

NEO UPDATE

NEO

The Newsletter of NEO A&M College • January 2015 Edition



NEO's 2014-2015 Homecoming King & Queen

Back row, from left: Donna Hale, first lady; Dr. Jeff Hale, president; Tim Taylor, homecoming king; Kennedy Banta, homecoming queen

Front row, from left: Ava Jackson, flower girl; Michael Parrigon, crown bearer; and Ella Jackson, flower girl



NEO instructor Brenda Lucas teaching one of her I-TV classes with the new polycom system, which allows her to teach two classes from one location.



NEO's new polycom system is used for distance learning.

NEO RECEIVES DISTANCE LEARNING GRANT OF \$499,873

Officials at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) are excited to announce that NEO is the recipient of a \$499,873 federal grant from the United States Department of Agriculture for Distance Learning. NEO A&M is one of only four community colleges receiving the grant and will be awarded the third largest dollar amount of the 59 institutions.

The Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program is specifically designed to assist rural communities in acquiring distance learning and telemedical technologies so that local teachers and medical service providers who serve rural residents can establish interactive video conferencing links to teachers, medical professionals, and other needed expertise. This video connection links the rural students, rural patients, and rural residents needing these kinds of services directly to the source of services needed in their communities, with the local service providers as intermediaries and beneficiaries.

Since 1994, the DLT Grant Program has helped establish hundreds of distance learning and telemedicine systems thereby improving quality of life for thousands of residents in rural communities all across the United States.

Under NEO's new project, the college will provide distance learning for nine sites; eight small and rural schools and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, all located in far northeastern Oklahoma. NEO Miami and NEO Grove will expand classes for students to participate in concurrent enrollment allowing

them to earn college credits while still in high school.

NEO will also provide GED classes via distance learning to enable community residents to obtain a high school diploma. Professional development for the Oklahoma Academic Standards will prepare teachers for learning best practices for instruction focused on preparing students for college, careers and citizenship.

Resources and opportunities for residents in need of assistance to upgrade their skills and preparation for job searches have been challenging to obtain for some of our rural community members, but through partnerships with Workforce Oklahoma – Miami Center and Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency (NEOCOA), Jay, Oklahoma, the College aims to bridge that gap. These agencies will assist community members in being self-sufficient, preparing for and seeking employment as well as developing some financial literacy and healthy living skills.

“The College is committed to bringing educational opportunities to the most rural parts of our region and the Department of Agriculture grant provides us the opportunity to meet those needs. Matt Westphal, a senior member of our IT staff, deserves much of the credit for this grant award, and I want to recognize him for his outstanding work.”

NEO A&M President Dr. Jeff Hale.

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Students in Lori Hackwell's business class try out the new computers on the first day of spring classes.

“Technology is integrated in every part of our lives. Fifty billion devices will be connected to the Internet by 2020. We must keep up. Our students, staff and faculty have an expectation we move forward with the times and with technology.”

Kim Bunch, chief information officer

NEO RECEIVES 247 NEW DELL COMPUTERS

Several classrooms and labs at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) received new desktop computers through a lease agreement with Dell Computers. The college's existing systems ranged anywhere from three to 12 years old and the majority were bought outright by NEO.

“Because we live in such a techy world, and my courses are primarily based or connected with online learning, the new computers offer a major advantage to students. Being able to walk into a classroom and efficiently navigate assignments and grades saves me time and allows me to focus on the assignment at hand versus battling a slow computer,” said Hanna Minson, NEO sophomore.

NEO labs and classrooms are now equipped with updated Dell All-In-One computers. This update better prepares students for the equipment they will use in the workplace. These space-saving devices also give NEO another competitive advantage.

“We are so thrilled our students' learning process will not be interrupted because of slow or broken equipment,” said Lori Hackwell, business instructor. “These new computers will benefit the students by allowing them to stay focused on an assignment and not be distracted by equipment failure.”

The leasing program allows NEO to determine predictable expenses, lower upfront costs while keeping more current with the technology. Additionally, maintenance on same systems allows for faster response time from NEO's computer techs because they are not dealing with outdated or different systems at each lab they enter.

The price tag for the first year of the lease is \$69,700. The cost includes the price to insure the equipment as well.

“Technology is integrated in every part of our lives,” said Kim Bunch, chief information officer. “Fifty billion devices will be connected to the Internet by 2020. We must keep up. Our students, staff and faculty have an expectation we move forward with the times and with technology.”



NEO A&M RECOGNIZED AS A CERTIFIED HEALTHY CAMPUS AND BUSINESS

Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) was recently recognized as a Certified Healthy Campus and Business by the Oklahoma State Department of Health for making a positive impact on the health of students, employees and visitors.

The college will be acknowledged at the Certified Healthy Oklahoma luncheon and program in February in Norman, Okla. The organization recognizes certified healthy businesses, communities, schools, campuses and restaurants.

NEO began participating in the Certified Healthy Oklahoma program one year ago and was just notified that the college was given a grade of excellent as a Certified Healthy Campus. This is the first time the college has received this certification.

There are three levels of certification: basic, merit and excellence.

“I am pleased to report that NEO has met the criteria to become a Certified Healthy Campus as issued by the Oklahoma State Department of Health. The Certified Healthy Campus certification recognizes both public and private post-secondary campuses and career technology centers that make a positive impact on the health

of students, employees and visitors,” said Evan Jewsbury, director of human resources. “An application that included many different goals and objectives with a strong focus on wellness was required to be completed in order to be considered for certification.”

Jewsbury worked on obtaining the certification for NEO and will accept the award next month.

Prior to the awards luncheon, attendees will have the opportunity to attend a Certified Healthy workshop featuring interactive breakout sessions to work with seasoned awardees on how to implement practices and policies to grow the health of your organization.

Throughout the year, a multitude of health screenings and workshops are offered on NEO’s campus as well including cholesterol testing, blood pressure and heart rate monitoring, body mass index testing; tobacco cessation workshops and health risk appraisal. To promote wellness, NEO also offers many different GetFit classes ranging from yoga, Zumba and water aerobics at no charge to students, faculty and staff.

To learn more about NEO’s Health and Wellness program, contact Chad Davis, wellness coordinator, at 918-540-6098.

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Evan Jewsbury, director of human resources



Yoga Instructor Donna Hale, (far right) working with participants during a breakout yoga session during last year's Health and Wellness Fair.

FOURTH ANNUAL NEO WELLNESS HEALTH FAIR – FEB. 18, 2015

Staff members at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) are preparing for the fourth annual Wellness Health Fair scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The event will take place inside the Callagno Family Ballroom on the NEO campus.

“The Health Fair will help those who attend to become better informed about how diet, exercise and other practices that affect our health,” said Donna Hale, yoga instructor. “The choices that we make, either positive or negative, have a lasting effect on our quality of life. There are opportunities in the area to better our health that many people don’t know are available.”

The Health and Wellness Fair is free and open to the public. The fair will include 30 vendors offering a variety of topics and information on personal health, nutrition, exercise and overall wellness.

Zumba breakout session will take place during the fair at no cost to participants. The Zumba demo will be at 11 a.m.

There will be free exhibitor booths, numerous door prizes, and health screenings available.

For more information or to reserve an exhibitor booth, contact NEO Wellness Coordinator Chad Davis at chad.davis@neo.edu or call 918-540-6098.





“This is a perfect example of how cross-disciplinary cooperation really helps prepare NEO’s students for their future careers. In an actual crime scene investigators will always have to talk to witnesses and suspects, and also deal with the media. It was a great opportunity for all our students to learn about themselves and the roles they will take on professionally in the future.”

Dr. Jeff Birdsong, Department Chair for Social Sciences.

Theater NEO students Justice Tamplen and Jessica Cryan participate in a mock crime scene by acting out a domestic assault scenario.

NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M COLLEGE, MOCK CRIME SCENE

On Nov. 20, 2014, students from three different academic disciplines at NEO A&M College collaborated in an active learning experience by creating a mock crime scene on campus. While students from Troy Fugate’s Criminal Investigation class acted as investigators, working to gather evidence for a staged homicide investigation, students from Nicole Kelly’s theatre class played the parts of witnesses and suspects and mass communication students from Tom Callan’s class took on the roles of members of the press. Observing the exercise was Captain Thomas Anderson from the Miami Police Department who was on hand to answer questions from students regarding police procedures, search and seizure, and criminal investigations.

“I present crime scenarios to the class all semester. Some of the previous scenarios were relevant to the mock crime scene and some were not. The criminal justice students had to work their way through the clues to determine what was relevant. In addition to working the scene, the criminal justice students had to interview the witnesses and suspects to obtain crucial information about what happened. The theatre students improvised their parts based on the scenarios I had given to the criminal justice students earlier in the semester, and right in the middle of everything, Tom Callan’s class showed up asking questions about the crime for his mass communication class assignment. It

was chaos; it was a lot of fun, and it was a great learning experience,” said Troy Fugate, NEO criminal justice instructor.

While the focus of the simulation was a crime scene, the experience was beneficial to students from each of the disciplines.

“Troy and I wanted to simulate a situation in the field with the usual tension between police and media at a crime scene. I wanted them to feel the adrenaline rush and time pressure of interviewing police and investigators and then scrambling to get a story on the air or in print. I thought they would be nonchalant or indifferent; instead, they asked vigorous questions of police and witnesses,” said Callan.

According to Nicole Kelly, NEO theater instructor, the scenario also gave her students an opportunity to practice their improvisational skills.

“My Acting class definitely enjoyed participating in the mock crime scene and collaborating with the other students. They are already so talented, and I’m very proud of them.”

“The mock crime scene was such a success the instructors have plans to continue the exercise in future semesters.”

Dr. Jeff Birdsong, Department Chair for Social Sciences.



2014 Basketball Tournament presentation

NEO INVITES FANS TO THE 70TH ANNUAL NEO HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

On Thursday, Jan. 22 at 12 p.m., Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) will tipoff for the 70th Annual NEO High School Basketball Tournament. There are 48 teams from three states participating in this basketball tradition with thousands of fans attending to cheer on their favorite players and teams.

The tournament will be played in four different facilities: NEO College Gym (COL) and the NEO Student Activity Center (SAC), which are both located on the NEO Campus. Other locations include the Miami Activity Center (MAC), which is located on the campus of the Miami High School and the Miami Civic Center (CC) located on A Street.

A complete listing of brackets, times and locations is available at www.neoathletics.com, just click on the tournament logo.

Tickets will be available at any of the locations listed above during the tournament. All tournament passes may be purchased for \$20

for adults and/or students. The "all-tournament" pass will allow fans to attend any of the games in any of the locations for all three days of the tournament.

Day passes are also available for \$8 per day for adults and \$7 per day for students and senior citizens.

The NEO Business Office will have tickets on sale prior to the tournament starting Monday, Jan. 19 at 8 a.m. The NEO Business Office is located in the Library Administration Building, and it's open from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

"This is our 70th year hosting the High School Basketball Tournament, and it is such a great tradition at NEO. We are very excited about the games this year, and the tournament will see new teams entering as well as some returning

champions. We're looking forward to three days of great basketball."

Dale Patterson, NEO athletic director.

More than 2,500 players, coaches and fans are estimated to attend the tournament. Many of these visitors will stay in Miami hotels, eat at various restaurants and frequent the shops. This is a golden opportunity to spotlight NEO and the entire community of Miami.





Last year's "Shoot for the Cure" game

NEO TO HOST "GO PINK OR GO HOME" GAME

The Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) Lady Norse basketball team will host its yearly Pink game on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015 against Murray State. The game will begin at 6 p.m. in the college gym. Everyone is encouraged to wear pink to support the cause. This year's theme is Go Pink or Go Home and is part of a nation-wide breast cancer awareness event.

"Each year our Lady Norse host a Pink game to honor all those who have been affected by breast cancer," said Jim Rowland, head coach for Lady Norse Basketball. "This disease

affects women of all ages across the world. Unfortunately most of us have known someone who has been affected in some way. This is one way we can honor these amazing ladies."

Activities for the night include auctioning off a pink basketball autographed by the Lady Norse and Golden Norse teams, chances to win a pink back pack donated by Midwest Sporting Goods, and the main attraction are NEO coaches wearing the decorated bras.

NEO clubs and organizations as well as others in the community

decorate bras and have them on display at the game. Votes are cast by donating money for the best bra. Coaches proudly wear the top 12 bras. The winner is announced at halftime of the Golden Norse game.

"It's a fun time for a great cause, so I am happy to participate in this event," said Ryan Held, head football coach for NEO. "Last year there were some pretty innovative and creative bras, so I am anxious to see what they come up with this year. We hope everyone will come out and support this very worthy cause."

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Jim Rowland, head coach for Lady Norse Basketball



NEO SPOTLIGHT

NORSE WRESTLERS FINISH SECOND AT NWCA NATIONAL DUAL MEET CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Jim Ellis, Miami News Record

The 2015 NWCA National Dual Meet Wrestling Championships were held on January 9-10, 2015 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Sixteen NJCAA wrestling teams were scheduled to compete, but the Norsemen, seeded second received a first round forfeit when Niagara, NY CC was unable to field a team and make the trip.

In the second round on Friday evening NEO defeated Harper College 27-18. Winners for the Norsemen were: 141-Timothy O'Connor, Guthrie sophomore, over NJCAA ranked #8 Kerin Ramirez 5-2; 149-Dewaylan Barnes, Muskogee freshmen by fall; 165-Bryan Dutton, Guthrie sophomore by decision; 174-Jacobe Smith, Muskogee freshman by fall; 184-Brock Warren, Broken Arrow sophomore by fall; and 197-Josh Latham, Chickasha freshman, by decision. The win advanced NEO to the semi-finals on Saturday.

The semi-final match proved the most exciting of the two day event for NEO. Final score was 20-20 with Iowa Central and had to be decided on criteria. Each team won five matches the first criteria, but NEO recorded one pin to earn the dual victory using the second criteria. Winning for NEO were: O'Connor by a major decision; Barnes over NJCAA



NEO Wrestling Team

#8 ranked Teddie Harvey 8-0; Smith with a fall; Warren with a decision; and at 285 Big John Davison, Guthrie sophomore, tied the score with a major decision 11-3.

The finals match against Clackamas CC, Oregon featured ten Clackamas wrestlers ranked in the top 6 of the latest NJCAA National Rankings. At 141 O'Connor lost a close 3-2 decision to #5 ranked Robert Rizzolino; Barnes pinned #5 ranked Christopher Garcia; Smith overtime decision over #1 ranked Dylan Reel 9-7; Warren pinned the defending National Champion and #1 ranked Adrian Salas; and Big John Davison closed out the match with a close 9-8 decision over #6 ranked John Morin.

Barnes, Smith, and Warren finished the two day meet undefeated at 3-0. The team dual record is now 6-4, with NEOSHO CC, Chanute, KS. coming to Miami for a 7 PM home match on Thursday.

The trip was an excellent opportunity for our wrestlers to show our depth of talent as many

reserves got to participate. "It allowed us to see some of the best teams in the country and as a team better visualize our goals for February and the National Tournament. What we accomplished is good, but our goal is a second National Title and this was only a step along the way," according to assistant coach Dennis Siegmann. "Getting better every day is what NEO wrestling is all about."

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Dennis Siegmann, assistant coach



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