

SPRING 2023

IMPACT

Serving generations, changing the world.



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. This newsletter is updated biyearly and includes the most recent news from the department of social work throughout all of our campuses. Here you will see our most recent projects, upcoming events, student spotlights and more! We would like to thank those whose efforts assist us in preparing competent, effective Northwest Oklahoma generalist practice social workers. We are so grateful to our field agency partners, field instructors, adjunct instructors, and Social Work Advisory Board Members for enhancing and improving social services in our region. We look forward to all the new developments in the department and are excited to see the benefits these developments bring to our social work students.

Social Work Breaks Barriers – Ride, Rangers, Ride!

The logo for "Social Work Breaks Barriers" features the words "SOCIAL WORK" in a bold, black, sans-serif font above the words "BREAKS BARRIERS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The latter is set against a dark blue rectangular background.

DR. KYLENE REHDER, LCSW
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DIGNITY DRIVE

Students in the Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) chapter at Northwestern Oklahoma State University recently completed their Compassion in Action Dignity Drive for the 2022 fall semester.

SWAT is a student-run organization that seeks to enhance the social work learning experience. One of SWAT's purposes is to employ community service projects while supporting community partners and their consumers. The Compassion in Action Dignity Drive is one of the community service projects SWAT students host to give back to the community.

This year SWAT was able to gather donations for the Taft Elementary School in Enid and Alva Middle School, filling some of their personal hygiene product needs. Donations included toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, feminine hygiene products and more. "The Dignity Drive was successful again this year," Codi Harding, SWAT sponsor and assistant professor of social work, said. "It has allowed SWAT to provide basic needs to children and adolescents in local communities who do not have access to everyday hygiene products. Generous donations made it possible to provide these products to those in need." SWAT members would like to thank everyone who assisted with putting this event together and those who were able to donate from all three Northwestern locations.

"Being able to help the communities we live in is huge," Bishop Buck, Roanoke, Virginia, senior and SWAT vice president, said. "Participating in this year's Dignity Drive was an exciting experience and a great way to give back to the community. We often forget about the need for personal hygiene products, and many people take them for granted. Not only was SWAT able to donate several personal hygiene items, but we were also able to spread awareness for this common need."

Northwestern's SWAT members and social work majors, with their hometowns, classification and SWAT involvement include McKenzie Cramer, Ashland, Kansas, sophomore, member; Allysa Donaldson, Elk City sophomore, member; Ashley Garner, Stillwater junior, president; Macy Howell, Attica, Kansas, sophomore, member; Kyra Hussey, Okeene sophomore, member; Amy Ireland, Seiling senior, member; Megan Lickliter, Ponca City senior, member; Jocelyn Long, Overland Park, Kansas, senior, member; Rachel Martin, Woodward sophomore, member; Bailey Pelland, Pratt, Kansas, junior, member; Krystan Pierce, Woodward sophomore, member; Chantal Rocha, Woodward senior, member; Sierra Swanson, Fairview senior, member; Mickenzie Turner, Enid sophomore, member; Mahawa Tyler, Alva sophomore, member; Melanie Yager, Woodward junior, member; and Buck. Access to basic self-care items is a challenge for some students in Oklahoma," Garner said. "Through the simple act of donating, Northwestern Rangers showed compassion in a BIG way giving local students an opportunity to overcome adversity with dignity."



Top Left: Bishop Buck, Jaci Heaton, Ashley Garner, and Codi Harding.

Bottom Left: Bishop Buck and Ashley Garner.

Top Right: Ashley Garner, Bishop Buck, Robert Kappus, Codi Harding.

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS



Social Work students attended the January board meeting of the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers. Pictured: Jim Marks, OSBLSW Executive Director; Dr. Rehder; Barbara McPherson, NWOSU BSW Alumni and OU MSW Student; Jocelyn Long, Social Work Senior; Bishop Buck, Social Work Senior; Sierra Swanson, Social Work Senior; and Codi Harding, Assistant Professor.

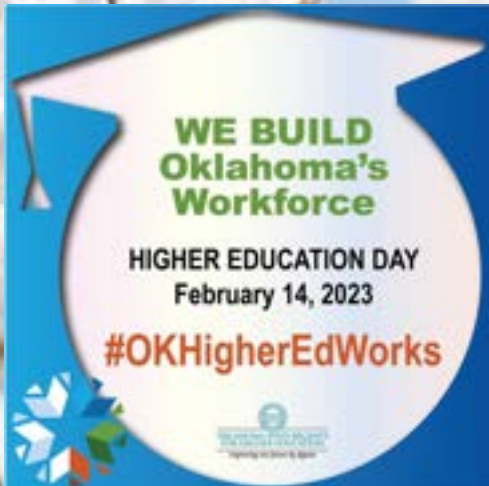


HIGHER EDUCATION DAY



For newsletter: Leadership students from Alva, Enid and Woodward had the opportunity to attend Oklahoma's Higher Ed Day at the Capitol this Spring. We were proud to be represented by Professor Harding and Giselle Minjares discussing the importance of higher education with our legislators.

#RRR #NWOSU #OKHigherEdWorks



BRAD HENRY INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR

Congratulations to April Schultz, social work major, who was selected as a Brad Henry International Scholar by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. She spent her spring 2023 semester studying at Swansea University in Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT LANEY ANDERSON

The Social Work program at Northwestern has been nothing short of remarkable in my personal experience. It is filled with professors who truly care about each individual student. The professors challenge and push you to be your best while guiding and supporting you through it. I love the connections made and relationships built with my fellow students in my social work classes. These friendships will be beneficial when we are in our careers and can contact one another for reference, resources, advice, or someone who understands what we are going through. I am grateful to be a part of this program!"



PRIMP FOR PROM

Nearly 250 dresses were given away to students from 18 high schools in three states during the ninth annual Primp for Prom event recently held in the Woodward High School Practice Gym.

This year more than 400 dresses and nearly 100 pairs of shoes were donated to the Northwestern Oklahoma State University department of social work that co-sponsors the event with Woodward High School. "Primp for Prom is an event that promotes human and community well-being and highlights the generous spirit of others," Dr. Kylene Rehder, department of social work chair, said. This event is something that Woodward High School looks forward to helping with each year. "It's always fun to see students have the prom dress shopping experience," said Primp for Prom co-director Stefanie Alexander, Woodward High School employee. "My favorite part of the event will always be seeing the look on the girls' faces when they find the perfect dress."

Chantal Rocha, a senior social work major from Woodward, had the opportunity to see what goes into setting up the event and the effort it takes to make it happen. "It was amazing to see how many students came by to try on dresses and ended up with their perfect dress and a smile on their faces," Rocha said. "It feels rewarding to see the students happy and that you have helped with something positive." Camryn Howard, a senior social work major from Woodward, has loved her volunteer experiences with Primp for Prom throughout the years. "Primp for Prom is an amazing opportunity for high school students in need of affordable prom attire," Howard said. "The energy throughout the entire event is so empowering, and I feel as though everyone leaves with not only a beautiful dress but with a boost in confidence."

Rehder expressed appreciation on behalf of the department of social work to those who helped with the event's success including her co-director, Stefanie Alexander; Woodward High School administration, students and staff; Northwestern-Woodward campus dean Dr. Jonathan Thomason; Woodward Leadership Advisory Board members; Posh Bridal and Prom of Oklahoma City; Northwestern social work student volunteers; Social Work alumni and professional social workers; Celebrations of Woodward; Carlie Gallegos of Forgan, and all the generous dress and accessory donors from across northwest Oklahoma. She noted a special thanks to the administration of Woodward High School for playing host to the event.

"Please understand this event is about more than dresses," Rehder said. "We see it as a means to embody our university and professional commitment to serve. This community event provides financial support to families, builds a sense of community, models service, and promotes positive self-images, confidence and empowerment to young people."



SPRING SHOWCASE

The Department of Social Work was proud to participate in the Spring 2023 Showcase. Pictured: Professor Harding, Sierra Swanson, Ashley Garner, Bishop Buck & Alyssa Ball



PRIMP FOR PROM NEWS

Primp for Prom received national attention from the National Association of Social Workers for breaking barriers in schools.

 **National Association of Social Workers**
31m · 

Happy [#SocialWorkMonth](#) from the NWOSU Department of Social Work, which continues to Break Barriers in schools. [#SocialWorkBreaksBarriers](#) [#SWMonth2023](#)

 **NWOSU Department of Social Work**
Posted by [Kylene Rehder](#)
3d · 

After 18 schools in 3 states & nearly 250 dresses later, [#primp4prom 2023](#) is a wrap! Thanks to everyone w... See more



Did you know?



86% of Americans are aware Social Workers work in social services and child welfare.

But only 46% of Americans know social workers are involved in advocacy and community organization

Source: Ipsos National Social Work Public Opinion Survey

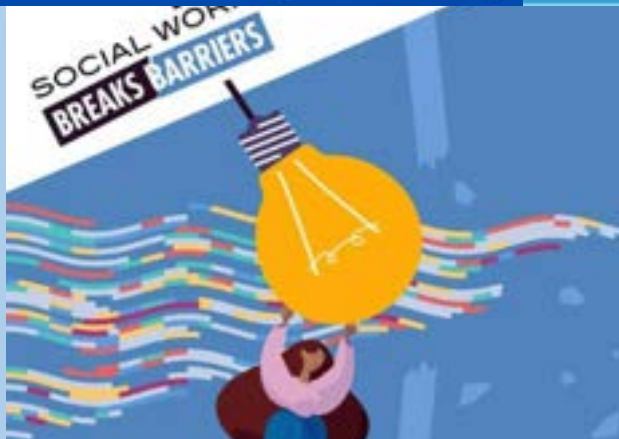


DID YOU KNOW?



**1 in 6 People Say
They've Been helped
by a social worker**

Source: Ipsos National Social Work Public Opinion Survey



Social workers empower individuals & communities, helping them fulfill their potential. And they help make our society a better place to live.



FAST FACTS ABOUT SOCIAL WORK

By 2031, the profession is expected to grow to about 772,100

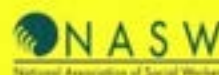
Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023



Fast Facts

More than half of people surveyed said social workers should be paid more than the BLS-reported median pay of \$50,390 a year.

Source: Ipsos National Social Work Public Opinion Survey



2023 RED TIE JAZZ EVENT



Leadership students from Alva, Enid and Woodward had the opportunity to attend Oklahoma's Higher Ed Day at the Capitol this Spring. We were proud to be represented by Professor Harding and Giselle Minjares discussing the importance of higher education with our legislators.

Speakers Vik Desai, Jennifer Pribble (NWOSU BSW) and Mario Perez (NWOSU BSW) each shared a special message with attendees at the 2023 Red Tie Jazz Event about the impact that higher education has made on their lives and the specific impact of the Woodward campus. We are so proud of Jennifer and Mario as they are excellent representatives of the social work program and the Woodward campus!



GUEST PRESENTATIONS

The Department of Social Work was honored to welcome the following professionals to our Child Abuse and Neglect class for an outstanding presentation. (Left to Right)- Michelle Baldwin, RN, Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (S.A.N.E.); Tashanna Armstrong, Forensic Interviewer, Victim Advocate, Multi-disciplinary Child Abuse Response Team (M.C.A.R.T.) member; Marcie Berry, Child Welfare Specialist II; Sheila McHenry, Forensic Interviewer, Victim Advocate, Casa Program Manager, Multi-disciplinary Child Abuse Response Team (M.C.A.R.T.) Coordinator, and Education Team.



Kailie Martin & Barbara McPherson presented to the senior class about continuing into the advanced standing Master's Program at the University of Oklahoma after obtaining their BSW degree from Northwestern.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS



Thank you Elizabeth Fox-Shipley, BSW, MSW, LCSW, Coordinator of the Woodward Outpatient Northwest Center for Behavioral Health for presenting to our senior practicum students.



Thank you Jim Marks, Executive Director of the Oklahoma State Licensure Board, for presenting to social work students & professionals.

Participants: April Schultz, Carolyn Reaves, Sierra Swanson, Amy Ireland, Laney Anderson, Bishop Buck, Samuel Felton, Camyrn Howard, Chantal Rocha, Jocelyn Long & Kailie Martin.



WOODEN CHILDREN PROJECT

Members of the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) have taken part in the "Wooden Children" project sponsored by The Care Campus. The "Wooden Children" project is designed to bring awareness to the number of child abuse cases that are investigated each year. In 2022, 249 confirmed cases of child abuse were reported in Garfield County, 50 fewer cases than were reported the previous year.

The Care Campus, previously known as The Garfield County Child Advocacy Council, has conducted the Wooden Children Program annually for more than a decade. Wooden children were also displayed in Blaine, Grant, Kingfisher and Woodward counties. About \$12,000 to \$13,000 is raised through the Wooden Child Project each year for The Care Campus.

"The Wooden Child Project's significance is to shine a light on child abuse and neglect in local communities of the number of children who are abused and/or neglected in the county," Dustin Albright, The Care Campus executive director, said. Each wooden figurine is approximately two to three feet high and was cut out by volunteers from the Garfield County community. Once the forms were cut out, volunteers painted on the faces and hair. Organizations, businesses, groups and individuals were asked to "foster" a wooden child for \$35. The group sponsoring the child dressed and displayed them. On April 7 the Wooden Children were taken to the courthouse lawn to be displayed for all of April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

This project not only creates awareness about the number of children who are abused but also helps The Care Campus fund the services that are provided to the child and family. In Oklahoma "every person" has a statutory obligation to report a suspected abuse of a child. To volunteer with The Care Campus or become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) call 580-242-1153.

"This project raises awareness that child abuse and neglect is happening in our communities," Codi Harding, SWAT sponsor and assistant professor of social work, said. "SWAT hopes this project will remind the community we must all help protect children. We also hope this project serves as a reminder to citizens that we are all mandated reporters in the state of Oklahoma."



DESERVING RANGER AWARD

Bishop Buck, a senior social work student at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, has been honored with this year's deSERVING Ranger Award from the Service-Learning and Civic Engagement (SL/CE) program.

Kaylyn Hansen, director of assessment and institutional effectiveness who also leads the service-learning and civic engagement program, said each spring the award recognizes an outstanding Northwestern student who demonstrates the following :

- Dedication to service and a sense of responsibility to the Northwestern service-learning and civic engagement vision
- Serves as a community service model for other students
- Exceptional leadership and organizational skills and
- Consistent work ethic and availability

The Vinton, Virginia, native has completed more than 100 service hours in volunteer opportunities. A few of these activities include her involvement with the Compassion in Action Dignity Drive, Thanksgiving-themed food drive for the Campus Cabinet, Primp for Prom, Child Abuse Prevention Month initiatives, Baseball and Apple Pie event with the Northwestern Foundation and Alumni Association, Warmth for Winter Coat Drive, Homecoming Ranger Run and others.

Buck said she has always known that she was meant to help and serve others. She said her involvement with the Northwestern Social Work Department, J.R. Holder Wellness Center and Northwest Family Services in Alva have allowed her to pursue her dreams. Buck said she loves being able to serve others because it is the best way to learn. "You see new perspectives and are pushed outside your comfort zone, but that is when you grow the most as a person," Buck said. "Any opportunity that is presented to me, I do my best to take advantage of it because I want to grow and help anyone I possibly can."

Buck serves as the vice president of the Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) and through this club, she takes the most pride in their Dignity Drive. This year the group collected personal hygiene items and delivered them to Taft Elementary School in Enid and Alva Middle School. Buck said she understands that not every family can afford these items, and the group wanted to make sure these items were accessible for these students.

"Bishop embodies 'service' and elevates service to others above self-interest on a daily basis," Dr. Kylene Rehder, professor of social work and chair of the Department of Social Work, said. "She volunteers her time to help anyone in need and is the bright spot to all of her fellow students and community members who pass through the wellness center."

Buck also served as a peer leader for a fall 2022 Ranger Connection class and said the experience taught her more than she ever expected. "Forming relationships with the freshmen provided me with so much gratitude," Buck said.

Buck said working at the J.R. Holder Wellness Center has been a positive experience getting to meet the community members of Alva along with Northwestern employees and students.

"Bishop is an outstanding young woman who exemplifies selflessness and service," Olivia Yandel, J. R. Holder Wellness Center director, said. "She has done a tremendous amount of work assisting with various community service events, several of which she held a leadership position in making sure that the event ran smoothly and was successful."

The deSERVING Ranger Award is awarded once a year to a qualified Northwestern student who is nominated by a Northwestern faculty or staff member. The award started in 2015 and has been awarded to students from a variety of majors.

Buck said she knows how important it can be to have someone be consistent and reliable in life, and that is what she wants to be to others around her. "I believe strongly in the importance of human relationships," Buck said. "Everyone deserves to feel like they belong and are valued. I keep this at the forefront of my mind in all my interactions."



OUTSTANDING SENIOR

Congratulations Camryn Howard for being named one of Northwestern Oklahoma State University's 2023 Outstanding Seniors. This award is sponsored by the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association and the Student Government Association to honor outstanding graduating seniors. Recipients must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, have completed at least 60 credit hours at Northwestern, never been subject to academic or disciplinary action, be involved in campus and/or community activities and show promise of future achievement.

Camryn Howard, a native of Woodward, Okla., will graduate summa cum laude in May with a bachelor's degree in social work. She is completing 420 hours of social work practicum experience at Western Plains Youth and Family Services. Howard was on the President's Honor Roll and was a Red and Black Scroll Honor Society member. She is a Highland Park Elementary School mentor. Howard is a Woodward Leadership Advisory board member, a Woodward Area Coalition member, a National Association of Social Workers member and an Oklahoma Association of Infant Mental Health member.



Liberty Bird



Emilie Brown



Landry Gaddy



Jordan Green



Kylee Harzman



Caitlin Hofen



Camryn Howard



Allison Huffmaster



Josey Myers



Paige Robinette



Gracie Scarbrough



**2023
Outstanding
Seniors**



CELEBRATING SOCIAL WORK MONTH

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work helped celebrate this year's Social Work Month in March with the theme "Social Work Breaks Barriers" to highlight how social workers have enriched our society by empowering people and communities to overcome hurdles that prevent them from living life to the fullest.

The annual Social Work Month campaign is a time to inform the public, policymakers, and legislators about how social workers have always broken barriers when it comes to the services they provide in an array of sectors, including hospitals and mental health centers, federal, state and local government, schools, community centers, and social service agencies. People become social workers because they have a strong desire to help others and make society a better place.

Social work is one of the fastest-growing professions in the United States, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). More than 700,000 professional social workers are hard at work nationwide, but that number is expected to rise to more than 800,000 by 2030, BLS said. The theme "Social Work Breaks Barriers" resonates because social workers are on the frontlines helping individuals overcome a myriad of challenges, including economic inequality, reproductive rights, racism, and natural disasters worsened by global warming. Social workers nationwide entered the profession because they have a strong desire to assist those in need and make communities, the nation, and the world a better place for all.

"Each day social workers break barriers in a plethora of innovative ways that help millions of Americans live their best lives," said Dr. Kylene Rehder, professor of social work and chair of the department of social work. "During Social Work Month, we urge you to educate yourselves about this amazing profession, thank social workers, and help support the profession."

For generations, social workers have broken barriers to help people live better lives, and they continue to break barriers by empowering people in tough situations. The profession can trace a large part of its origins to Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Star, who in 1889 opened Hull House in Chicago to provide social services to the area, which had a large immigrant population.

Social workers have helped drive significant, positive changes. For example, Frances Perkins, the first female Labor Secretary during the Great Depression, and others helped secure benefits still used today, such as the 40-hour work week, minimum wage, and Social Security benefits. Chances are throughout one's lifetime, a family member or a friend have been helped by a social worker.

These helping professionals work everywhere including hospitals, mental health care facilities, child welfare agencies, schools, veteran centers, and in local, state and federal government. Many are in Congress or state or local government, who work to ensure the government uplifts the most vulnerable in society.

Social workers were at the forefront of the global Covid-19 pandemic. When most were quarantined at home, social workers were out in their communities—making sure children and at-risk youth were attending classes over Zoom, providing food and other resources to the elderly, helping those with substance-use disorder get the help they needed to stay sober, and helping many people stay connected to loved ones quarantined in nursing homes or at hospitals.

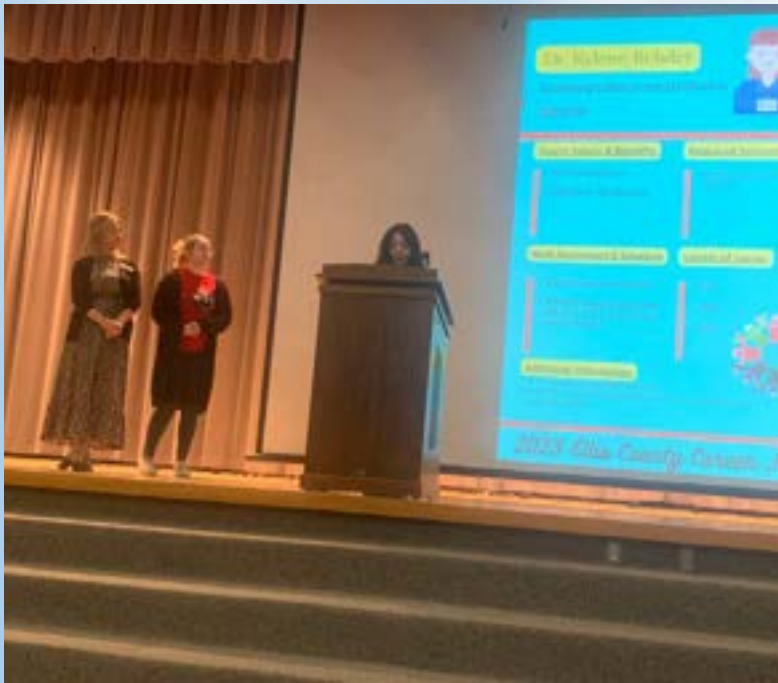
Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work is helping celebrate this year's Social Work Month in March with the theme "Social Work Breaks Barriers." (Left to right) Dr. Kylene Rehder, Mattie Gore, Kyra Hussey, Jenna Maier, Bishop Buck, Charmayne Marshall, Harlie Altland, Laney Anderson, Samuel Felton and Allysa Donaldson.





ELLIS COUNTY CAREER FAIR

Dr. Rehder, Camryn Howard & Chantal Rocha presenting at the Ellis county career fair about the benefits of a social work career.



VIRTUAL REALITY

Thanks to the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association Executive Committee for visiting the Social Work Virtual Reality Lab and Resource Room.



OUTSTANDING GRADUATE

Congratulations to Kevin Evans on being named one of Northwestern's Outstanding Graduates. We are so grateful to have him serve as a social work advisory board member.

Kevin Evans, Humanitarian Category
Woodward, OK
1982; Speech

Kevin Evans has impacted the lives of thousands of young people as the Executive Director of Western Plains Youth & Family Services, Woodward, Okla., for 28 years. The non-profit, with 60 employees, serves children from one day old to 17 years in seven counties at no cost to families. The organization has seen dramatic, positive growth under Evans' leadership.

Serving the community is key for Evans. He is a member of the finance committee of the Potts Family Foundation, sits on the Non-Profit Advisory Council established by Governor Stitt, is active in the Woodward Chamber of Commerce and is an avid speaker for local groups.

The Visions Award from the Oklahoma Center for Non-Profits and the Rural Health Association of Oklahoma Rural Health Leader of the Year are two notable achievements of this Northwestern graduate who continues giving back to countless Oklahoma families. Evans lives with his wife, Traci, in Woodward.





DID YOU KNOW?

80% of Americans have a favorable opinion of social workers?

Source: Ipsos National Social Work Public Opinion Survey

**SOCIAL WORK
BREAKS BARRIERS**



Did you know?

81% of Americans who interacted with a social worker say a member of the profession improved their situation or that of a family member

Source: Ipsos National Social Work Public Opinion Survey



Did you know?



84% of Americans would support Congress passing legislation that would provide agencies where social workers work with grants to help improve safety

Source: Ipsos National Social Work Public Opinion Survey



DID YOU KNOW?

**SOCIAL WORK
BREAKS BARRIERS**



Social Work is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States?



About 708,000 people work as social workers.



Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023

Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD)

Northwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Social Work students and faculty joined social work students and practitioners from across the state this month at the Oklahoma Capitol for the 2023 National Association of Social Workers, Oklahoma Chapter (NASW-OK) Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD).

Social work students and faculty from Oral Roberts University, East Central University, and the Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work from The University of Oklahoma were also in attendance to learn about current legislation impacting the profession of social work and the populations they serve.

The day started with a welcome message from NASW-OK Board President Stacey Blaylock and concluded with meetings with legislators.

"Legislative Education and Advocacy Day provides an opportunity for participation in public policy issues and social justice advocacy, both key components of social work education and practice," Dr. Kylene Rehder, professor of social work and chair of the department of social work, said.

Rehder said participating in LEAD provides an opportunity for social work students to engage in macro-level social work and learn effective ways to advocate for populations; as well as allowing students to understand how to access public policy and interact with their legislators.





NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's social work faculty recently participated in national conferences to highlight the department's importance on professional growth and innovation.

Dr. Kylene Rehder, chair of the department of social work, presented, "Will you go to Prom with me? A Service Learning Project," in a social work in action session at the National Technology and Social Sciences Conference in Las Vegas. Her presentation focused on service learning research and the implementation of the program's community-based project called Primp for Prom.

"I'm grateful for an administration that understands the importance of qualified and well-informed faculty that can represent diverse perspectives essential for developing professional social workers," Rehder said. "Conference participation promotes an educational environment that emulates the knowledge, values and skills expected in the profession."

Codi Harding, assistant professor of social work and director of field education, attended the 40th annual Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

"I was able to collaborate with other great directors of field education and have plans on working with them on some exciting projects," Harding said. "I came away with an abundance of ideas to integrate into our program."



Northwestern Oklahoma State University social work department chair, Dr. Kylene Rehder presented at the National Technology and Social Sciences Conference in Las Vegas.



(Left) Codi Harding and Dr. Mit Joyner, DPS, LCSW, President of National Association of Social Workers (NASW), enjoy the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

CONGRATULATIONS SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES



BISHOP BUCK



CAMRYN HOWARD



AMY IRELAND



JOCELYN LONG



SIERRA SWANSON



JADYN
CHRISTIENSEN



CAROLYN REAVES



CHANTAL ROCHA



ADVISORY 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



Ashley Garner, SWAT President
Northwestern Oklahoma State University



Pamela Bookout, MSW, LCSW, Integrated Health
Specialist
Great Salt Plains Health Center, Inc.

Nancy Prigmore, MSW, JD Manager
Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma



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



Raquel Razien, Former State Director
of Community and Prevention Services
United Methodist Circle of Care



Tricia Mitchell, Executive Director
4RKids Foundation