

# **REGIONAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF OKLAHOMA**



## **MINUTES**

### **SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**November 10, 2023**

**11:03 a.m.**

Northeastern State University- Tahlequah campus  
600 N. Grand Ave  
Roger Webb Educational Technology Center  
Tower Room, 6<sup>th</sup> floor.  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464

## **MINUTES**

November 10, 2023

11:03 a.m.

Northeastern State University- Tahlequah campus

600 N. Grand Ave

Roger Webb Educational Technology Center

Tower Room, 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464

### **I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FILING MEETING NOTICE AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT**

Regent McDermott announced that the meeting notice and agenda had been filed and posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

### **II. CALL TO ORDER AND REGENTS' ROLL CALL**

Chair McDermott called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Roll call established the presence of a quorum with 6 Regents present.

Chris VanDenhende, Position 2

Lake Carpenter, Position 3

Eric Fisher, Position 4

Connie Reilly, Position 5

Jane McDermott, Chair, Position 6

Amy Anne Ford, Position 7

#### **A. EXCUSE ABSENT REGENTS**

Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent Reilly to excuse Regents Parker and Winchester from the meeting:

**Voting for the motion:** Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford

**Voting against the motion:** none

### **III. CHAIR’S REPORT— Regent Jane McDermott**

#### **A. Discuss and approve creation of Educational Excellence Committee**

Regent McDermott announced that the Educational Excellence Committee will consist of Regents Ford, Reilly, and Fisher. Regent Ford will chair this committee.

**Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent Reilly to approve the creation of the Educational Excellence Committee:**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

### **IV. CONSENT DOCKET**

**Regent Carpenter made the motion, seconded by Regent Ford to approve the consent docket:**

#### **A. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting, October 5, 2023

#### **B. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS– Attachment A**

##### **1. Northeastern State University**

##### **a. Letter of Intent- New Program**

1. Master of Science in Management and Technology.

##### **b. Certificate Modifications**

1. Business Analytics Certificate (039)
2. International Business Certificate (065)
3. Operations and Supply Chain Management Certificate (180)
4. Healthcare Administration Certification (181)
5. Healthcare Information Analytics Certificate (182)

6. Business Basics Certificate (189)
7. Soft Skills Certificate (193)
8. Quality Management Certificate (194)

**c. Program Modifications**

1. Accounting B.B.A. (001)
2. School Administration, M.Ed. (103)
3. Library Media and Information Technology, M.S. (129)
4. Medical Laboratory Science B.S.M.L.S. (147)

**2. Southeastern Oklahoma State University**

**a. New Programs**

1. Master of Science in Community Health
2. Master of Science in Health Science

**b. Program Modification**

1. Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management (002)

**3. Northwestern Oklahoma State University**

**a. New Program**

1. Master of Business Administration in Business Administration (088) with options in Management or Health Care Administration.

**b. Other Program Modification**

1. Changing the department prefix of our Graduate Study Seminar course from Education (EDUC) to University (UNIV) for all master degrees

**4. East Central University**

**a. Letter of Intent- New Programs**

1. Doctorate of Education in Rural Education (Ed.D.)
2. Educational Specialist in School Psychology (Ed.S.)

**5. University of Central Oklahoma**

**a. Letter of Intent- New Programs**

1. B.B.A. Supply Chain Management
2. B.S. Ecology & Conservation Biology

**6. Southwestern Oklahoma State University**

**a. Letter of Intent- New Programs**

1. Associate of Applied Science in Surgical

**b. Program Modifications**

1. Bachelor of Business Administration -Human Resource Management option addition (011)
2. Bachelor of Business Administration - Leadership and Organization Studies option addition (011)
3. Bachelor of Business Administration - Entrepreneurship (011)
4. Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration- (005)
5. Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry - Pharmaceutical Chemistry option addition (013)
6. Bachelor of Science in Parks and Wildlife Law Enforcement (146)
7. Associate of Science in Wildland Firefighting (156)

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

**V. REPORT OF RUSO COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS**

**A. FACILITIES STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Chair, Regent Ford Report of the Facilities Stewardship Committee, Thursday, November 9, 2023, 1:00 p.m., Northeastern State University— Tahlequah Campus, Roger Webb Educational Technology Center, Tower Room, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.**

## **1. Report of Campus Tour**

Regent Ford reported that she, Regent Carpenter, Regent Van Denhende, Harold McMillen, Christy Landsaw, and Hayley Thompson attended the tour. The group the site of the new Oklahoma College of Optometry building, the Baseball Fieldhouse Restroom, Bacone House, and the Physical Plant "Old" Boiler Room. They visited an open parking lot with a sink hole issue and Logan, Hastings and Ross Halls are which are recommended for demolition. The new College of Optometry building will allow increased enrollment of students from 28 to 40, costing roughly \$40 Million. It is expected to be in use by the Summer of 2025. Bacone House will be used for guest speakers and special events.

## **2. Discussion of process for approval of purchases of real estate to be referred to Policy and Procedures Committee**

Regent Ford referred a policy proposal for purchases of real-estate to the Policy and Procedures Committee for consideration.

**Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent VanDenhende to approve the following Facilities Stewardship Committee request from Southwestern Oklahoma State University:**

### **3. Southwestern Oklahoma State University**

#### **a. Land Purchase**

SWOSU requests authority for Lori Boyd, SWOSU Vice President of Administration and Finance, to sign closing documents for the purchase of 25 acres of land. Purchase of the land was approved by the RUSO Board at the June 2023, meeting.

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

**Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent VanDenhende to approve the following Facilities Stewardship Committee request from Northwestern Oklahoma State University:**

### **4. Northwestern Oklahoma State University**

#### **a. President's House**

Project Description: Northwestern Oklahoma State University is seeking approval to update the guest shower in the second-floor bathroom of the President's House.

Estimated cost will not exceed \$9,500. All expenses for the project will be from donated funds.

**Voting for the motion:** Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford

**Voting against the motion:** none

**Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent VanDenhende to approve the following Facilities Stewardship Committee request from Southeastern Oklahoma State University:**

**5. Southeastern Oklahoma State University**

**a. Approval Item**

**Construction & Renovation, over \$100,000**

In accordance with Board policy 2.4, Public Construction and Improvement Projects, Southeastern Oklahoma State University is requesting approval for the following project:

Project Name: Science and Fine Arts Buildings HVAC Upgrades and Repairs

Project Description: Request approval to engage Plyer Construction as the successful bidder for upgrades and repairs to HVAC systems in the Science and Fine Arts buildings. For Fine Arts, the upgrades will include moving from a 2-pipe system to a 4-pipe system. This will provide improved functionality including humidity control. For the Science building, the first and third floors will be upgraded to match the second-floor improvements (funded with Risk Management claim proceeds). In addition to better humidity control, the updated system will better manage building pressure and provide enhanced freeze protection.

Project Number(s): 660-0800 & 660-0804

Amount: \$2,540,294

Source of Funds: Master Lease, Deferred Maintenance

Vendor: Plyer Construction

**b. Informational Item**

**Construction & Renovation, between \$25,000 and \$100,000**

In accordance with Board policy 2.4, Public Construction and Improvement Projects, Southeastern Oklahoma State University is reporting the following project:

Item	Vendor	Amount	Funding Source
Construction of a metal storage building 40' X 60' X 12' on a 4" concrete slab.	Rockin' B Fencing, Braxton Barton	\$79,500	Master Lease Rodeo/Ag Expo

**Voting for the motion:** Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford

**Voting against the motion:** none

Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent VanDenhende to approve the following Facilities Stewardship Committee requests from Northeastern State University:

**6. Northeastern State University**

**a. Property Lease**

Request approval to enter into a lease with the City of Broken Arrow for the use of 1,000 parking spaces used exclusively for allowing parking for patrons of the Broken Arrow Events Park and Amphitheater. The term of the lease is for one year with an option to renew the lease for three consecutive years.

The annual lease rate for the first three years is \$55,000

**b. Project Requests**

**1. Project #485-0078 – Bacone Renovation and Site Improvements**

Project Description: Requesting permission to design, bid, and award to the lowest responsible bidder the renovation of the NSU Bacone House. Renovations will include exterior stabilization, site improvements, and interior improvements including an ADA accessible first floor. Renovations will be funded by a grant over three years.

Requested Funding Approval: \$995,500

Budget Breakdown: Renovations/Repairs

Revenue Source(s): Grant Funds

**2. Project #485-0073 – Student Engagement Renovation**

Project Description: Requesting permission to design, bid, and award to the lowest responsible bidder the renovation of Student Engagement space on all three campuses. Renovations will be funded by a grant over five years. The renovation focus for the first year will be in the University Center basement.

Requested Funding Approval: \$970,466

Budget Breakdown: Renovations/Repairs

Revenue Source(s): Grant Funds

**3. Project #485-73 – Baseball Patron Restroom Renovation**

Project Description: Requesting permission to design, bid, and award to the lowest responsible bidder, the remodel and expansion of the patron restrooms.

Requested Funding Approval: \$150,000

Budget Breakdown: Renovation/Repairs

Revenue Source(s): Donated Funds

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

**Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent VanDenhende to approve the following Facilities Stewardship Committee requests from the University of Central Oklahoma:**

**7. University of Central Oklahoma**

**a. Approval Item**

**1. Project #120-0027 Major Repairs and Deferred Maintenance**

Project Description: Request approval to award TK Elevator Corporation a contract not to exceed \$140,000 for the modernization of the Human Environmental Sciences Building elevator. Contract to be awarded through *Omnia Partners Group* cooperative purchasing contract.

Requested Funding Approval: \$140,000

Budget Breakdown: \$140,000 for complete retrofit of controller and operational parts.

Vendor: TK Elevator Corporation

Congruent with Facility Master Plan or Strategic Plan: Yes

Fund Source: Section 13 Offset

**b. Informational Items**

**1. Project #120-0032 Sports Complex Improvements**

Project Description: Issued contract in the amount of \$47,899 to on-call construction manager Lippert Bros. for the remediation of flood damage to the Sports Performance Annex. This damage occurred as a result of a flooded telecommunication conduit entering the building. Lippert Bros.' on-call contract expires July 2024.

Fund Source: Section 13 Offset

**2. Project #120-0033 Existing Building Renovations and Additions**

Project Description: Issued contract in the amount of \$26,031 to on-call construction manager Lippert Bros. for the demolition of the Annex building at the St. Mary's property/future home of the UCO School of Design. Lippert Bros.' on-call contract expires July 2024.  
Fund Source: Section 13 Offset

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

**B. AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE— Chair, Regent VanDenhende**

**Report of the Audit and Finance Committee, Thursday, November 9, 2023, 3:00 p.m., Northeastern State University— Tahlequah Campus, Roger Webb Educational Technology Center, Tower Room, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.**

1. Approve internal audit plan for FY24. See attachment C.

**Regent VanDenhende made the motion, seconded by Regent Reilly to approve the internal audit plan for FY24.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

2. Discussion and possible action regarding faculty student ratios and other financial metrics.

Regent Van Denhende reported that the Committee discussed faculty student ratios and other financial metrics which are indicators of cost effectiveness.

3. Discussion of external audited financial statements for FY 23

Regent Van Denhende reported that RUSO external audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023 were timely filed.

4. Scheduling of audit exit conference.

Regent Van Denhende reported that audit exit conferences would be scheduled upon completion of individual university audits.

**Regent VanDenhende made the motion, seconded by Regent Reilly to approve the following request from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.**

**5. Southwestern Oklahoma State University**

**Project:** Construction of the Jerry and Margaret Hodge Center

**Project Description:** SWOSU requests permission to transfer funds from 765 Auxiliary fund to 295 Fund in preparation for payment of construction

costs related to the Hodge Center project. The funds requested to be transferred have been received from the City of Weatherford sales tax revenue specifically for use to construct this building.

**Requested Funding Approval:** \$1,000,000.00

**Congruent with Capital Master Plan:** Yes

**Funding Sources:** Fund 765

**Voting for the motion:** Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford

**Voting against the motion:** none

**C. SYSTEM ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Report of the System Advancement Committee, Thursday, November 9, 2023, 4:00 p.m., Northeastern State University— Tahlequah Campus, Roger Webb Educational Technology Center, Tower Room, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.**

**1. Discussion and possible action to retain public relations consultant.**

Regent Ford reported that the Board issued a request for proposals for public relations consultants. Four qualified firms responded. The System Advancement Committee and RUSO staff interviewed all four firms. The Committee recommended retaining Saxum as the public relations consultant at the annual rate of \$99,600 for their proposal.

**Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent VanDenhende to approve retaining Saxum as the Public Relations consultant.**

**Voting for the motion:** Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford

**Voting against the motion:** none

2. Benchmark Report— Student Satisfaction, Enrollment, Graduation, and Employment Outcomes, Joel Kendall, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, SWOSU

Dr. Joel Kendall presented the Benchmark Report. See Attachment D.

3. Report on State Regents Legislative Agenda for FY 24, Jarrett Jobe, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, OSRHE

Dr. Jarrett Jobe reported on the 2024 Legislative Agenda of the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education. See Attachment E.

4. Report of RUSO Government Relations Officer Hayley Thompson.

Regent Ford reported that the Committee heard from Government Relations Officer Hayley Thompson at the meeting, and that the Committee looks forward to more information about our Legislative Reception which is set for April 9, 2024.

5. Discussion of after-action reports:
  - a. Interim Studies
  - b. Regent McDermott's report to OSRHE
  - c. Journal Record opinion piece

Regent Ford noted that since the last RUSO board meeting, the presidents have done yeoman's work presenting testimony at the Interim study on deferred maintenance. Regent Ford particularly thanked President Lamb for his presentation.

Regent Ford thanked Regent McDermott for her presentation to the State Regents on October 18, 2023.

Regent Ford reported that Regent McDermott published an opinion piece in the Journal Record, "Legislative Incentives Support Oklahoma's Workforce," published on October 19, 2023.

Regent Ford reported that President Hanley also wrote an opinion piece, "RUSO a Beacon of Education, Opportunity," and congratulated him.

## **D. POLICY & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

**Report of the Policy and Procedures Committee, Thursday, November 9, 2023, 2:00 p.m., Northeastern State University— Tahlequah Campus, Roger Webb Educational Technology Center, Tower Room, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.**

1. Discussion and possible action to approve RUSO Policy for Response to a Proposal of a New Program.

**Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent VanDenhende to approve the RUSO Policy for Response to a Proposal of a New Program.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

2. Discussion and possible action to approve RUSO Chapter 4 Student Affairs policy 4.4.3(k) and analogous policy to be codified in RUSO chapter 5 to apply to others on campus.

**Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent Fisher to approve RUSO Chapter 4 Student Affairs policy 4.4.3(k) and analogous policy to be codified in RUSO chapter 5 to apply to others on campus.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

## **E. PENSION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT—Chair, Brenda Burgess**

Brenda Burgess presented the Pension Committee annual report. See Attachment F.

## **VII. NSU FOUNDATION REPORT –EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NSU FOUNDATION— PEGGY GLENN**

Peggy Glenn presented the report of the NSU Foundation for 2023. See Attachment G.

## **VIII. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION REGARDING FREE SPEECH REQUIREMENTS AND ANNUAL REPORTS – DEBRA LYON & ANGELA MICHAEL**

This presentation was moved to the January Board meeting.

## **IX. PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL REPORT—President Diana Lovell**

President Lovell reported that at the President's Council meeting, the presidents discussed and agreed on the proposal that addressed the State Regents' new policy requiring protests to a letter of instruction by an institution within the same governing board system to be resolved prior to submitting the letter of intent .

President Lovell reported that the presidents worked with RUSO General Counsel Debra Lyon on wording for the weapons policy that more clearly defines private housing.

President Lovell thanked Regent McDermott for speaking to the State Regents and thanked the Regents for their support on the interim studies, particularly the deferred maintenance study.

## **X. PRESIDENTS' RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **A. NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent Reilly, to approve the President's Recommendations for Northeastern State University as presented by President Rodney Hanley.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

President Hanley reported that the NSU Center for Tribal Studies has been awarded \$2.4M through the Native American Serving Nontribal Institutions program, seeking to expand the reach of services and increase the retention and graduation rates of American Indian and low-income students at NSU.

President Hanley reported that NSU was awarded a four-year grant totaling more than \$1 million through the Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program to open the centers with the goal of increasing the number of comprehensively prepared teachers from diverse backgrounds.

President Hanley reported on a shooting that occurred in October 2023 in Tahlequah. President Hanley reported that incident was used as a real-life testing of NSU's early warning system, giving opportunity for improvement on parts of the system.

**B. SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Regent Fisher made the motion, seconded by Regent Reilly, to approve the President's Recommendations for Southeastern Oklahoma State University as presented by President Thomas Newsom.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

President Newsom reported that on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the HLC peer review team will be at the Southeastern campus at 10:00 a.m.

President Newsom reported that an OSRHE meeting will be held at Southeastern on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

**C. NORTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

President Hannaford reported on the NWOSU's recent rodeo successes.

No vote was taken because there were no approval items.

**D. EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY**

**Regent Reilly made the motion, seconded by Regent Fisher, to approve the President's Recommendations for East Central University as presented by President Wendell Godwin.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

President Godwin reported the ECU and OSU are collaborating on a \$2M groundwater research project.

President Godwin reported on ECU's track and cross-country teams sweeping the 2023 Great American Conference Championships.

President Godwin reported on the completion of the HLC review.

**E. UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA**

**Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent Fisher, to approve the President's Recommendations for the University of Central Oklahoma as presented by President Todd Lamb.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

President Lamb reported that UCO has received HLC approval to offer the Doctor of Science in forensic science program.

President Lamb reported that UCO has received \$1 million donation from MidFirst Bank to establish the MidFirst Match Scholarship Fund.

**F. SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Regent Reilly made the motion, seconded by Regent Ford, to approve the President's Recommendations for Southwestern Oklahoma State University as presented by President Diana Lovell.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none**

President Lovell reported that SWOSU has been focusing on reengaging adult learning students by awarding associate degrees to qualifying students in hopes of inspiring them to return to complete their Bachelor's degree.

President Lovell reported that SWOSU is emphasizing a new motto of being "STEM Strong." SWOSU has increased the number of STEM degrees issued in the last 10 years by 140%, and STEM degrees issued in the last 5 years by 90%.

President Lovell reported that SWOSU has received a \$6.1 million grant for workforce development.

President Lovell reported that the College of Pharmacy has launched a series of YouTube videos, "Discover the SWOSU College of Pharmacy" and that the new SWOSU pharmacy facility will break ground in January.

President Lovell reported that SWOSU has been providing many tours of their aerospace program and ten SWOSU administrators and faculty members attended an aerospace conference to network and raise awareness of SWOSU's aerospace program.

## **XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Sheridan McCaffree**

Ms. McCaffree reported that quarterly reports are almost finalized and will be sent out shortly.

Ms. McCaffree reported that Presidents' contracts have been signed and copies have been distributed to the Presidents.

Ms. McCaffree reported that the AGB annual conference will take place in Boston on March 26-28, 2024.

## **XII. REGENTS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

## **XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **A. Pursuant to 25 O.S. Section 307 (B) (1) to discuss President Lovell's Evaluation.**

### **B. Pursuant to 25 O.S. Section 307 (B) (4) to discuss the following:**

Confidential communications with legal counsel concerning all pending claims or actions and litigation.

#### **Actions:**

Charles E. Sneed and Tabitha Sneed v. Northeastern State University ("NSU"), Acting President Kim Cherry, and, NSU Employees, E.C.A.L. [sic et al.], Cherokee County, Case# CJ- 2007-840.

Marci D. Walkingstick Dixon v. State of Oklahoma ex rel the Regional University System of the Oklahoma Board of Regents sic. d/b/a Northeastern State University ("NSU"), United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma Case #CIV 19-391.

Miranda Summar, Olivia Wells, Priscilla Pena, Rheanna Jackson, Gabrielle Glidewell, and Morgan Brown Russell v. The State of Oklahoma ex rel/ University of Central Oklahoma ("UCO"), Western District of Oklahoma, Case #CIV-21-473-G.

Mary H. Alvarez v. The Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges (“RUSO”) & University of Central Oklahoma (“UCO”), District Court of Oklahoma County, Case #CJ- 2018- 5269.

Ronald Wyatt, v. Jennifer Kay Wyatt, Patti Buhl, Northeastern State University Police Department, Northeastern State University Board of Regents, and Northeastern State University (“NSU”), District Court of Wagoner County, Case #CJ-2017-240.

Terry Worcester v. East Central University, District Court of Pontotoc County Case #CJ-2019-37.

Sierra Rudman and Calyn Boyd v. State of Oklahoma, ex rel. Board of Regents for the Regional University System of Oklahoma and Kay Robinson, Western District of Oklahoma Case # CIV-22-91-PRW.

Jackson Shepherd and Mallory Scott et al. v. Regional University System of Oklahoma et al., District Court of Oklahoma County Case #CJ-20-2383.

Tatum Robertson, Eve Brennan, and Marin Rhodes v. University of Central Oklahoma and Board of Regents for the Regional University System of Oklahoma, Western District of Oklahoma Case #CIV-2022-836- HE.

Dr. Rachel Tudor v. Marie Galindo et al. and Ezra Young and Brittany Stewart v. Dr. Rachel Tudor, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and Regional University System of Oklahoma, Western District of Oklahoma Case #CIV- 2022-480-C.

Alan Scott Asher and Nancy Asher v. Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow, and the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges-Regional University System of Oklahoma, District Court of Wagoner County Case #CJ- 2022- 309.

Donald Eichler v. The Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges ex rel. & University of Central Oklahoma an Institution of Higher Education and a Part of the Regional University System of Oklahoma, District Court of Oklahoma County Case #CJ-2022-5317.

### **Tort Claims pending with State Risk Management**

Cowart v. Northeastern State University, Tort Claim #2360031731

### **Charges pending with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”):**

Swank v. Northeastern State University, EEOC Charge No. 564-2023-00076.

Deborah Anderson v. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, EEOC Charge No. 31B-2023-00065.

Alissa Baker v. Northeastern State University, Charge #564-2023-00897

**Claims pending with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (“OCR”)**

Tony Hebblethwaite, OCR Docket #07212049 (“UCO”)

OCR Docket # 07-23-2169, Anonymous Complainant v. East Central University

Margo McKenzie v. Northeastern State University

**Miscellaneous Matters**

MidFirst Bank v. Lindsay, Northwestern Oklahoma State University et al. CJ-2022-6342.

Emily Wilson v. East Central University

Appeal of IRS Audit finding by Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Reginald Thompson v. East Central University

**Regent Ford made the motion, seconded by Regent Reilly, to convene into executive session.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none.**

**The Board convened into executive session at 1:34 p.m.**

**A break was taken from 1:34 p.m. to 1:44 p.m., whereupon the meeting resumed.**

## **XV. RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION**

**Regent Fisher made the motion, seconded by Regent Ford, to reconvene in public session.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none.**

**The Board reconvened in public session at 3:18 p.m.**

- A. Consideration and possible action to implement matters discussed in Executive Session.

**Regent Fisher made the motion, seconded by Regent Ford, to accept the mediator settlement proposal in Tatum Robertson, Eve Brennan, and Marin Rhodes v. University of Central Oklahoma and Board of Regents for the Regional University System of Oklahoma.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none.**

## **XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Regent Reilly made the motion, seconded by Regent VanDenhende, to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m.**

**Voting for the motion: Regents VanDenhende, Carpenter, Fisher, Reilly, McDermott, and Ford**

**Voting against the motion: none.**

## ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

### Attachment

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## NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT

DATE: October 27, 2023

TO: Regional University System of Oklahoma

FROM: Rodney Hanley, President 

SUBJECT: Academic Affairs Agenda Items

The following proposals for certificate and program modifications are submitted for your consideration.

These eight certificate modifications are a result of changes to the host programs that have already been approved by RUSO.

- **Business Analytics Certificate (039)**, embedded in Business Administration BBA. Faculty propose removing a course and lowering total credit hours needed for the certificate from 18 to 15.
- **International Business Certificate (065)**, embedded in International Business Management, BBA. A prerequisite course is being removed since it is no longer part of the business core. The credit hours needed for the certificate will remain at 15.
- **Operations and Supply Chain Management Certificate (180)**, embedded in Supply Chain Management, BBA will switch a required course to logistics. The certificate will still require 15 credit hours.
- **Healthcare Administration Certification (181)**, embedded in Health Organizations Administration, BBA. Faculty propose removing several courses as prerequisites, making the certificate more accessible to students. Certificate credit hours will remain at 15.
- **Healthcare Information Analytics Certificate (182)**, embedded in Health Organizations Administration, BBA. Prerequisite courses for this certificate will also be removed while the total credit hours will remain at 15.
- **Business Basics Certificate (189)**, embedded in Business Administration, BBA. Faculty propose replacing two courses with different courses in Management and Information Systems. Total credit hours needed will remain at 15.
- **Soft Skills Certificate (193)**, embedded in Management, B.B.A. will remove the computer proficiency requirement. Students already meet that requirement through other means. Credit hours will remain at 12.
- **Quality Management Certificate (194)**, embedded in Management, B.B.A. will remove the computer proficiency requirement as it is no longer necessary.

These degree program modifications include course, admission, and a lowering of open electives to streamline degrees from 124 to 120 credit hours where possible.

**Accounting B.B.A. (001).** Faculty have added two courses to the accounting core and eliminated the program's options. This change increases program requirements from 60 to 63 credit hours. Reducing the remaining open electives to 11 credit hours lowers the degree total from 124 credit hours to 120.

**School Administration, M.Ed. (103).** Faculty propose removing admission documentation including the goals statement, copy of teaching license, and letters of recommendation. They will also modify conditional admission requirements, and candidacy requirements to remove documentation. Total credit hours remain 36.

**Library Media and Information Technology, M.S. (129).** Faculty propose removing the MAT / GRE entrance exam and replacing it with conditional admission guidelines. They will also modify the Professional Education guided elective portion of the degree. Total credit hours will remain 33.

**Medical Laboratory Science B.S.M.L.S. (147).** Faculty are clarifying minimum grade requirements as well as clarifying program dismissal standards. They are adjusting credit hours in clinical courses in the 2+2 pathway. The proposal also reduces the number of open electives to 3 from the 3+1 pathway and 9 in the 2+2 pathway will reduce the total degree hours to 120.

Thank you for your consideration of these proposals. If you have any questions, please contact me or Dr. Carla Swearingen.

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Carla Swearingen, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Pamela Fly, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs



**NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
*OFFICE of the PRESIDENT*

October 27, 2023

Jane McDermott, Board Chair  
Regional University System of Oklahoma  
305 N.W. 5<sup>th</sup> #407  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Chair McDermott:

Please accept this letter notifying RUSO of a name change for NSU's Department of Criminology, Justice Studies and Global Security to the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology.

Changing the department name will help alleviate confusion among students as they search for criminal justice and sociology programs. It is often difficult for students to locate particular degree programs due the current name that focuses on certain areas of study, but not specific programs. Changing the name will make programs more visible to current and prospective students. Sociology and Criminal Justice, while related, are separate disciplines and both should be included in the department title.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Dr. Carla Swearingen, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Hanley".

Rodney Hanley, Ph.D.  
President

cc: Dr. Carla Swearingen, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Mike Chanslor, Dean, College of Liberal Arts  
Dr. Brett Fitzgerald, Chair, Department of Criminology, Justice Studies, and Global Security



**NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT

October 24, 2023

Dr. Sheridan McCaffree, Executive Director  
Regional University System of Oklahoma  
305 N.W.5<sup>th</sup> #407  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Executive Director McCaffree:

In accordance with RUSO policy to inform member institutions, Northeastern State University will submit to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) a *Letter of Intent* indicating NSU's intent to seek approval to offer a new program, Master of Science in Management and Technology.

The Management and Technology, M.S. will be classified as a STEM program, with an emphasis on technology in management training and operations. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (September 6, 2023) cites 2022 STEM occupations in the US as 10,365 (thousands) to 11,487 (thousands) for 2032, which is a 10.8% increase. The new program is targeted to meet this demand by growing the state's STEM workforce.

The program will be offered at both Tahlequah and Broken Arrow campuses in both traditional and electronic delivery formats. Complete *New Program Request Form* to offer MS in Management and Technology will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Hanley".

Rodney Hanley, Ph.D.  
President

cc: Dr. Carla Swearingen, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Pamela Fly, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Janet Buzzard, Dean, College of Business and Technology



October 30, 2023

Regional University System of Oklahoma  
Landmark Towers  
3555 Northwest 58<sup>th</sup>, Suite 320  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

RE: Educational Excellence Committee

Dear Board Members:

We are seeking approval for the following program modification.

**Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management (002)** – Add option in flight operations and dispatch. Four new courses added to inventory.

We are also seeking approval for the following new programs.

**Master of Science in Community Health** – New program, 33 total hours. Nine new courses added to inventory.

**Master of Science in Health Science** – New program, 33 total hours. Four new courses added to inventory

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this proposal.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Newsom  
President



**Date:** October 26, 2023

**To:** Regional University System of Oklahoma  
Board of Regents

**From:** Dr. Bo Hannaford, President *Bo Hannaford*

**Re:** Academic Affairs Agenda Item – November 10, 2023

Please place Northwestern Oklahoma State University on the agenda with an Academic Affairs Agenda Item for the November 10, 2023, meeting of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents. We request approval of the following items:

**Other Program Modification** – Changing the department prefix of our Graduate Study Seminar course from Education (EDUC) to University (UNIV) for all master degrees upon the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee. Master of Education: School Counseling (011), Reading Specialist (032), Adult Education Management and Administration (082), Curriculum and Instruction (083), Educational Leadership (083); Master of Arts: American Studies (067), Heritage Tourism and Conservation (072); Master of Science: General Psychology (079); Master of Counseling Psychology (043)

**New Program** – Master of Business Administration in Business Administration (088) with options in Management or Health Care Administration. Total hours required 33, 15 new courses.

Documents for these requests are attached. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

BH:jr



## FALL SEMESTER, 2024

August 19	Regular Classes Begin
August 19, 20, 21, 22	Night Classes Begin
September 2	Labor Day (Holiday)
October 3, 4, 5	Homecoming
October 11	End of First Eight Weeks
October 14	Beginning of Second Eight Weeks
October 17-18	Fall Break
October 21	Classes Resume
November 27, 28, 29	Thanksgiving Break
December 2	Classes Resume
December 8	Commencement
December 10, 11, 12, 13	Final Examinations
December 13	Last Day of Semester

## SPRING SEMESTER, 2025

Dec. 16 – Jan. 10	Spring Interim Classes
January 13	Regular Classes Begin
January 13, 14, 15, 16	Night Classes Begin
January 20	Martin Luther King Day (Holiday)
March 7	End of First Eight Weeks
March 10	Beginning of Second Eight Weeks
March 17 – 21	Spring Break
March 24	Classes Resume
April 26	Alumni Spring Reunion
May 6, 7, 8, 9	Final Examinations
May 9	Last Day of Semester
May 10	Commencement

## SUMMER SESSION, 2025

May 12 - 30	Summer Interim Classes
May 26	Memorial Day (Holiday)
June 2	Classes Begin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June Session (June 2 – June 30)</li> <li>• July Session (July 1 – July 28)</li> </ul>
June 19	Juneteenth (Holiday)
July 28	Summer Session Ends



### **Doctorate of Education in Rural Education (Ed.D.)**

**Description of Proposed Program** The ECU Doctor of Education (Ed.D) in Rural Education will support and advance rural education in Oklahoma and, possibly, the region. Although a majority of public school districts in Oklahoma identify as rural, meaning they integrate their student instruction and services with rural education’s exceptional circumstances and challenges, little higher education preparation exists in either Oklahoma or other states for rural educators and educational leaders. Currently, only three universities across the United States grant doctoral degrees in rural education leadership--none of which are located in Oklahoma. The need for more higher education learning in rural education also aligns with recent data supporting the growth in doctoral-level educational leadership and administration graduates. Increases in the number of these graduates correspond with more research related to educational leadership and administration. However, little addresses rural education with its exceptional circumstances and challenges. This has resulted in less advancement in the collective knowledge base about rural education. Additional doctoral programs geared toward rural education could alter this trend and improve understanding about rural education through sound research. These factors collectively result in a need for a doctoral degree in rural education in Oklahoma.

The term rural includes varied definitions. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (2020), rural includes whatever is not defined as urban. The U.S. Census Bureau (2021) states rural is defined as not urban in relation to population, housing, and geographic area. Geographically, 97% of the United States is defined as rural (NCES, 2020). In addition, according to NCES (2020), at least 30,000 rural schools in the United States employ at least 916,000 personnel. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2020), 52% of the schools in Oklahoma are defined as rural. In 2020, Oklahoma had 205,945 students in rural schools, comprising about 264 school districts (OSDE, 2020).

According to the OSDE (2020), educators in rural areas must consider many special circumstances and the challenges affecting our rural students. Two of the largest challenges include educational and financial barriers (Barbera et al. 2020; Jones et al. 2020; OSDE 2020). In addition, leaders in OK rural schools should know how to address the unique issues in rural communities, such as “varying access to healthcare, food security, Internet connectivity, access to advanced coursework, and high-quality educational resources” (OSDE, 2020, para. 2).

This program is specifically designed to address and study rural education's unique circumstances and challenges. Specific coursework in the program will help education leaders understand and successfully navigate the special aspects of leadership in rural education. The program also includes coursework in advocacy, strategic planning, curriculum planning, etc., for rural education. The capstone aspect of the program is designed specifically to enhance rural education through a collaboration to address specific and unique needs of the school in development and completion of the capstone to address a specific need of the school system. Thus, the program consists of 60 hours of graduate-level coursework. Of the 60 hours, 12 hours will include the dissertation/capstone project coursework. Students will be eligible to transfer up to 30 hours of coursework from their M. Ed. Programs based on graduate school policy and review of the dean and director.

**Employment Demand for Proposed Program** According to Lightcast (2022), 2,200 job postings nationally relate to a doctorate in rural education. Post-secondary teachers and administrators make up the largest growth market for this area, but education administrators (K-12) and educators (K-12) are close behind in the top 5 (BLS, 2022; Lightcast, 2022). According to Lightcast (2022), the primary skill related to this area is curriculum development and instructional design, which are integrated into this program.

**Unmet Need for Proposed Program** Doctoral-level educational leadership and administration graduates have grown by 6% over the last 5-year average, and education administration has grown by 13% over the last 5-year average (IPEDS, 2022). In addition, specializations in this doctoral program are in the top 5 fastest growing areas nationally (IPEDS, 2022).

Even with the growth indicated, very few doctoral programs focus on rural education. There are currently only three. According to the Rural Schools Collaborative (2018), the University of West Alabama was the first doctoral program focusing on rural education launched in 2013. Since the University of West Alabama created its program, there have been only two other institutions in the United States to launch doctoral programs with a focus on rural education: West Texas A&M and Southern Arkansas University (RSC, 2018).

Research in rural education is also an unmet need. Research articles published on rural educational issues are few and highly needed compared to other research in education (Arnold et al., 2005). In addition, support for publishing articles related to rural educational research is lacking (Thornton & Mihelic, 2022). The concern about the lack of research and support led to the Chronicle of Rural Education (CoRE) (Thornton & Mihelic, 2022). CoRE is an open-accessed peer-review journal hosted by Oklahoma State University's Open Journal Website, with East Central University faculty serving as the editorial and production staff. This program directly connects to addressing the lack of research regarding rural education through dissertations/capstone projects. Program participants will be encouraged to submit research for publication in CoRE.

## **Educational Specialist in School Psychology (Ed.S.)**

**Description of Proposed Program** School psychology is a vital component to the public-school system as they are responsible for evaluating students for special education eligibility outlined by federal and state guidelines and standards. Additionally, they provide intervention services for students struggling academically, socially, and behaviorally. In addition, school psychologists provide consultation and training for educators thus meeting many student needs.

This program consists of 63 hours of graduate-level coursework to prepare individuals to become school psychologists. Coursework will include specific training as outlined by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), which also meets the standards of Oklahoma. The institution will be able to seek accreditation from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) if the Educational Specialist in School Psychology degree is approved.

According to the NASP (2020), "Graduate education of school psychologists occurs at the specialist-level or doctoral-level programs of study in school psychology, as defined in these standards" (p. 15). With NASP accreditation, students will be able to seek national certification (NSCP) and state certification as a school psychologist. Students will be eligible to transfer up to 33 hours from a master's program in School Psychometry.

**Employment Demand for Proposed Program** The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) recommends a student ratio of 1:500 in a school system for the school psychologist. According to NASP(January 2023), Oklahoma's ratio was greater than 1 school psychologist for every 2,000 students. Data collected by the Oklahoma School Psychology Association indicate that the school psychologist to student ratios in Oklahoma is 1: 5,251. Oklahoma local education agencies have multiple openings across the state for school psychologists, which go unfilled through the school year. A crude Internet search for school psychologist positions on June 28, 2023, revealed over 100 open positions throughout the state of Oklahoma. According to the Bureau of Labor, the demand for school psychologists is anticipated to increase by 6% in 2031.

**Unmet Need for Proposed Program** School psychology is a critical part of the public school system. School psychologists holding a National Certified School Psychologist (NSCP) credential are more sought after than school psychologists who do not hold the credential (NASP, 2020). Those with the NSCP command higher pay in the form of stipends awarded through local education agencies. Students graduating from East Central University's Educational Specialist in School Psychology will be well situated to obtain immediate employment as a school psychologist after passing the appropriate certification exams. With over 100 open positions, there is a great need to produce more qualified school psychologists.

There are currently a few other school psychology programs in Oklahoma, but none of these programs service our area. The doctoral level program at Oklahoma State University can only train a few candidates a year, thus creating the need for the ECU Educational Specialist in School Psychology. Additionally, there are only two other programs in our state that prepare school psychologists; however, they do not service the ECU area. The other programs are either blended or on-the-ground programs which is a hardship and barrier to students in our service area. The need in our area is great, and with the demand for school psychologists increasing by 6% (Bureau of Labor), there is an unmet need to prepare NSCP credential school psychologists.



November 2, 2023

Ms. Sheridan McCaffree  
Executive Director  
Regional University System of Oklahoma  
3555 NW 58 Street, Suite 320  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

RE: Letter of Intent

Dear Ms. McCaffree,

In accordance with the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) policy guidelines, this letter serves to inform you of the University of Central Oklahoma's intent to submit the following program requests:

**New Programs:**

- B.B.A. Supply Chain Management (Traditional and Online delivery)
- B.S. Ecology & Conservation Biology (Traditional delivery)

Your consideration of this letter of intent is appreciated. Please contact Dr. Charlotte Simmons, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, at (405) 974-3371 should you have any questions or need further clarification.

Respectfully,

Todd G. Lamb  
President

TO: Board of Regents of the  
Regional University System of Oklahoma

FROM: Diana Lovell, President

DATE: October 26, 2023

SUBJECT: Program Modification Requests – November 2023

Please place Southwestern Oklahoma State University on the agenda for the November 9-10, 2023, Board of Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma meeting regarding the following items:

- Program Modification requests for the following programs:
  1. Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology – New Program
  2. Bachelor of Business Administration - Human Resource Management option addition (011)
  3. Bachelor of Business Administration - Leadership and Organization Studies option addition (011)
  4. Bachelor of Business Administration – Entrepreneurship (011)
  5. Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration – (005)
  6. Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry – Pharmaceutical Chemistry option addition (013)
  7. Bachelor of Science in Parks and Wildlife Law Enforcement (146)
  8. Associate of Science in Wildland Firefighting (156)

Documents for these requests are attached. If you need additional information regarding these items, please let me know.

First Name

Sharon

Last Name

Lawrence

Person ID

333000

Department

Allied Health Sciences

## Justification For Program

### Description of Proposed Program

Southwestern Oklahoma State University currently offers five Associate of Applied Science degrees at the Weatherford Campus. The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology would be offered through contractual agreement with Great Plains Regional Medical Center to give students the opportunity to earn a degree while pursuing their professional goals of Surgical Technology certification. The Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARCSTSA) is recommending an elevation to the current certification to include an Associate level degree track. Program objectives will be compliant with the accreditation standards. Individual learning objectives of the program will be defined when the program director is in place and the accreditation process begins.

The curriculum for the Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology degree plan was formulated to meet the completion objectives necessary for students to be prepared to take the certification exam. The curriculum allows students to complete the degree as well as meet all accreditation requirements set forth by the ARCSTSA.

This program is designed to prepare students for entry-level positions as Surgical Technologists. The program will have a competitive admission process consisting of the following requirements: 2.0 GPA, written application, completion of all prerequisite coursework in year one. Students must also pass a background check and drug screen in order to be placed in clinical courses. Upon satisfactory completion of the Surgical Technology program, graduates will receive the Associate in Applied Science Degree and are eligible to sit for certification. Students must complete the program with a minimum 2.0 GPA. This program will seek accreditation by Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) via The Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology (ARC/STSA).

### Employment Demand for Proposed Program

According to the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission Industry and Occupational Employment Projections for 202 (<https://oklahoma.gov/oesc/labor-market/employment-projections.html>), there are approximately 30 openings a year for Surgical Technologists in Oklahoma with approximately 60 Technologists leaving the field annually creating a deficit amongst hospitals and surgery centers.

Currently, there are 130 students enrolled in Health Science that have not made any application or concrete decision on which health program path they would like to pursue. This would give an additional option. Students ask advisors in Allied Health where they can go for Surgical Technology on a regular basis. There are no Surgical Technology programs west of Yukon, Ok. This option would also fit other majors looking for a career to help them with the cost of a higher degree.

### Unmet Need for Proposed Program

This program will be offered through a contractual agreement between Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Great Plains Regional Medical Center in Elk City, Oklahoma. Our hospital partner is very excited about this opportunity and the opportunity for western Oklahoma to fill very needed Surgical Technology jobs in Western Oklahoma.

The benefit of offering this program will be to meet the needs of our industry partner and to draw students to SWOSU in order to achieve the degree needed to reach employment and then retain them in the BAS in Health Science to finish their bachelor degree while working in their chosen field.

Program Method of Delivery

Both Traditional and Online

TO: Board of Regents of the  
Regional University System of Oklahoma  
Regent Amy Ford, Chair

FROM: Diana Lovell, President

DATE: October 25, 2023

SUBJECT: Facilities Stewardship Committee Agenda Items  
– November, 2023

Please place Southwestern Oklahoma State University on the Facilities Stewardship Committee agenda for the November, 2023, Board of Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma meeting regarding the following items:

- **Project: Land purchase, 25 acres revision**
- **Project Description:**

SWOSU requests authority for Lori Boyd, SWOSU Vice President of Administration and Finance, to sign closing documents for the purchase of 25 acres of land. Purchase of the land was approved by the RUSO Board at the June, 2023, meeting.

SWOSU was successful in purchasing the 25 acres at a total cost of \$557,530, including estimated closing costs. Closing was delayed due to title issues but is expected to occur within the next 30 days.

Legal description of Tract 2 and 3: A Tract of Land on the north side of E/2 SW/4 Section 5, Township 12N, Range 14, W.I.M., Custer County, Oklahoma, Containing approximately 25 acres. Surface rights only.



**Date:** October 26, 2023

**To:** Regional University System of Oklahoma  
305 N.W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., #407  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-4741

**From:** Dr. Bo Hannaford, President *Bo Hannaford*

**RE:** Facilities Stewardship Committee Agenda Items-November 9, 2023

Please place Northwestern Oklahoma State University on the Facilities Stewardship Committee agenda for the November 9, 2023, meeting of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents for the following items:

### **President's House**

Project Description: Northwestern Oklahoma State University is seeking approval to update the guest shower in the second-floor bathroom of the President's House. Estimated cost will not exceed \$9,500. All expenses for the project will be from donated funds.

BH:jr



Office of the President  
**Southeastern Oklahoma  
State University**

October 30, 2023

Regent Amy Anne Ford  
Regional University System of Oklahoma  
305 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street #407  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

RE: Facilities Stewardship Committee

Dear Regent Ford,

**Construction & Renovation, over \$100,000**

In accordance with Board policy 2.4, Public Construction and Improvement Projects, Southeastern Oklahoma State University is requesting approval for the following project:

Project Name: Science and Fine Arts Buildings HVAC Upgrades and Repairs  
Project Description: Request approval to engage Plyer Construction as the successful bidder for upgrades and repairs to HVAC systems in the Science and Fine Arts buildings. For Fine Arts, the upgrades will include moving from a 2-pipe system to a 4-pipe system. This will provide improved functionality including humidity control. For the Science building, the first and third floors will be upgraded to match the second-floor improvements (funded with Risk Management claim proceeds). In addition to better humidity control, the updated system will better manage building pressure and provide enhanced freeze protection.  
Project Number(s): 660-0800 & 660-0804  
Amount: \$2,540,294  
Source of Funds: Master Lease, Deferred Maintenance  
Vendor: Plyer Construction

**Construction & Renovation, between \$25,000 and \$100,000**

In accordance with Board policy 2.4, Public Construction and Improvement Projects, Southeastern Oklahoma State University is reporting the following project:

Item	Vendor	Amount	Funding Source
Construction of a metal storage building 40' X 60' X 12' on a 4" concrete slab.	Rockin' B Fencing, Braxton Barton	\$79,500	Master Lease Rodeo/Ag Expo

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Newsom, President



## NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT

**DATE:** October 27, 2023

**TO:** Amy Anne Ford, Facilities Stewardship Committee Chair  
Regional University System of Oklahoma

**FROM:** Dr. Rodney Hanley, President

**SUBJECT:** Facilities Stewardship Committee Agenda Items–November 2023

### Property Lease

Request approval to enter into a lease with the City of Broken Arrow for the use of 1,000 parking spaces used exclusively for allowing parking for patrons of the Broken Arrow Events Park and Amphitheater. The term of the lease is for one year with an option to renew the lease for three consecutive years. The annual lease rate for the first three years is \$55,000.

### Project Requests

#### 1. Project #485-0078 – Bacone Renovation and Site Improvements

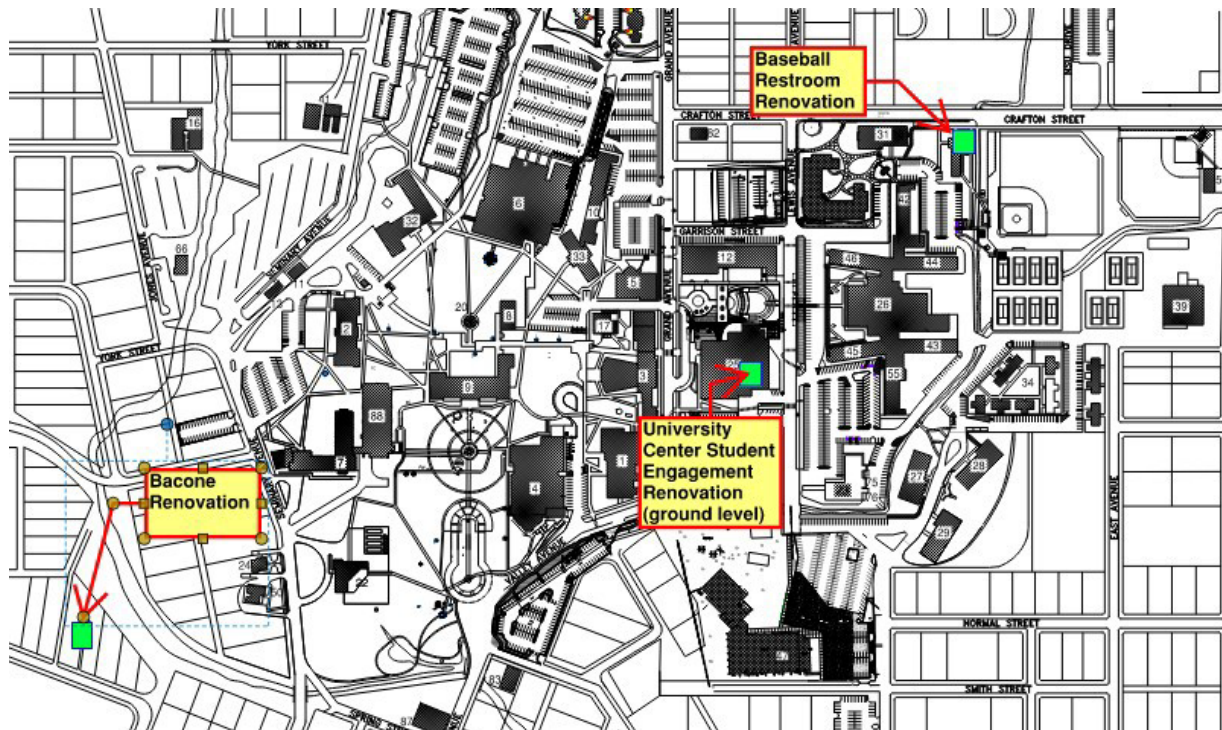
- Project Description: Requesting permission to design, bid, and award to the lowest responsible bidder the renovation of the NSU Bacone House. Renovations will include exterior stabilization, site improvements, and interior improvements including an ADA accessible first floor. Renovations will be funded by a grant over three years.
- Requested Funding Approval: \$995,500
- Budget Breakdown: Renovations/Repairs
- Revenue Source(s): Grant Funds

#### 2. Project #485-0073 – Student Engagement Renovation

- Project Description: Requesting permission to design, bid, and award to the lowest responsible bidder the renovation of Student Engagement space on all three campuses. Renovations will be funded by a grant over five years. The renovation focus for the first year will be in the University Center basement.
- Requested Funding Approval: \$970,466
- Budget Breakdown: Renovations/Repairs
- Revenue Source(s): Grant Funds

### 3. Project #485-73 – Baseball Patron Restroom Renovation

- Project Description: Requesting permission to design, bid, and award to the lowest responsible bidder, the remodel and expansion of the patron restrooms.
- Requested Funding Approval: \$150,000
- Budget Breakdown: Renovation/Repairs
- Revenue Source(s): Donated Funds





Date: November 9-10, 2023

To: Board of Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma  
Facilities Stewardship Committee Chair, Amy Anne Ford

From: President Todd G. Lamb

**University of Central Oklahoma**

**November 2023 Facilities Stewardship Committee**

1. Approval Items:

**a. Project #120-0027 Major Repairs and Deferred Maintenance**

Project Description: Request approval to award TK Elevator Corporation a contract not to exceed \$140,000 for the modernization of the Human Environmental Sciences Building elevator. Contract to be awarded through *Omnia Partners Group* cooperative purchasing contract.

Requested Funding Approval: \$140,000

Budget Breakdown: \$140,000 for complete retrofit of controller and operational parts.

Vendor: TK Elevator Corporation

Congruent with Facility Master Plan or Strategic Plan: Yes

Fund Source: Section 13 Offset

2. Information Items:

**a. Project #120-0032 Sports Complex Improvements**

Project Description: Issued contract in the amount of \$47,899 to on-call construction manager Lippert Bros. for the remediation of flood damage to the Sports Performance Annex. This damage occurred as a result of a flooded telecommunication conduit entering the building. Lippert Bros.' on-call contract expires July 2024.

Fund Source: Section 13 Offset

**b. Project #120-0033 Existing Building Renovations and Additions**

Project Description: Issued contract in the amount of \$26,031 to on-call construction manager Lippert Bros. for the demolition of the Annex building at the St. Mary's property/future home of the UCO School of Design. Lippert Bros.' on-call contract expires July 2024.

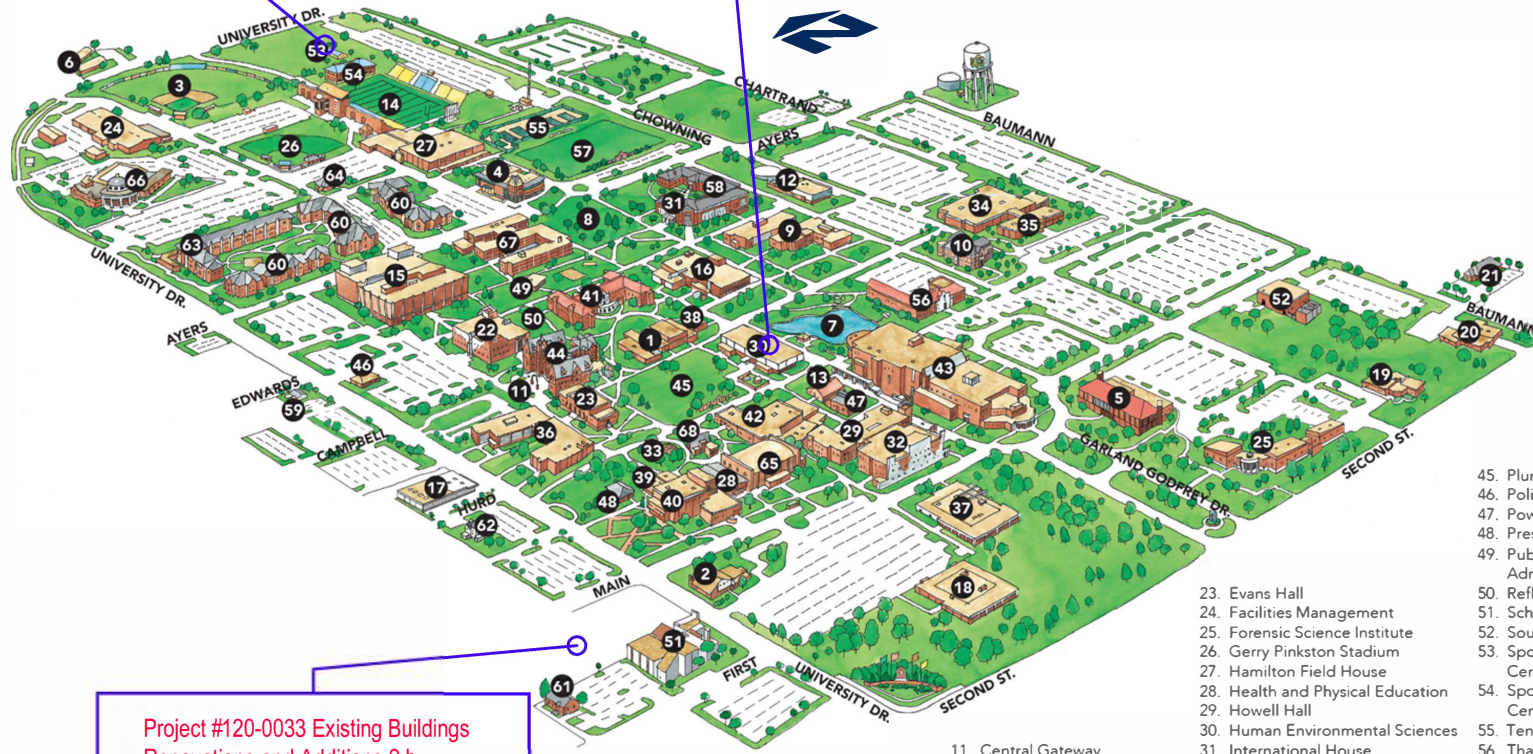
Fund Source: Section 13 Offset

Attachment: Campus Map

November 9-10, 2023

Project #120-0032 Sports Complex Improvements 2.a.

Project #120-0027 Major Repairs and Deferred Maintenance 1.a.



Project #120-0033 Existing Buildings Renovations and Additions 2.b.

#### MAP LEGEND

1. Art & Design Building
2. Baptist Collegiate Ministries
3. Baseball Field
4. Bausher Place
5. Betz STEM Research and Learning Center
6. Broncho IV Apartments
7. Broncho Lake
8. Buddy's Lawn
9. Business Building
10. Center for Transformative Learning

11. Central Gateway
12. Central Plant
13. CFAD Storage Building
14. Chad Richison Stadium
15. Chambers Library
16. Communications Building
17. Co-op Esports Gaming Center
18. Coyner Health Sciences
19. Edmond Chamber of Commerce
20. Edmond Fire Station No. 1
21. Education Annex Building
22. Education Building
23. Evans Hall
24. Facilities Management
25. Forensic Science Institute
26. Gerry Pinkston Stadium
27. Hamilton Field House
28. Health and Physical Education
29. Howell Hall
30. Human Environmental Sciences
31. International House
32. Laboratory Annex Building
33. Labyrinth
34. Liberal Arts North Wing
35. Liberal Arts South Wing
36. Lillard Administration Building
37. Math and Computer Science
38. Melton Art Gallery
39. Mitchell Education Center
40. Mitchell Hall
41. Murdaugh Hall
42. Music Building
43. Nigh University Center
44. Old North

45. Plunkett Park
46. Police Services
47. Power Plant
48. President's Annex
49. Public Safety Administration
50. Reflection Park
51. School of Design (future)
52. South Central Plant
53. Sports Performance Center Annex
54. Sports Performance Center
55. Tennis Courts
56. Thatcher Hall
57. Thompson Soccer Field
58. Transformative Learning Quadrangle (The Quad)
59. TRIO Training
60. University Commons
61. University Guest House
62. University House
63. University Suites
64. VetHERO Center
65. Wantland Hall
66. Wellness Center
67. West Hall
68. Y-Chapel

## Campus Map

#### METRO CAMPUS LOCATIONS



Academy of Contemporary Music (ACM@UCO)  
25 S. Oklahoma Ave.,  
Downtown Oklahoma City



Center for eLearning and Connected Environments  
201 N. Bryant Ave.,  
Edmond



Jazz Lab  
100 E. 5th St.,  
Edmond



UCO Boathouse at Arcadia Lake  
Arcadia Lake - Second St. and  
Midwest Blvd.



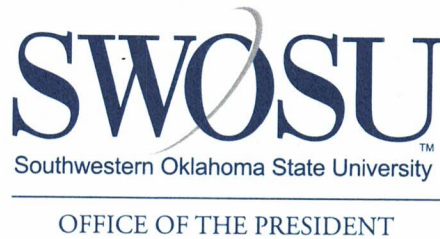
UCO Boathouse at Oklahoma River  
732 Riversport Dr.,  
Oklahoma River Boathouse District,  
Downtown Oklahoma City



UCO at Carnegie Centre  
131 Dean A. McGee Ave.,  
Downtown Oklahoma City



UCO at Santa Fe Plaza  
101 North E.K. Gaylord, Ste. 1  
Downtown Oklahoma City



TO: Board of Regents of the  
Regional University System of Oklahoma  
Regent Chris Van Denhende, Chair

FROM: Diana Lovell, President

DATE: October 25, 2023

SUBJECT: Audit and Finance Committee Agenda Items  
– November, 2023

Please place Southwestern Oklahoma State University on the Audit and Finance Committee agenda for the November, 2023, Board of Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma meeting regarding the following items:

- **Project: Construction of the Jerry and Margaret Hodge Center**

**Project Description:**

SWOSU requests permission to transfer funds from 765 Auxiliary fund to 295 Fund in preparation for payment of construction costs related to the Hodge Center project. The funds requested to be transferred have been received from the City of Weatherford sales tax revenue specifically for use to construct this building.

**Requested Funding Approval:** **\$1,000,000**

**Congruent with Capital Master Plan:** Yes

**Funding Sources:** Fund 765



## **Enrollment, Retention, and Graduation Outcomes and Opportunities**

Benchmarks Report to the Board of Regents,  
Regional University System of Oklahoma  
November 2023

### **Regents Dashboard Work Team**

Dr. Joel Kendall, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, SWOSU  
Diane Fitzsimmons, Institutional Effectiveness Specialist, SWOSU  
RUSO institutions' Institutional Research offices

This eighth report of Benchmarks constitutes the Dashboard adopted by the Board of Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma. The information provided includes benchmarks that document graduating seniors' satisfaction with their experiences, and data sets on enrollment across a broad spectrum of participation: race, age, gender, retention, program selection, and more.

### **Key Takeaways**

As in previous Dashboard reports, the comprehensive analysis of information has revealed significant findings that would have gone undiscovered if it not for this exercise. Discoveries include:

#### **Enrollment**

As a system, enrollment has battled through COVID pandemic and nationwide enrollment downturns. RUSO universities have met the challenges better than most other state institutions. Increasing freshmen enrollment and rebounding retention rates are positive indicators for future enrollment growth.

#### **Workforce responses and agility**

RUSO institutions are more agile than most universities and systems in responding to changing workforce and student demand. We are quick to adapt to need for new programs, approaches, recruitment strategies, retention strategies, and career counseling. This is shown in our efforts in STEM degrees and concurrent enrollment.

#### **Student-centered efforts**

Across the system, the awarding of bachelor's degrees continues to be strong despite enrollment downturns. Additionally, the system is providing students with diversified degree and credential opportunities to help students meet educational and professional goals. Additionally, the system is becoming more responsive to student support needs in areas of academics, finances, and on-campus services.

## Graduating Seniors' satisfaction with RUSO institutions

All institutions employ a graduation survey for Spring Semester commencing seniors. The information collected is based on questions posed to graduating seniors in the comprehensive National Survey of Student Experiences.

These questions also serve as an indirect means to assess student learning as it assumes that satisfaction with a student's overall experience also indicates satisfaction with what was learned.

At the conclusion of the Spring Semester, all RUSO institutions asked two questions on their institutional exit surveys. Question No. 1, that queries graduating seniors' satisfaction with the quality of their education, found a 1 percent over-all increase in satisfaction from the prior year. Regarding Question No. 2, there is a 3 percent over-all increase stating students would choose the same institution if they could do it all over again. Comparisons with last year's survey are reported in parenthesis.

**Chart 1. Student satisfaction survey results (*same data as April 2023*)**

University	Question 1 – Were you provided a quality education/programs?	Question 2 – Would you attend same school if you had to do it over?
ECU	95% (no change)	90% (no change)
NSU	89% (no change)	89% (+1%)
NWOSU	89% (+3%)	88% (-2%)
SEOSU	90% (+4%)	92% (+1%)
SWOSU	97% (+1%)	93% (no change)
UCO	89% (-2%)	79% (-2%)
RUSO AVERAGE	91%	89%

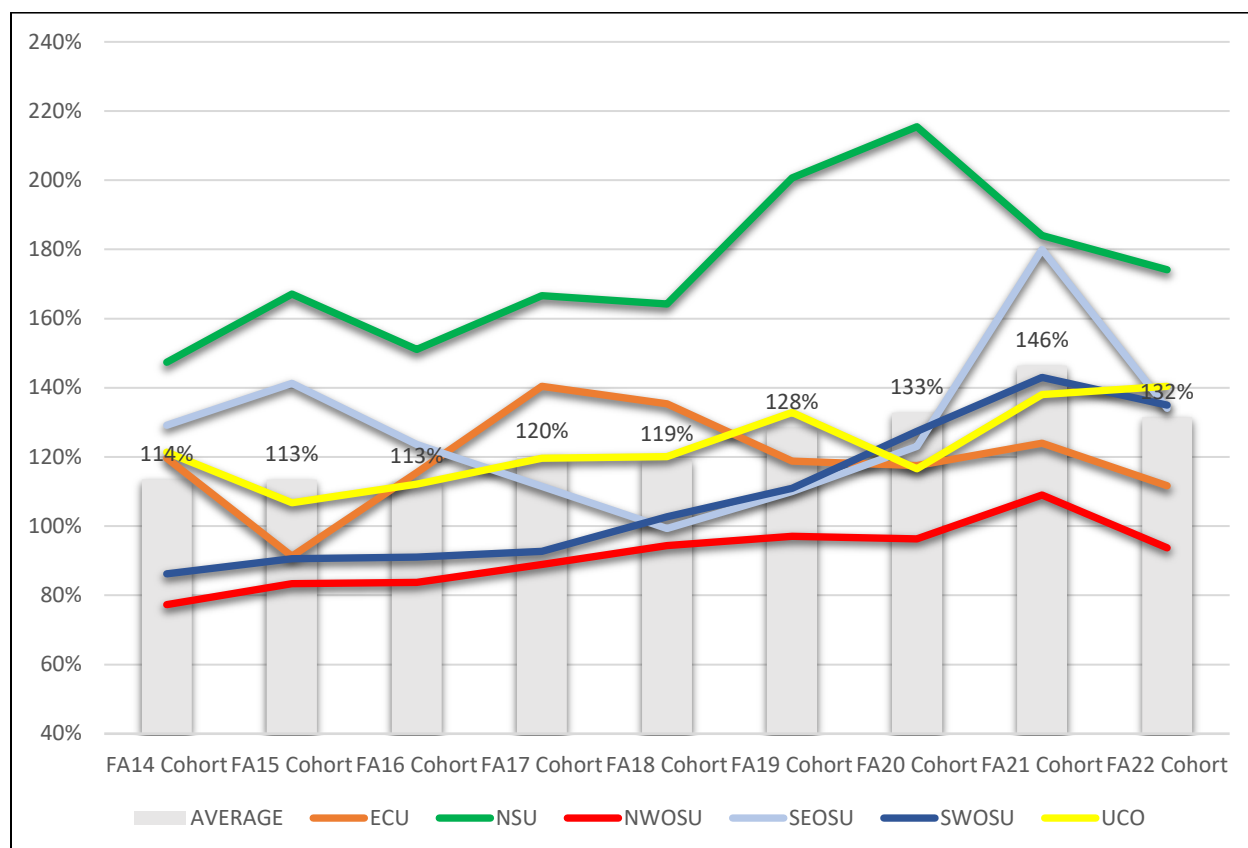
## Graduation Success

### Graduating more students each year than incoming freshmen

We believe it is our duty to clarify what “graduation rates” entail as defined by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System of the U.S. Department of Education. IPEDS only measures the success of the cohort of first-time, full-time freshmen who enroll in the fall after graduating from high school, and then graduate from the same institution. It does not report the graduation rates of part-time, returning, adult, veterans, transfer students, or those who enroll in other terms. These students make up a large percentage of RUSO schools’ enrollment.

Chart 4 provides a comparison (in percentage terms) of the number of students graduating with an undergraduate degree in a given year divided by the number of full-time freshmen entering that same year. The chart shows that, on average, RUSO schools graduate more students every year than enroll as first-time freshmen. **The average is nearing 150%.** Part of this position jump can be attributed to smaller freshmen cohorts in Fall 2020 and Fall 2021. However, we believe that RUSO schools are making great progress in serving transfer students and students who come to the institutions as non-traditional students.

**Chart 2. Total undergraduate degrees as a percentage of incoming full-time freshman class**

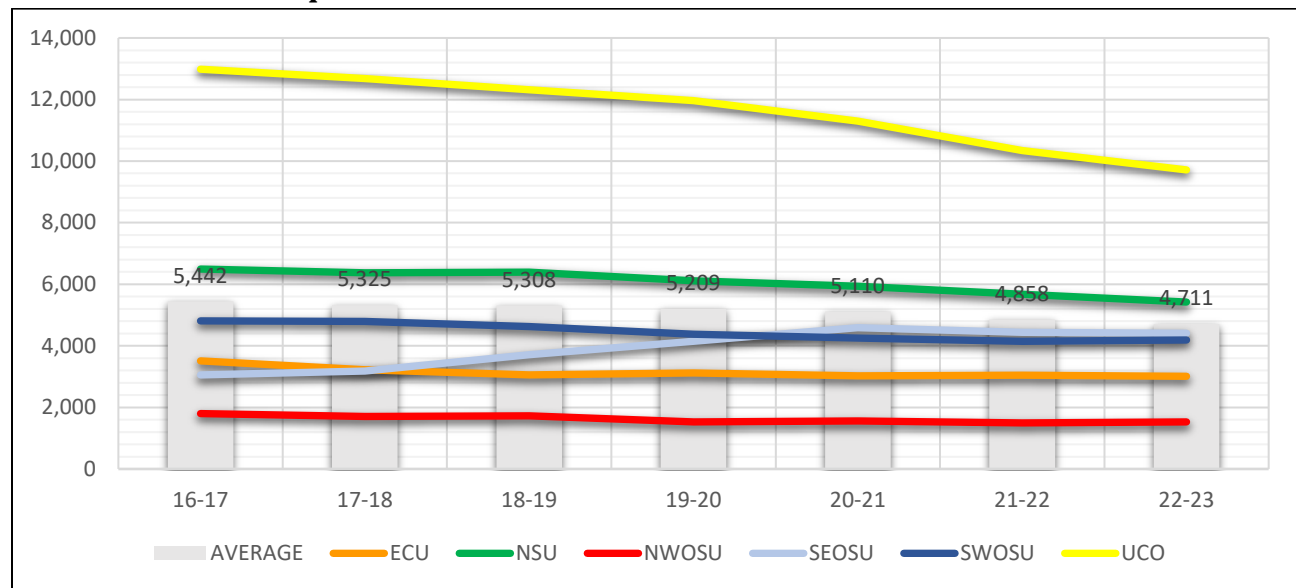


## Access, Progress and Completion

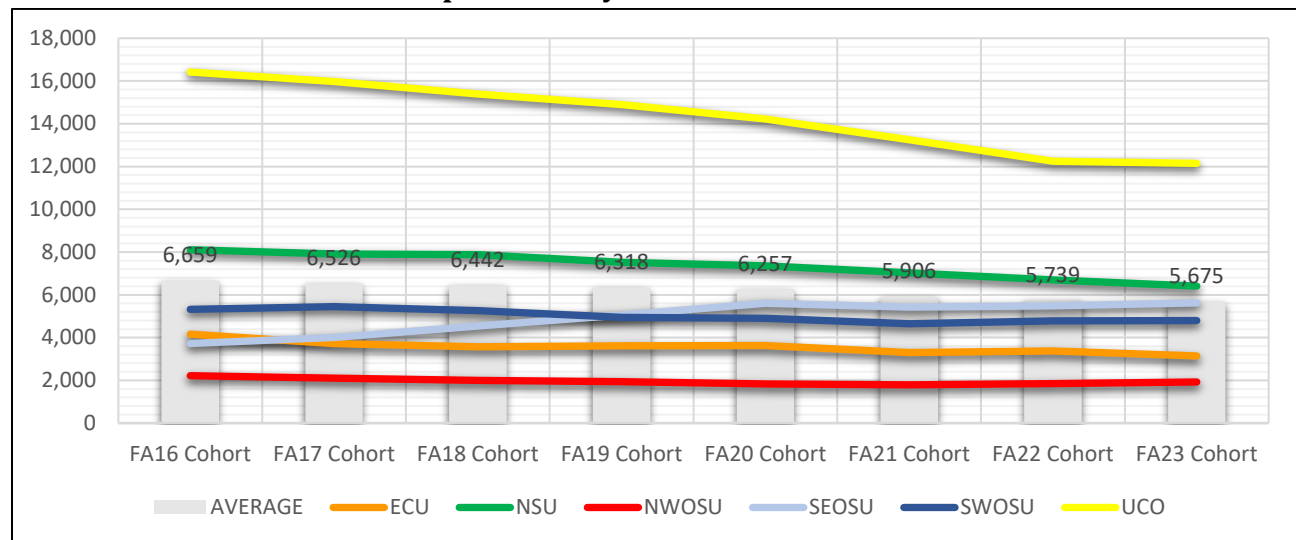
### Overall student enrollment

The academic year 2022-2023 showed that the system is rebounding from COVID and finding successes in different areas of enrollment and retention. As a system, enrollment is near flat for headcount and FTE, including preliminary fall 2023 numbers. This is in line with other four-year institutions and community colleges. While RUSO institutions dealt with COVID-related issues, they also faced lower college-going rates that are indicative of a trend all universities are facing.

**Chart 3. Full-time equivalent students**



**Chart 4. Fall Headcount with preliminary fall 2023 numbers**



Source: RUSO institutions and OSRHE Preliminary 2023 Fall Headcount

\*Preliminary fall headcount is not the same as overall fall headcount. Most likely, all institutions will gain some numbers by the end of the semester.

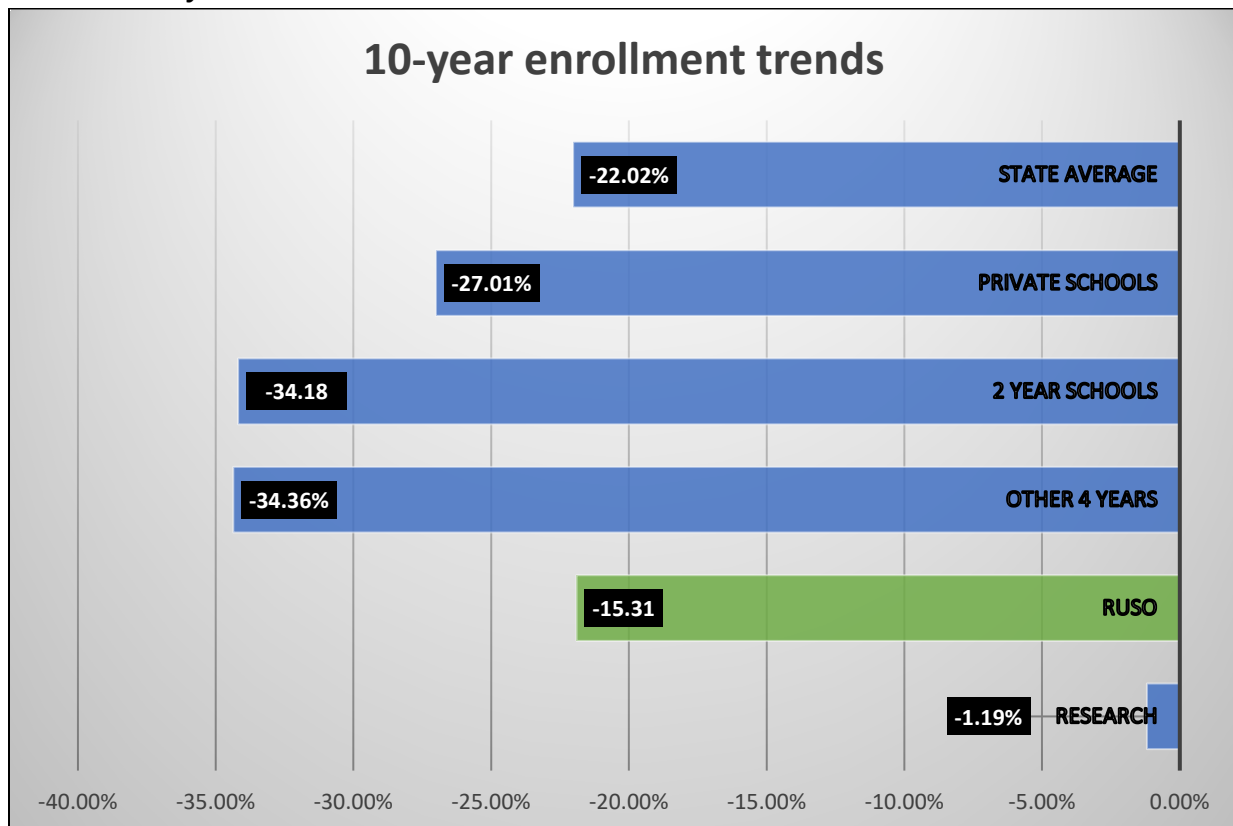
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## RUSO enrollment trends compared to other institutions

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While RUSO schools have seen decreases in enrollment, other institutions within the state are also experiencing enrollment declines. Over 10 years, RUSO school enrollment has dropped from 50,747 to 42,971, a 15.31% decline. The only group of institutions that have decreased less are OU and OSU, largely in part to their change in admission standards. The other four-year schools (Cameron, Langston, Panhandle State, Rogers State, and USAO) have decreased in enrollment from 19,707 to 12,936, a 34.36% decline. Community colleges have dropped 34.18% in the last 10 years, and private schools are down 27.01%. The chart shows that all non-research institutions have been hit hard with enrollment declines in the past decade, but the RUSO institutions are mitigating the decline better than others.

**Chart 5. 10-year enrollment trends of Oklahoma institutions**



Source: OSHRE annual headcount enrollment, unduplicated within institution, AY13 to AY22

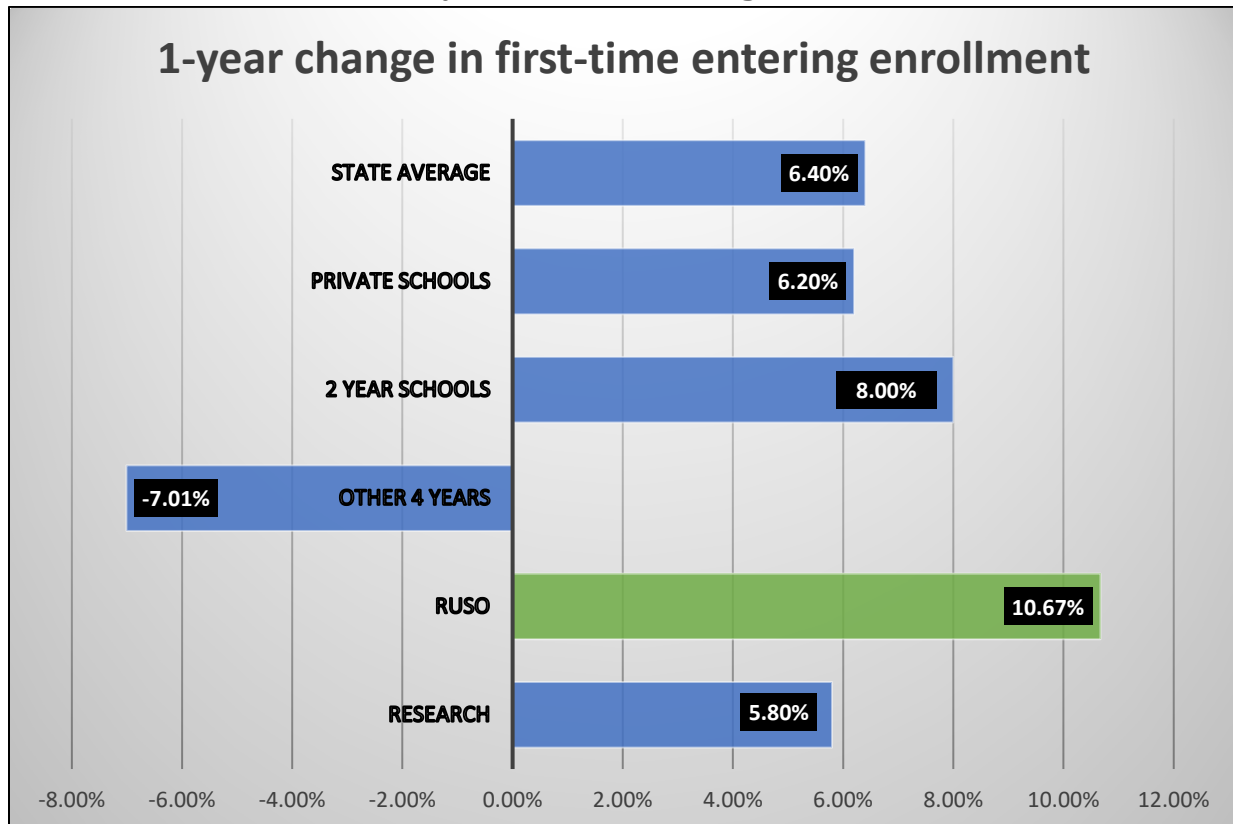
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## Freshmen enrollment

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A good indicator of future enrollment possibilities is through incoming freshmen enrollment. Preliminary numbers shows that the RUSO system has a bigger one-year increase of first-time, full-time freshman enrollment than the state average and other systems. While OU and OSU tout record-breaking freshmen classes, RUSO freshmen enrollment increased by 5 percentage points more than the research institutions.

**Chart 6. Fall 2023 Preliminary First-Time Entering Enrollment**



Source: OSHRE Fall 2023 Preliminary First-Time Entering Enrollment

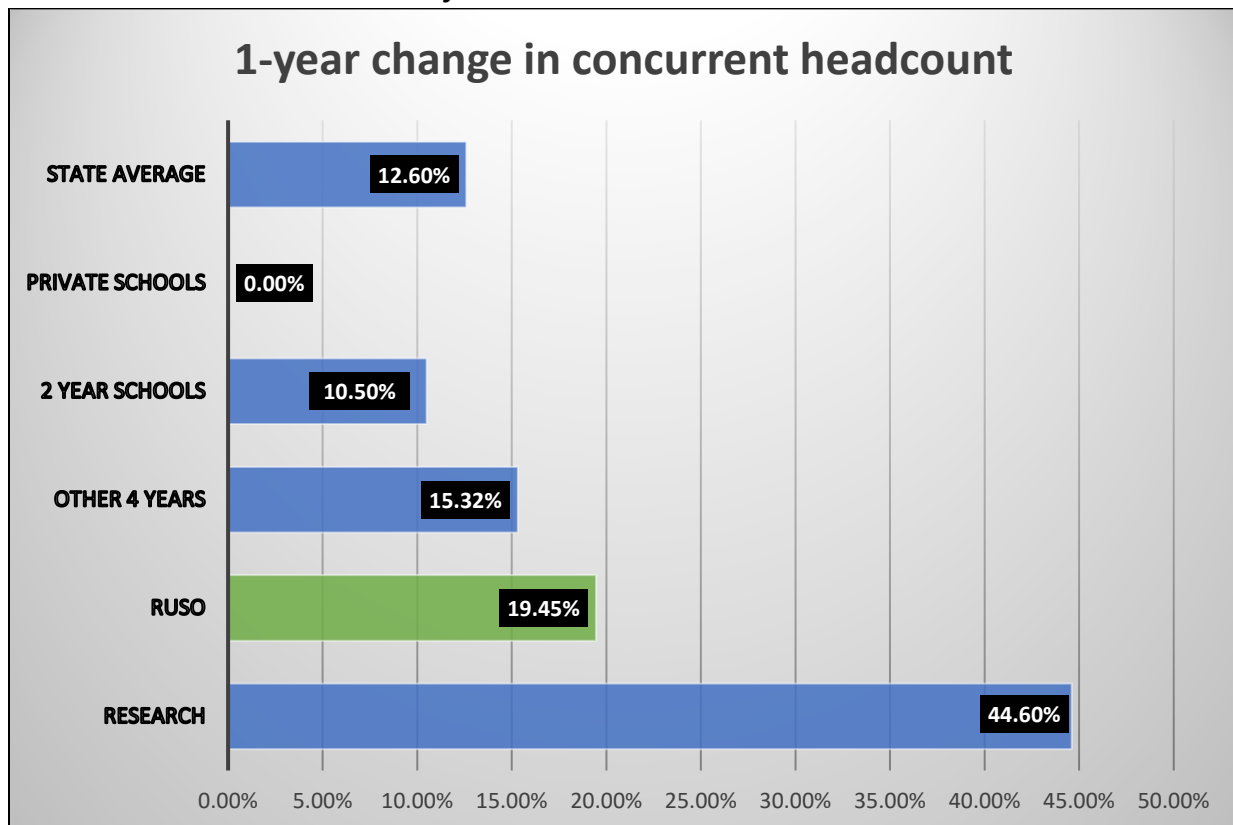
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## Concurrent enrollment

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Preliminary numbers from OSRHE show that RUSO institutions increased nearly 20% in the past year in the number of concurrent students enrolled. OU and OSU increased by more percentage points, but their numbers are smaller. RUSO institutions enroll 1,296 concurrent students, while OU and OSU have 691 students.

**Chart 7. Fall 2023 Preliminary Concurrent Headcount**



*Source: OSRHE, October 2023, Preliminary Concurrent Headcount Enrollment and Hours*

Preliminary numbers from OSRHE show that RUSO institutions enroll 8.4% of the students enrolled in concurrent courses statewide. Community colleges enroll the largest percentage of these students by far (76.5%) while the research institutions enroll 4.5% of the state's concurrent students.

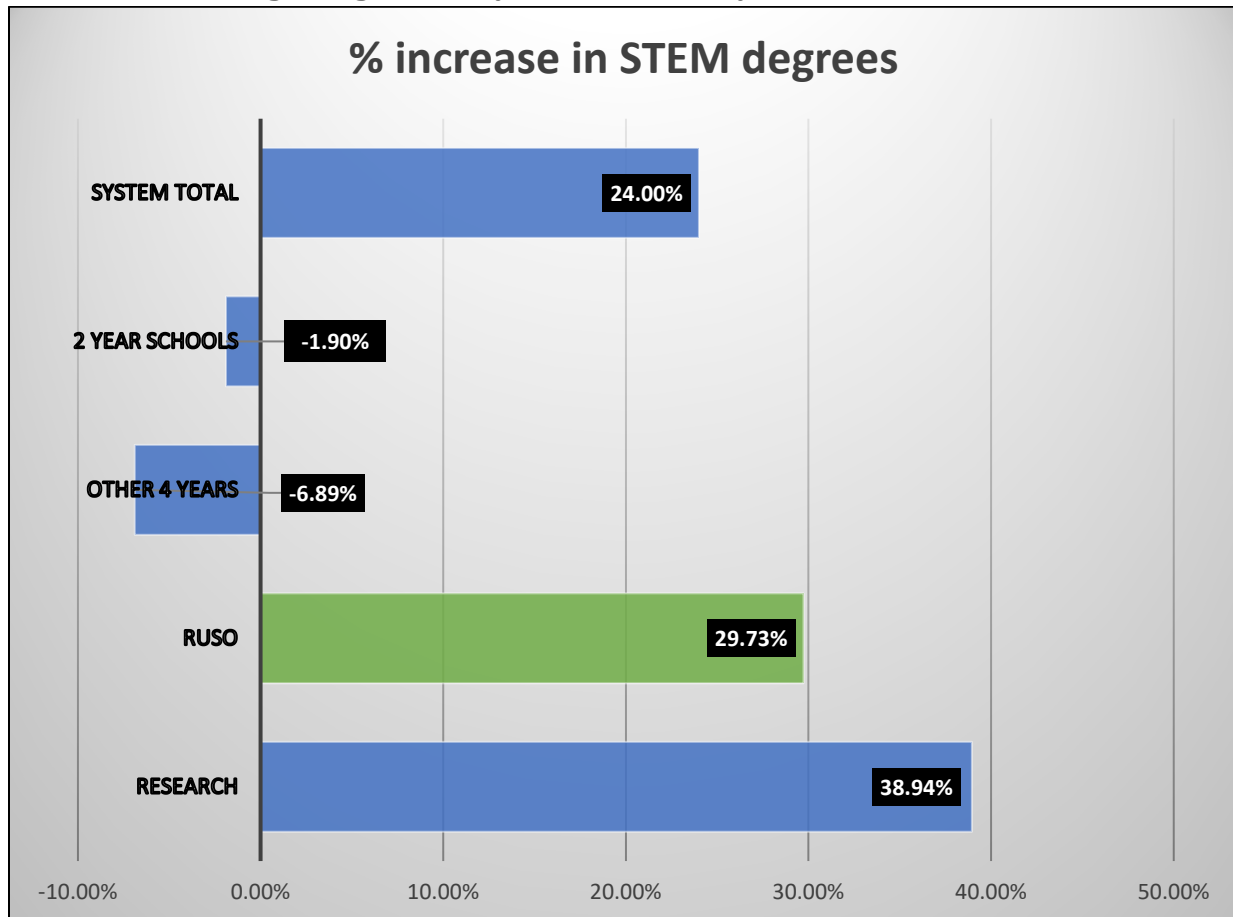
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## STEM Degrees

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The agility of RUSO institutions allows them to respond to workforce demands. The chart below shows how the system has increased in providing STEM degrees over a 10-year span. (Note: This is OSRHE's definition of STEM degrees, which does not include nursing and other health-related degrees. The definition is limited to programs such as biology, chemistry, engineering, engineering technology, mathematics, computer science, and engineering physics.)

**Chart 8. STEM Degrees granted by institution, 10-year trends**



Source: OSRHE, STEM Degrees Granted by Institution, AY13 to AY22

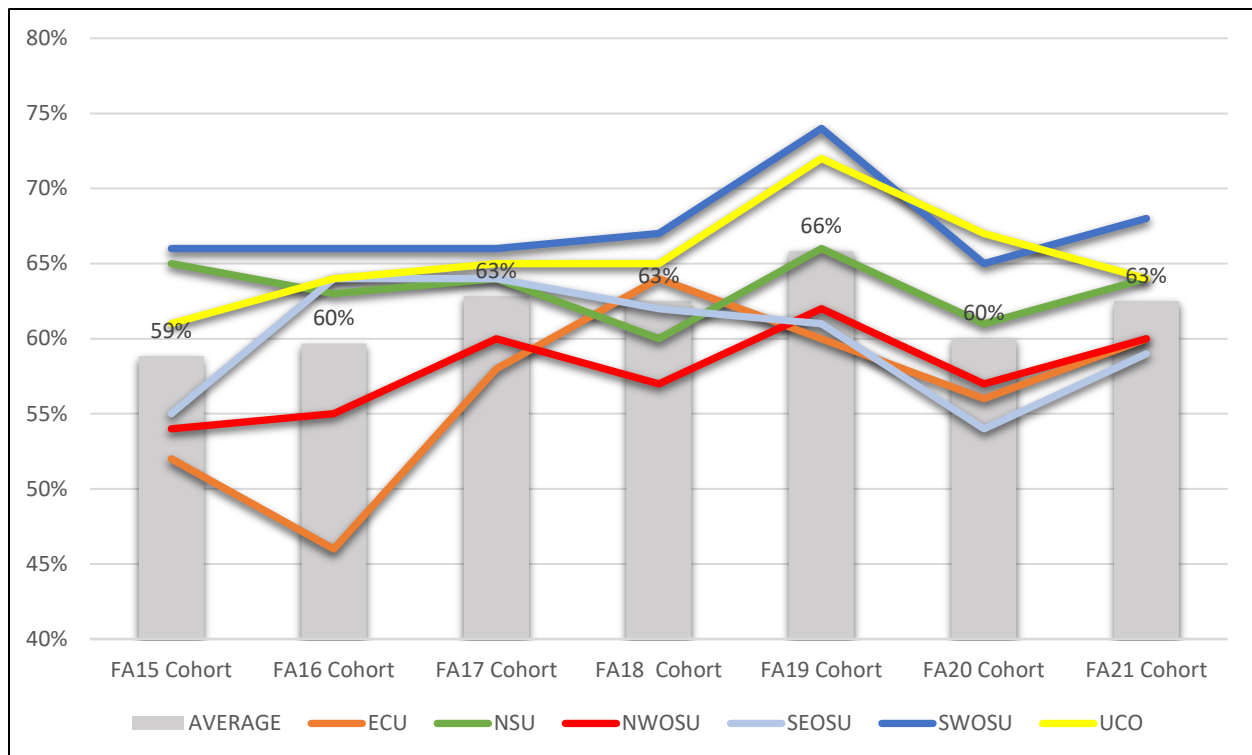
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## Retention successes and enrollment possibilities

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This measures the percentage of students who enrolled as first-time, full-time freshmen in the fall who returned in the following fall. The most recent data is the Fall 2022 freshmen who returned for the Fall 2023 semester. The previous year was in the middle of the COVID-related difficulties. The difficulties experienced by all students in the 2020-2021 year had a drastic effect on first-time freshmen. Each RUSO institution continues to implement retention and recruitment strategies designed to maximize student completion and institutional tuition revenue. Examples of these strategies include new student support services, changes in teaching methodology to increase student engagement, changes in freshman orientation classes to help students adjust to college life, changes to student advising models, and changes in tuition waiver awards to better assist students from low-income families. We know that we are losing students each semester who are unable to pay and consequently stop out or drop out.

**Chart 9. Retention rates, first-time, full-time freshmen**



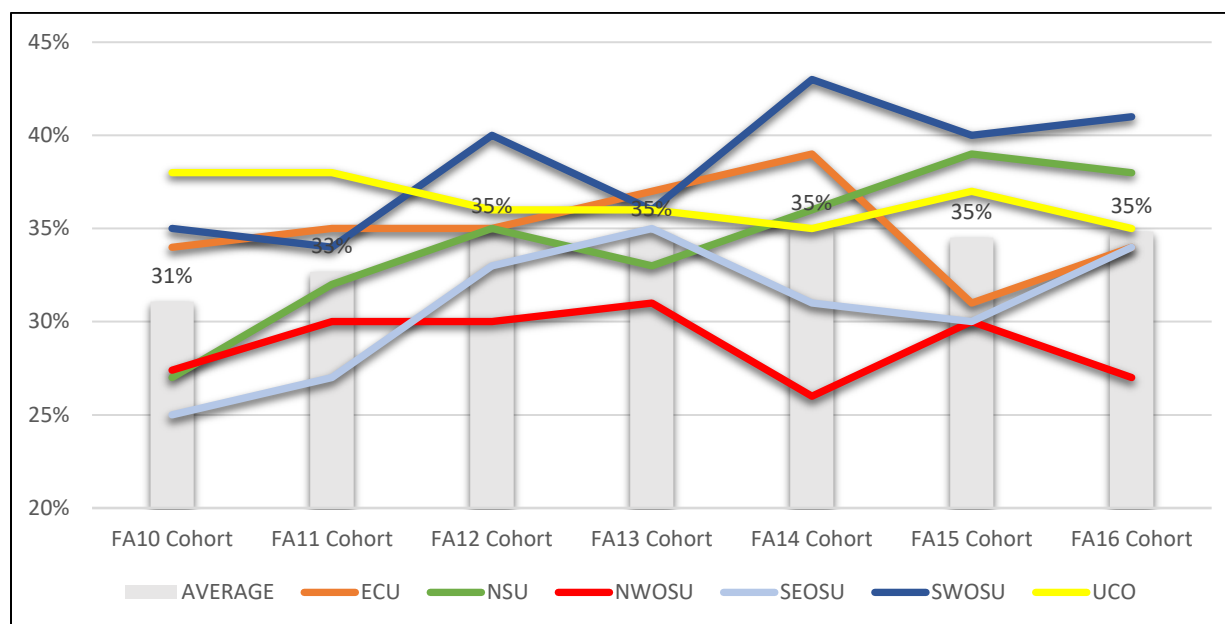
## Graduation Rates

### 6-year graduation rates and persistence

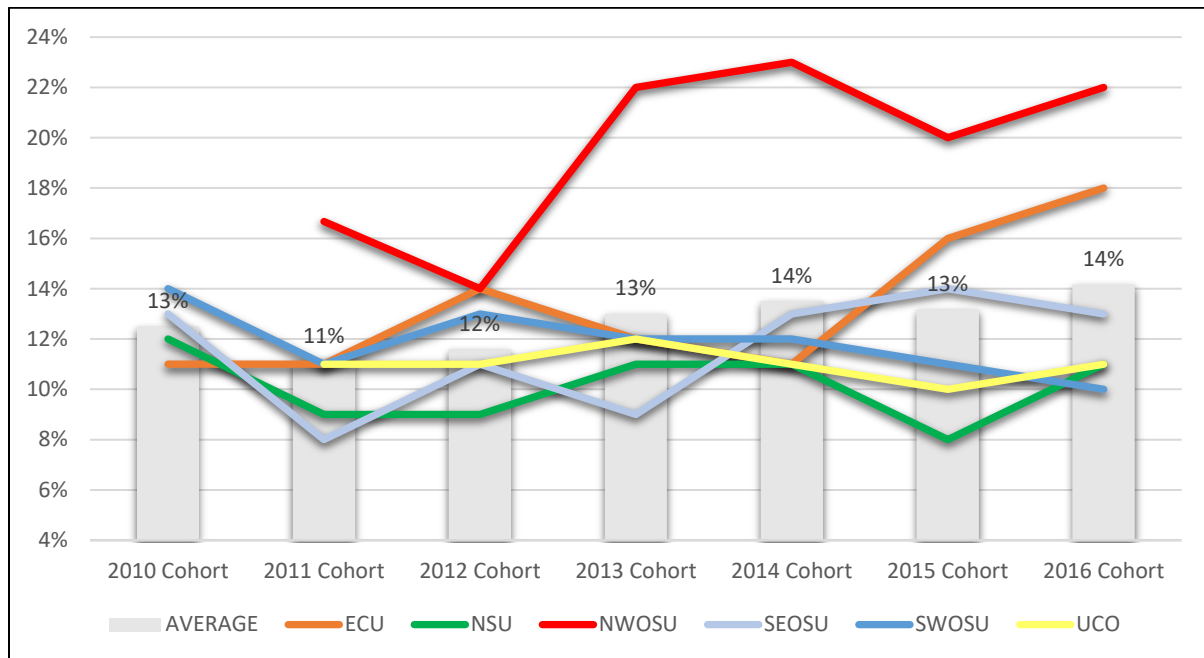
The trend among RUSO institutions for six-year graduation is staying at 35%. This statistic is very difficult to put in a stable upward trend, and the improvement to the current level represents considerable work over time by the institutions. There are no shortcuts, and it is problematic to get empirical data on the causes of the improvement. A university often implements many measures at once on a continuous basis, so it is difficult to know definitively which interventions accounted for the change.

IPEDS Graduation rates do not account for students who begin degrees at one institution and finish at another. Many of our RUSO students complete their first two years at our institutions, never intending to graduate, and transfer to a specialized program at another institution and graduate on time. In IPEDS statistical reports, these students are treated the same as dropouts who never completed their college degrees, even though they are indeed successful.

**Chart 10. IPEDS Graduation rates (within 6 years)**



**Chart 11. First-time freshmen, transferred and graduated elsewhere in 6 years**

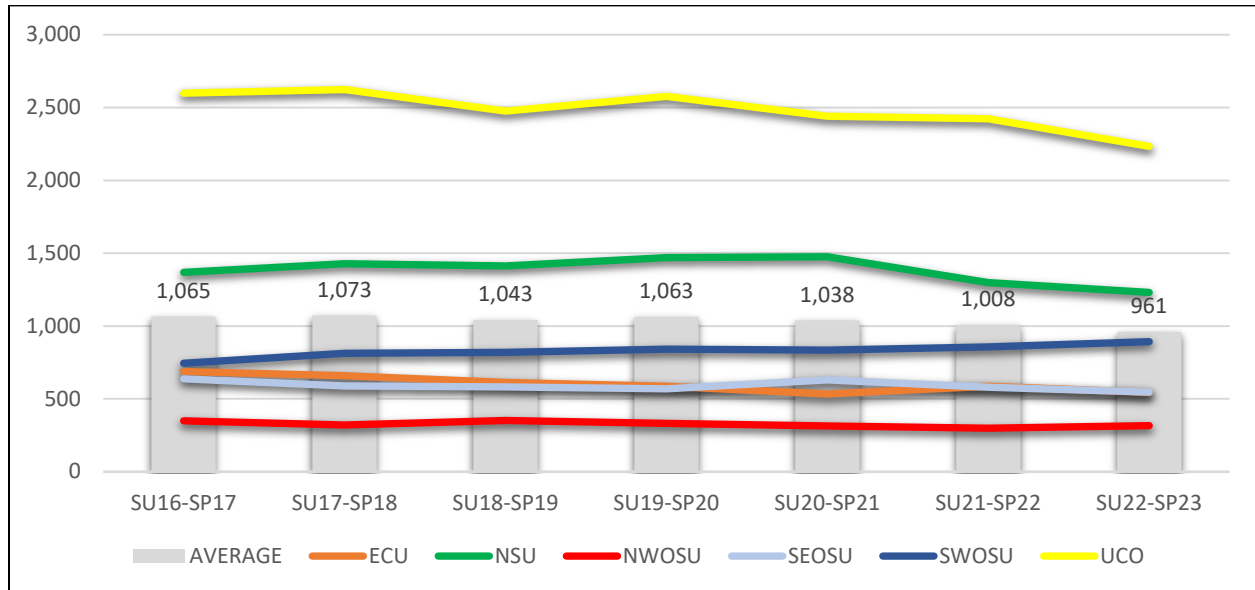


Likewise, students who do not complete within six years do not show up as successes in IPEDS data. Many students at RUSO institutions (between 3-7 percent of them) work during school, attend part-time, and take longer than 6 years to finish. Another 6-8 percent transfer to another institution and are still enrolled after 6 years.

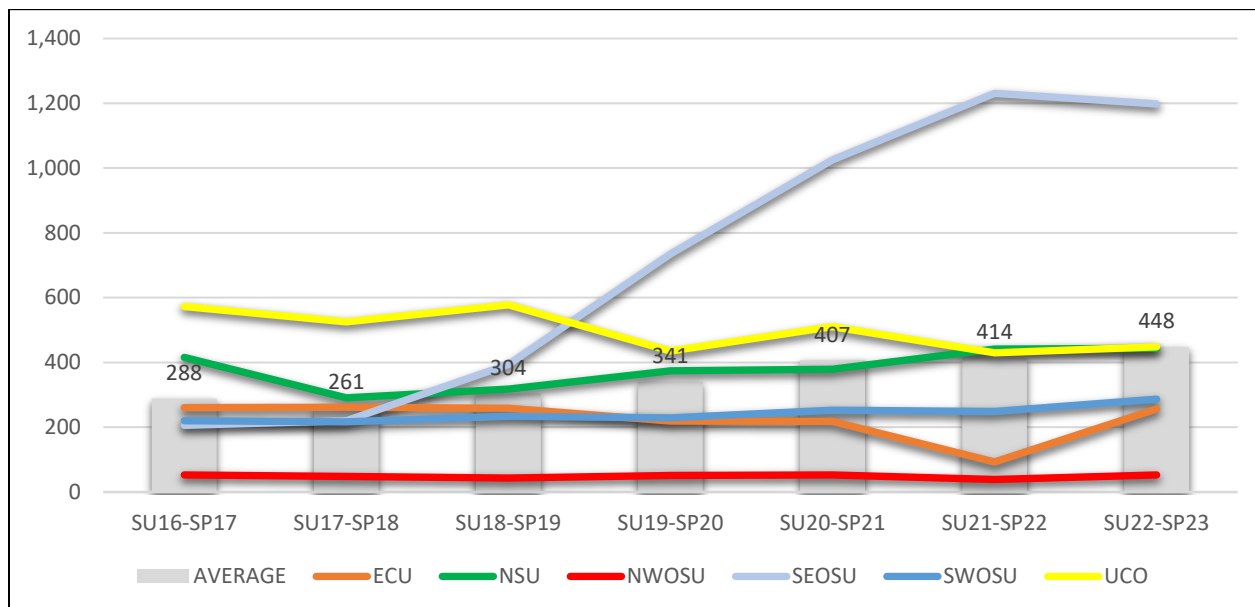
## Degrees awarded

The numbers of bachelor's degrees awarded has dipped in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 mainly as a result of the drop-off of students enrolling in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 (the lagging COVID effect). Master's degrees are up at most institutions. Certificates also are up in response to a workforce and legislative push to create certificates that are industry-based.

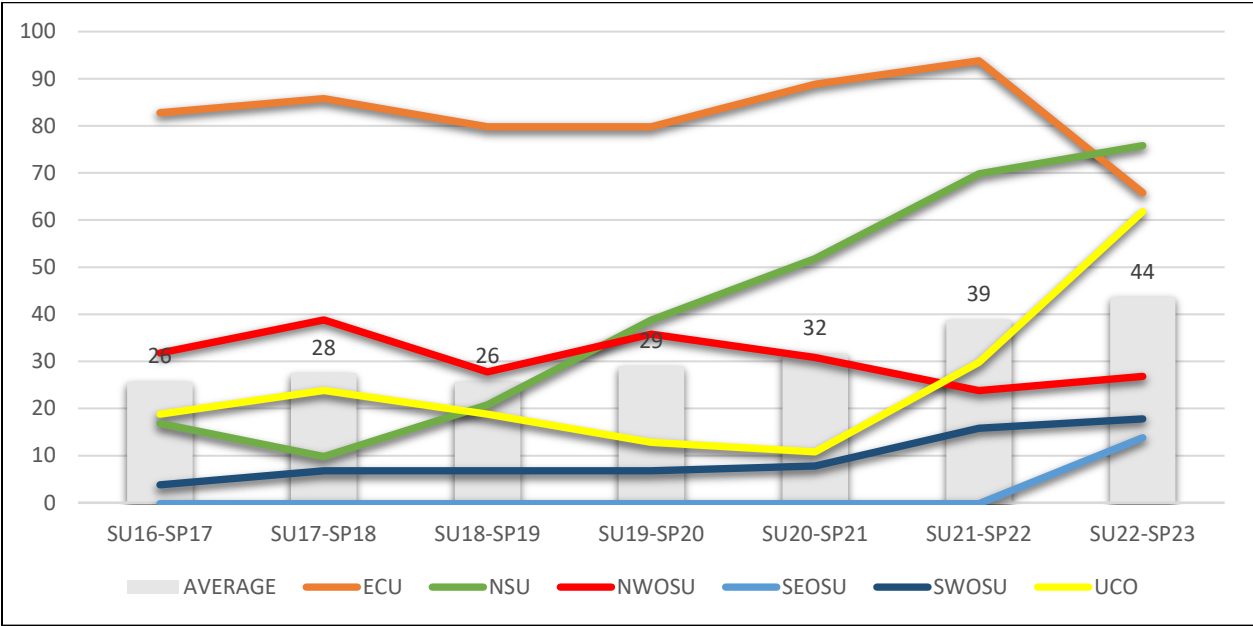
**Chart 12. Bachelor's degree awarded**



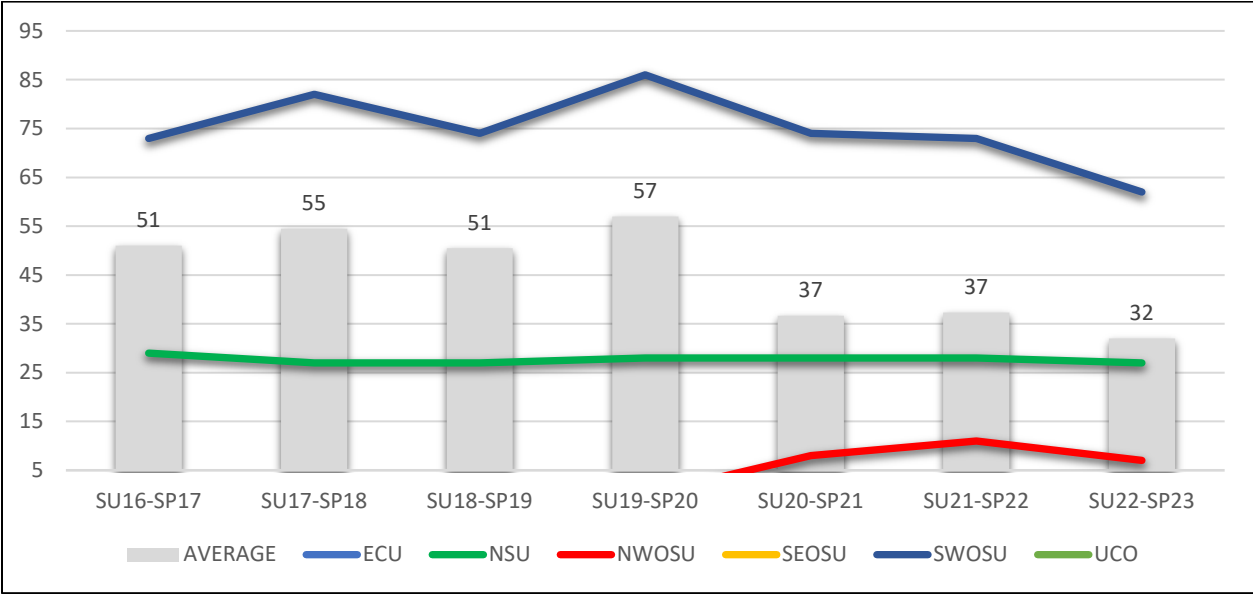
**Chart 13. Master's degrees awarded**



**Chart 14. Certificates awarded**



**Chart 15. Doctoral degrees awarded**



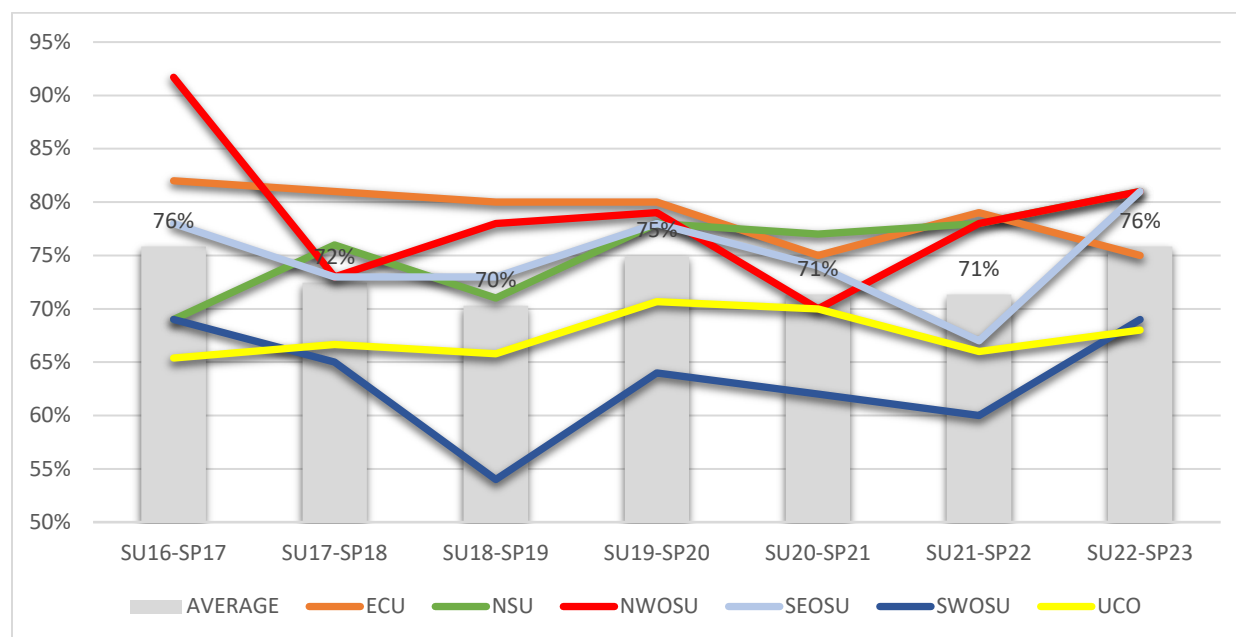
## General Education Math and English completion

We track enrollment and completion rates in General Education Math and English courses because most students take those courses as freshmen, and data from *Complete College America* indicates that passing Math and English as freshmen is a predictor of enhanced probability of graduation.

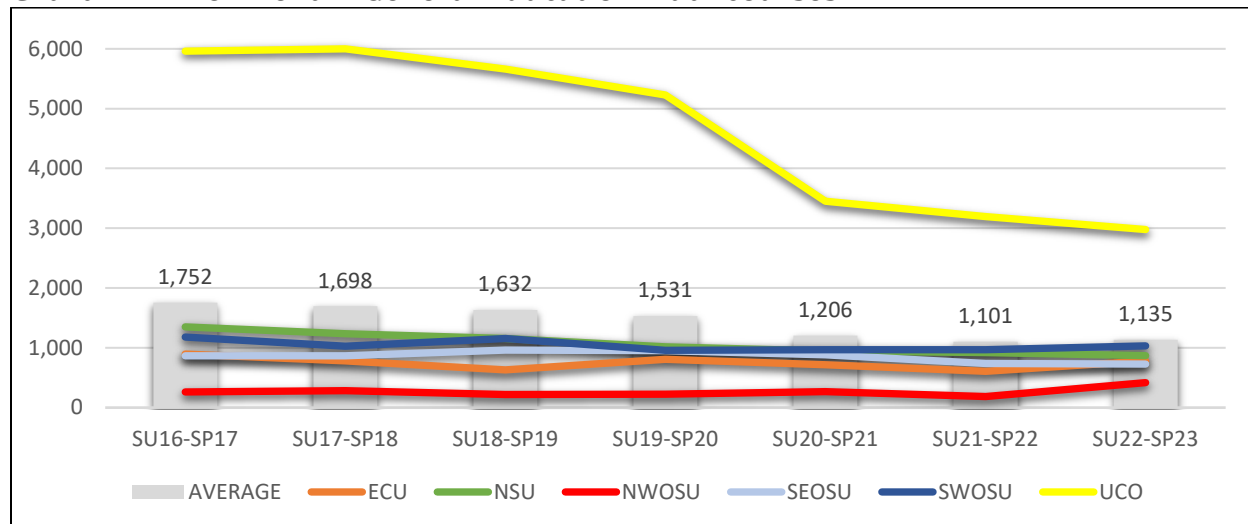
Because of our investment in the co-requisite model and (in some cases) use of a minimum HS GPA to exempt students from remediation, more students are taking GE Math and English courses, including many who previously would have been placed in developmental courses first. Our current strategy is to enroll most of the deficient students in the GE course along with a required support class. Even though this way of measuring does not show it, we have a higher number of students completing GE Math and English as freshmen than we did previously, which should aid retention. The large dip and subsequent increase in completion rates for deficient students indicates two effects: 1) the negative affect of COVID on the most vulnerable student population – deficient students; and 2) increased efforts of institutions to support students with academic needs.

We are also taking note of the decline in students taking general education mathematics and English. The percentage decline in the number of students taking these courses is much steeper than overall enrollment decline at institutions. This is due to several factors, including the rise of concurrent enrollment, the increased choice for students to take courses from different institutions, and the availability of online general education courses. In 2022-2023, that trend reversed slightly. This is possibility due to increased GE concurrent courses offered by RUSO institutions.

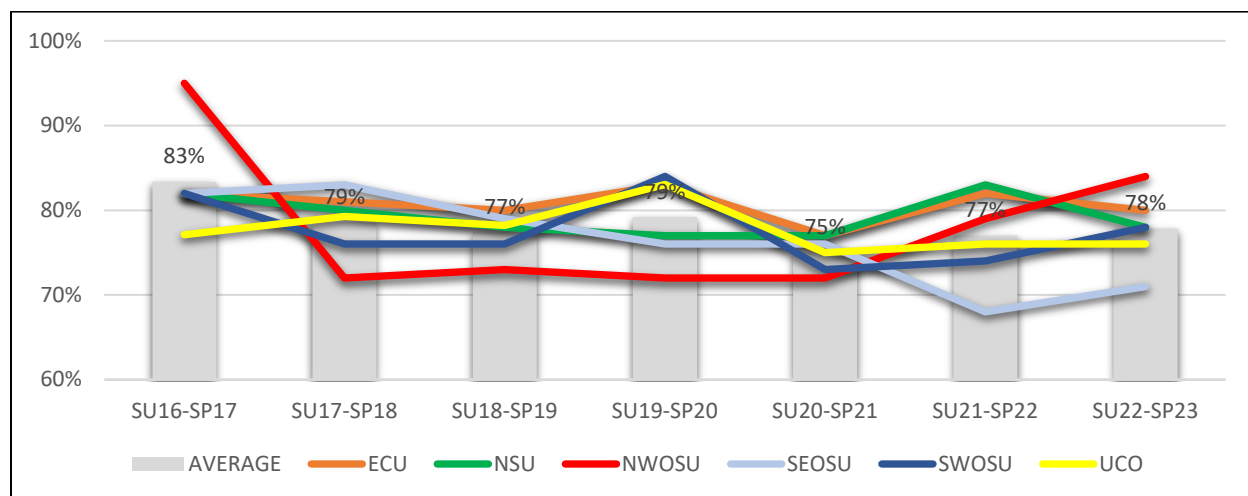
**Chart 16. General Education Math completion rates as a percentage of enrollments**



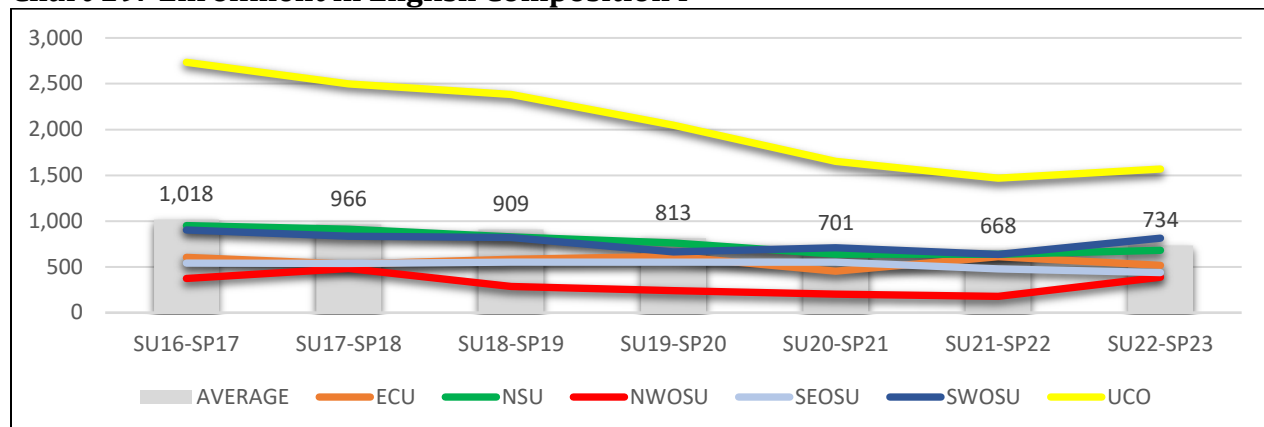
**Chart 17: Enrollment in General Education math courses**



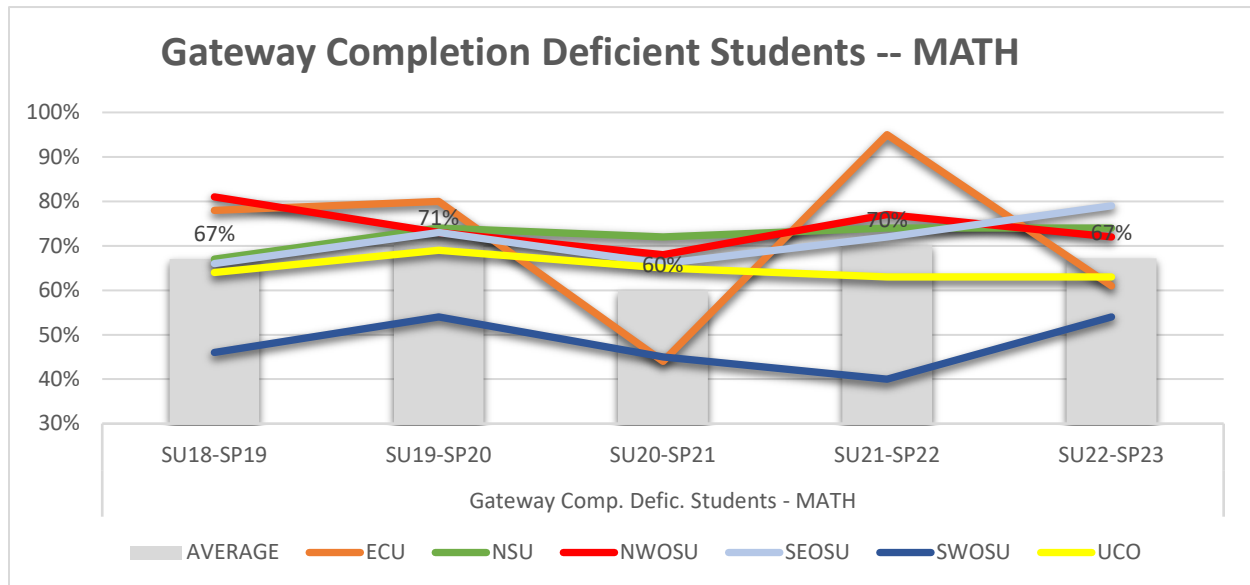
**Chart 18. English Composition I completion rates as percentage of enrollments**



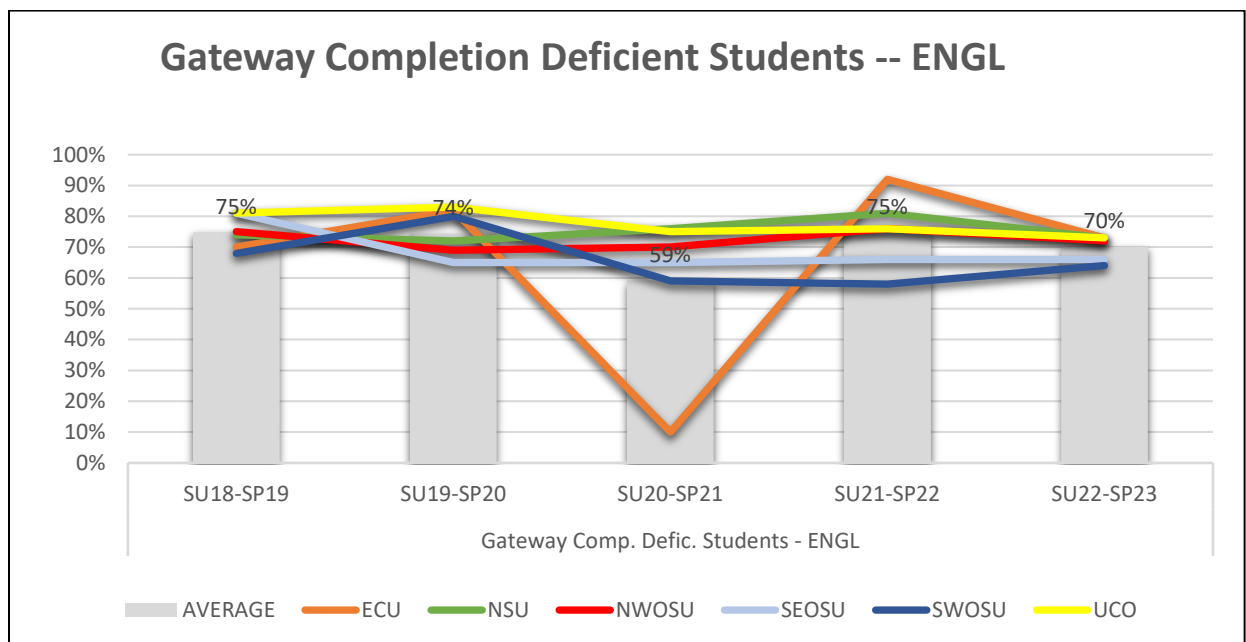
**Chart 19. Enrollment in English Composition I**



**Chart 20. General Education Math completion rates of deficient students as a percentage of enrollments**



**Chart 21. General Education English Composition I completion rates of deficient students as a percentage of enrollments**



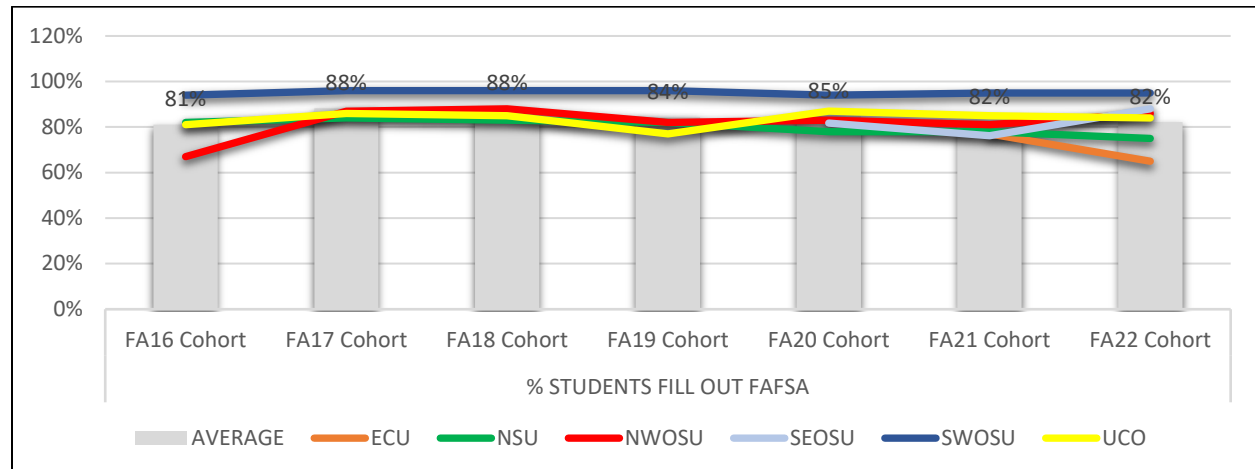
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### FAFSA efforts for current students

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A higher percentage of students who can fill out the FAFSA financial aid package can result in a higher percentage of students receiving aid that will enable them to persist in degree achievement. RUSO institutions have implemented strategies to highlight the advantages of completing the FAFSA. A new state law in 2023 requires students to fill out a FAFSA in order to graduate high school. This should lead to higher percentages of completion across the board.

**Chart 22. Percentage of students who fill out the FAFSA**



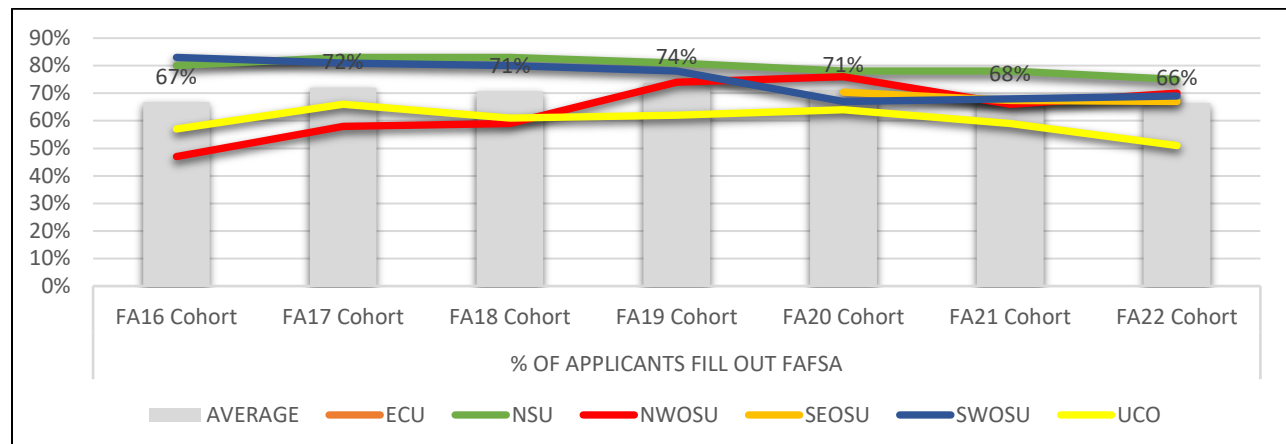
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### FAFSA efforts for applicants

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RUSO institutions also have implemented strategies to highlight the advantages of completing the FAFSA for applicants. This will give potential students a better idea of how much financial aid is available for them at RUSO institutions. However, the trend in the past few years has been a lower percentage of applicants filling out the FAFSA. This could be due to decreasing resources at high schools in which counselors do not have time to provide college counseling.

**Chart 23. Percentage of applicants who fill out the FAFSA**



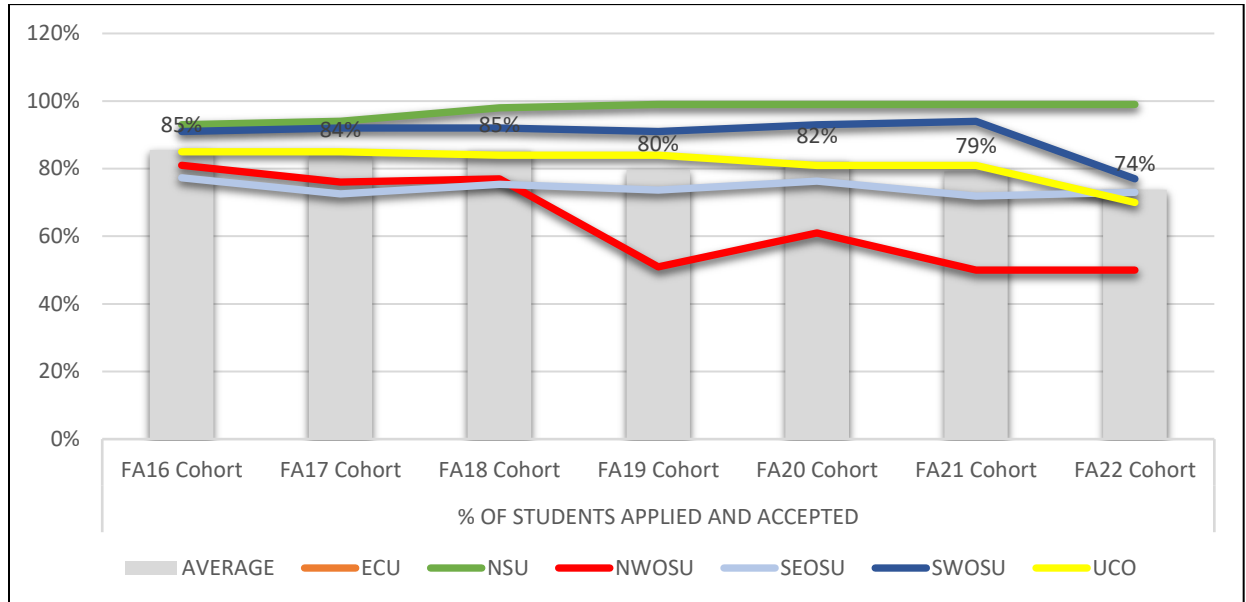
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## Acceptance rates

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The average percentage of students who applied who were then accepted has decreased somewhat over the past five years. Several factors go into student admittance, including student performance in high school and on standardized tests.

**Chart 24. Percentage of students who applied who were then accepted**



*\*East Central University data did not track this particular data point.*

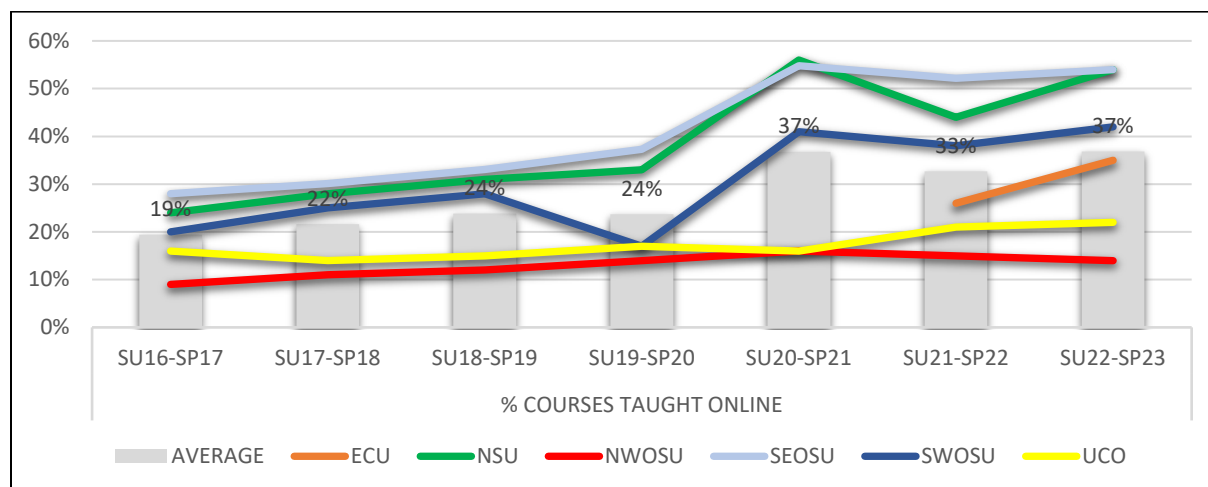
## Course delivery methods

Student demand for alternative course delivery methods rather than face-to-face was expedited by the COVID-19 pandemic. The result is a marked decrease in face-to-face courses. This changing landscape of course delivery brings opportunities but also challenges. RUSO institutions are seeking ways to meet student demand while also fulfilling their missions.

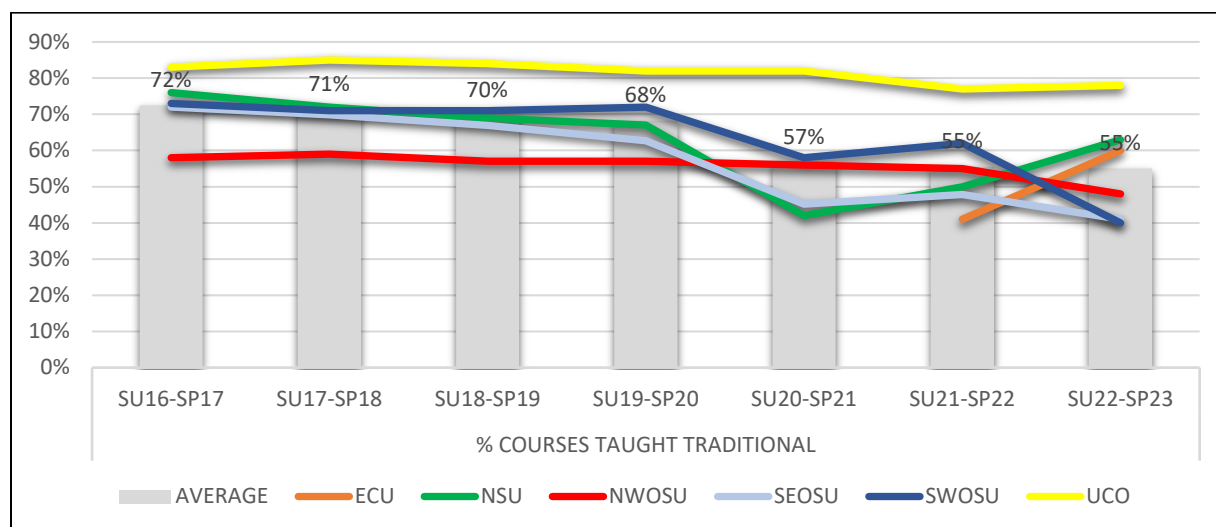
### Online and traditional courses

Online courses were highest in 2020-2021 in response to the COVID pandemic. In 2021-2022, some courses returned to face-to-face, but the percentage of online courses is still much higher than pre-pandemic. The rise in online courses in 2022-2023 but a same percentage of traditional courses can be attributed to “hybrid” offerings, such as Zoom and blended courses.

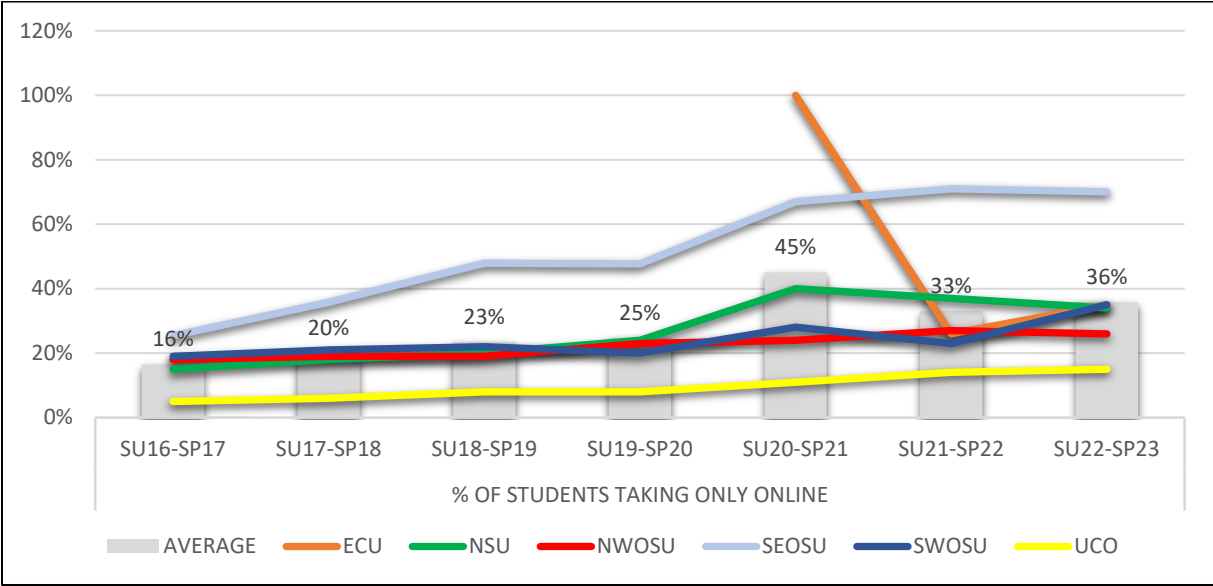
**Chart 25. Percentage of courses taught online**



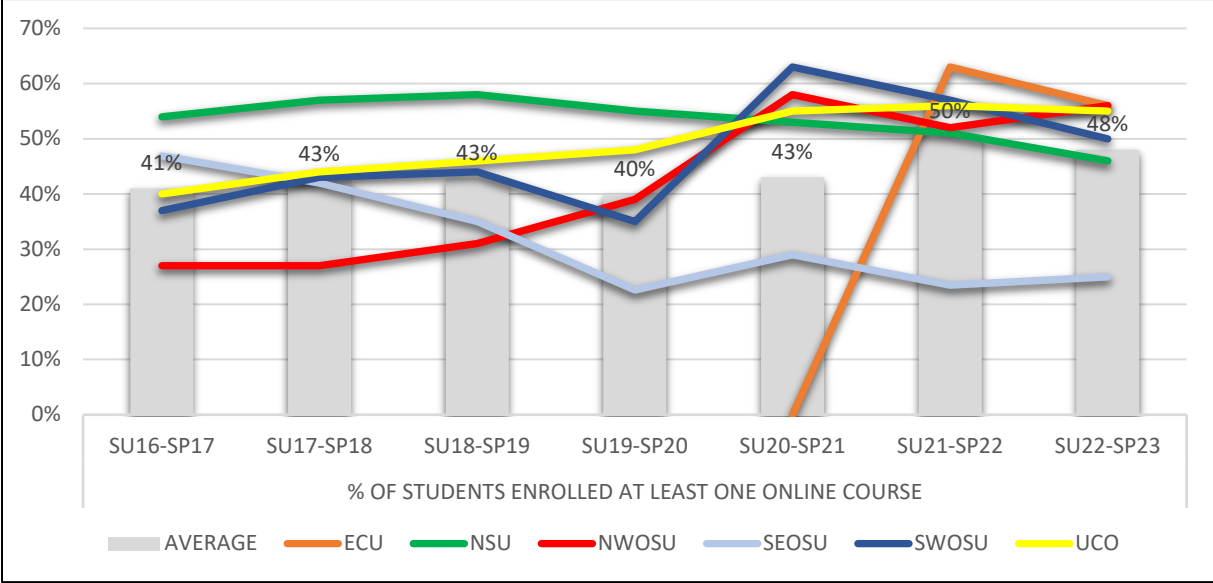
**Chart 26. Percentage of courses taught traditional face-to-face**



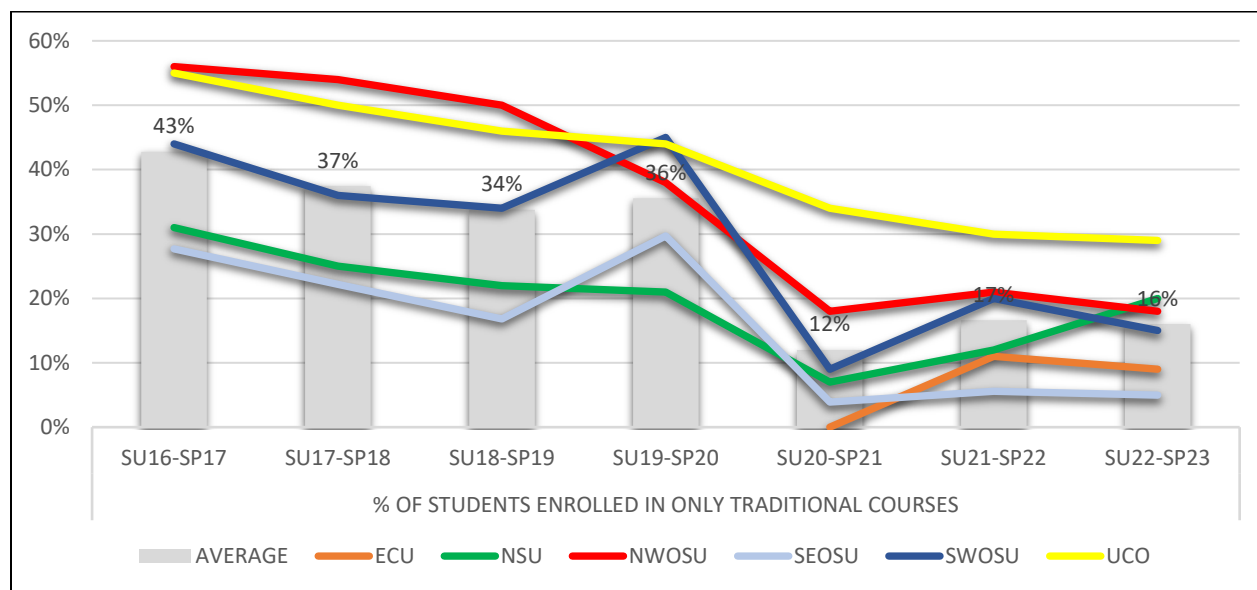
**Chart 27. Percentage of students taking only online classes**



**Chart 28. Percentage of students taking at least one online class**



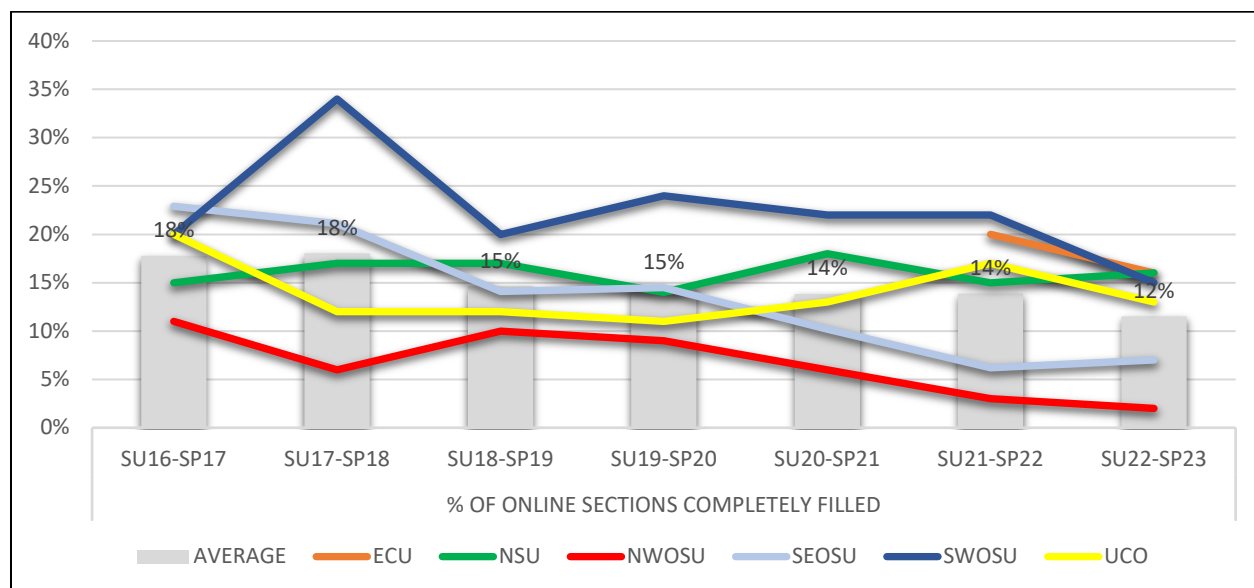
**Chart 29. Percentage of students enrolled in only face-to-face courses**



### Meeting online course demand

One way to determine if an institution is meeting online course demand is to monitor the enrollment in online sections. If many sections are completely filled, it is an indicator that students want more online sections than are being offered. In the past year, universities are keeping close tabs on student demand for online courses, leading to a decrease in the number of completely-filled sections.

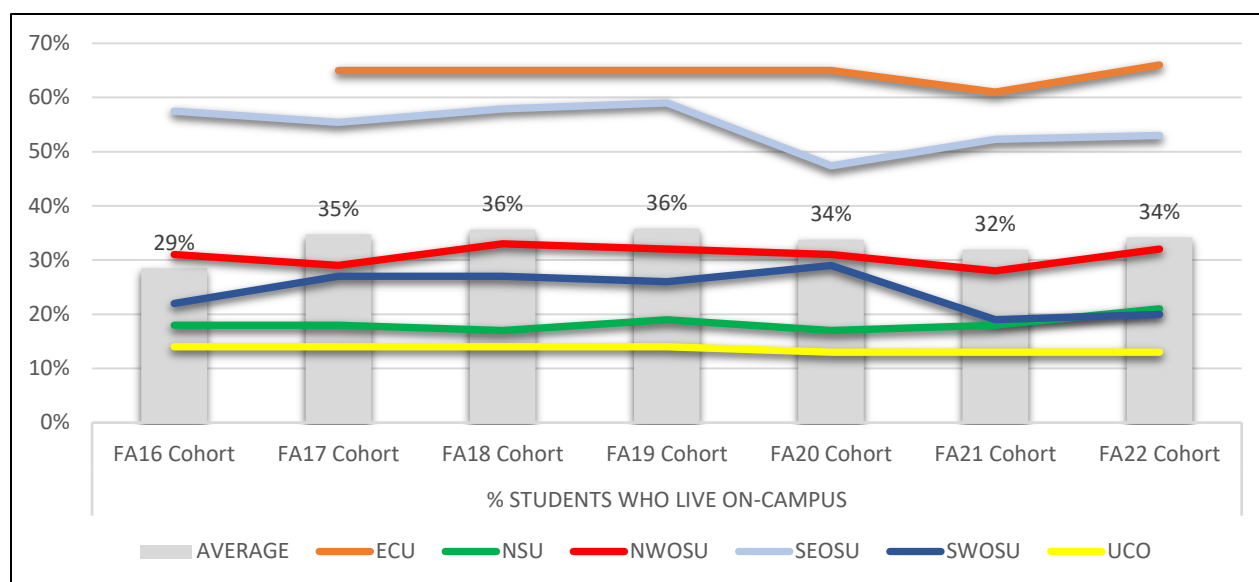
**Chart 30. Percentage of online sections completely filled**



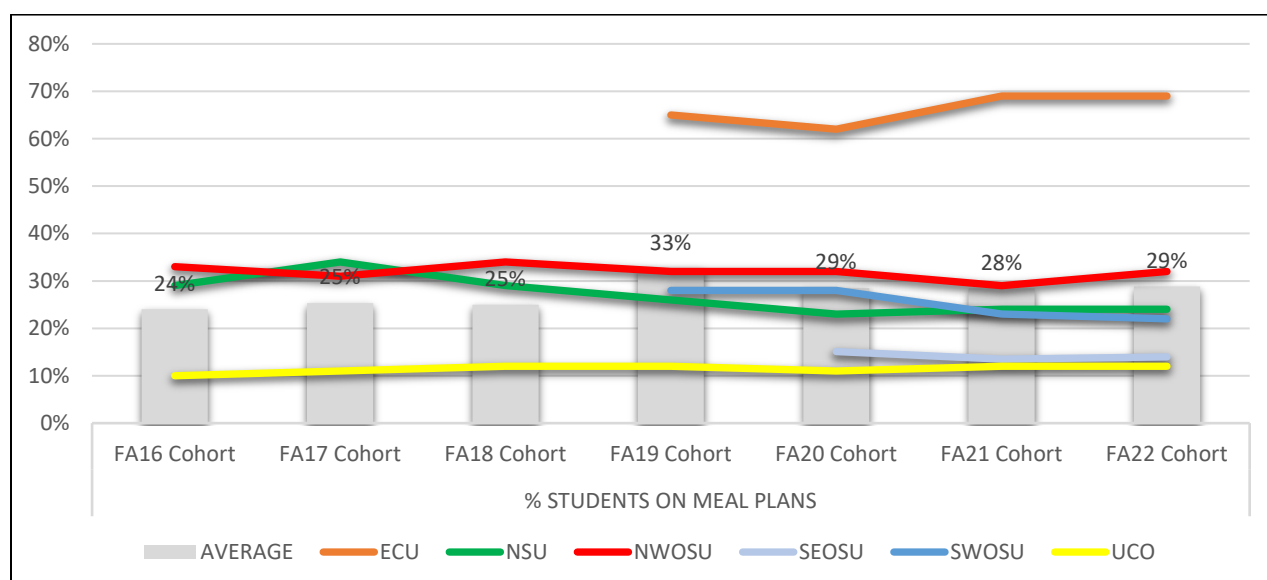
## Campus services

Auxiliary services on campus are services that must be profitable in order to operate. Two major areas are campus housing and meal plans. RUSO institutions are aware that the number of students living on campus and using campus meal plans are not only provide additional revenue for the universities, but they are also more connected to the university in ways that could help with retention and completion. System-wide, the percentage of students who live on campus and enroll in meal plans is slowly increasing.

**Chart 31. Percentage of students living in campus housing**



**Chart 32. Percentage of students enrolled in meal plans**



## Concluding Observations

The data sets and their interpretation in this report point to a substantial array of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to RUSO institutions. They are summarized below.

The **STRENGTHS** of the RUSO system are many and profound.

- RUSO institutions are agile and adaptable. They are able to quickly respond to student needs and workforce demands.
- RUSO institutions are meeting student needs in providing a variety of degree and credential options, a variety of instruction delivery options, and relevant workforce-related degrees.
- RUSO schools are finding ways to strengthen their enrollment strategies to sustain growth over time.
- RUSO institutions have several advocates in the state legislature and other key institutions who have been carrying the banner of our system for the past few years.
- Our retention rates and graduation rates are stronger than most universities and systems, indicating that we support students to the point that they stay in college and graduate.

Our **WEAKNESSES** are mainly tied to financial pressures and enrollment trends.

- Despite a one-year increase, state appropriations to higher education have dropped at an alarming rate in recent years. Politically, increases in tuition are tougher to get approved and have a negative effect on student retention. Because of the population we serve, our institutions are price-sensitive to the ability of our students to pay higher tuition and fees.
- Like many universities around the country, we are experiencing a decline in enrollment that is influenced by a myriad of issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We continue to battle high school preparedness for university coursework, especially considering two years of “pandemic” learning. Students are increasingly ill-prepared for the rigors of university coursework. All RUSO institutions have support services for these students (co-requisites, academic support centers, Title III services) but the strain on university faculty and staff to ensure these students’ success is increasing.

We have **OPPORTUNITIES** for increased tuition revenue if we can improve student retention and capture our share of a projected growth in potential students.

- Our institutions have great relationships with area high schools and technology centers, and are working with those schools to expand concurrent offerings.

- Oklahoma is among one of few states that are projected to see an increase in traditional high school graduates between 2023-2030. OSRHE in its analysis offers the increase will be primarily among non-white students. RUSO institutions must closely focus on their recruitment and retention strategies and tactics to attract these new students.
- RUSO institutions are more agile in responding to student demand for alternative course and program delivery options.
- RUSO institutions are also more agile in responding to changes within workforce demands.
- OSRHE changes may allow for more innovation in programs and program delivery.

**THREATS** limit our ability to carry out our mission.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted not only enrollments, but also student needs. We are experiencing the effects of students who for two years dealt with large-scale interruptions in their high school education. Additionally, mental health issues are increasing dramatically. The effect of the pandemic remains a large factor in the future financial viability of our institutions.
- Future reductions in state appropriations remain a possibility should the United States enter a recession. Past recessions have taught us that a slowdown in the economy overall will result in less demand for energy resources. This volatility of a major revenue source for the state results in budget reductions. A lesson learned from past recessions is that RUSO institutions must be active public policy advocates and entrepreneurs to help diversify Oklahoma's economy.
- Declining ACT scores among Oklahoma high school seniors and the increasing number of students declining to take the ACT present us with remediation challenges.

### **Recommendations for Action**

- Work as a system to monitor and respond to enrollment trends.
- Educate legislators and the public about how RUSO meets workforce needs.
- Ensure that RUSO institutions can continue to meet their mission in the face of ever-changing pressures on enrollment, retention, and completion.
- Work with industry to develop partnerships that will benefit both the workforce and the students.
- Implement best practices system-wide to facilitate transfer student support while continuing to meet institution mission.

## Appendix A: Data Sources

The Benchmark and data sources are as follows:

- **Student Satisfaction:** RUSO institutions graduating senior survey.
- **Enrollment:** OSRHE Unitized Data System.
- **Retention:** OSRHE Unitized Data System.
- **Credit Accumulation:** OSRHE Unitized Data System.
- **Gateway Course Completion:** OSRHE Unitized Data System.
- **Education Programs Offered:** *Institutional data.*
- **Transfer Rate:** OSRHE Unitized Data System.
- **Graduation Rate:** OSRHE Unitized Data System.
- **Program of Study Selection:** Institutional Data Collection.
- **Enrollment by Preparation, Economic Status, Age, Race/Ethnicity:** *OSRHE Unitized Data System.*
- **Progression Performance by Preparation, Economic Status, Age, Race/Ethnicity:** *OSRHE Unitized Data System.*



# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



### OKLAHOMA'S PROMISE

The Oklahoma's Promise scholarship program has been named by the Southern Regional Education Board as a top promise scholarship program in the nation. Goals for the 2024 legislative session include reducing administrative barriers to increase scholarship access and participation. Strategies may include streamlining high school course requirements; implementing an adjustable, annual formula for eligibility income limits; and developing an appeal process to assist students facing unique circumstances to ensure no qualified student is excluded.



### ADULT DEGREE COMPLETION

More than 400,000 Oklahomans have earned some college credit, but no degree. As part of the *Blueprint 2030* strategic plan, the State Regents will create more efficient pathways to degree completion for adult learners, including supporting development of micro-credentials across the state system. Providing financial support for these students as they complete degrees or upskill through micro-credentials is an important strategy to increase Oklahoma's overall educational attainment and fill workforce gaps.



### GROW OKLAHOMA'S STEM WORKFORCE

Bachelor's degree production in critical STEM disciplines increased more than 42% over the last 10 years, and production increased 24% at all degree levels. Higher education will continue working to increase STEM degree completion to meet the bold goals outlined in the State Regents' *Blueprint 2030* strategic plan. Priorities include:

- ▶ expanding STEM exploration opportunities for middle and high school students.
- ▶ incentivizing students to pursue STEM majors (e.g., nursing, engineering, computer science) and remain in Oklahoma after graduation.
- ▶ developing and promoting well-defined career pathways in critical workforce areas, including teacher education, healthcare and STEM.
- ▶ removing administrative barriers to empower state system colleges and universities to pursue academic programs aligned with workforce needs.
- ▶ incentivizing institutions to produce graduates in fields aligned with Oklahoma's workforce needs through a new performance funding formula.
- ▶ supporting competitive faculty salaries in fields aligned with Oklahoma's workforce needs.
- ▶ promoting collaboration and coordination among public colleges and universities to ensure access for qualified students in critical programs of study.

# 2024 Legislative Agenda

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS  
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
*Improving our future by degrees*



## ENHANCE CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

State system institutions must be equipped with the necessary personnel and financial resources to effectively mitigate risks in their service communities and respond to on-campus and cybersecurity threats, challenges and incidents.



## STABILIZE MANDATORY COST INCREASES

Our colleges and universities face significant operational cost increases. Rising property insurance rates have created a financial burden that impacts the current and future financial environment for every institution. Examining the property insurance process, practices and market in Oklahoma is an important step to identify solutions to help mitigate this substantial expense across the state system.



## MAINTAIN CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE

The maintenance and preservation of public college and university facilities is a state system priority. Campus buildings across the state need repairs and/or upgrades that have been deferred due to limited resources. Creating a sustainable fiscal model that allows public institutions to access funding for infrastructure requirements will support proper maintenance of current physical spaces while lowering costs and reducing the need for new construction.



## STAFF SALARY SUPPORT

Campus staff across the state system provide tremendous support services for students, including advisement, counseling, academic engagement and co-curricular activities. The State Regents propose additional financial resources available for merit salary increases for institutional staff whose efforts directly impact recruitment and retention efforts at each college and university.



## CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

The concurrent enrollment program, which continues to grow across our state, strengthens student preparation, reduces family college costs and decreases the time required to complete a degree. Focusing on recommendations from the Concurrent Enrollment Task Force and legislative studies, the State Regents will evaluate concurrent participation options, financial models and course delivery modes to strengthen the program for Oklahoma students.

## CONTACT

**Allison D. Garrett**

Chancellor

[agarrett@osrhe.edu](mailto:agarrett@osrhe.edu)

**Dr. Jarrett Jobe**

Vice Chancellor for  
Governmental Relations

[jjobe@osrhe.edu](mailto:jjobe@osrhe.edu)

**Oklahoma State Regents**

for Higher Education

405.225.9424

[www.okhighered.org](http://www.okhighered.org)

## **RUSO Pension Committee**

### **Annual Report**

**November, 2023**

**Pension Committee Members:** Business Officers and Regent Van Denhende

**Meetings:** Quarterly

**Purpose:** To perform fiduciary responsibilities to monitor the trust activity on behalf of the employees who have invested in retirement funds (403b, 457b) and for RUSO retirees.

USI is the consulting firm the RUSO group has used for several years. The representatives attend the committee meetings in person or by zoom and present detailed updates on the investments and discuss market trends and emerging markets; including an analysis of current events that may affect the market.

The Pension Committee reviews all investments and places low performing investments on a watch list; normally will transfer the investments after two or three continuous quarters of low performance in order to help shift options for the employees.

Representatives from VOYA visit each campus multiple times per year to meet one-on-one with investors to give information regarding their investments and answer questions that the individual investor may have.

The most recent review was on investments at 6/30/23. The economic indicators were positive for the equity markets with strong economic growth, inflation continued to cool down and job markets remained strong. The first estimate of the second quarter of 2023 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) showed the economy grew at a better-than-expected 2.4 annualized rate. The increase in Q2 GDP reflected increases in consumer spending and non-residential fixed investments. Which were partly offset by the decreases in exports and residential fixed investments. We have not seen broad-based declines, although there has been some slowing in retail sales and industrial production.

Growth stocks outperformed value for the month but significantly outperformed for the quarter for with the Russell 1000 Growth Index increasing by 12.8% for the quarter.

Plan assets – 403(b) Plan – Balance as of the end of Q2-2023 is \$101,752,375; the plan assets grew 3.7% from the previous quarter.

Plan assets – 457(b) Plan – Balance as of the end of Q2-2023 stood at \$6,288,261. The plan assets grew 5% from the previous quarter.

USI recommended, and the Board approved, replacing the American Funds AMCAP with the JP Morgan Large Cap Growth R6.

SRA (Supplemental Retirement Plan) – This is a program set up many years ago to offset retiree supplements with OTRS. This is a closed plan, only those employed at the time the plan was established will benefit and no new participants can join.

Plan performance through 6/30/23 indicate returns are greater than the 6% target.

OPEB Plan (Other Post Employment Benefits) – This plan is designed to pay the health insurance premiums for eligible employees who retire before they reach the age of 65. This is also a closed plan and no new participants can be added.

This plan was heavily funded by the RUSO schools in the beginning and is doing well. The pool of eligible employees is growing smaller due to those employees leaving our institutions before they are eligible to receive this benefit. At June 30, 2023, this fund was setting at \$1.42 million.

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY  
**FOUNDATION**



**Advancing the University  
and Our Students**

**Peggy Glenn ('90)**  
**Executive Director, NSU Foundation**  
**since February 2011**

**Political Science & French degree**  
**with Basic Business Management Certificate, NSU ('90)**

**Master's of Public Policy, Georgetown University ('94)**

**Juris Doctor, Southern Methodist University ('00)**





- Founded in July 1971 with a gift of \$10,000 to support the NSU President's Leadership Class.
- As of September 30, 2023, Foundation assets totaled \$46,553,609.
- In 2023, the NSU Foundation awarded \$1,328,042 in scholarships averaging \$1,049 per scholarship.
- Volunteer board of 15 trustees, with Executive, Investment, Audit, and Nominating Committees.
  - Chair is Chrissi Ross Nimmo, an attorney with Cherokee Nation Businesses.
  - Immediate Past Chair is Dr. Denise Roddy, an optometrist with MyEyeDr. in Tulsa.



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## Advancing the University: Fundraising



## 2015-2020 Campaign

Initial goal of \$20,925,000

Revised goal of \$25,075,000

Commitments of \$27,085,013

34,161 total gifts

### Largest organizational gift

\$4 million from Cherokee Nation for Seminary Hall renovations & museum

### Largest individual gift

\$2.5 million from Gregg Wadley and Dr. Betsy Brackett for  
endowed chairs, scholarships, and professional development funds for  
College of Science & Health Professions

# Endowed Lectureships

## A KNOCK AT MIDNIGHT

A STORY OF HOPE, JUSTICE AND FREEDOM

**A Conversation with Author,  
Brittany K. Barnett**

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021 @ 2 p.m.  
Live at NSU Webb Auditorium and Virtually via Zoom

Live audience limited to 100 people  
(must register in advance);  
Zoom registration also required  
Register at <http://bit.ly/Adair2021>  
**FREE and open to the public!**

For more information, contact  
the NSU Foundation at  
918.444.4200

The Larry Adair Lectureship  
sponsors an annual forum to  
engage students in politics,  
government and public policy.



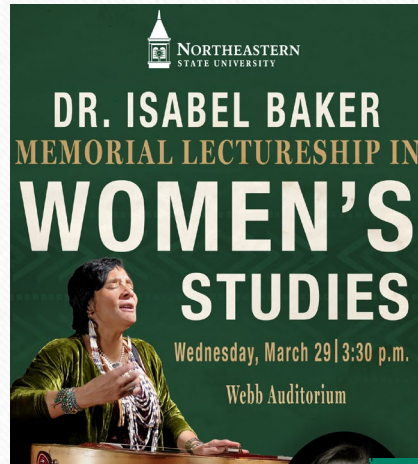
NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY  
**FOUNDATION**  
LA  
NORTHEASTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## BATTENFIELD-CARLETTI DISTINGUISHED ENTREPRENEUR LECTURE

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 @ 11-12 p.m.  
Webb Auditorium | Tahlequah Campus



Featuring:  
**TRACI PHILLIPS, BA '94**  
President/CEO of Natural Evolution, Inc. | Tulsa, OK  
For more information, call 918.444.4200 or visit [www.nsgiving.com](http://www.nsgiving.com)



Wednesday, March 29 | 3:30 p.m.

Webb Auditorium

The LP Woods Endowed Lecture for Mathematics presents:

## How Big is Big?

Surprising Perspectives on "Large" Numbers

**Presented by: Jim Coykendall**

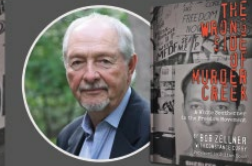
**Wednesday, April 12**

Lecture at 4 p.m.  
Reception preceding at 3:30 p.m.  
Lecture in Room LL 056  
Reception in Room LL 060  
NSU Science Building Tahlequah, OK



## THE WRONG SIDE OF MURDER CREEK

**The Author's  
PERSPECTIVE**



Featuring  
**Bob Zellner**, Prominent Civil Rights  
Activist, Freedom Rider, Author and Subject of Spike  
Lee's upcoming movie, "Son of the South"

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26 @ 2 P.M.  
NSU Webb Auditorium  
Book signing to follow lecture  
**FREE and open to the public!**  
For more information, call 918.444.4200  
The Larry Adair Lectureship sponsors an annual  
forum to engage students in politics, government  
and public policy.



**Battenfield-Carletti**  
DISTINGUISHED ENTREPRENEUR LECTURE

April 3, 2019 @ 10 A.M.  
Webb Auditorium | Tahlequah Campus



Featuring:  
**Todd Mutzig**  
Entrepreneur and owner of  
Meigs Jewelry  
For more information, call 918.444.4200.



## LOCKED IN:

*The Will to Survive and the Resolve to Live*

A Conversation with Author, ESPN  
Correspondent, and Paralympian

**Victoria Arlen**

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23, 2022 @ 2 P.M.  
NSU Webb Auditorium



Armed with her powerful life  
story and eager to share the  
profound lessons she's learned  
- and earned - along the way,  
Arlen uplifts her audiences and  
encourages them to examine the  
seemingly small glimpses and  
moments of hope.



## JACKSONLAND: AND A GREAT AMERICAN LAND GRAB

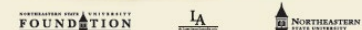
PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON, CHEROKEE CHIEF JOHN ROSS,  
INDIAN TERRITORY, VIRGINIA, CAROLINA

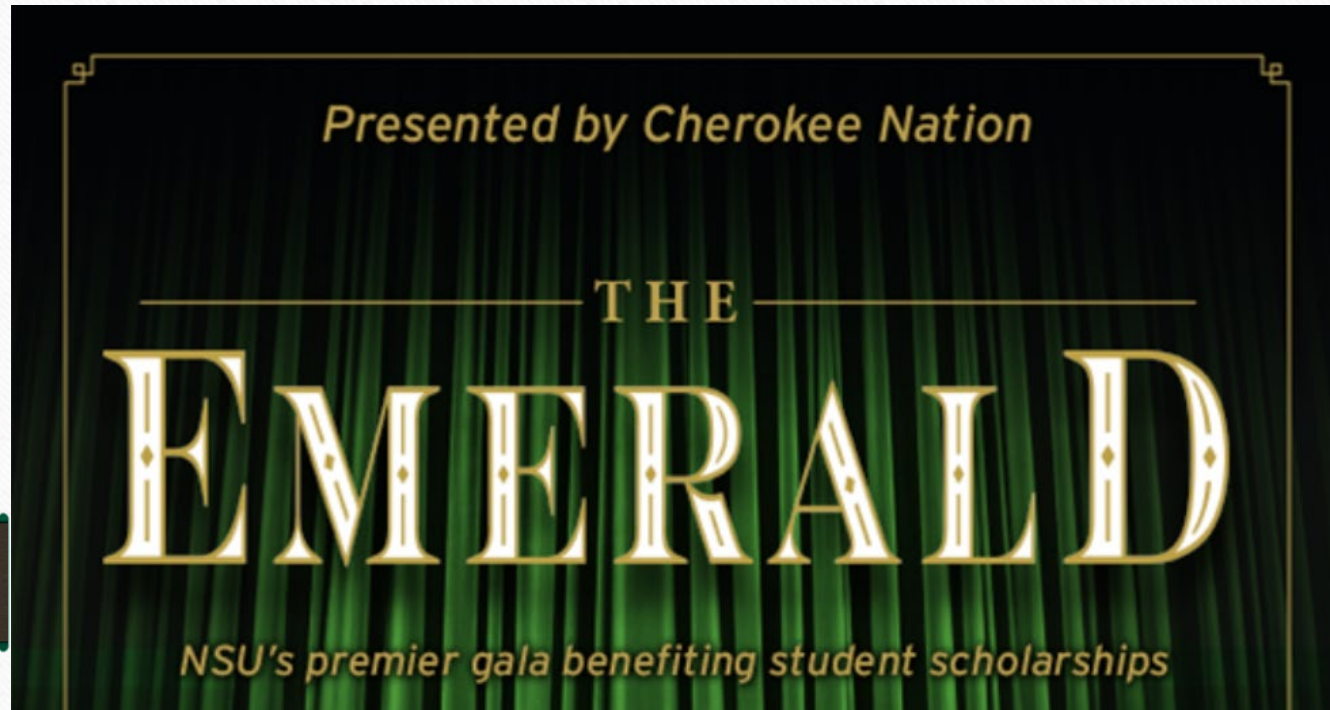
**The Author's  
PERSPECTIVE**

Featuring  
**STEVE INSKEEP**



MONDAY, FEB. 18 @ 2 P.M.  
NSU Webb Auditorium  
Book signing to follow lecture  
**FREE and open to the public!**  
For more information, call 918.444.4200  
The Larry Adair Lectureship sponsors an annual  
forum to engage students in politics, government  
and public policy.





## Meet the Performers



Five student performers compete for one full scholarship. You decide the winner. *But only if you're there.*

**The Emerald**  
NSU's premier gala  
benefiting student  
scholarships

**Sat., April 6, 2024**

Featuring Student Performers  
Competing for a One-Year  
Scholarship valued at ~\$7,500



2022 & 2023 proceeds = \$156,000

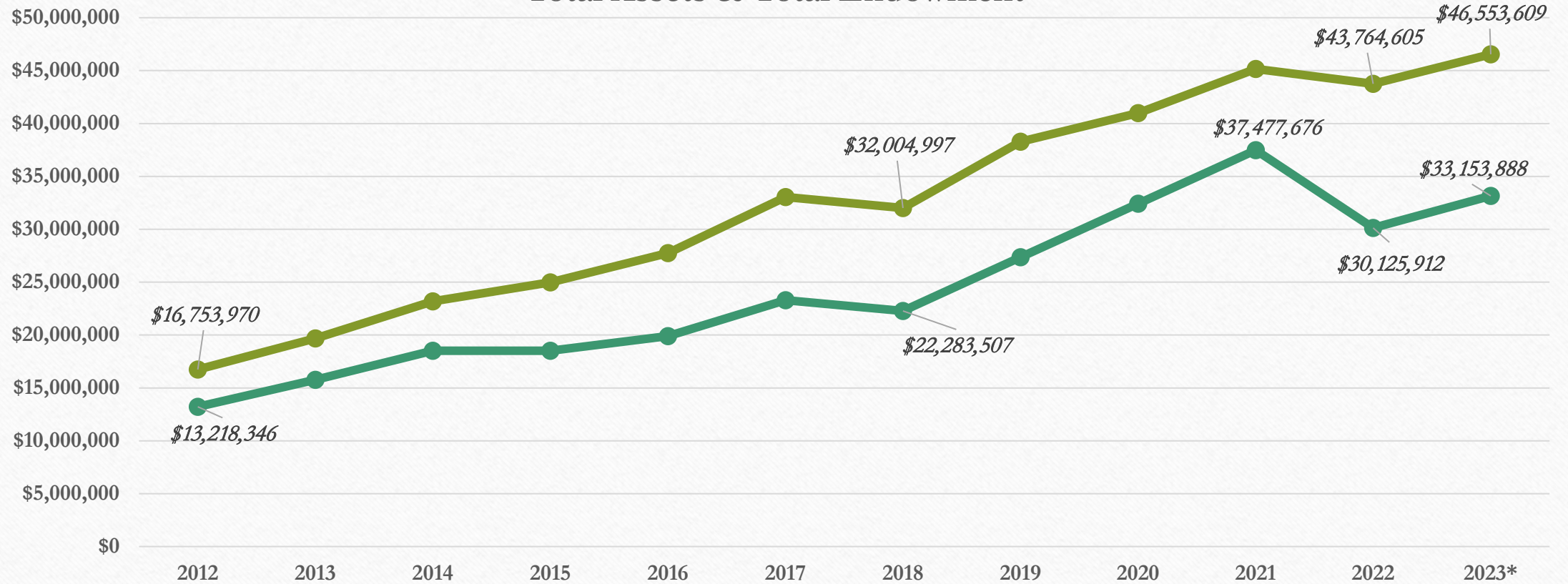
Since 2014, proceeds = \$405,000+



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## Advancing the University: Investments

## Total Assets & Total Endowment



## NSU Foundation Spending Rate

- ▼ 2018 Investment Committee lowered spending rate from 5% to 4.5%  
Paid out \$920,497
- ▼ 2019 Investment Committee lowered spending rate from 4.5% to 4.25%  
Paid out \$950,084
- ▶ 2020 Investment Committee kept the spending rate at 4.25%  
Paid out \$1,026,906
- ▼ 2021 Investment Committee lowered spending rate to 4%  
Paid out \$1,104,866
- ▶ 2022 Investment Committee kept the spending rate at 4%  
Paid out \$1,117,726

## Investments under Management & Fees

Total under Management as of 12/31/2022: \$36,585,479

Fees for 2022 = 34 basis points

# Investment Returns

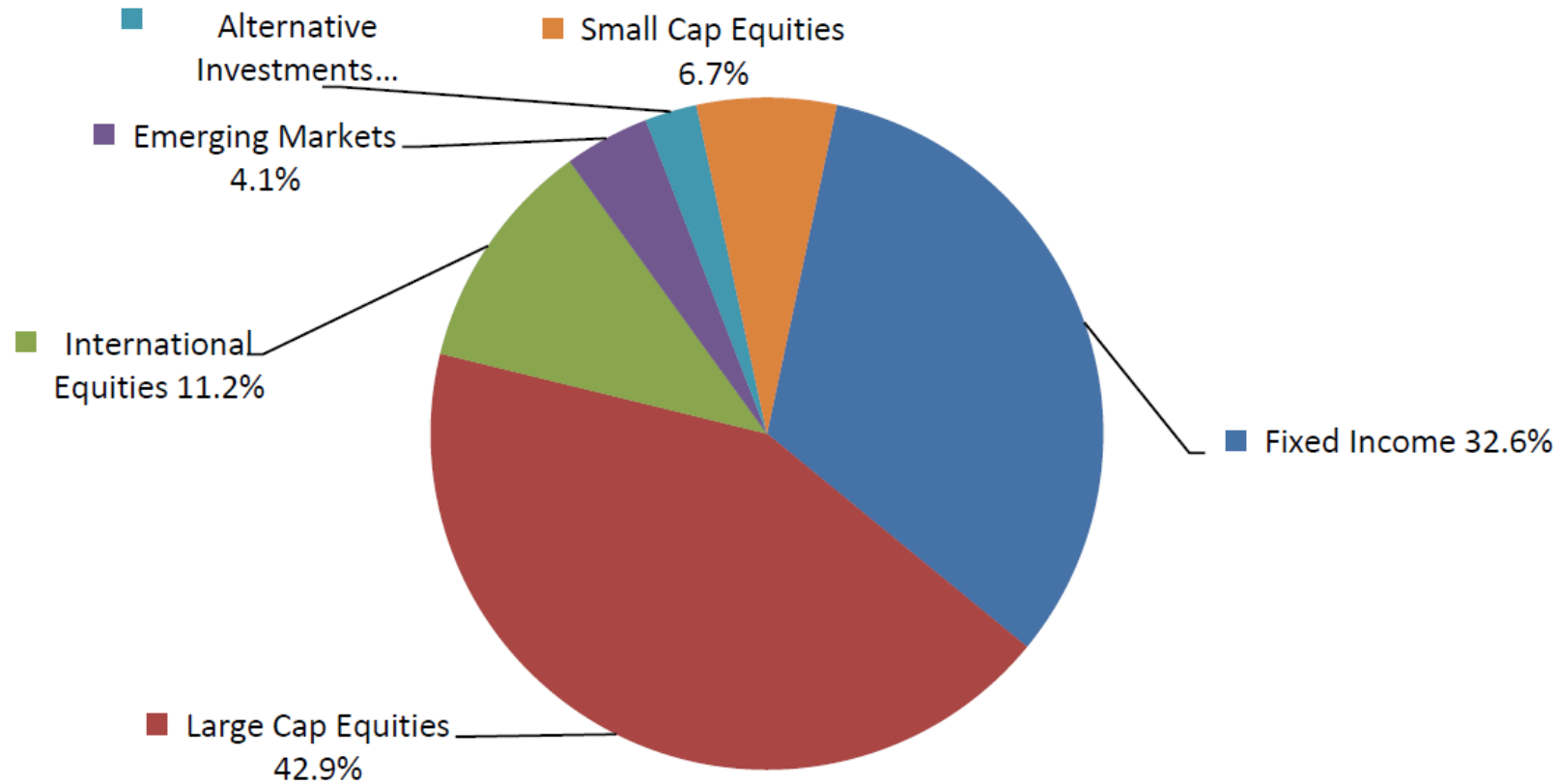
	06/30/23	06/30/22
Assets under Management (% of total NSUF funds)	\$40,098,578 (100%)	\$36,075,915 (100%)

Net Returns	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-year	Since Inception
As of 06/30/23	10.32%	6.71%	5.86%	6.56%	6.42%

	2 <sup>ND</sup> Quarter 2023	Year to Date
Net Returns	4.25%	9.70%
NSUF Customized Benchmark	4.10%	9.70%

# Investment Allocation

## Consolidated Portfolio Allocation



# NSU Foundation Financial Determination under RUSO-approved Process set forth in MOU with University

*Contributions + Spending Allocation + Realized & Unrealized Gains – University Expense*  
*University Expense for the Foundation*

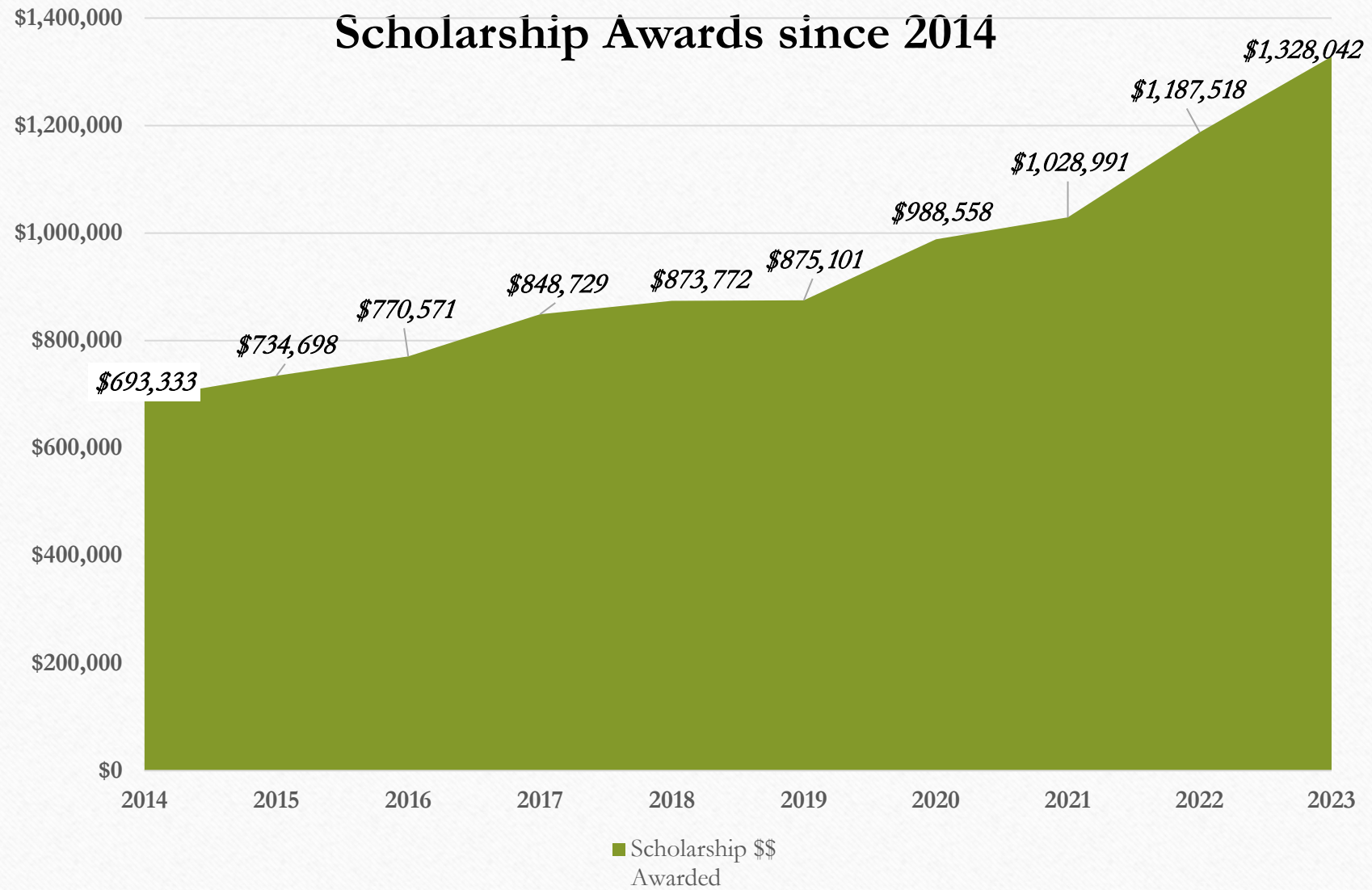
2014	Net profit of \$4,331,641	ROI	662%
2015	Net profit of \$3,134,626	ROI	479%
2016	Net profit of \$3,914,120	ROI	593%
2017	Net profit of \$6,927,331	ROI	1050%
2018	Net profit of \$2,298,263	ROI	361%
2019	Net profit of \$9,366,579	ROI	1471%
2020	Net profit of \$5,642,970	ROI	918%
2021	Net profit of \$8,073,482	ROI	1310%
2022	Net profit of \$1,131,126	ROI	182%



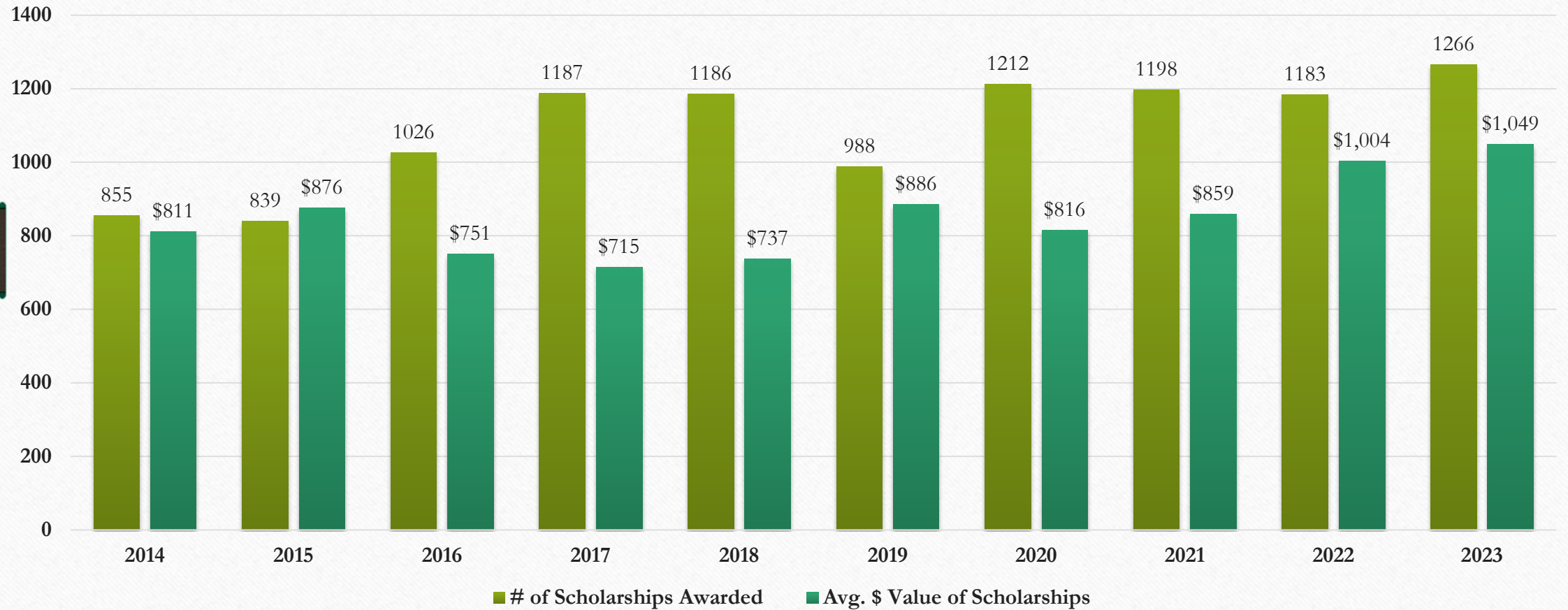
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## Advancing Our Students: Scholarships

## Scholarship Awards since 2014



## Total # and Average Value of Scholarships



## Quotes from Current Scholarship Recipients

The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation Scholarship has touched me in ways that words can hardly express. Beyond the financial assistance, it has filled me with a profound sense of encouragement and motivation. This scholarship is a lifeline that will help me navigate the challenges of tuition, books, and other essential expenses. With this support, I can now dedicate more time to my studies, engage in meaningful research, and contribute wholeheartedly to campus activities. This scholarship empowers me to invest not only in my education but also in the growth and betterment of my university community.

**Tucker McBare**

**Corporate Communications major**

**Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation Scholarship**

**Savanna, OK**

## Quotes from Current Scholarship Recipients

I am from Wagoner, Oklahoma. I graduated high school in 2022, then attended the University of Central Oklahoma prior to transferring to NSU this fall. I am a sophomore majoring in business administration, and I am open to a wide array of future plans that may come my way! Outside of school, I work at my family's restaurant in Wagoner, listen to nerdy podcasts, and keep up with my friends and family that mean the world to me.

This scholarship is immensely meaningful to me. My transfer to NSU was not a decision made lightly or in an easy situation. Immediately after my first semester of college, my mother lost her battle with late stage pancreatic cancer. I chose to step away from UCO last spring to focus on this major life transition, my family, and mental health. I decided that resuming my education closer to home would be beneficial to my success as a student. Despite the situation I never expected to be reality, each day I am encouraged to persist on this path because my mom so deeply valued education and its endless opportunities. This award will assist me in my pursuit of a degree with less concern about accumulating debt.

**Shelby Russell**  
**Business Administration major**  
**Gregg Wadley Transfer Student Scholarship**  
**Wagoner, OK**



*“Leave the woodpile  
a little higher than you found it.”*

--Jack Kaufman  
NSU alumnus  
(b. 1909 – d. 1991)



**Peggy Glenn**

**Executive Director, NSU Foundation**

**[glennp@nsuok.edu](mailto:glennp@nsuok.edu)**

**(918) 822-3330**

**[www.nsugiving.com](http://www.nsugiving.com)**



# NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

## OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT

October 18, 2023

Regional University System of Oklahoma  
305 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
PO Box 407  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Board Members:

The recommendations of Northeastern State University are as follows:

### I. **PERSONNEL**

#### A. **FACULTY CHANGE IN STATUS**

**Dr. Michael Morgan**, Assistant Professor of Biology in the Gregg Wadley College of Science and Health Professions has been appointed to Associate Professor of Biology in the Gregg Wadley College of Science and Health Professions effective 08/01/2023. This is a full-time regular, tenure track, 9-month position at an academic year salary of \$64,850.

**Dr. Spence Pilcher**, Professor of Chemistry in the Gregg Wadley College of Science and Health Professions has been appointed Professor/Coordinator of the Supplemental Instruction Program in the Gregg Wadley College of Science and Health Professions effective 08/14/2023.

#### B. **FACULTY APPOINTMENTS (NON-TENURE TRACK)**

**Ms. Betty Barton** has been appointed as Instructor / Assistant Clinic Director of Speech & Language Pathology in the Gregg Wadley College of Science and Health Profession BA Clinic effective 08/07/2023. This is a full time regular, non-tenure track 9-month position at an academic year salary rate of \$56,630.

Ms. Barton holds the following degrees: B.S. Communication Science and Disorders, Oklahoma State University; M.S. Speech Language Pathology, University of Tulsa.

### C. FACULTY APPOINTMENTS (TEMPORARY)

**Dr. Tara Buck** has been appointed as Temporary Assistant Professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts effective 08/14/2023. This is a full time temporary, non-tenure track, 9-month appointment at a fiscal salary rate of \$50,520.

Dr. Buck holds the following degrees: B.A. English and M.S. English, Northeastern State University; and Ph.D. English, Applied Linguistics, from Ball University.

Her professional experience includes: Graduate Teaching Assistant Northeastern State University and Ball University.

**Dr. Jessica Tsotsoros** has been appointed as Temporary Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy in the Gregg Wadley College of Science and Health Professions effective 08/01/2023. This is a full-time, non-tenure track, temporary position at an academic salary rate of \$41,720.

Dr. Tsotsoros hold the following degrees: B.S. Occupational Therapy, M.S. Rehabilitation Sciences with Pediatric Emphasis, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; Ph.D. Educational Technology, Oklahoma State University.

Her professional experience includes: Associate Professor and International Experiences Coordinator. Assistant Professor, Doctoral Capstone Coordinator University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, College of Allied Health.

### D. RESIGNATIONS

**Dr. April J. Parker**, Associate Professor of Optometry, in the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry has submitted her letter of resignation effective 12/31/2023.

## II. INFORMATION ITEMS

**The following purchases are presented as information items in accordance with Board policy, over \$50,000 and under \$150,000. (All funding is E & G unless otherwise noted.):**

Student Degree Planning Software (\$7,141 increase).....	\$119,141
RUSO School Payments.....(Aux).....	\$115,000
Student Recruitment Software.....	\$110,000

IT Contractual Services .....	\$104,000
Grant Consulting Services .....	\$102,900
Wind Tunnel Equipment.....	\$.. 97,235
Mail and Copier Equipment Rental.....(AUX).....	\$ .. 64,650
International Recruitment Services.....(AUX).....	\$... 62,655
Cyber Security Support Service.....	\$ .. 62,337
Collections Services.....(AUX).....	\$ 115,000
Veterans Advertising.....(AUX).....	\$ ....54,700
Chat Box Artificial Intelligence Services.....	\$.... 50,715
Employment Personnel Services.....	\$....50,000

### III. **GRANTS AND CONTACTS**

The University has received notification of funding for the following proposals:

#### **OTC - A Day of Celebration 2023-2024.....\$4,000.00**

This grant will host area high school students on the NSU BA campus, enhancing their motivation to consider a career in teaching. This will create more relationships with school partners to ultimately increase NSU's Grow Your Own Teachers' classes. The Project Director(s) are: Dr. Meagan Moreland, Dr. Kelli Carney and Dr. Jericho Hobson.

#### **See My Ability Summer Camp 2024 .....\$2,000.00**

Teachers will provide a specialized curriculum in a four-day visual arts summer camp utilizing an arts integration program where participants will get to display their artwork at the end of the camp during a gallery walk-through on the NSU Broken Arrow Campus. The Project Director is Dr. Eloy Chavez.

#### **NSU Teacher Acceleration (TAP) .....\$2,450,000.00**

This grant will make an unprecedented investment to combat the teacher shortage and raise awareness of opportunities for non-education majors to enter the teaching profession with a focus on science and mathematics. The Project Director is Dr. Vanessa Anton.

## NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

### **NASNTI – Individual Yr 1 of 5 2023-2024 .....\$599,866.00**

This grant will focus on increasing the capacity of the institution to better serve American Indian and low-income students, with primary goal of increasing their retention and graduation rates. Accomplished by strengthening infrastructure and student support services, increasing quality and efficiency, and efficiency, and focusing on Cherokee language and cultural preservation. The Project Director is Sara Barnett.

### **NANSTI – Northeastern State University and Tulsa Community College**

#### **Collaborative Yr 1 of 5 2023-2024.....\$800,000.00**

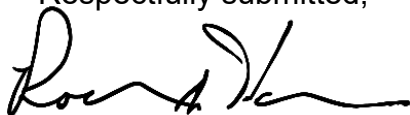
The project is designed to address the educational needs of Native American and low-income students in the NSU and TCC service areas. These students often come from deep, inter-generational poverty and have very limited social, cultural, and financial capital to successfully navigate higher education. This five-year project will provide substantial interventions to help students overcome these barriers. The Project Director is Dr. Kendra Haggard.

### **Project DREAM Yr 1 of 5 2023-2024 .....\$99,490.00**

The purpose of Project DREAM is to reduce the shortage of highly qualified special education teachers and related personnel (speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, school social workers, and school counselors) including teachers and personnel of color serving school-age children. The Project Directors are Dr. Lisa Bisogno and Dr. Jarilyn Haney.

**Total Awarded Grants: .....\$3,955,356.00**

Respectfully submitted,



Rodney Hanley, Ph.D.  
President



Regent Jane McDermott  
Regional University System of Oklahoma  
305 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street, #407  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Regent McDermott:

The recommendations of Southeastern Oklahoma State University are as follows:

**I. PERSONNEL**

**A. RESIGNATIONS**

John Massey School of Business

**Dr. Jimmie Flores, Instructor**, has submitted his resignation effective September 7, 2023. Dr. Flores has served in this capacity full-time since 2022.

Social Sciences

**Dr. David Prentice, Instructor**, has submitted his resignation effective October 18, 2023. Dr. Prentice has served in this capacity full-time since 2022.

**B. FACULTY APPOINTMENTS**

Arts & Sciences

**Mr. Joseph McWilliams** has been appointed to the position of full-time Instructor in the Department of Art, Communication, & Theatre, effective August 1, 2023, at a 10-month salary of \$34,928.

Mr. McWilliams earned his M.S. in Sports Administration in 2023 and B.S. in Accounting in 1993 from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He also earned a B.S. in Journalism/Broadcasting (Sports Media) from Oklahoma State University in 2012. His previous experience includes curating and creating content for multiple sites including the Bryan County Patriot as well as on-air talent with multiple media outlets.

## **II. PURCHASES**

In accordance with Board policy 2.3.4, Purchases exceeding \$150,000, Southeastern Oklahoma State University is requesting approval to purchase the following item:

Description: Along with the Durant Community Facilities Authority (DCFA), SE requests permission to partner in the purchase of two new video scoreboards for Bloomer Sullivan Arena and Paul Laird Field. The Arena board will replace a 16-year-old board with a new 8 feet by 27 feet video board. The Field board will replace a 17-year-old board with a new 16 feet by 28 feet board. The DCFA will purchase and pay the first \$300,000 with the University paying the remaining balance.

Amount: \$375,000

Source of Funding: \$300,000 – DCFA  
Up to \$75,000 – Athletic Donor Funds, Corporate Partners, and Auxiliary Funds

Vendor: Nevco for Hardware and All Seasons Sports for Installation  
BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative

## **III. GRANTS**

**An assessment of American alligators in southeastern Oklahoma: Evaluating presence-absence, dispersal, movements, and habitat requirements.....\$19,530**

Source: US Fish and Wildlife via Oklahoma Department of Wildlife and Conservation

Date: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 .....Directors: Dr. Jake Pruett and Dr. Tim Patton

Survey population, home range and habitat use of adult alligators, and to monitor reproductive effort and recruitment of alligators at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area. Funding will provide materials, mileage, and wages for a graduate research assistant.

**Educational Opportunity Center.....\$601,845**

Source: U.S. Department of Education

Date: September 01, 2023 – August 31, 2024 Yr. 3 of 5... ..... Director: Teriki Barnes

Serve 1,620 adults, in 11 counties in Oklahoma and Texas, seeking post-secondary education, with admissions, entrance exam prep, career counseling, personality assessments, financial aid assistance applications, financial literacy counseling, and coordination with other institutions.

**Talent Search Program.....\$496,747**

Source: U.S. Department of Education

Date: September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024 ..... Director: David Owen

Serve 861 participants to complete secondary school and enter and complete a postsecondary educational program. Seminars, workshops, and individual counseling are provided for Career Exploration, Study Skills, Learning Styles, College Readiness, Test Preparation, College Admissions, Financial Aid, Tutorial Assistance, Financial Literacy and Cultural Awareness.

**NASA OK Space Grant Consortium .....\$30,000**

Source: National Aeronautics and Space Administration via Oklahoma State University

Date: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 .....Director: Nancy L. Paiva

Support internships, mentorship, research expenses, and visits to NASA researchers, other collaborators, or relevant facilities. Student selection is based on academic excellence, references

from faculty, financial need, interest in NASA careers, representation of cultural diversity and/or willingness to participate in NASA mission-related research projects.

**Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Summer Research Program (OK-INBRE) .....\$2,200**

Source: National Institute of Health via OUHSC

Date: May 1, 2023 – August 15, 2023 ..... Director: Nancy L. Paiva

Support one summer intern with research supplies and analysis services, plus poster printing for their required final presentations at OUHSC in July. One goal is to increase the number of students pursuing Ph.D., MD, Pharmacy D. or other biomedical doctoral degrees.

**Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence SMaRT .....\$6,000**

Source: OUHSC using Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education match

Date: April 1, 2023 – August 30, 2023 ..... Director: Nancy L. Paiva

Support faculty time and effort for enhancing undergraduate involvement in research endeavors. A goal of the program is to help provide faculty mentored research experiences for lower level science majors, up to those completing their Freshman or Sophomore years. Funds support a small stipend for the faculty mentor, student hourly wages, and research supply funds

**SE Take Flight Aviation Science Camp .....\$10,000**

Source: Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

Date: August 11, 2023 – June 30, 2023 ..... Director: Michael Gaffney

The campers learn the roles of a pilot, navigator and airport operations. The grant requires cash and in-kind matching for meals, lodging, equipment, transportation, and instructors.

**Oklahoma Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Higher Education Prevention Services: Stimulants, Opioids, and Suicide (SOS) .....\$100,500**

Source: Oklahoma Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Date: October 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 ..... Director(s): April Lehrling

Train and staff a professional prevention specialist. Support the education and safety of the community by providing trainings, resources and prevention servicers for narcotics, stimulants, and other substance abuse needs.

**University Center Economic Development Program .....\$135,000**

U.S. Economic Development Administration

Date: October 01, 2023-September 30, 2024 ..... Director: Eric Kennedy

Texoma Region Economic Development Center (TREE) will serve 10 southeastern Oklahoma counties. Students in SE's John Massey School of Business will work with faculty and region businesses to develop strategic marketing plans, business plans, and financial valuations. The TREE Center will give students necessary real-world experience, provide free consulting services to region businesses, and strengthen the relationship between SE and our region business partners.

**Aerospace Technology Center Renovation .....\$1,000,000**

U.S. Economic Development Administration

Date: September 14, 2023-August 13, 2028 ..... Director: Mark Bison

Renovations will enable SE to enhance existing training, design new programs, and develop partnerships that will strengthen the region's aerospace workforce. The new center will serve 10 counties and meet the workforce training needs of the emerging aerospace industry along the I-35 corridor and diversify the economy of a region marked by poverty and high unemployment.

**Southwest Airlines Destination 225 University Partner.....\$71,000**

Source: Southwest Airlines

Date: September 20, 2023 – August 19, 2025..... Director: Michael Gaffney

Cover a portion of the Boeing 737 Simulator lease, software, maintenance, and instruction costs. The simulator is a key component in the Profession Pilot program and one reason Southwest Airlines recruits SE graduates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Newsom', written in a cursive style.

Thomas W. Newsom  
President



November 26, 2023

Regional University System of Oklahoma  
305 N.W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., #407  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-4741

Dear Board Members:

The recommendations of Northwestern Oklahoma State University are as follows:

**I. PERSONNEL**

None at this time

**II. PURCHASES**

None at this time

**III. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

None at this time

**IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**a. Academic Calendar**

Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Attached is the Academic Calendar for 2024-2025 for Northwestern Oklahoma State University. The calendar has been submitted for approval to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bo Hannaford". The script is cursive and fluid.

Bo Hannaford, Ed.D.  
President



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
Danley Hall, Suite 204  
1100 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, PMB P - 8 • Ada, OK 74820 - 6999  
(580) 559 - 5213 office • (580) 559 - 5788 fax • [www.ecok.edu](http://www.ecok.edu)

27 October 2023

Regional University System of Oklahoma  
Landmark Towers  
3555 NW 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 320  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Dear Chair McDermott and Members of the Board:

The recommendations of East Central University are as follows:

**I. PERSONNEL**

None to report at this time.

**II. REQUESTS FOR CONTRACTS**

None to report at this time.

**III. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

**U.S. Dept. of Ed. NASNTI Supplemental Award- First American Culture and Educational Success– Points of View (FACES-POV) \$150,000**

To coordinate and host a Tribal Education Summit, enhance/expand Indigenous Alternative Spring Break Project, enhance cultural preservation. The Project Director is Steven Martin.

**U.S. Dept. of Ed. - Promoting Early Education and Retention through Supplemental/Targeted Advising and Remedial Teaching (PEER-START) \$450,000**

To provide academic advising, mentoring, etc., to students, and strengthen academic programming at ECU. The Project Director is Dr. Haley Matlock.

**OUHS-Center for Learning and Leadership-UCEDD-CLL \$11,500**

To provide/conduct developmental disabilities education, research, and service. The Project Director is Holli Witherington.

**U.S. DOJ OVW – OVW Campus Law Enforcement Technical Assistance** **\$600,000**  
To provide Technical Assistance to Campus Law Enforcement, Security, and others across the U.S., related to gender-based violence prevention and response. The Project Director is Lindsey Tilley.

**U.S. Dept. of Ed. – Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)** **\$53,576**  
**Tiny Tigers Program**

To assist student parents with child care fee assistance, resources, and other support for student parents. The Project Director is Leah Lyon.

**NSF via OSU –OK Louis Stokes Minority Alliance for Minority Participation** **\$36,975**  
Provide resources and financial assistance for undergraduate research students and prepare them for grad school in a STEM field. The Project Director is Karen Williams.

**EPA via OSU – EPA STAR Grant** **\$234,465**  
Development of Innovative Monitoring Analysis Strategies for Rural Enhanced Aquifer Recharge Structures. The Project Director is Amy Hays.

**U.S. DHHS - Regional Mental Health Awareness Training Grant** **\$125,000**  
The purpose of this program is to: (1) train individuals to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental disorders, (2) establish linkages with school- and/or community-based mental health agencies to refer individuals with the signs or symptoms of mental illness to appropriate services; (3) train emergency services personnel, veterans, law enforcement, fire department personnel, and others to identify persons with a mental disorder and employ crisis de-escalation techniques; and (4) educate individuals about resources that are available in the community for individuals with a mental disorder. The Project Director is Holli Witherington.

**U.S. Dept. of Ed. - Upward Bound Math Science** **\$367,692**  
To prepare low income and/or first-generation students from targeted areas to enter college and pursue a degree in a STEM area/field. The Project Director is Melissa Jones.

**U.S. Dept. of Ed.- Veterans Upward Bound** **\$340,642**  
To aid and encouragement to veterans, guard members and reservist in preparing to enter or re-enter and to be successful in programs of postsecondary education. The Project Director is Mary Meeks.

**U.S. DHHS - ECU Campus Suicide Prevention Program** **\$102,000**  
To facilitate a comprehensive public health approach to prevent suicide in institutions of higher education. The grant is designed to assist colleges and universities in building essential capacity and infrastructure to support expanded efforts to promote wellness and help-seeking of all students. Additionally, this grant will offer outreach to vulnerable students, including those

experiencing substance abuse and mental health problems who are at greater risk for suicide and suicide attempts. The Project Director is Holli Witherington.

**Grant total = \$2,471,850**

#### **IV. PURCHASES**

**The following purchases are presented as informational items in accordance with Board Policy 2.3.3 (over \$50,000 and under \$150,000):**

- Academic Healthplans Inc., \$139,092.00 (AUX) for International Student insurance
- TouchNet Information Systems, Inc., \$71,892.00 (E&G) for annual software contract for online billing and payment system.

**Request approval to make the following purchases which will be made in accordance with Board policy 2.3.4 (over \$150,000):**

Equipment and supplies for the College of Health and Sciences (Nursing, STEM areas) to facilitate and enhance instructional resources related to Critical Workforce Development Initiative. (Various suppliers for contract purchases or bid proposals will be issued.)

- Estimated Cost: \$461,000.00
- Source: E&G

Respectfully submitted,



Wendell L. Godwin  
President

WLG: hpv



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Central Oklahoma**

**University of Central Oklahoma**

**Edmond, Oklahoma**

**November 10, 2023**

Board of Regents Regional University System of Oklahoma  
305 NW 5<sup>th</sup> #407  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Board Members:

The recommendations of the University of Central Oklahoma are as follows:

**I. PERSONNEL**

**A. Faculty Appointments**

**College of Mathematics and Science**

**Dr. Tej Lamichhane** has been appointed as an **Assistant Professor** in the **School of Engineering**. This is a full-time, tenure-track appointment, effective January 16, 2024.

Dr. Lamichhane's degrees are: Ph.D. (2019), Condensed Matter Physics, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; M.S. (2013), Physics, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX; and M.Sc. (2007), B.Sc. (2004), Physics, Tribhuvan University, Pokhara, Nepal.

His professional experiences include: Integration Engineer (1), Intel, Portland, OR; Postdoc Associate (1), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA; Graduate Teaching Assistant (2) and Graduate Research Assistant (5), Iowa State University, Ames, IA; and Lecturer (1), Marryland Higer Secondary School, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Dr. Lamichhane will be paid an annual salary of \$87,080.00.

**Dr. Xianshan Qu** has been appointed as an **Assistant Professor** in the **Department of Computer Science**. This is a full-time, tenure-track appointment, effective January 16, 2024.

Dr. Qu's degrees are: Ph.D. (2021), Computer Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC; M.E. (2014), Instrument Science and Technology, Southeast University, China; and B.E. (2011), Measurement and Control Technology, Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications, China.

Her professional experiences include: Applied Researcher (1), Microsoft, Seattle, WA; Research Scientist (1), Meta, Seattle, WA; and Research Intern (0.5), Samsung Research America, Mountain View, CA.

Dr. Qu will be paid an annual salary of \$101,143.26.

## **B. Temporary Faculty Appointments**

### **1) Visiting Assistant Professor**

#### **College of Mathematics and Science**

Rachael Kleckner

Nursing

## **II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF AWARDS**

Following are the new contracts that have been awarded since the last Board Letter:

### **September 2023**

NEXUS Project for Emergent Bilinguals, \$600,000

U.S. Department of Education

September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024

April Haulman, Curriculum and Instruction

CFDA#: 84.365Z

Funds from this grant will be used to improve the educational services for English Learners (EL) by providing funding for teacher professional development, language and literacy programs for EL student and parents, increased diversity and equity trainings for school administrators, and more.

Paraprofessional Residency to Educator Pathway, \$4,378

Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education

September 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

DiAnn McDown, Curriculum and Instruction

The funding for this grant will help to eliminate barriers that future teachers and paraprofessionals face. PREP will support a Grow Your Own model for the recruitment and preparation of comprehensively trained and certified teachers. PREP plans to leverage the experience and commitment of current

paraprofessionals to support their preparation to become teachers, while removing the common barriers to entry and completion of comprehensive programs.

Prospective Teachers Academy 2, \$7,880

Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education

September 1, 2023 – May 1, 2024

Alissa Crawford, College of Educational Sciences, Foundations & Research

This is a continuing grant that seeks to fund the recruitment of prospective teachers. The PTA 3 introduces high school juniors and seniors to college readiness, scholarship, leadership, and an overview of teacher education programs.

Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship, \$70,000

National Academy of Educators

January 1, 2024 – December 15, 2024

Sara Doolittle, College of Educational Sciences, Foundations & Research

The purpose of this grant is to create a Postdoctoral Fellowship. During the fellowship period, fellows are expected to take full-time leave from their teaching and administrative duties, to work full-time on the research project described in their application proposal. Fellows will be taking full-time leave for two semesters over two academic years. The fellowship award is to be used as salary replacement and not supplement.

Science Olympiad, \$10,000

USA Foundation

September 18, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Elizabeth Allan, Biology

This grant will fund up to 8 sub-awards of \$500 each to be paid to qualifying schools who provide evidence of providing at least a dollar-for-dollar match of \$500. These funds will be used to purchase Science Olympiad related equipment and supplies. Additionally, the grant will fund up to 8 stipend awards of \$500 each to experienced Oklahoma Science Olympiad mentoring coaches who will assist and advise Coaches of qualifying schools.

American Rescue Plan – Accelerated Cohorts for Teaching Success (ACTS), \$2,450,000

Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education

September 1, 2023 – December 31, 2026

Bryan Duke, Education and Professional Studies

The funding from this grant will be used to provide education and training for those interested in completing an alternative pathway, including emergency certification, that fulfills Oklahoma standard teacher certification requirements. The program will provide 6 cohorts, 4 PreK-6 (also serving middle school) totaling 70 participants and 2 Secondary totaling 50 participants.

### **III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS FROM PURCHASING**

- A.** Mongoose Research, Cadence text messaging and solution for CRM Recruit.  
Source: E&G ..... \$52,223

Respectfully,

Todd G. Lamb  
President

October 26, 2023

Regional University System of Oklahoma  
305 N.W. 5<sup>th</sup> #407  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Board Members:

The agenda items of Southwestern Oklahoma State University are as follows:

***I. PERSONNEL***

***A. Change in Status***

**Dr. Rachel Davis** has been appointed to the tenure track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing in the College of Nursing and Health Professions at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Her salary for the twelve-month appointment will be \$89,359.00. She will be able to apply for promotion in Fall of 2027, unless approved by the provost to apply at an earlier date.

***II. PURCHASE AGENDA***

Southwestern Oklahoma State University - Informational Items			
In accordance with board policy 2.3.3, purchases exceeding \$50,000 but not over \$150,000			
Vendor	Description	Budget	Amount
Howard Industries	Purchase of interactive touch display systems for USDA grant (Bid)	430 Grant	\$65,340.00
AMD Global Telemedicine	Purchase of telemedicine carts for USDA grant (Bid)	430 Grant	\$155,620.00
Country Ford Mercury	Purchase of three patrol vehicles (2023 Ford Explorer on State contract)	765 Auxiliary	\$135,703.80

### **III. GRANTS, CONTRACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS**

Since September 18, 2023, the SWOSU Office of Sponsored Programs has received confirmation of 6 grant awards for a total amount of \$89,624. A profile of the award is presented below.

**A. Vacuum thermal evaporation (VTE) processed perovskite solar cells for in space assembly-Federal.....\$17,226**

NASA has awarded the grant, entitled, “Vacuum thermal evaporation (VTE) processed perovskite solar cells for in space assembly-Federal” in the amount of \$17,226. The primary function of this award is Research. The principal investigator is **Ms. Madeline Baugher**.

**B. Vacuum thermal evaporation (VTE) processed perovskite solar cells for in space assembly-State.....\$3,960**

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education has awarded the grant, entitled, “Vacuum thermal evaporation (VTE) processed perovskite solar cells for in space assembly-State” in the amount of \$3,960. The primary function of this award is Research. The principal investigator is **Ms. Madeline Baugher**.

**C. The evolution of organophosphate diesterase activity in the PHP family of enzymes.....\$29,810**

OK-INBRE has awarded the grant, entitled, “The evolution of organophosphate diesterase activity in the PHP family of enzymes” in the amount of \$29,810. The primary function of this award is Research. The principal investigator is **Dr. Andrew Bigley**.

**D. FY24 Workforce Micro-credentials and Rapid Re-employment Initiative Strategies.....\$20,102**

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education has awarded the grant, entitled, “FY24 Workforce Micro-credentials and Rapid Re-employment Initiative Strategies” in the amount of \$20,102. The primary function of this award is Community Service. The principal investigator is **Dr. Joel Kendall**.

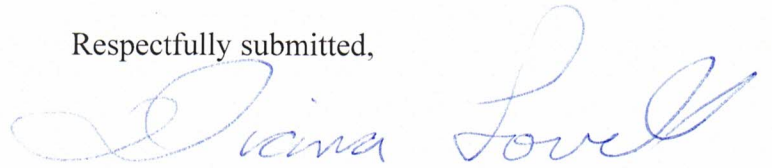
**E. Plains All American First Responder Grant Program // Selected for this grant to fund Police radios.....\$6,155**

The Plains All American First Responder Grant Program has awarded the grant, entitled, “Plains All American First Responder Grant Program // Selected for this grant to fund Police radios” in the amount of \$6,155. The primary function of this award is Institutional Support. The principal investigator is **Mr. Blake Powers**.

**F. The Writing Center United: Building Bridges through Shared Motivation and Goals & The Writing Center United: Building Bridges to Create the Ideal Writing Center .....\$6,155**

The SWOSU Foundation has awarded the grant, entitled, “The Writing Center United: Building Bridges through Shared Motivation and Goals & The Writing Center United: Building Bridges to Create the Ideal Writing Center” in the amount of \$12,371. The primary function of this award is Research. The principal investigator is **Ms. Natasha Tinsley**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana Lovell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Diana" and last name "Lovell" clearly distinguishable.

Diana Lovell  
President