

# Native Ways of Knowing

Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College Title III Program



**Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College is dedicated to providing opportunities that promote excellence in learning, service, and leadership in a global society.**

At NEO Native Ways of Knowing honors the cultural heritage of Northeastern Oklahoma in the NORSE Tradition by asking each of us to take pride in our heritage, and encouraging us to share what we know in a way that is experiential, participatory and fundamental. We will engage in a constructive learning process that encourages authentic exchanges, instructive demonstrations and an opportunity to focus on important life applications, not just methodology. NWOK will emphasize the virtues that honor both the students and instructor as part of a never-ending circle of wisdom to be shared.

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At Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College we honor our own native ways in the *NORSE* tradition. That means emphasizing *Native Opportunities* for learning that is purposeful and place specific, while remembering the importance of self-determination in the learning process. There is no set formula for excellence, but students will find that within the context of their classroom experience, in both the

traditional classroom and online courses, we can sustain ourselves by focusing on the energy and meaning of what we learn.

To do so we must *Retain* what is important from our past in balance with the need to move forward as learners and preserve those stories, relationships and tools that serve us as a community. This means trusting our personal experiences and connections to the world while searching for meaning in what we learn, instead of memorizing a formula or method. Technology is a tool that can empower us to connect to the larger world and share our own gifts.

We can know that we have been *Successful* in this journey not just when we complete a course or degree program, but when we begin to see education and experience as a dynamic process for communicating and understanding the world. This means recognizing the value of diversity of experience, connecting rather than competing, finding wisdom in the primary resources of our world, and contributing to our community in a meaningful way.

*Education* is a journey with tangible milestones along each life path. Degree seeking is an important step along a road of life-long learning. This living process challenges each learner to find purpose, incorporate balance, and honor our traditions as we move through every stage of life. The values and practices we learn will sustain us as we pay tribute to the rich legacy we inherit and allow us to define our character, transforming both our own lives and those in our community.