

LEADERSHIP



The Newsletter for Northwestern Oklahoma State University

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Social Work accreditation reaffirmed

During the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Commission on Accreditation's (COA) February 2021 meeting, the COA voted to grant reaffirmation of accreditation to Northwestern Oklahoma State University's social work program for eight years, ending in February 2029.

Reaffirmation is administered through a multistep accreditation process that involves program self-studies, site visits and COA reviews. To become accredited, Dr. Kylene Rehder, professor of social work and chair to the department of social work, and Jennifer Pribble, assistant professor of social work and director of field experience, worked diligently preparing a written self-study that covered the program's mission and goals, implicit and explicit curriculum and assessment.

In September 2020, a site visitor from CSWE visited the program and interviewed faculty, administration, advisory board members and students.

"Reaffirmation of accreditation assures the highest

Cook named Newman Civic Fellow

Braeden Cook, junior political science major at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, has been named a 2021 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow.

Campus Compact is a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education. The organization's 2021 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows is comprised of 290 students, including Cook.

"The Newman Civic Fellowship award is about working



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quality of education to our students and prepares them for the professional practice of social work," Rehder said.

CSWE is a national association preserving and enhancing the quality of social work education for practice and promoting the goals of individual and community well-being and social justice.

"I am extremely proud of our social work department," Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president, said. "The faculty navigated the reaffirmation process flawlessly.

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together with other community actors to bring social change," Cook said.

The Alva native is heavily involved with the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature. Cook even had his own piece of legislation passed with the OIL.

He is also an active member of the Ranger Marching and Concert bands.

"Both inside and outside the classroom, Braeden represents a highly motivated, engaged, and well-informed individual who understands how he and others across the political spectrum can work together at our university, in our broader community, and even across the nation," Dr. Eric Schmaltz, departmental chair of social sciences and professor of history, said. "The Newman Civic program offers a most constructive platform and environment for the next generation of citizens, like Braeden, to develop and

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Reach Higher: Reconnect events planned

Northwestern Oklahoma State University would like to reconnect with individuals in northwest Oklahoma, southern Kansas and the Texas panhandle who have already earned some college credit and may be looking to finish their bachelor's degrees.

Special Reach Higher: RECONNECT Week events at the university's campus locations in Enid and Woodward are planned during the week of April 12-16 where hours will be extended and an evening event is planned. Both campus locations plan to be open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with hours extended to 7 p.m. on April 15.

During this week, individuals will be able to apply to attend Northwestern, explore their bachelor's degree options, receive advisement on finishing their



degree, obtain financial aid counseling and tour the facilities.

The primary goals of Reach Higher: RECONNECT Week are to increase awareness of the adult-friendly bachelor's degree completion options available through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Reach Higher initiative and encourage adults who have earned some college credit to successfully complete their bachelor's degrees face-to-face or online.

Information about the program is available at www.nwsu.edu/reach-higher.

Additional information about becoming a student at Northwestern-Enid or Northwestern-Woodward may be found at www.nwsu.edu/enid or www.nwsu.edu/woodward.

Incoming freshmen to enroll at 'Connection'

Northwestern Oklahoma State University is offering an early enrollment opportunity for high school seniors during "Freshman Connection" April 14-16 and April 19-20 at the Alva campus.

Freshman Connection is the first event for committed and accepted high school seniors to enroll as freshmen at Northwestern. High school seniors will work with faculty members and/or academic advisers to enroll in classes.

"We are excited to announce that we have expanded Freshman Connection to a five-day event," Matt Adair, assistant dean of student affairs and recruitment and director of housing, said. "Seniors will now simply register for Freshman Connection, and then will be contacted to choose the date and time they want to come and enroll. The process has never been simpler or more convenient for busy students."

Parents are welcome to attend and be with their students as they build their first-semester college schedules.

Freshman Connection has been restructured to a five-day event to avoid large groups following CDC guidelines for COVID.

Once students have registered for the event and been contacted to set a date and time for their enrollment, they

will begin their advisement in the Student Center's Wyatt Room on the Northwestern Alva Campus.

Newman

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expand their leadership skills and work toward the goal of contributing further to society."

Cook says he sees the Newman Civic Fellowship as a great opportunity to speak and engage with other people willing to work together to help find a starting point in working to unite the country. He says the goal is not necessarily for everyone to unite under a particular political party, but rather come to an agreement on values that are the foundation of the country.

The Newman Civic Fellowship, named for Campus Compact co-founder Frank Newman, is a one-year experience emphasizing personal, professional and civic growth. Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides a variety of learning and networking opportunities, including a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. The fellowship also provides fellows with access to apply for exclusive scholarship and post-graduate opportunities.

\$40,000 grant awarded to social work

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's social work program has been awarded a \$40,000 grant by the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program Student Payback Fund Grants

to develop active learning environments for social work students.

Dr. Kylene Rehder, chair of the department of social work and program director, authored the grant

and will serve as the project's principal investigator.

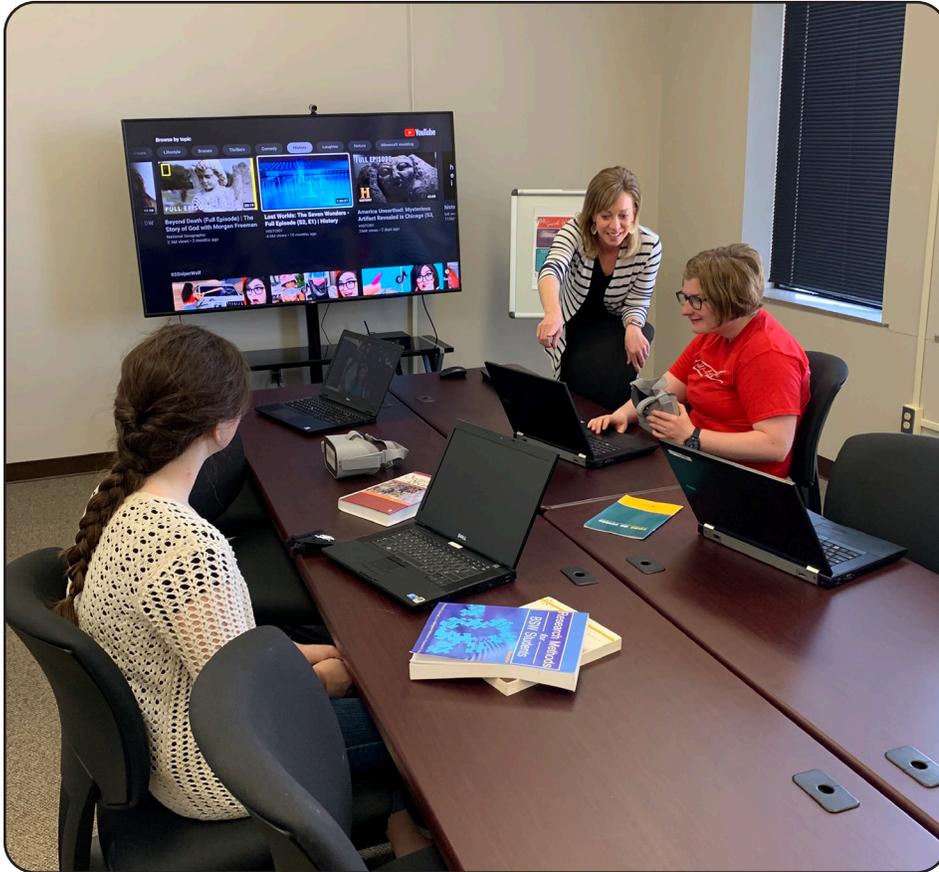
"Technology's influence on contemporary and future social work practice is profound," Rehder said. "Therefore active learning environments are needed to support learning goals, professionalize students to practice, and teach the ethical and effective use of technology."

Rehder said this grant project will improve the educational technologies, resources, and spaces provided to social work students to increase their learning engagement, skill development and preparedness for professional practice. Both hardware and software resources will be enhanced across the program's locations in Alva, Enid and Woodward.

"As a social work student studying in a rural area, the necessary settings and resources for diverse and real-world learning experiences are not always easily available," Woodward campus junior Jewel Shepherd said. "This grant will provide the cutting-edge technology and resources necessary for myself and other Northwestern social work students to become effective and educated social workers."

This grant is being administered by the University of Oklahoma on behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) to assist the department in retaining quality professional social workers in the public child welfare system.

"I have always been passionate about helping others," Woodward campus sophomore Camryn Beaner-Howard said. "This grant will provide our program access to the technology and tools to advance us in the field and strengthen our abilities."



Dr. Kylene Rehder instructs students using a technology based active learning classroom.

Accreditation

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Our program provides social work professionals who are sorely needed in all areas of the state and nation."

The profession of social work in the United States looks to CSWE-accredited programs to produce social workers with the knowledge and skills to be professional social workers. To apply for licensure as a social worker one has to be a graduate of a CSWE accredited program. This accreditation also affords students the opportunity to apply for advanced standing

placement in a Master of Social Work program.

Northwestern's social work department has been accredited since 2005 and offers state-of-the-art labs to Alva, Enid and Woodward students.

"Trained with the professional foundation of social work, graduates are prepared to address complex psychosocial functioning in individuals, families, and groups; as well as create change in society to enhance the welfare of all people," Rehder said.

18th Art Society Art Show showcases creativity



More than 250 pieces of art created by Northwestern students, employees, retired employees and alumni were displayed in the J.W. Martin Library in March with more than 100 winning pieces shown at a winners' show in downtown Alva for the First Friday Artwalk in April.