



EASTERN  
OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE

# NEWS ROUNDUP

JULY 2025





**EASTERN**  
OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE

## **PRESIDENT**

Dr. Randy Harp

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## **EASTERN MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS**

Jacob Sitton  
*Director*

Tracie Teague  
*Marketing Coordinator*

Emma Beck  
*Administrative Assistant*

### **ON THE COVER**

The Eastern Marketing and Communications Department earned four awards at the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association Summer Conference. (7/14/25)

# **NEWS ROUNDUP**

## **JULY 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

Fall is in the air, well almost. It is still hovering near the 100°F mark, but faculty members and staff at Eastern are excited to welcome the students to all campuses. We especially welcome our new faculty members, coaches, and staff that will make a difference in the lives of every student.

It's a Great Day in Wilburton, Oklahoma. I have the honor and privilege of welcoming you to Eastern Oklahoma State College for the academic year 2025-2026. It is an exciting time as we take the next step to cultivate growth, create futures and change lives. Each year offers us a chance to provide a high quality, hands-on education that is filled with learning and career opportunities for students. Our primary purpose is to serve and educate our students. Furthermore, we will serve the region, state and beyond for training, events, and lifelong learning activities. Our history is rich in the most beautiful part of Oklahoma. We have grown from the Oklahoma School of Mines and Metallurgy into a comprehensive, multi-campus, public community college.

Eastern plays a significant role for students transitioning from a high school to either a university or a career in the workforce. We offer several certificates, associate degree options and micro credentials. We fill the gaps.

We are committed to experiential and pragmatic learning with educational programs, courses and experiences enriched by quality instruction. We strive to offer high-quality innovative experiences as well as create opportunities for teaching and co-curricular activities. One of our highest priorities is to foster positive relationships among our faculty, staff, students, and industry stakeholders while maintaining a strong public presence on campus, in the community, and throughout the state. Come check us out. We are family and would love for you to be a part of us.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Harp".

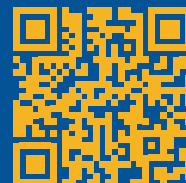
Dr. Randy Harp  
President  
Eastern Oklahoma State College

## STAY IN THE KNOW!

Sign up to receive  
our community emails!



Check out the upcoming  
Mountaineer Athletics schedule.



## News Release: EOSC Marketing and Communications Department Earns Prestigious Awards

WILBURTON, Oklahoma — The Eastern Oklahoma State College Marketing and Communications Department recently earned four distinct awards at the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association Summer Conference, held July 13-15 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa. These accolades recognize the department's exceptional contributions to higher education marketing and communications.

The department's magazine, Trailblazer, received the Grand Award in the Publication (Small Team) category and an Achievement Award for Most Improved Design. Additionally, the team was presented with an Excellence Award in the Promotional or Feature Photo (Small Team) category for "Song from the Heart," an evocative photograph of EOSC student Melanie Richard participating in the Eastern's Got Talent event during Homecoming Week 2024. Trailblazer also garnered an Honorable Mention in the Magazine (Print or Digital) category.

"I am so proud of and thankful for this team," said Jacob Sitton, EOSC Director of Marketing and Communications. "We had to overcome a lot of hurdles this past year, including building a magazine from scratch. Everything we do in this department is truly a team effort. None of us could have accomplished any of this on our own."

The OCPRA Awards Competition is an annual event to honor outstanding achievements in communications among Oklahoma's public and private higher education institutions. It aims to recognize excellence and foster healthy competition among professionals in public relations, sports information, video, development and alumni affairs throughout the state. Many categories allow colleges of all sizes, from small community colleges to large research universities, to compete against one another.

The EOSC Marketing and Communications Department is comprised of Sitton, Marketing Coordinator Tracie Teague, and Administrative Assistant Emma Beck. OCPRA is a professional organization dedicated to advancing public relations and marketing endeavors within Oklahoma's colleges and universities.



*Eastern Oklahoma State College Marketing and Communications Department members Jacob Sitton (left), Emma Beck and Tracie Teague pose with their awards earned in the 2025 Oklahoma College Public Relations Association Annual Awards Competition.*

To view the award-winning work, visit <https://ocpra.org/pastawards> and click on "2025 Winners Gallery." **E**

### News Release: Hires Josh Merrill as New Head Baseball Coach

WILBURTON, Oklahoma — Eastern Oklahoma State College has hired Josh Merrill as its new head baseball coach, bringing a strong track record of success in player development, recruitment and postseason performance to the Mountaineer program.

“We are excited to welcome Coach Merrill to the Eastern Baseball program,” said EOSC Athletic Director Kendra Whisenhunt. “His experience and leadership will be a tremendous asset to the team. We look forward to seeing him build on the strong foundation and continue the tradition of success.”

Merrill joins the Mountaineers after serving three seasons as the head coach at North Iowa Area Community College. During his time with the Trojans, Merrill led the team to 66 wins and two Region 11 tournament appearances. Under his guidance, 18 players earned ICCAC All-Region honors, with one player, Adam Berghult, earning NJCAA Division II All-American honors in 2023. Additionally, Merrill successfully helped 45 players transfer to four-year programs during his tenure at NIACC.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to continue on the rich history of success that Eastern Oklahoma Baseball has had,” Merrill said. “I am very excited to jump in and get to work.”

Before leading NIACC, Merrill held assistant coaching positions at the University of Southern Indiana and Neosho County Community College. His coaching responsibilities included recruiting, as well as working with hitters, outfielders, and catchers.

A Wichita, Kansas native, Merrill played collegiately as a right-handed pitcher. He began his playing career at Neosho County Community College, helping the team reach back-to-back NJCAA Division I World Series appearances. He later played at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock and King University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice in 2015. Merrill also holds a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration from Oklahoma State University, earned in 2019.



Merrill takes over a program that recently returned to the NJCAA Division I World Series for the first time in 24 years, and he aims to continue building upon that momentum. **E**

## News Release: EOSC Launches New Degree Program in Native American Studies

WILBURTON, Oklahoma — Eastern Oklahoma State College is expanding its academic offerings with the launch of a new associate degree in Native American Studies, beginning in the upcoming academic year.

The new program will provide students with the opportunity to explore the histories, cultures and contributions of Indigenous peoples of the Americas through a multidisciplinary approach. Courses will be offered across several departments on campus each semester, including history, languages, law and literature.

Designed to broaden students' understanding of the Native American experience, the program places Indigenous perspectives, values and voices at the center of the curriculum. The degree is an excellent foundation for students planning to transfer to a four-year institution to pursue majors such as anthropology, history, legal studies or languages.

"We're proud to offer a program that honors the deep cultural roots of our region while equipping students with knowledge and skills that will serve them in many academic and professional paths," said EOSC President Dr. Randy Harp. "This initiative reflects our commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for all students to grow and succeed."

As part of the new degree plan, Eastern will list courses each semester that count toward the Native American Studies program requirements. These courses will integrate academic disciplines while centering on Indigenous knowledge and traditions, preparing students for careers or further study in fields such as tribal government, cultural resource management, education, social services, community advocacy, and public policy.

The Native American Studies degree will also be available to high school students through concurrent enrollment opportunities, allowing them to begin earning college credit while completing their diploma. In addition, the program will be accessible nationwide, with multiple tribal nations represented across in-person, hybrid and online course formats to accommodate students in a variety of learning environments.



For more information about the Native American Studies degree or how to enroll, visit [eosc.edu](http://eosc.edu). **E**

### News Release: EOSC awarded \$1.7 million to support first-generation, low-income, and students with disabilities through TRIO Student Support Services

WILBURTON, Oklahoma — The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Eastern Oklahoma State College a federal TRIO Student Support Services grant totaling \$1,742,575 to improve college retention and graduation rates among low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities.

This award marks the continuation of more than 30 years of TRIO SSS services on Eastern's campus. Since the 1990s, the program has served thousands of students, helping them stay in school, earn degrees, and build meaningful careers.

Through individualized services including academic tutoring, financial aid, scholarship guidance, career exploration, personal and academic counseling, and mentoring, TRIO SSS empowers students to overcome barriers to success. These comprehensive supports make it significantly more likely that students will complete their degree or successfully transfer, with the lowest possible debt.

"This grant allows Eastern to deepen our commitment to ensuring that all students—regardless of background—can thrive academically and personally," said Colby Carpenter, academic counselor. "Student Support Services helps level the playing field and equips our students with the tools and confidence to graduate and lead."

Nationally, the SSS program has a proven track record. According to a rigorous 2019 evaluation by the U.S. Department of Education, students in SSS at two-year institutions were 48% more likely to earn an associate's degree or transfer to a four-year school, and students at four-year institutions were 18% more likely to earn a bachelor's degree compared to similar peers not in the program.

"TRIO programs generally and TRIO SSS, in particular, transforms students from the least resourced backgrounds into college graduates," said Kimberly Jones, president of the Council for Opportunity in Education



in Washington, D.C. "This vital program makes all the difference for nearly a million students each year across the country."

SSS is one of eight federal TRIO programs funded under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to remove social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education. Since its inception in 1968, SSS has helped millions of low-income, first-generation students graduate from college and contribute to their communities and the economy. Notable alumni of the TRIO Student Support Services program include Michael Cashman, Town Supervisor of Plattsburgh, NY; former NASA astronaut José Hernández; and Cheryl Johnson, 36th Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives.

For more information about TRIO Student Support Services at [eosc.edu/trio](https://eosc.edu/trio). **E**

## News Release: 57 EOSC Student-Athletes Named to 2024-2025 NJCAA All-Academic Teams

WILBURTON, Oklahoma — Eastern Oklahoma State College student-athletes have once again demonstrated excellence in the classroom as well as on the field. A total of 57 Mountaineer student-athletes earned NJCAA All-Academic honors for the 2024-2025 academic year, with four of Eastern's athletic teams also being named NJCAA Academic Teams of the Year.

To be recognized as an NJCAA Academic Team of the Year, a team must achieve a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher. Eastern's softball team led the way with a 3.75 GPA, ranking No. 10 in the nation. Men's soccer posted a 3.49 GPA (No. 9), baseball earned a 3.41 GPA (No. 46), and men's basketball followed with a 3.10 GPA (No. 50).

"I'm incredibly proud of our student-athletes for maintaining high academic standards while competing at such a high level athletically," said Kendra Whisenhunt, EOSC athletic director and head softball coach. "These rankings reflect our ongoing commitment to student success both in the classroom and in competition."

The NJCAA also recognized individual student-athletes with All-Academic honors. To qualify, students must have completed two full-time semesters and maintained a GPA of 3.60 or higher.

### NJCAA All-Academic First Team (4.0 GPA)

**Softball:** Faith Brazell, Addison Brown, Makayla Clark, Samantha Deblois, Brooklyn Duff, Dakota Hall, GERALYN Haney, Chloe Hill, Jalynn Jones, Josie Pollet, Larmie Rains, Maison Sissney, Maisie Wells

**Baseball:** Brody Dobecka, Cole Edmondson, Tatum Hayworth, Cyrus Kornegay, Jack Runsick, Ruben Trotter

**Men's Basketball:** Jude Hill

**Women's Soccer:** Melissa Grohmann, Merel Vleemink, Melanie Richard

**Men's Soccer:** Davide Carmignani, Isak Palmic, Fares Maziz, Hadley McGhan, Noah Platt, Tomasso Truant



### NJCAA All-Academic Second Team (3.80–3.99 GPA)

**Softball:** Jacy Browne, Alyssa Hart, Emily Mock, Jessica Wilson

**Women's Basketball:** Lily Anderson

**Baseball:** Drake Chalfant, Lukas Kahne Nolen, Preston Prock, Dawson Smith

**Men's Basketball:** Walker Chandler

**Women's Soccer:** Tomina Rihpa

**Men's Soccer:** Mauricio Jimenez, Maxime Legai

### NJCAA All-Academic Third Team (3.60–3.79 GPA)

**Softball:** Brooke Handle, Jaden Huffman

**Baseball:** Landon Flusche, Broc Lane Franklin, Mason Gooding, Jaxon Gregory, Diego Rodriguez, Kyler Spencer, Camden White, Thijs Helms

**Men's Basketball:** Baba Cisse

**Women's Soccer:** Mariona Gomis Diez, Kinley Catron, Aalyiah Gray

**Men's Soccer:** Elvis-Mac Habykila

EOSC continues to prioritize academic achievement across all areas of student life.

For more information about Mountaineer Athletics, visit [eoscathletics.com](http://eoscathletics.com). **E**

# NEWS ROUNDUP

## JULY 2025

### Social Media Recap



DYK: You can work toward your college degree while in high school. Check out concurrent enrollment programs today!

<https://www.eosc.edu/academics/enrollment>

#TheE #MoveMountains



Happy Independence Day, Mountaineers! We hope you have a safe and happy holiday! #TheE #MoveMountains



#### DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

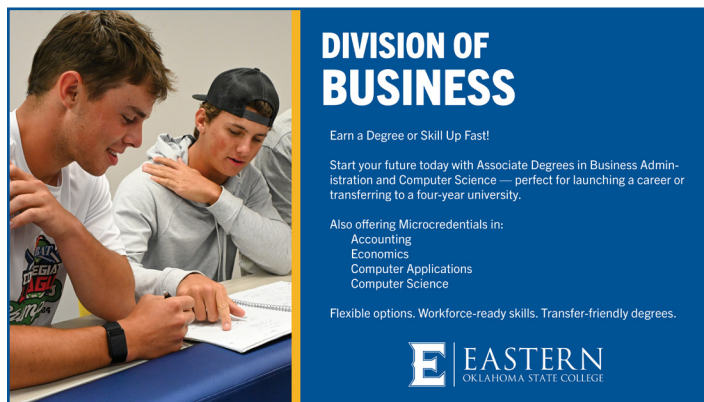
- Associate degrees in seven fields of study (most can be completed in two years or less)
- Degrees designed for immediate workforce entry or transfer to four-year college or university
- Criminal Justice: Collegiate Officer Program: CLEET certification and degree in two years
- Learn real world experiences while in the program
- Positive training for a career in child development, education and the law.
- Training provided for a career in history or public office.



Next up in our Summer Highlight Series: The Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences!

<https://www.eosc.edu/.../explo.../behavioral-social-sciences>

#TheE #MoveMountains



#### DIVISION OF BUSINESS

Earn a Degree or Skill Up Fast!

Start your future today with Associate Degrees in Business Administration and Computer Science — perfect for launching a career or transferring to a four-year university.

Also offering Microcredentials in:

- Accounting
- Economics
- Computer Applications
- Computer Science

Flexible options. Workforce-ready skills. Transfer-friendly degrees.



Next up in our Summer Highlight Series: The Division of Business!

<https://www.eosc.edu/aca.../explore-programs-majors/business>

#TheE #MoveMountains

## Social Media Recap



*Congratulations to the Eastern Marketing & Communications department! They brought home four awards in the 2025 Oklahoma College Public Relations Association Annual Awards Competition.*

*Publication (Small Team) - Grand*

*Promotional or Feature Photo (Small Team) - Excellence*

*Most Improved Design - Achievement*

*Magazine (Print or Digital) - Honorable Mention*

*Keep up the great work!*

*#OCPRA #TheE #MoveMountains*



### DIVISION OF LANGUAGE, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION

- Offering associate degrees in English, Pre-Elementary Education, Mass Communication, Music, and General Studies and certificates in Communications and Secondary Athletic Coaching
- Earn a degree in Instrumental, Piano, or Vocal Music with private instruction on your major instrument/voice
- Take advantage of the Inspired to Teach scholarship with a Pre-Elementary Education degree
- Prepare for a career in Health, Physical Education, Recreation, or Athletic Training
- Gain hands-on experience with Mountaineer Radio and Mountaineer TV in our Mass Communication Department.
- Degree pathways for transfer as juniors into bachelor's degree programs at universities



*Next up in our Summer Highlight Series: The Division of Language, Humanities and Education!*

*<https://www.eosc.edu/aca.../explore-programs-majors/language>*

*#TheE #MoveMountains*



*The countdown is on! We are one month away from the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester. Apply today at the link below!*

*<https://www.eosc.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now>*

*#TheE #MoveMountains*



### Come-and-Go Orientation & Move-In Weekend

August 15-16, 2025  
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
Wilburton, OK

Must RSVP at [eosc.edu/welcome](https://www.eosc.edu/welcome)

*Welcome Weekend is coming up fast!*

*All incoming freshmen and full-time students attending Eastern for the first time should attend Welcome Weekend. RSVP for the date and time that works best for you!*

*Returning students are welcome to attend the come-and-go orientation experience to take care of any needed business before the semester starts. For returning students who live in residential housing, please use the same form at the link below to RSVP for your move-in appointment.*

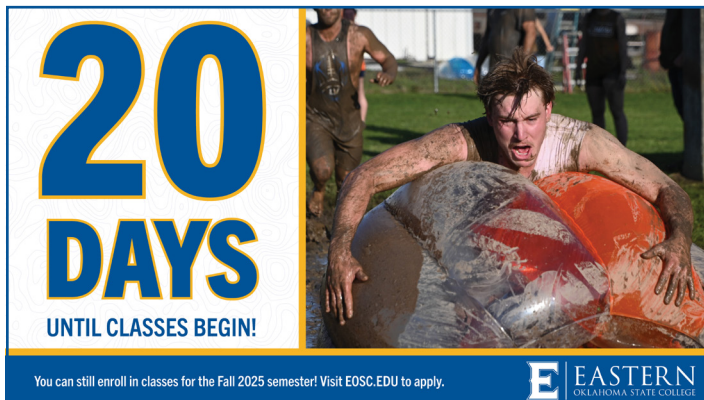
*RSVP at [eosc.edu/student-life/welcome-weekend](https://www.eosc.edu/student-life/welcome-weekend)*

*#TheE #MoveMountains*

# NEWS ROUNDUP

## JULY 2025

### Social Media Recap



**20 DAYS**  
UNTIL CLASSES BEGIN!

You can still enroll in classes for the Fall 2025 semester! Visit [EOSC.EDU](https://www.eosc.edu) to apply.

**E EASTERN**  
OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE

*We are 20 days away from the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester. Join in the fun! Apply today at the link below!*

<https://www.eosc.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now>

*#TheE #MoveMountains*



**DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**

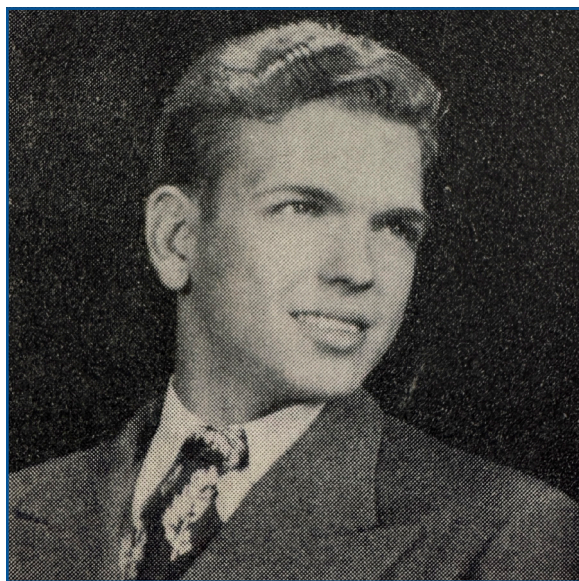
- Offers Associate Degrees in Life Science, Mathematics, and Physical Science
- Offers foundational courses required for EOSC's Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Programs
- Offers foundational courses for students interested in pursuing Pre-Dental, Pre-Pharmacy, Pre-Physical & Occupational Therapy, or Pre-Radiologic Technology educational pathways
- Math and Science Club and all related activities
- Hosts the EOSC Regional Science and Engineering Fair and the MATHCOUNTS competition

**E EASTERN**  
OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE

*Next up in our Summer Highlight Series: The Division of Science and Mathematics!*

<https://www.eosc.edu/acad.../explore-programs-majors/science>

*#TheE #MoveMountain*



*We are saddened to learn of the passing of former Oklahoma Governor George Nigh, a distinguished alumnus and member of the Eastern Oklahoma State College Alumni Hall of Fame. Gov. Nigh graduated from Eastern in 1948 and went on to become one of the state's most respected public servants, serving two terms as governor and leaving a lasting legacy of leadership and dedication to Oklahoma.*

*We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends and all who were inspired by his life of service.*

*#TheE #MoveMountains*

## Saturday Spotlight: Greg Bills

**What is your name?**

Greg Bills

**What is your title?**

Technical Support Specialist

**What is your hometown?**

Wilburton, OK

**What is your educational background?**

Wilburton High School, EOSC, and Kiamichi Technology Center.

**When did you start working for Eastern?**

2024

**What is your favorite thing about working at Eastern or your favorite memory?**

I enjoy learning new things every day.

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

Playing video games, hanging out with friends and family.

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

I edit videos as a hobby!



# NEWS ROUNDUP

## JULY 2025

### Saturday Spotlight: Kallie Clifton

**What is your name?**

Kallie Clifton

**What is your title?**

Agriculture Instructor

**What is your hometown?**

Soper, OK

**What is your educational background?**

I graduated from Soper High School, then attended Eastern, completing an AS in Agricultural Economics in one year! Then I transferred to Oklahoma State University, where I earned my Bachelors of Science in Agribusiness, with a Minor in Agricultural Real Estate Appraisal, and finished a Masters of Science in Agricultural Economics this spring.

**When did you start working for Eastern?**

2024

**What is your favorite thing about working at Eastern or your favorite memory?**

My favorite thing about working at Eastern is the incredible sense of community here. The friendliness of everyone on campus, from colleagues to students, creates such a welcoming environment. What really fills my heart is watching our students grow and succeed, whether they're continuing their education or stepping into their careers. There's something truly special about being part of their journey.

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

Since finishing my master's degree, I'm still learning this mysterious concept called 'free time', however I love baking, reading, and attempting beadwork. I also own cattle and horses, so I enjoy spending time outside with them, working on the family ranch.

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

I am an avid collector of silver and turquoise jewelry!



Kallie  
Clifton

Agriculture Instructor

## Saturday Spotlight: Roy Dean Collins

**What is your name?**

Roy Dean Collins

**What is your title?**

OMTI Instructor of MSHA (part 48b/46 HSI level 2); First Aid Instructor; CPR/AED Instructor

**What is your hometown?**

Big Creek/Hyden, Kentucky

**What is your educational background?**

Clay County High School; Degree in Digital Design from Art Institute; Misc Trainings including EMT, Mine, Health and Safety.

**When did you start working for Eastern?**

2020

**What is your favorite thing about working at Eastern or your favorite memory?**

Getting to meet all the new people and having a job that I love with Oklahoma Miner Training Institute here at the E.

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

Cosplay, gaming, hunting, spending time with my family and my kids, and sports.

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

My wife is a City Police Officer because of this opportunity at Eastern.



# NEWS ROUNDUP

## JULY 2025

### Looking Ahead - August 2025

#### Weekly Events (Begins with Start of Semester)

Mondays - Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 9:30 p.m., C. C. Dunlap Fieldhouse

Mondays - Baptist Collegiate Ministry, 8:00 p.m., BCM Worship Center

Thursdays - United Ministry, 7:00 p.m., UM Building

#### Eastern and Community Events

8/9	Men's Soccer vs. LSUS
8/15	EOSC Board of Regents Meeting
8/15	Welcome Weekend / New Student Orientation
8/16	Welcome Weekend / New Student Orientation
8/18	First Day of Classes
8/18	Men's Soccer vs. Paris Junior College
8/28	Men's Soccer vs. Eastern Florida State College

*All listed Eastern athletic events are home games.*

*All events are subject to change.*

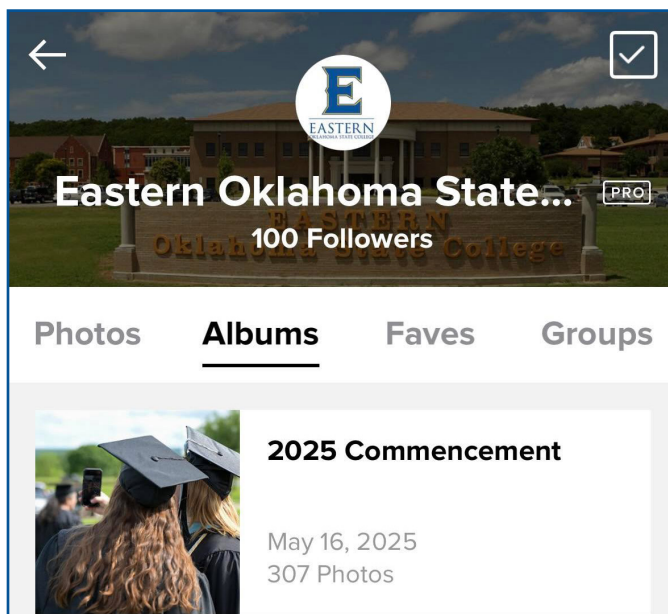
# flickr



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***

