

FROM LEAD & ZINC TO

*Blue & Gold*

1919-2019  
NEO  
& M

NEO

CENTENNIAL

THE RENAISSANCE OF  
*Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College*  
VOLUME IV: 2008-2019





*This history is dedicated to  
all Golden Norsemen  
past, present, and future.*

**“Once A  
Norseman  
Always a  
Norseman.”**





For 100 years NEO A&M College has been committed to the pursuit of excellence in education for the students of northeastern Oklahoma. Along the way we have evolved, beginning as a school of mines dedicated to the training of workers, into a regional junior college, before advancing to become a key division of Oklahoma's state-wide system of agricultural and mechanical college. Throughout our growth we have maintained a commitment to producing well-educated, highly trained graduates, who are ready to make a difference in the world.

In addition to teaching, we've also learned a few things. The idea that the ultimate measure of our success lies with our students helps guide the administrators, faculty, and staff at NEO to meet the challenges and opportunities Oklahoma faces in the 21st century. We've learned to embrace our unique position as the only two-year college in Oklahoma affording students the chance to experience university life without compromises in class size, personal connection, departmental programming, or campus life. Finally, we know that as we help students create their futures, we must also initiate them into NEO's Golden Norse Tradition, a legacy that sustains the honor, integrity, and character of our graduates for a lifetime.

As we embark on our centennial celebration, I am honored to be the fifteenth President of NEO A&M College, and I feel a special responsibility to share my pride in NEO's history and my excitement about the college's future. As you explore this fourth volume of NEO's history, *From Lead & Zinc to Blue & Gold: The Renaissance of NEO A&M College*, please join me in celebrating everything it means to be a Norseman.

Jeffery L. Hale  
President, NEO A&M College





The End  
of an  
Era



In June 1997, Dr. Jerry Carroll stepped down from his position as thirteenth President of NEO A&M College, and was replaced by the interim appointment of Dr. James F. Lovell through the fall semester. In October 2009, the garden entrance to the Library Administration Building was named in honor of Dr. Jerry Carrol and his wife Jan. The dedication ceremony was describe by Dr. Carroll as the "highest honor of his professional career."



# FOCUS ON THE New Millennium

Determined to meet the needs of potential students, NEO opened education centers in both Grove and Vinita, Oklahoma and forged alliances with business, industries and government agencies across northeast Oklahoma to provide educational opportunities and enhance the local workforce. As a bonus, the new educational centers helped the college stay in touch

with alumni for special events, reunions, and support of the NEO Foundation.

In June 1997, five-hundred thousand dollars in funding was approved by the Oklahoma State Legislature to build a formal NEO satellite campus in Grove, OK on 35 acres of annexed land. The Grove Higher Education Center continues to offer classes in Deleware Co. today.



In January 1998, Dr. Glenn E. Mayle began his tenure as President. Dr. Mayle's 10-year tenure was characterized by an academic reorganization of the college and a shift in "focus on the new millennium" to keep pace with advances in technology while maintaining the traditional on-campus environment. Dr. Mayle retired from NEO A&M College in 2008 and retired to Arizona with his wife Ethel.





The Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges highlighted the value of the college to the regional economy with an article demonstrating the financial impact and power of college students as consumers for businesses and the college as a major employer in northeast Oklahoma. The article, "NEO Responsible for Boosting Local Economy" covered a study conducted by the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) club, sponsored by the NEO Business Division, giving NEO credit for more than \$2 million per year in contributions to the economy.







In less encouraging news, fire, hail and ice brought heartbreak to the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College campus: Starting with renovations to the original "Old Gym," NEO's historic HPER building burned to the ground when sparks from a welding torch started a fire that gutted the second-oldest building on campus. Later, freak hail and winter ice storms damaged rooftops and beautiful trees across campus.





Historic levels of flooding in July 2007 left the college reeling as the rain-swollen Neosho River crested at a record 29.25 feet, causing millions of dollars in flood damage and forcing students to evacuate from campus housing and classroom buildings.

Across Miami, more than 600 homes and 30 businesses were flooded, and almost 2000 citizens displaced. All roads with the exception of the Will Rogers Turnpike and US 69 were unnavigable.

After the skies cleared and the NEO campus dried out, the college was forced to bulldoze most campus apartments, the college art department on Central Avenue, and begin extensive renovations to the Health Science building and college gymnasium.







RED ROBERTSON FIELD

WARDOGS

NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M COLLEGE

NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M COLLEGE

WARRIORS



inside



Thomas..... 3 Arts..... 4 Baseball..... 6

A student newspaper serving the Northeastern A&M community

# Norse Wind

Vol. 38, No. 24  
Friday, March 16, 1984  
Northeastern A&M College  
Miami, OK 74354

## Annual talent show features

Ruth Virtue

"Thriller" will be the theme for the 13th annual talent show to be presented Thursday, March 22, at 8 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium.

The show will consist of a variety of entertainment, from song and dance to dramatic interpretations. Admission will be 50 cents for students and \$1 for adults.

Acts, ranging from one person to 13, will be judged in six areas. Creativeness, interpretation, poise, quality of production, and stage presence will all be given an equal amount of points, totaling 100 points.

Prizes for the talent show have been provided by the student senate, who is sponsoring the event. They will include first, second and third place plaques, as well as cash prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25, respectively.

"A specialty award will be given to the fourth place group or the group presenting a unique type of talent," stated Kathy Brewington, student activities director. "Talent that will be presented at the talent show was screened through auditions, basically the same way they will be judged at the talent show," Brewington stated.

Judges at the auditions were Mary Susan Whaley, vocal and piano instructor; Bill Hobbins, music instructor; Shiri White, communications chairman; Tim Noble, Seneca, Mo. sophomore; Dan Schmidt, Sapulpa sophomore and Latonya Clayton, Miami freshman.

The opening number of the talent show will be a dance to "Thriller". Performing will be Ernest Givens, St. Petersburg, Fla. sophomore; Louise Hudson, Delhart, Texas

sophomore; Tonya Pettie, Tulsa freshman; Valerie Hawkins, Indianapolis, Ind. special student; Schwanna McIntosh, Tulsa freshman; Wade Wellar, Tulsa freshman; Alvin Marshall, Tulsa sophomore; Rod Gillespie, Tulsa sophomore; Thomas Troutman, Flint, Mich. sophomore; Ronda Fitzpatrick, Tulsa freshman; Kim Watson, Cincinnati, Ohio freshman; Angela Hill, Sallisaw freshman. Eileen Givens, St. Petersburg, Fla. freshman will be accompanying the group.

The second largest group performing will be the Tim Ingram Band. The band is made up of six members and will perform "So Tired of Runnin'". Members are Tim Ingram, Miami sophomore; Tony Armstrong, Nowata sophomore; David Mustain, Miami sophomore; Jayne Olds, Tulsa sophomore; Dale McFerron, Miami freshman and Terry

Jones, Tulsa freshman.

"Tonight, I Celebrate", will be performed by Brian Smith, Commerce freshman and Trends Martin, Vinita sophomore. They and many of the other competitors will be accompanied by Ann Booth of Miami.

A trio made up of Charles Johnson, Tulsa freshman; Fred Moses, Perty sophomore and Harde Ennis, Tulsa freshman will perform to "Dreamboys Rapdance".

Soloists in the show consist of Kelly McCaw, Excelsior, Minn., singing "Born Too Late"; Cindy Powell, Altton sophomore, will be accompanied in a performance of "Papa, Can You Hear Me".

In a jazzy performance, Missy Dill, Columbus, Kan. freshman, will perform an original dance to "All That Jazz". Dill will be accompanied by Paul Thomas, Picher a sophomore.

## Judging team strengthens claim

Lisa Williams

NEO's Livestock Judging Team strengthened their claim to National Champion after the competitions Friday, March 2 in Houston, Tx, and Tuesday, March 6 in Wichita, Ks. At the Kansas Beef Exposition, NEO entered two teams and placed first and second. Eleven schools entered but our second place team was disqualified because a school may enter only one team. Colby Community College was then moved up from third to second. Six of the top eight individuals at Wichita were from our teams. Tom Sturgeon, Hennessey sophomore, placed high individual with 855 points.

Kevin Turner, Miami freshman, placed second with 851 points and Lake Wilson, Crevecent freshman, placed third with 844 points. Mark Johnson, Deerfield, Mo. sophomore, placed fifth with 842 points and Greg Griswold, Miami freshman, placed seventh with 839 points. Randy Hodge, Perty sophomore, placed eighth and had 838 points. A total of 900 points were possible.

"It should be mentioned that the judging teams paid their own motel bill and expenses to Wichita to represent NEO," said Jary Douglas, coach.

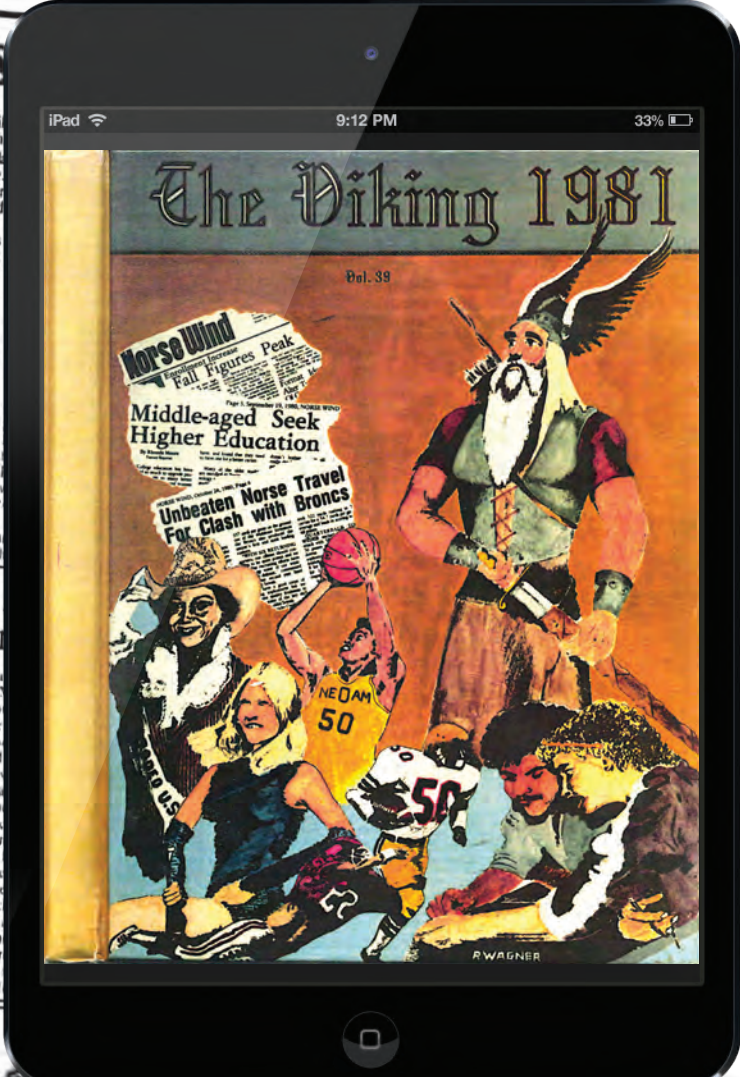
The team also captured Champion Team in Houston. The team placed third overall

in swine, fourth in sheep, fifth in cattle and sixth in horses. Thirty-one schools were competing and 155 individuals. Luke Wilson, Crevecent freshman, placed third high individual and high individual in swine. He had a total of 914 points. Kent Reading, Claremore freshman, placed fifth overall and fourth in sheep with a total of 905 points. DeRon Heldermon, Hinton freshman, placed ninth overall and had 899 points and Mick Sharp, Waynoka sophomore, placed nineteenth with 870 points. A total of 1,000 points was possible. Black Hawk East College from Peoria, Ill. was the second place team.

## Guest artist, performs piano

Aldo Mancinelli, guest artist of the NEO Music Department, will be performing a piano concert in the Fine Arts auditorium, Sunday, March 18, at 4 p.m.

Mancinelli, the first American-born pianist to win the "Ferruccio Busoni" International Piano Competition is a graduate of the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome, where he studied with Carlo Zecchi. An artist pupil of Rudolf Firkusny and Claudio Arrau, he has performed with great success throughout Europe, North Africa, the Middle



## Media

Despite capturing top honors in state media competitions, including receiving awards for news writing, news and feature photography, sports editing, and individual feature writing, *The Viking Yearbook* and *Norse Wind* weekly newspaper published their last issues in 2002 and 2007, respectively. Thanks to alumni interest and support, all of NEO's collected yearbooks and newspapers have been digitally preserved and made accessible online.

## Collage Dance-A-Thon scheduled

Inter-dorm council and collects the...





In March 2007, the NEO Mission Statement was updated at the suggestion of the faculty committee to read, "Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College is dedicated to providing opportunities that promote excellence in learning, service and leadership in a global society."

The college's 2007 North Central Association site visit resulted in the recommendation that NEO receive continued accreditation for 10 years, with suggestions for improving strategic planning to be utilized in the improvement of the college. The 2017 accreditation visit was also a success, and NEO A&M College continues to provide educational opportunities to students with programs and activities approved by the U.S. Department of Education.







January 15, 2009 was Dr. Jeff Hale's first day as the fifteenth president of NEO A&M College. With a galvanizing focus, Dr. Hale began a renaissance of the Golden Norse Tradition – beginning with the rally of NEO alumni and community supporters into the

NEO President's Partners who provided funds to support nearly every activity on campus, including program development, study abroad opportunities, facility improvements, a distinguished lecture series, and campus beautification.



EMPOWERING STUDENTS TODAY  
FOR SUCCESS TOMORROW



THE CENTER FOR ACADEMIC  
SUCCESS AND ADVISING

- Academic Advising
- Transfer Guidance
- American Indian Center for Excellence
- Testing Services
- Career Resources

LOCATED IN THE BASEMENT OF THE LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1919 - 2019







## President's Partners | Projects (2009-2019)

Dedication of Carter House  
The Dr. Jerry and Jan Carroll Presidential Garden  
NEO Study Abroad Program  
Top Ten Freshmen Scholarship Program  
SBG Scholarship Program  
NEO Textbook Bank  
Distinguished Lecture Series  
Presidential Portrait Gallery  
Norse Pride Employee Award  
NEO Honors Gallery  
Signage for Homa Thomas Baseball Field  
Campus beautification  
Competition and conference travel grants  
Cunningham Hall Portrait Gallery & Dedication  
Peggy's Closet Grant  
State-of-the-art iMac computer lab  
GHEC technology improvements  
Wrestling team tournament travel and gear  
Support for the NEO Band  
Athletic photos in the Calcagno Ballroom  
Popcorn maker for the NEO Recruitment Office  
Campus Nurse emergency supply closet  
Oklahoma Facilities Energy Conservation Program  
Commencement ceremony cameras and equipment  
Peoria Tribe partnership with University of Illinois



NEO Backdrop for High School recruitment fairs  
NEO Faculty and Staff attendance at Miami's Employee Extravaganza  
Roger Fent Scholarship fund  
NEO Rodeo team tournament expenses  
NEO Volleyball team t-shirts  
Campus beautification and pride banners  
Miss Indian NEO scholarship  
NEO Wrestling score clocks  
NEO Activity Center recreation room updates  
Summer 2015 Faculty Wishlist  
Agriculture Department Student Lounge  
GHEC Leadership Class lunch  
Maintenance Department sweatshirts  
Broadway Cabaret "A Taste of Broadway"  
Lady Norse Softball gear and travel  
ACT Prep Courses  
Angel Tree gifts  
\$4000 to NEO13 News for equipment  
Tribal Flag Plaza  
Criminal Justice Job Fair  
MLT Pinning Ceremony and Reception  
Partner w PVA to fund four scholarships  
Technology for athletics department  
NEO Gear for WRMS "College Days"  
"Keeping NEO Beautiful" luncheon  
NEO Leadership Hall  
Campus Department of Public Safety  
Published NEO History volumes

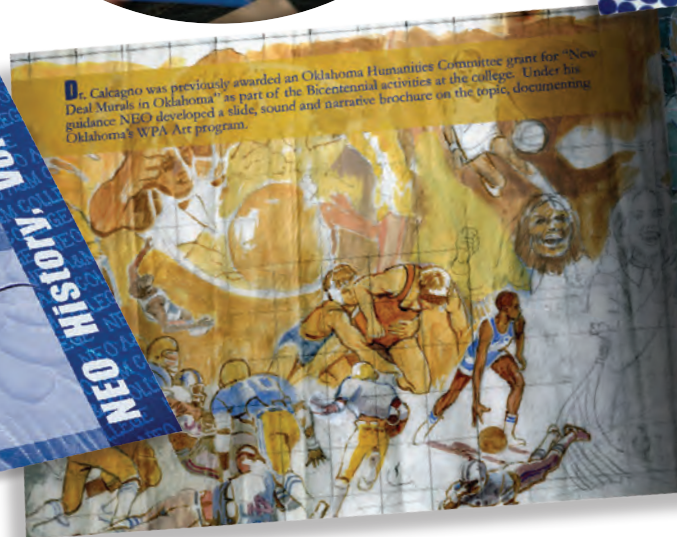


# Archive



The creation of the NEO college archive began with two file boxes of photographs, newspaper clippings, published documentation, and assorted memorabilia collected by academic librarian Alberta Hutchings, who preserved and organized the materials until the assemblage outgrew her file cabinets.

Today the official college archive room, located in the rear of the Dayle Creech Library, is home to an entire living history of the college, including personal recollections of retired faculty members, Junior Rose Bowl game film, preserved Norse Star uniforms, original artwork, and a quilt, to name just a few items in the collection.







In 2009, NEO celebrated the college's 90th birthday with the initiation of Founder's Day to honor the individuals who contributed to the establishment of the college and championed it for nine decades. NEO established the James Mabon Award to honor the pioneering efforts of Senator James Mabon by inviting faculty, staff, and students to submit proposals for projects that perpetuate Mabon's efforts to build and improve the college.

Winning projects have included The NEO Recruitment Office student waiting area, the Agriculture Department lounge and multi-purpose arena, a remodel of the Theatre NEO Green Room, English/Reading Lab renovation, the Library-Administration building entrance ramp beautification, and creation of a mural depicting 100 years of NEO history.







Among the enduring legacies of Dr. Hale's tenure at NEO will be the restoration and revitalization of the NEO campus – including enhanced







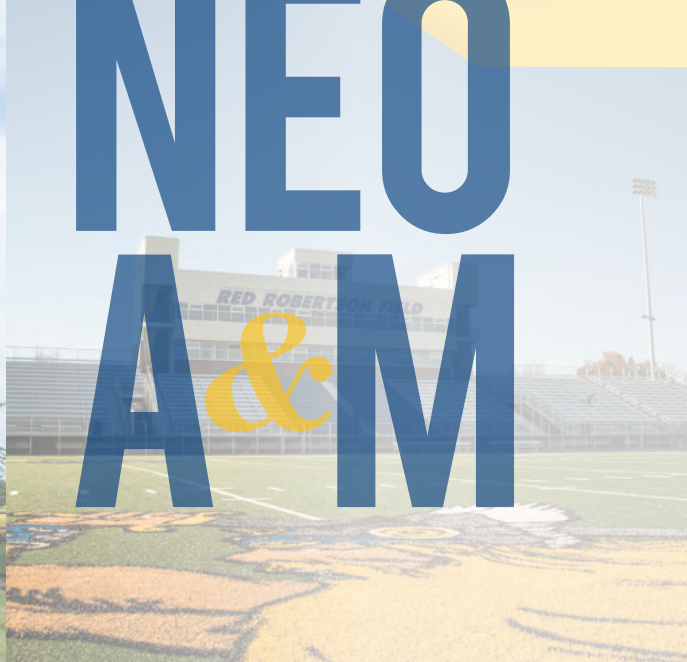
YEARS

♦ *of* ♦

NEO  
A&M



student housing, upgraded classroom buildings, expanded athletic training areas, improved agriculture facilities and campus beautification.







One of the hallmarks of the NEO A&M College experience is the extraordinary dedication of instructors who answered the professional call to service in the Oklahoma higher education system at NEO. These educators consistently demonstrate the college's dedication to students in the classroom and give real meaning to NEO's commitment to excellence in education.



Equally dedicated to maintaining NEO's reputation for hard work and outstanding service are the members of the college staff who work in partnership with instructors to make NEO a great place to learn and live. Exceptional NEO employees are often recognized with awards as they valiantly "Row the Norse Ship" year in and out in the offices and non-academic departments of the college.



A key component of the NEO formula for excellence in education is the commitment of NEO's administrators to invest in NEO's future, starting with rewards for hard-work and innovation and support for new program ideas. For ten years Dr. Hale has consistently recognized faculty and staff members and supported pilot programs that aim to make NEO one of the best junior colleges in the nation.







Even as faculty and staff members work to make NEO A&M College a great place to pursue educational goals, the administrators, faculty and staff also recognize the importance of preserving both our legacy and our environment. NEO's Best Energy Practices program rewards employees who make an effort to use college resources efficiently and do their part to protect the planet.



NEO's first priority is to educate students and prepare them for the workplace, but sometimes students need additional help as they pursue their goals. To that end, Peggy's Closet and the NEO Food Pantry provide students the extras they need to make a success of their efforts at NEO. Both business attire for interviews and extra food, allow our students to focus on education and get the most from their time at NEO.



The NEO Athletic Department's "Think Pink" games are a welcome opportunity to show NEO's commitment to support and care for Golden Norsemen (including alumni, retirees, current students, and members of our community) facing a battle with cancer. Fund-raisers, get-well visits, and the hair-raising cheers of the Golden Norsemen family are just one way this college demonstrates "What it means to be a Norseman."





# Academics



Highly regarded as an institution that has stood the test of time, today NEO offers students more than fifty academic programs, ranging from certification courses to associate degree programs, within five academic departments.

Nearly 3,000 students enroll in NEO classes each fall, with students from 62 Oklahoma counties, 35 states, and 15 countries outside the United States.

NEO is justifiably proud of our reputation for student success – a great deal of that achievement attributable to NEO's three federally funded TRIO programs on campus, whose aim is to provide educational opportunities to students so they may grow academically, personally, and culturally.







NEO's Upward Bound program first opened their doors in 1999, and recently joined the national program celebration of fifty years of assisting high school students who are low income and/or first-generation, as they prepare for college.

The college's Allied Jobs program is designed to open doors of opportunity for participants seeking a path to employment, including preparation in computer applications, written communication, customer service, and job readiness.

NEO's Student Support Services program is designed to enhance the success of undergraduates who are first-generation college students, disabled, or from a low-income bracket. Student Support Services provides these students with one-on-one tutoring, a designated computer lab and study area, academic advisement, career guidance, transfer and counseling services and college visits, workshops on study skills and cultural and educational events, and community service opportunities. The goals are to increase graduation rates and to prepare students for success at a four-year university.







At Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College the measure of our success lies in the success of our students – a goal prioritized with the creation and maintenance of programs designed to help students make the most of their time at NEO and recognize outstanding achievement.

Operating in close proximity to other campus intake offices, the college's Center for Academic Success and Advising (CASA)

provides students with advisors, computerized testing, and flexible learning/working spaces. CASA supports the academic and personal development of students, helping them to explore degree options, to make purposeful decisions, and to understand the importance of general education and program-specific courses as they relate to the achievement of students' personal goals.







Top 10 Freshmen are recognized each year by NEO's President's Partners and the Center for Academic Success and Advising (CASA) for their outstanding accomplishments in both the classroom and community.

The college International Student Program is comprised of young people from around the world who enrich the culture and community of NEO, creating lasting friendships and opening doors around the globe.

The Honors Program provides students the opportunity to develop their academic mettle alongside other high-performing students studying advanced coursework and engaging in civic opportunities geared toward motivated and skilled students preparing to be leaders.





look back—  
I made  
painting—is  
observation  
and places.”  
Charles Banks Wilson



## The Arts |

Following the largest gift in the history of the college from the Charles Banks Wilson Trust, the Charles Banks Wilson Art and Cultural Education Center has become the cultural heart of the NEO campus and a tribute to the accomplishments of NEO's first Art Department director. To honor his contributions to NEO, the gallery was dedicated in August 2013 and features a permanent display of Wilson's work, a gallery space for traveling exhibits, community and student shows, as well as classes, an art academy and summer camps,





NEO's enduring commitment to theatre, music, and the arts continues to be an important part of the college's 21st century educational and cultural focus. While state funding to higher education continues to be a challenge, NEO's rich legacy of artists and instructors who have shared their gifts with the students of NEO both sustains and inspires students to find their place in the rich tapestry of artistic endeavor. Thanks to support from the Oklahoma

State Regents, alumni and donor support, and community partnership, the NEO academic year is colored with artistic events, including the President's Distinguished Lecture series, the Fine Arts Hall of Fame inductions, summer art camps, and partnership with the Miami Little Theater.







100  
YEARS  
of  
NEO  
&M



In January 2012, NEO broke ground on the renovation of Kah-Ne-You-Ah Hall, a 3-million-dollar project in partnership with Miami's local tribes, to enhance native student success and preserve the strong American Indian heritage of the region. The renovated building became home to the college's Title III Grant project, an American Indian Center for Excellence (to provide advising, mentoring, career aptitude assessment, and professional portfolio development to students), the Charles Banks Wilson Art and Cultural Education Center, NEO's Child Development Lab, and NEO's Art Department.





The Native American Student Association on NEO's campus is committed to creating opportunities for both native and non-native students, including academic support, social engagement, and service opportunities including tutoring and study sessions, the Native Scholars Day of Service, and the Miss Indian NEO Pageant.





# Agriculture |

The Agriculture Department at NEO A&M College is dedicated to the education and growth of students and committed to delivering high-quality academic programs that will prepare students for careers in animal science, agricultural education, plant and soil science, as well as agriculture communication, economics and business. In order to promote leadership, professional growth and career success, the NEO Ag Department partners with local industry, Oklahoma state agencies, and members of the regional agriculture community to promote hands-on learning and student understanding of grassland management, natural resource conservation, crop and cattle production, and wildland fire management. Most recently, NEO has leased 1600 acres of land in the Neosho River Bottom in educational partnership with GRDA, broken ground on a new animal science teaching lab, and begun wheat field research to give students valuable experience in scientific discovery and natural resource preservation.





NEO's first-rate farm facility is representative of the institution's commitment to agriculture and competitive livestock teams. In 2006, Synar Farm was named in honor of Harry Synar, a long-time employee of the college who assisted in establishing the college farm. Serving as a living laboratory at NEO, the farm has been given a number of upgrades in the past decade, including new horse stalls, a pen for working horses, quality security cameras and lighting, new fencing, more efficient drainage and a new roof for the east stalling barn. Synar Farm is used to host recruiting events, judging clinics, and a variety of college and regional rodeos. NEO recently celebrated 50 years of hosting Aggie Days, the college's three-day agriculture interscholastic contest for students across a multi-state area, which functions as an educational tool as well as recruiting opportunity.



# Agriculture |







NEO RODEO





## Athletics

In an effort to keep boosters, fans, students, and parents up-to-date on NEO athletics, the college launched [neoathletics.com](http://neoathletics.com) to provide information that is meaningful, user-friendly, and dynamic. Content features team rosters, seasonal schedules, game photos, scores, and news articles; in addition, it streams audio and video where available for away-games. The new website allows fans to support the Golden Norsemen and Lady Norse teams and provides student athletes an advantage in national and international sports recruiting by allowing athletic programs to easily access video and statistics, and by providing point-of-contact information for athletes who hope to compete above the collegiate level.



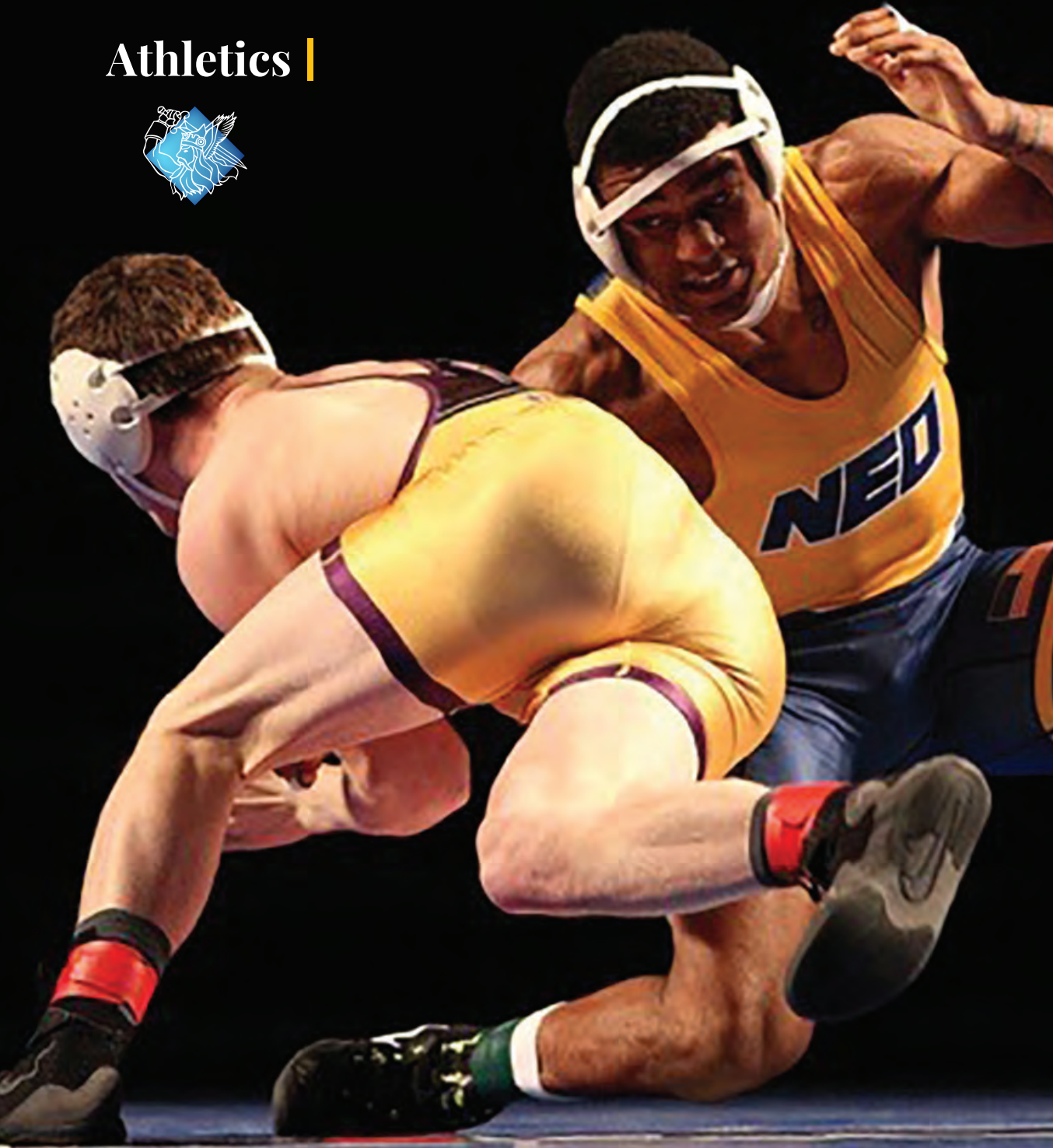


In December 2009, NEO Athletics kicked-off the Golden Norsemen Campaign with the goal of raising of \$750,000 to construct a new football training complex featuring a new weight-lifting room, training room, coaches' offices, and meeting spaces, including state-of-the-art equipment. Leading the campaign were former NEO head football coaches Chuck Bowman, Glen Wolfe and Dale Patterson. Major gifts were contributed by Crossland Construction, King and Claudia Goff, and the Chapman Foundation, and individual donations from NEO alumni, boosters and supporters of the college who wished to invest in NEO's student athletes and programs for intercollegiate sports. Each donation provided student-athletes the opportunity to train in a facility worthy of NEO's rich athletic tradition.

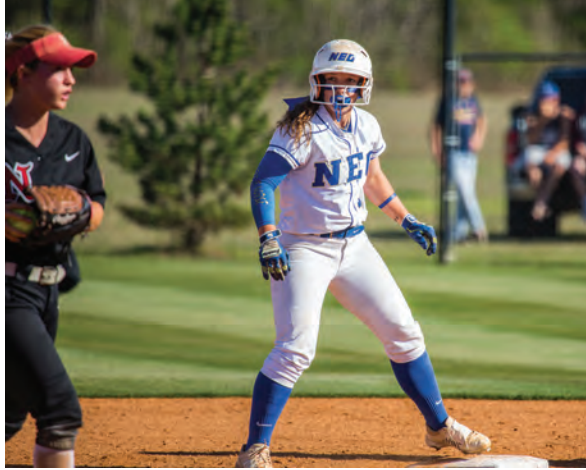




# Athletics |













# NEO Development Foundation



Established in 1983, the NEO Development Foundation has been committed to advancing, through philanthropy, the success of NEO A&M College.

In the past ten years, the NEO Development Foundation has experienced tremendous growth, including an increase in assets from \$700,000 to more than \$7.4 million, and increased endowment funding by more than 800%. Today the NEO Foundation boasts over \$3.2 million in endowments that support deserving students, worthwhile academic programs and intercollegiate activities on campus. Thirty-eight new endowments have been established since 2008, totaling more than \$3 million dollars.

The work of the NEO Foundation funds hundreds of student scholarships each year awarding more than \$850,000 in scholarship funding to deserving students in just the past ten years – many of whom would not have been able to realize the dream of a college education without scholarship assistance.

In the past ten years members of the faculty and staff have donated more than \$180,000 to the NEO Development Foundation.







During his tenure as NEO A&M College's fifteenth president, Dr. Jeff Hale earned multiple awards and honors, including the following:  
Miami Area Chamber of Commerce named Dr. Jeff Hale recipient of the IMPACT Award during the annual Chamber Awards Banquet. The award was designed to recognize outstanding achievement for the betterment of Ottawa County by an individual, business or organization. Dr. Hale was the first person to be honored with the distinction.

Dr. Hale has served as Chairman of the Miami, Oklahoma Community Facilities Authority from 2013 -2019.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education selected Dr. Jeff Hale, president of NEO, to serve on the state's Region II Homeland Security Advisory Council – a link between local officials and the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security, with the goal of preventing terrorist attacks, reducing the state's vulnerability, and coordinating a response in the event of an emergency.

Dr. Hale was elected Vice Chairman of the Oklahoma State Regents Council of Presidents.

Appointed to Oklahoma's statewide Complete College America Leadership Team (CCA) to represent OK at local, regional and national CCA meetings and participate in ongoing discussions at every level regarding initiatives, programs and activities that best support degree completion.

First ever inductee into the Redlands College Hall of Fame

Recognized as an outstanding educator in Northeast Oklahoma by the Grand Lake Association, with a 2016 Pelican Award.

Asked to serve on the OSRHE Function Change and Mission Expansion Subcommittee to improve student education access in Oklahoma, Dr. H serves as one of the 13 voting members to "develop and review criteria, guidelines, and recommendations related to institutional functions and missions that support the continued advancement for higher education in Oklahoma

The NEO Development Foundation raised \$55,000 to create the Hale Family endowed scholarship, funding two \$1,000 per year scholarships for a deserving student at NEO A&M College.









## NEO's TOP ONE HUNDRED FROM THE LAST TEN YEARS

**2008-2009:** "Grow, Grow, NEO" Campaign – addition of the CASA and NEO Adult Learning Center Nursing Department \$199,800 gift from Baptist Regional Health Center Foundation Treva McColey Gift of \$396,000 among the largest ever received by NEO used to fund scholarships NEO named to the Top 100 Associate Degree Producers by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine LadyNorse Coach, Eric Iverson, named to the NJCAA Softball Coaches Hall of Fame After two years of construction the NEO campus was fully restored following the flood of 2007 One of the oldest buildings on campus, Commons Hall, is renovated and remodeled Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins addressed the Class of 2009 during NEO's 88<sup>th</sup> annual commencement NEO & the City of Miami partner to host the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Central Plains Regional Finals Agriculture Instructor, Roger Fent, named Distinguished Educator of the Year by the Miami Area Chamber of Commerce.

**2009-2010:** \$578,000 gift from the City of Picher endowed to the NEO Development Foundation A 19.8% increase in enrollment for the Fall 2009 semester was the largest experienced by an Oklahoma college that year Troy Howerton is the first NEO student to win the \$60,000 Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Crossland Construction gives \$250,000 to the Golden Norse Football Program, the largest gift in NEO athletic history NEO's Equine Judging Team sweep the All-American Quarter Horse Congress, taking first place in each division The Center for Academic Success and Advisement (CASA) opens, providing student-focused assistance across campus The home of NEO's sitting president is formally named Carter House, in honor of NEO's former president, Dr. Bruce G. Carter The Smart Choice Partnership empowers NEO students to pursue a bachelor's degree from NEO's campus The college celebrated its 90's Birthday with a Founder's Day ceremony and the dedication of the NEO Honors Gallery NEO awarded a \$172,000 grant to fund the Adult Learning Center for residents of Ottawa, Craig, and Delaware counties.

**2010-2011:** College awarded two million dollars in Federal Title III Grants for Native American Education NEO recognized as one of America's fastest growing two-year public colleges by *Community College Week* magazine Complete remodel of the Bruce G. Carter Student Union NEO A&M College named "Business of the Year" by the Miami Chamber of Commerce Dedication of a new 10,750 square foot Lab Science Complex building, equipped for state-of-the-art science education Golden Norseman Campaign raises \$750,000 to meet goal and dedicate the Ivan Crossland Football Complex Record number of NEO students honored at National Future Farmers of



America Convention NEO enters into historic partnership with The Nature Conservancy to study and protect Oklahoma Tallgrass Prairie LadyNorse reaches the College Softball World Series – finishes regular season with a 48-11 record NEO A&M College recognized for outstanding campus safety and security by NIMS.

**2011-2012:** NEO's strong numbers continue to defy national declining college enrollment trend Student housing complex complete -- 4.4 million dollar, 31,000 square-foot housing facility opens in January 2012 NEO secures grant for degrees in Hospitality Management, Early Childhood Education, and Criminal Justice Nursing Program receives continued approval from Oklahoma Board of Nursing College partners with American Quarter Horse Association to host horsemanship camps in Europe NEO Development Foundation reaches \$500,000 benchmark in scholarship support to students Phi Beta Lambda receives

top honors at state conference Redbud Awards recognizes Miami and NEO Rodeo partnership among top Oklahoma tourism attractions New Process Technology degree works with local industries to educate and train graduates LadyNorse Softball reaches College World Series and finishes season fifth in the nation.

**2012-2013:** Miami votes "YES" for event center at Red Robertson Field College accepts \$1.25 Million gift – largest in NEO Foundation's History NEO's Small Business Team win business plan competition to take third place at Governor's Cup NEO A&M College exceeds target for Complete College America NEO Student Robynn Rulo (Osage, Delaware, Shawnee and Quapaw) crowned 2013 Miss Indian Oklahoma Reverse transfer agreements signed with four-year university partners Three Livestock All-Americans – NEO Horse Judging Team named





champions at AQHA World Show Kah-Ne-You-Ah Hall reopened after renovation NEO sends record number of students to College Finals Rodeo NEO's Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa named a "Five Star Chapter."

**2014-2015:** Record number of students graduate from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College Golden Norsemen Wrestling team win 2014 NJCAA Title - CHAMPIONS!!!! Process Technology program is awarded a \$900,000 Federal Grant The NEO Development Foundation tops six million dollars in assets State and national recognition for NEO faculty, staff and students College officials honor Charles Banks Wilson and dedicate the Art and Cultural Education Center Art Department recreates historic "Visual Reflections" mural in downtown Miami, Oklahoma Synar Farm undergoes major renovations starting with \$120,000 campaign kick off NEO hosts annual Oklahoma Native American Students in

Higher Education (ONASHE) conference Four legends - Douglas, Essex, Smith, and Fent - inducted into Aggie Alumni Hall of Fame.

**2015-2016:** Physical Therapy Assistance program achieves national accreditation and recognized with Reach 100 award IT Department secures \$500,000 USDA Rural Distance Learning grant NEO student-athlete Rylee Bayless named national softball player of the year NEO Process Technology program and Shawnee Tribe outfit \$500,000 lab NEO is second in the nation for Native American nursing graduates of two-year colleges Phi Beta Lambda brings home accolades from state and national competitions New Agriculture additions to Synar Farm indoor arena and Elm Street Farm Governor's Cup teams qualifies for finals third year in a row with back to back third place finish IT Department upgrades computer labs with 250

new Dell PCs NEO Foundation sets new record with \$40,000 fundraiser - awards \$100,000 in scholarships and support for college.

**2016-2017:** NEO secures \$2.5 million-dollar Department of Education grant for network security The NEO Legends series fundraiser clears \$20,000 for NEO Athletics Development Foundation funds record number of endowed scholarships NEO campus host's Oklahoma Boy's State program for 30th year Agriculture department hosts Equestrian Academy with one-on-one instruction in horsemanship NEO A&M College archive provides digital preservation and access for *The Viking* yearbook and *Norsewind* newspaper collection NEO Wrestling coach Joe Renfro named NJCAA Coach of the Year NEO Soccer coach John Parrigon named Region II Soccer Coach of the Year NEO students recognized: NJCAA Female Athlete of the Year and two-time NJCAA Softball Player of the Year, Gates Millennium Scholar, Men's Soccer All-Americans, College National Finals Rodeo competitors, and national honor society members NEO Faculty pursue community partnerships with Miami Regional Airport, Grand River Dam Authority, and Allied Health program clinical practice sites.

**2017-2018:** Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College earns full Higher Learning Commission accreditation status Charles Banks Wilson Estate gifts 1.1 million dollars to NEO Development Foundation NEO Equestrian Team takes national championship at AQHA show NEO's Love's Cup team takes third place in competition Upward Bound program is renewed for five more years The NEO Development Foundation raises more than \$75,000 at the annual gala celebration Agriculture Department dedicates new Animal Science lab College secures \$2.5 million-dollar Title III Grant Phi Theta Kappa honor society earns five-star recognition Two members of NEO Allied Health program earn teaching awards for commitment to excellence in education

**2018-2019:** NEO Wrestling wins 3rd national title Agriculture Department host first annual wheat research day Phi Theta Kappa takes top international honor NEO Office of Public Relations and Marketing earns statewide recognition Phi Beta Lambda qualifies eleven students for national competition NEO Honors program launches inaugural class in Fall of 2017 Significant events on campus include: Boys State, annual High School Basketball tournament, Science Fair, Oklahoma 8-Man All-Star Game, NJCAA Bowl Game, Aggie Days, and annual music festivals Golden Norse football dominates Southwest Junior College Football Conference Equine judging team completes competition sweep NEO Development Foundation launches first issues of *The Chimes* alumni magazine!





In March of 2020 the administrators, faculty, staff and students of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College will dedicate the outdoor Centennial Classroom to mark the end of NEO's 100 year celebration. At the center of the classroom, a time capsule is buried, containing touchstones of this college's Golden Norse legacy, along with our hopes and dreams for another century of excellence in education. To the students who inherit NEO's future, we bequeath our beloved campus, many honored traditions and a true understanding of "What It Means To Be A Norseman."









