

Fall 2025

Department of Social Work

IMPACT

LEAD. EMPOWER. TRANSFORM.



NorthwesternTM
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY

A Message From the Department

On behalf of the Department of Social Work, we welcome you to the Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Social Work Program newsletter. We're excited to share our latest updates, insights, and stories from the Department. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about upcoming events, highlight inspiring projects, and celebrate the achievements of our students and faculty. As we continue to advocate for social justice and support those in need, we encourage you to engage with the content, share your thoughts, and contribute your own stories. Together, we can strengthen our community and enhance our impact.

Thank you for being a vital part of our program. We look forward to connecting with you through this newsletter!

Empowering Social Workers - Ride Rangers Ride



DR. KYLENE REHDER, LCSW
Professor of Social Work
Social Work Program Director
Jesse Dunn 308 Alva Campus
(580) 327-8135
kdrehder@nwosu.edu



Northwestern Social Work's Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Micro-Credential Program Finding Success



Jenna Maier (center), an Alva senior social work major, was one of the first Northwestern students to earn the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Micro-Credential from Dr.

Kylene Rehder (left), Northwestern Department of Social Work chair and Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Academy director, and Dr.

Steven Maier (right), Northwestern Dean of Faculty.

The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health micro-credential program facilitated by Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work is proving to be a successful program.

Designed to equip social service professionals and students with the knowledge and skills to support young children's mental health and development, the program has seen 27 professionals successfully complete the micro-credential with an additional 25 currently enrolled as of September 2025. "The growing demand for this micro-credential reflects a rising awareness of the vital role early mental health plays in lifelong development," said Dr. Kylene Rehder, Northwestern Department of Social Work chair and program director of the Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Training Academy.

Developed by Northwestern's Department of Social Work with guidance from Oklahoma Human Services and Western Plains Youth and Family Services, the program emphasizes the critical importance of nurturing parent-infant relationships and promoting secure attachments. Participants must complete one three-credit-hour course in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and six clock hours of approved training in the field. A limited number of scholarships are available through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Workforce Micro-Credentials and Rapid Re-Employment Initiative. These scholarships are designed to support eligible students pursuing this credential and entering a high-demand field.



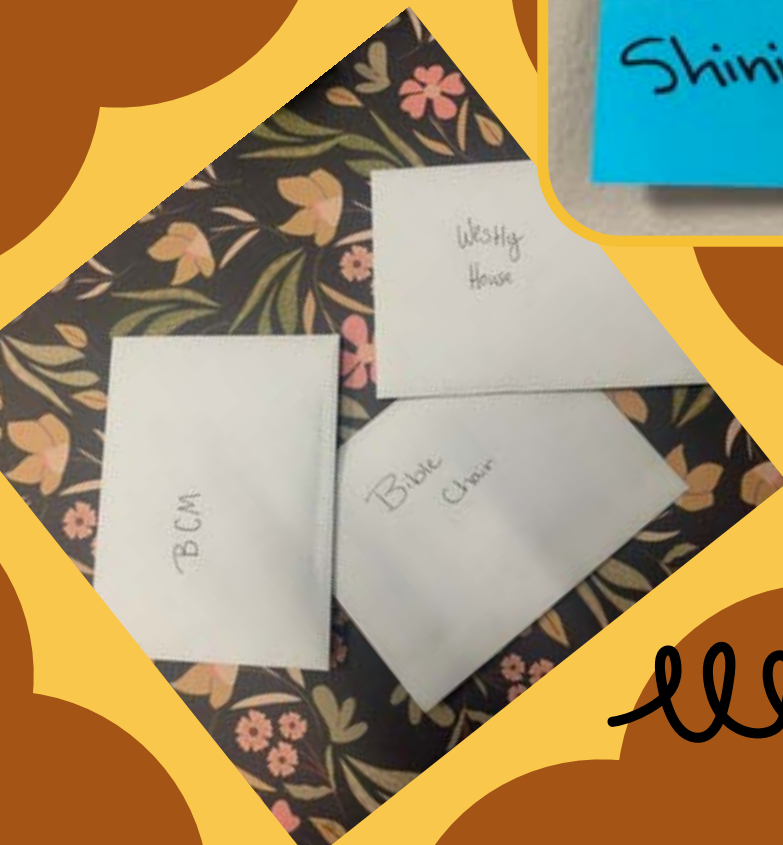
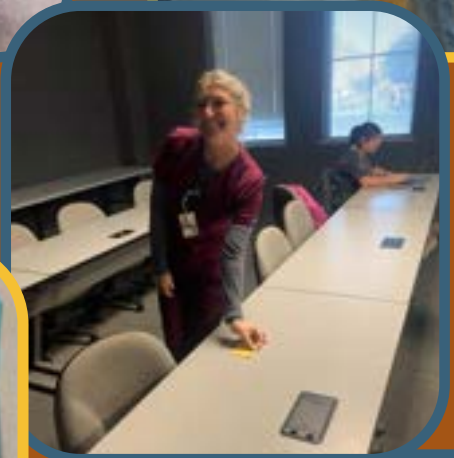
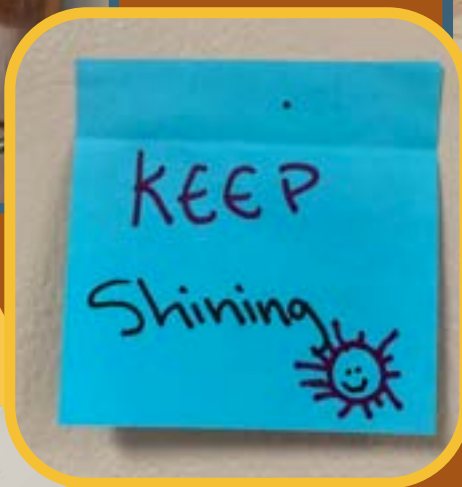
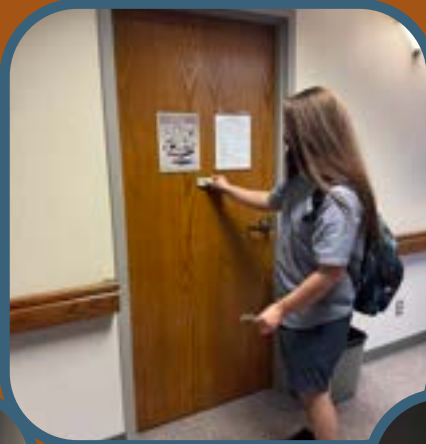
Primp for Prom receives the Applaud Award

Given to an organization that shows the greatest overall effort, participation & hard work. Primp for Prom is an annual spring event held in Woodward for area high school students to pick out a formal dress & accessories at no charge.



Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT)

Kindness Day Activities



Alva campus delivered
thank you notes to churches
who provide free meals.



Student Spotlights



Jadyn Padilla

I chose to pursue social work because I have a deep passion for understanding and helping others. Throughout my life, I've faced many challenges, and in those difficult times, I've seen firsthand how much the support of others can make a difference. That impact has inspired me to be a source of support for individuals, families, and communities. I'm especially excited to expand my knowledge of different cultures and traditions, as I believe this understanding is essential to being an effective and empathetic social worker. One of the things that excites me most about this field is the wide range of paths it offers. I look forward to exploring these possibilities and discovering which area I'm most passionate about. Above all, I'm eager to continue growing personally and professionally to see where this journey in social work will lead me.

"Choosing Northwestern for their Social Work program has been one of the best and easiest decisions I've ever made. The professors genuinely care about their students, and the department has not only equipped me with the skills to become a competent professional but has also pushed me to grow academically. Throughout the program, I've had the privilege of meeting incredible people, engaging in meaningful volunteer work, and attending impactful conferences that expanded my perspective on the field. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities and unwavering support I've received from the NWOSU Social Work program.

Isabella Burden



SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM



Northwestern™
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

The Social Work Program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University is part of the Department of Social Work and is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education's Board of Accreditation. The program requires 45 hours for majors and includes field education in a community agency. Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) graduates are prepared to provide competent, effective, generalist practice social work services. BSWs are also eligible for advanced standing in graduate social work programs offering the MSW degree.

For more information about the NWOSU Department of Social Work, contact us at: (580) 327-8134 or on the web @ <https://www.nwosu.edu/school-of-arts-and-sciences/social-work>



SCAN ME

WHAT DO SOCIAL WORKERS DO?

Professional social workers are found in every facet of community life - in schools, hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, elected office, private practices, prisons, military, corporations, and in numerous public and private agencies that serve individuals, families & communities in need. They often specialize in one or more of the following practice areas:

Mental Health Therapy • Disaster Relief • Military Social Work • Rural Social Work • Adoption & Foster Care • Child Welfare Services • Family Preservation Services • Homeless Family Assistance • Eating Disorders • Community, Maternal & Child Health • Medical Social Work • Crisis Intervention • School Social Work • Hospice & Palliative Care • Depression • Institutional Care • Outpatient Treatment • Development Disabilities • International Social Work • Advocacy, Consulting & Planning • Community Mental Health • Employee Assistance • Private Practice • Veterans Services • Child Abuse & Neglect • Domestic Violence • Political Development • Parent Education • Recreation & Socialization Services • Family Planning • Veterinary Social Work • School-Based Programs • Gerontology Services • Community-Based Services • In-Home Services • Sports Social Work • Dementia & Alzheimer's • Addictions: Prevention/Treatment • Criminal Justice • Housing Assistance • Public Welfare • Employment Services

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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SOCIAL WORK COURSE SEQUENCE FOR MAJORS

Year & Number	CR	Course Title
Sophomore Year		
SOCW 2113	3	Social Work: A Helping Profession *
SOCW 2121	1	Service Learning in Social Work co-requisite*
Junior Year		
<i>Admission to the Major</i>		
SOCW 3214	4	Human Behavior and the Social Environment
SOCW 3543	3	Human Rights & Social Work
SOCW 3143	3	Social Welfare Policies & Services
SOCW 3293	3	Social Work Practice with Individuals
Senior Year		
<i>Admission to the Practicum</i>		
SOCW 4023	3	Social Work Practice with Families and Groups
SOCW 4143	3	Social Research and Evaluation
SOCW 4113	3	Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities
SOCW 4205	5	Field Experience I: Spring
SOCW 4215	5	Field Experience II: Spring or Summer
SOCW Electives	9	SOCW or SOC Electives (9)
TOTAL	45	* Courses are co-requisite prior to admission to social work

Social work is a challenging and rewarding profession, one that is dedicated to the greater good in our society and for our clients. Social work is an art, a science, and a profession that helps people solve personal, group, family, and community problems.



Social Work
Instagram



Social Work
Facebook

Misty Stanberry, CWPEP Program Director
from The University of Oklahoma Anne &
Henry Zarrow School of Social Work,
presenting on the Child Welfare
Professional Enhancement Program for
social work majors.



CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CWPEP)

EXPERIENCE THE CHALLENGE OF CHILD WELFARE SOCIAL WORK

The Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program, (CWPEP) offers students the opportunity to make a commitment to serve Oklahoma families and children at risk of abuse and/or neglect. Applications are available to all undergraduate social work majors who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents of the U.S. This program is funded by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), Children and Family Services Division, through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Coordinated by the University of Oklahoma Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program is also available to other accredited undergraduate social work programs, including The University of Oklahoma, East Central University, Oral Roberts University, and Northwestern Oklahoma State University at Alva, Enid and Woodward. These BSW programs and the OU Graduate Program at both the Norman and Tulsa sites work jointly to provide an exciting opportunity for social work majors who desire a career in public child welfare. Each school awards stipends or pays tuition costs, certain fees and required textbooks up to the total amount of the stipend to a certain number of students each year.

CHILD WELFARE TRAINEESHIPS AT NWOSU

Awards Given: Up to 3 per year in the BSW program
(juniors and seniors)

Funding Base: Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

\$8,092 per year

Eligibility: Must be undergraduate social work student, junior level or above. Must demonstrate, through an application and a written essay, a career interest in the field of child welfare and the willingness to be contractually obligated to work for the OKDHS, Child Welfare, for a specified period of time upon completion of degree program. All applicants are required to have a criminal background check and a driving records check to be considered for the program. Applicants must be citizens of the United States or legal permanent residents of the U.S.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Students accepted into the program receive monthly stipends or payment is made for tuition, certain fees and required textbooks. Students sign legally binding contracts that require an employment obligation to OKDHS/CW of one calendar year for each academic year of financial assistance or to repay the money expended. Child Welfare employees approved for educational leave by OKDHS may apply to the CWPEP.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Students accepted into the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program are required to take child welfare-related classes, to attend the OKDHS CORE Training Program and to have field placements in OKDHS Child Welfare county offices. Upon completion of the Bachelors degree, social workers enter OKDHS employment as Child Welfare Specialists.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) offers Child Welfare career opportunities throughout the state of Oklahoma. OKDHS works actively to assist BSW and MSW graduates in finding employment. CWPEP is available to Native American tribal employees if the tribe has a Tribal-State Agreement with OKDHS. Tribal employees are required to work in the tribe's Indian Child Welfare program upon graduation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Kylene Rehder, LCSW
Professor of Social Work
Social Work Program Director &
CWPEP Coordinator
Jesse Dunn 308 Alva Campus
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kdrehder@nwosu.edu



**OKLAHOMA
Human Services**

For CWPEP application information,
go to our website:
www.nwosu.edu/school-of-arts-and-sciences/social-work



**Congratulations to James Fanning,
a senior NWOSU Department of Social Work major
from Enid, on being named the
2025-26 recipient of the
Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program
(CWPEP) Stipend**



CWPEP provides educational funding for students planning careers in child welfare services in Oklahoma.

Recipients complete internships with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and are assured employment upon graduation. "I am so grateful to have the opportunity to help society's most vulnerable populations,"

James said.

The social work program at Northwestern has graduated 25 CWPEP students, resulting in \$202,000 awarded in educational assistance to prepare quality social workers for Oklahoma's public child welfare system.



SOCIAL WORK SENIOR DAY!



Great day of networking,
shopping at NWOSU
Teacher's Closet, & getting
professional headshots.
New social workers are
coming soon!





Celebration of Social Work hosted by
The University of Oklahoma
Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work



Celebrating Dr. Rehder's 20 years of service Northwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Social Work

We proudly celebrate Dr. Kylene Rehder's remarkable 20-year journey of leadership, dedication, and impact in the field of social work. Since joining the faculty in 2005, Dr. Rehder has transformed the Social Work Program into a nationally recognized and accredited program, shaping the future of countless students and strengthening services across Oklahoma. She exemplifies excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement. Her visionary leadership, commitment to advocacy, and tireless efforts to advance the profession have left a profound and enduring mark on our institution and the communities we serve.





NWOSU Campus Cabinet

We are so proud of our Campus Cabinet student volunteers!
Alana Shotpouch, Isabella Burden,
and Sadie Glover

NWOSU Trunk or Treat



Alana Shotpouch , Isabella
Burden, Haylee Durrence,
& Kaydence Decker



Ranger Preview



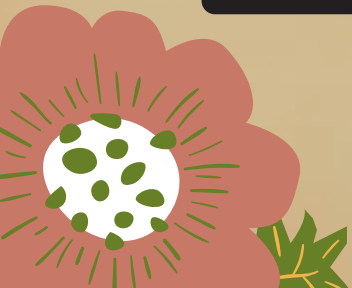
Haylee Durrence, Alana
Shotpouch, Isabella Burden, &
Professor Harding

Compassion in Action

Students in the Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) chapter successfully gathered and donated several personal hygiene products for the Youth and Family Services (Family Court) in Enid.



**YOUTH
& FAMILY
SERVICES**



Charlotte Kendrick, MSW
Program Director from The
University of Oklahoma
Anne & Henry Zarrow
School of Social Work,
discussing the Master's of
Social Work (MSW) degree
with seniors.



We are so grateful to social work
alumni for their continued
engagement in the BSW program.
Jennifer Pribble LCSW (BSW 2012)
teaches in the program and Korbin
Bowers, L.M.S.W., Clinical
Supervisor at Northwest Domestic
Crisis Services (BSW 2020) guest
presented.



Laney Anderson (BSW 2024),
bringing innovative collaboration
back to the social work program



Hunter McMillin
(BSW 2025),
mentoring the
Class of 2026



Board Members

The Social Work Program Advisory Board is comprised of social workers, practitioners, and leaders in our local communities that foster and support the continued development of social work education in the region. While members come from different communities, the committee is seen as one functional unit and focuses on the overall development of the program. The primary purpose of the board is to maintain active communication between the social work practice community and the program to ensure continued improvement. The Social Work Program Advisory Board addresses the following: student preparation to meet community and agency needs, expectations for students in field education, program assessment outcomes, input on educational policies, student recruitment and retention, job placement, research initiatives, and identifying agency needs that the social work program can address to contribute to community betterment.



Kevin Evans, Executive Director
Western Plains Youth and Family Services

Amy Whitson, MSW,
Child Welfare Deputy Director
Region I, Oklahoma Department of Human Services



Kailie Martin, BSW, MSW
Outpatient Therapist
Western Plains Youth and Family Services

James Marks, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director
Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers



Raquel Razien, BSW, MSW
Woodward County Care Portal
Community Coordinator

Isabella Burden, BSW Student
SWAT: Student Organization President
Northwestern Oklahoma State University

