT FORWARD



Your gift of any amount will help Eastern students accomplish their educational goals!



EOSC.EDU/GIVE