



NSU recognized as a military-friendly school



Northeastern State University has been recognized as a military-friendly institution for its commitment to serving the veteran community.

Victory, a veteran-owned business focused on connecting members of the military community to civilian employment and educational and entrepreneurial opportunities, recently announced that NSU was listed as one of the institutions that received the 2021-2022 Military Friendly® School designation.

Dr. Pamela Fly, associate vice president of academic affairs, said since 2012 NSU has participated in the Voluntary Education Partnership with the US Department of Defense. This allows the university to participate in the Military Tuition Assistance Program which serves veterans and their dependents. NSU also participates in the US Department of Defense's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. Fly said the program provides tuition supplements for certain Veterans Affairs tuition programs.

Fly said the university also adheres to the Department of Veteran's Affairs Principles of Excellence which includes guidelines for communication to veterans. Jessica Douthitt, veterans services coordinator, said NSU has developed an ongoing communication plan for NSU students receiving benefits, created lounge areas at its Tahlequah and Broken Arrow campuses specifically for veterans and provided graduating veterans red, white and blue cords.

She added the Veterans Services Office at NSU works to ensure eligible students are knowledgeable of and maximizing the benefits available to help them achieve their educational goals.

The Military Friendly® Schools list is created each year following the evaluation of public data source of more than 8,800 schools nationwide, input from student veterans, and responses to the proprietary, data-driven Military Friendly® Schools survey from participating institutions.

More than 1,200 schools participated in the 2021-2022 survey with 747 earning the designation.

The Military Friendly Schools list will be published in the May issue of G.I. Jobs magazine, and can also be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

To learn more about veterans services at NSU visit: <https://offices.nsuok.edu/veterans> or the NSU Veterans Services office located in the upper level CASE building on the Tahlequah campus. Office hours are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, interested individuals can also contact Douthitt at 918.444.2204 or email veterans@nsuok.edu.

NSU provides safe environment during COVID

Greener Days Ahead: NSU returns to pre-pandemic schedule this fall with proven track record of safety best practices

Northeastern State University will return to a pre-pandemic schedule this fall using best in-person delivery practices honed over the last year.

“We are committed to providing more in-person classes for fall 2021, utilizing the same protocols that are working well for us now—wearing masks, watching distance between each other and washing hands frequently,” Dr. Deborah Landry, provost and vice president of academic affairs, said. “We will continue to monitor and adjust our processes as we have since March 2020.”

Landry said the plan is to return to the more traditional 60% in person, 40% online delivery of classes that existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in the fall. In response to the pandemic, university officials adjusted the course delivery format the last two semesters in favor of more online-only or hybrid options.

Even with these adjustments, NSU officials still maintained in-person classes as an option for its students last fall and the current spring semester following the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for higher education institutions. This includes requiring face coverings, creating additional space between students, installing sneeze guards and other protective barriers in classrooms and frequently sanitizing surfaces.

NSU also instituted other COVID-19 protocols meant to balance safety and the university’s commitment to provide a quality education to its students. This includes creating an online COVID-19 dashboard; developing COVID-19 safety guidelines

for students, faculty and staff; and upgrading the technology in use at the different campuses to better meet NSU family needs.

Landry said technology upgrades were in the university’s short-term plans but the pandemic accelerated its completion. The university added several new Zoom rooms, upgraded microphones and cameras, and purchased PPE for NSU faculty and staff.

“Our faculty, staff and students have implemented these processes with great success, which enable our ability to increase our face-to-face offerings this fall!” Landry says.

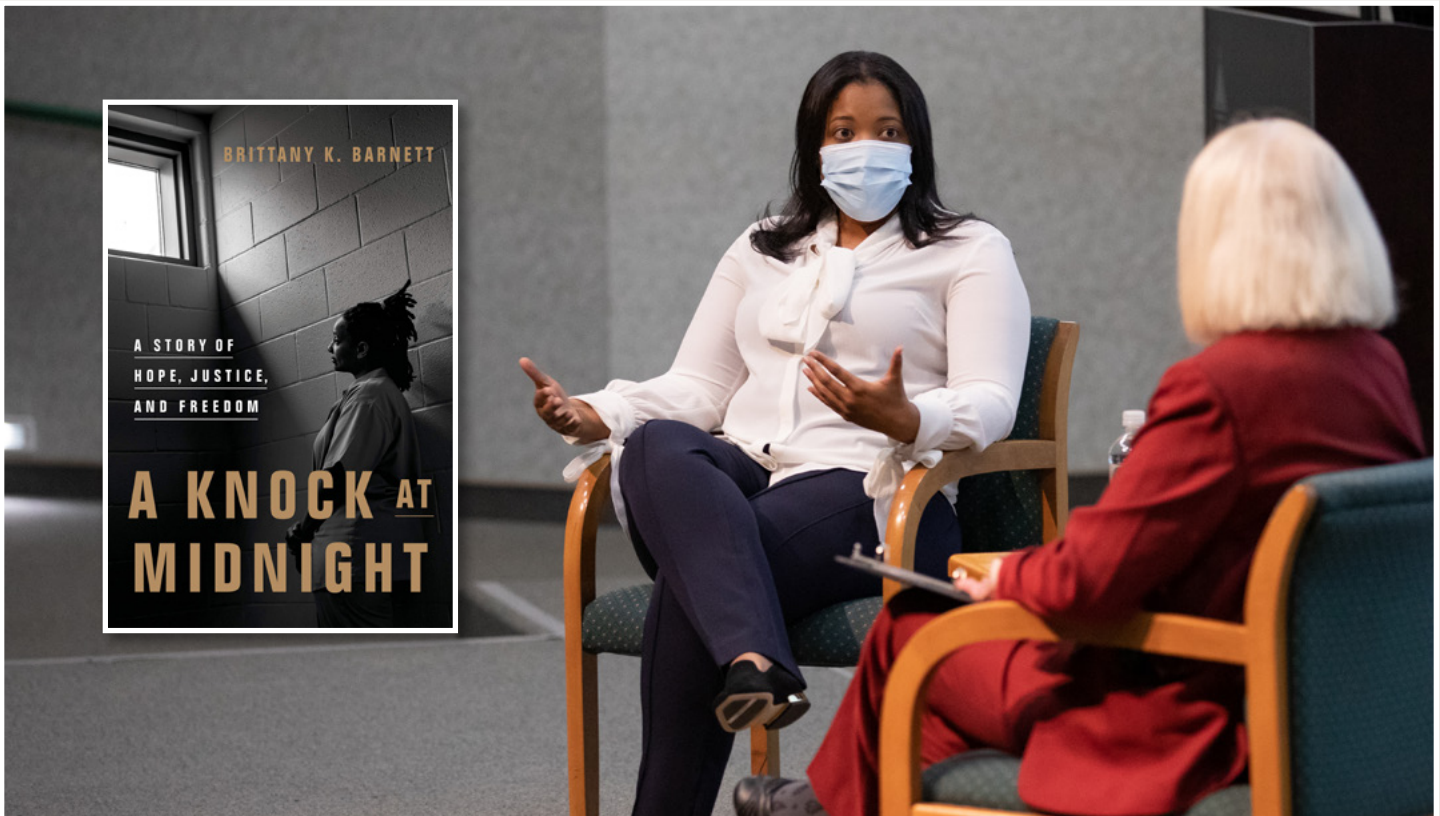
While encouraged with the success of the protocols implemented, as evidence by continuingly low positivity rates, NSU officials remain vigilant and continue to monitor COVID-19 pandemic, which has been known to change rapidly, in partnership with health experts.

“We have become prepared to pivot quickly to alternative delivery forms for more than just a response to the pandemic,” Landry said. “We are better prepared for instances where the weather impacts conditions, or other emergencies that prevent an in-person class. Our exceptional faculty have demonstrated creative and innovative ways to teach and engage students virtually, and these practices can help shape future responses.”

To keep up-to-date regarding NSU’s efforts and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic visit: <https://offices.nsuok.edu/studentaffairs/Coronavirus/default.aspx>.



2021 Larry Adair Lectureship features Brittany K. Barnett



Award-winning attorney and criminal justice reform advocate headlined the 2021 Larry Adair Lectureship

Brittany K. Barnett, an award-winning attorney, advocate, author and entrepreneur was this year's speaker at the 2021 Larry Adair Lectureship.

The event was presented virtually via zoom, and in person at NSU Tahlequah's Webb Auditorium, where the live audience was limited to 100.

As part of this year's lectureship, Barnett discussed her book "A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice and Freedom" which tells a coming of age story and narrative of her uphill struggle to bring hope and change to the criminal justice system.

Peggy Glenn, NSU Foundation executive director, said she learned about Barnett's book, released last fall, following an email from SMU Dedman School of Law, where Barnett received her law degree.

As a young law student, Barnett came across the criminal drug case of Sharanda Jones, a single Black mother and business owner who was serving a life sentence without parole for a first-time drug offense. This encounter reminded Barnett of her own life as the daughter of a formerly incarcerated mother, the once girlfriend of an abusive drug dealer, and how America's war on drugs had claimed another victim.

After taking on Jones' case, Barnett switched her career focus from corporate law to work pro bono cases.

Barnett is responsible for securing freedom for a number of clients who were at one point serving life sentences for federal drug offenses. In addition to freeing incarcerated individuals, Barnett uses her skills in the corporate world to nurture her clients' entrepreneurial spirits and creative abilities to create social change.

In addition, Barnett advocates for transforming the criminal justice system and social impact investing. Barnett founded two nonprofits: the Buried Alive Project, which attempts to dismantle life without parole sentences, and Girls Embracing Mothers, an organization that empowers girls with mothers behind bars. She also founded XVI Capital Partners and Milena Reign, two social enterprises dedicated to showcasing the impact that formerly incarcerated people can have when they are able to not only survive, but thrive.

For her efforts, Barnett has been named as one of America's Most Outstanding Young Lawyers by the American Bar Association and was on Essence's "Woke 100" list in 2019.

For more information about the 2021 Larry Adair Lectureship, contact the NSU Foundation at [918.444.4200](tel:918.444.4200) or visit: nsualumni.com.

Most affordable online RN to BSN programs

NSU's online RN to BSN program receives high ranking for its affordability

A Northeastern State University program designed to help further nursing professionals' careers was recently recognized for its affordability.

NSU's online Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) program was recognized as one of the most affordable programs for 2021, according to a www.bestcollegesonline.org ranking list. According to its website, approximately 280 accredited colleges and universities were reviewed as part of its evaluation to determine the top 30 most affordable online RN to BSN programs for 2021.

NSU ranked No. 8 on the list.

"It is an honor," Program Chair Dr. Diana Mashburn said. "We are very proud of it."

The program accepts individuals who are already an RN or working toward a current RN license along with an associate degree or diploma from a regionally accredited nursing program. Mashburn said enrollees in NSU's online RN to BSN program can complete

the program in as few as 10 months. Major areas of emphasis include family nursing, community health, leadership, and research.

NSU's RN to BSN program started in 1982 and was the first of its kind in the state. Mashburn said it was also the first to start offering the program online because it can be challenging for registered nurses to find time to attend a traditional classroom setting when they can find themselves working 12-hour shifts and on weekends. She said an online format gave students the flexibility needed to further their education while working.

Mashburn said the program not only furthers students' knowledge and skills essential for professional nursing, but also lays the foundation for students to go on to complete a Master of Science Nursing program to teach and train other nurses.

For more information on the program, visit: <https://nursingonline.nsuok.edu/programs/rn-to-bsn.aspx>.

NSU Healthcare Administration degree ranked #1 in the state

Northeastern State University featured as best program in Oklahoma for a degree in health administration

Northeastern State University has been ranked as the best college in Oklahoma for a Health Administration degree, according to universities.com.

NSU's bachelor of business administration, with a concentration in health care administration, aims to prepare students to manage and improve health care organizations.

Courtney Hamby, program director for the Health Organizations Administration program, said it is their utmost priority to provide an exceptional educational experience and send graduates into the field prepared.

"During the past year, the NSU HOA Program faculty has worked diligently to reform this program to meet the needs of both current and future students," Hamby said. "It is our ultimate hope that passionate health care leaders will improve the overall quality of the health care delivery system across the state of Oklahoma and beyond."

NSU offers three HOA program emphasis options: health organizations administration, health informative and long-term care. Hamby said this degree prepares students to stay

at the forefront of health care administration and shape the future of the growing industry.

Classes are offered in an eight-week format, all online, with the option to start the program five times per year in January, March, June, August or October.

"This degree can be completed 100% online, making it the perfect option for a working adult or a health professional seeking to move to a non-direct patient care setting," Hamby said.

Dr. Janet Buzzard, dean of the college of business and technology said to meet workforce demands, the college of business and technology now offers certificates in healthcare administration leadership, operations leadership, data analytics, international business and human resources management.

For more information about NSU's HOA program visit www.nsuok.edu/hoa or email Hamby at healthcaremgmt@nsuok.edu.

To view NSU on universities.com's list, visit: <https://www.universities.com/index.php/find/oklahoma/best/healthcare/health-administration>.