

# NEO UPDATE



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



(Photo: NEO Women and Friends team members won a virtual walking competition as part of the Health Literacy Project. The team walked a combined 20,057 miles to receive the Route 66 Virtual Walking Tour trophy from Marcia Johnson.)

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NEO Spotlight

## NEO A&M COLLEGE RECEIVES THIRD \$2 MILLION GRANT AS A NATIVE AMERICAN SERVING INSTITUTION

NEO Officials are excited to announce that NEO was awarded a \$2 million federal grant from the United States Department of Education to improve technology and extend educational access. The grant is the third Title III grant in the past 5 years, bringing the total to approximately \$7 million.



(Members of the Inter-Tribal Council present a \$2 million check to Dr. Hale. From left: Rachel Lloyd, Second Chief Dustin Olds, Second Chief Suzy Crawford, Chief Glenna Wallace, Dr. Jeff Hale, Chief Ron Sparkman, Chief John Froman, T.C. Bear, Chief Bill Follis, Annette Black)

**“NEO A&M College greatly appreciates the tremendous support we continue to receive from our area tribes and tribal leaders. One thing we certainly share in common is our absolute commitment to creating high quality educational opportunities for all of our citizens of northeastern Oklahoma. I’m grateful for the many partnerships that we have developed with the Inter-Tribal Council and pledge that NEO will continue to build trust and results into our relationships with the American Indian tribes.”**

Dr. Jeffery Hale, president.

The United States Department of Education provides funding for the Title III grant. Title III grants aim to expand an institution’s capacity to serve low-income students and NEO’s designation as a Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institution (NASNTI) allows the College to culturally align curriculum and support services. Twenty-three percent of NEO students are Native American and “Diverse Issues in Higher Education” ranks several of NEO’s degree programs among the top ten institutions that graduate the greatest number of American Indian

students.

The funds from the grant will create a Network Security program option for Computer Science majors that will allow students to make use of a new, state-of-the-art computer lab. To extend access, 37 courses from NEO’s Agriculture,

Process Technology, Psychology, and Business programs will be enhanced and redesigned for online or hybrid delivery.

To compliment the new flexible curriculum, NEO will also improve developmental and gateway courses, increase academic support resources, simulate on-the-job experiences via innovative gaming technology, add mentors to its American Indian Center for Excellence (AICE), and infuse curriculum with cultural preservation micro-documentary projects.

The program will also make off-site computer labs available for students who have unreliable or nonexistent internet access. The labs will reduce the financial strain on low-income students. The infrastructure of NEO’s campus will also receive upgrades to support the new programs and increase campus safety. All of the additions will come at no additional charge to students. Officials at NEO expect enrollment to increase because of the new services.

**“We are very pleased to be able to work with NEO and the programs they put together. Dr. Hale has been a great ally and I truly appreciate all the work of him and his staff. We believe the work they are doing not only benefits the Shawnee Tribe, but also the four-state area.”**

Chief Ron Sparkman, chair of the Inter-Tribal Council and Chief of the Shawnee Tribe



(Dr. and Mrs. Hale join with President's Partners to honor this year's Top Ten Freshmen winners.  
 Back row from left: Rachel Lloyd, director of the Center for Academic Success and Advising; Dr. Jeff Hale, NEO president; Donna Hale, NEO first lady; Daniel Vonthin; Caleb Cox; Anneke Carr; Carmen Couch, President's Partner; Rob Kimbrough, President's Partner; Annette Black, President's Partner.  
 Front row: Miguelangel Pineda Soto; Tyson Howard; Johannah Richardson; Mollie Brewer; Dylan Price; Justice Tamplen.)

## NEO NAMES SEVENTH ANNUAL TOP 10 FRESHMEN CLASS

NEO celebrated accomplished student leaders during the seventh annual Top Ten Freshmen ceremony on Monday, Nov. 2, 2015.

"The students selected for NEO's most prestigious award are fully engaged inside and outside of the classroom," said NEO A&M College President Dr. Jeffery Hale. "They contribute to a positive campus environment for all students and it is our hope that this honor will lead to networking and scholarship opportunities in their futures."

First celebrated in 2009, the Top Ten Freshmen ceremony is co-sponsored by NEO's President's Partners and the Center for Academic Success and Advising (CASA). The keynote speaker was Kassie Fugate-Cate, a member of the inaugural Top Ten Freshmen class and adjunct Speech instructor at NEO.

All honorees are now sophomores and were selected by a committee of faculty, President's Partners representatives, and student activities representatives. Students will receive scholarships as well as the opportunity to participate in leadership development activities.

This year's honorees include:

### **Mollie Brewer, Shawnee, Okla.**

Mollie Brewer is double majoring in elementary education and psychology/sociology. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has been recognized on the President's Honor Roll. As an NEO

cheerleader, Brewer is very active on campus. She was recently awarded the title of "Miss Congeniality" at the homecoming Heroes and Heroines Wonder Pageant.

### **Anneke Carr, Fairmount, Ga.**

Anneke Carr is an agriculture business major. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and received the NEO Foundation Scholarship. As a member of the livestock judging team and an Agriculture Ambassador, Carr has volunteered to help with Aggie Days, campus speech competitions, banquets, and improving the facilities at NEO's Synar Farm.

### **Caleb Cox, Miami, Okla.**

Caleb Cox is a general studies major. In his time at NEO, he has served as a member of the NEO choir, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Phi Beta Lambda Business Club, and the Native American Student Association. Cox currently serves on the Student Success Goal Team and was recently crowned the 2015 Homecoming King. Cox was also a chosen applicant in the Cherokee Nation "Remember the Removal" 1,000-mile cycling journey along the Trail of Tears.

### **Tyson Howard, Commerce, Okla.**

Tyson Howard is studying pre-engineering. He is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and works as a math and physics tutor in the NEO Tutoring Center. Howard has served as a co-head coach for a local youth

basketball team and has helped with a local football league. He has supported his classmates by facilitating study groups for students who were struggling in the course.

### **Madison Moss, Commerce, Okla.**

Madison Moss is a pre-engineering major with a focus in mathematics. Moss was awarded the Dobson Presidential Scholarship, the Melissa Douglas Scholarship, the Christina Bachman Scholarship, and the Oklahoma Football Coaches Association Scholarship. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the Christian Student Fellowship, and has been recognized on the President's Honor Roll.

### **Dylan Price, Norris City, Ill.**

Dylan Price is majoring in natural science. He is a member of the horse judging team, the Equine Club and Phi Beta Lambda. His active involvement in campus organizations has given him the opportunity to use his leadership skills at judging clinics and reining contests.

### **Johannah Richardson, Gerald, Mo.**

Johannah Richardson is an agriculture business major. She has served as vice president of Catholics in Action and is a member of the equestrian team, the equine judging team, the Equine Club, Aggie Society, and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Richardson has devoted many hours volunteering with Horses of Hope and



“ The students selected for NEO’s most prestigious award are fully engaged inside and outside of the classroom. They contribute to a positive campus environment for all students and it is our hope that this honor will lead to networking and scholarship opportunities in their futures. ”

Dr. Jeffery Hale, NEO A&M College President



(NEO Adjunct Speech Instructor Kassie Fugate-Cate gave the keynote address. Fugate-Cate was a member of the inaugural Top Ten Freshmen class. She discussed leadership and communication in modern society.)

to maintaining the facilities at NEO’s Synar Farm.

**Miguelangel Pineda Soto, Maracaibo, Venezuela.**

Miguelangel Pineda Soto is a pre-engineering student. After attending high school in Kuwait, he came to NEO. He has served as vice president of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, tutors for NEO Student Support Services and is a member of the Norwegian Legion Marching Band. Soto has been named to the President’s Honor Roll.

**Justice Tamplen, Frisco, Texas.**

Justice Tamplen is a speech and theater major. She serves as the vice president of Phi Theta Kappa and as historian of the Masquer’s Club. Tamplen was awarded Miss Norse Spirit during Homecoming 2014 and was recently crowned the 2015 NEO Homecoming Queen. She has participated in Phi Theta Kappa’s service projects, which included spearheading a partnership with the animal shelter.

**Daniel Vonthin, Wetzlar, Germany.**

Daniel Vonthin is a general studies major. He is a recipient of the Dobson Presidential Scholarship and the NEO Foundation Scholarship. Vonthin is a member of the soccer team, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and has been recognized on the President’s Honor Roll. He works as a math tutor in the NEO Tutoring Center and served the Quapaw community in 2014 by helping the tornado victims clean up after the devastation.



(Miguel Pineda Soto receives congratulations from Dr. Hale. Soto is from Maracaibo, Venezuela and is a pre-engineering student. Each honoree received a medal, a certificate of achievement, and a \$200 scholarship funded by President’s Partners.)





(Hannah Baker performs as Miss Agatha Hannigan the orphanage matron from "Annie" during the annual cabaret performance.)

## NEO FINE ARTS HOSTED BROADWAY CABARET SHOW

The NEO Fine Arts Department hosted "The Bad Boys (and Girls) of Broadway" cabaret show on Friday, Nov. 13, 2015 in the Commons Hall Recital Hall.

“*Bad Boys of Broadway*” confirms that bad boys (and girls) have all the fun, especially on stage. The concert promises memorable, villainous songs from award-winning Broadway musicals. Members of the Broadway cabaret presented nearly two dozen selections, including highlights from “*Wicked*,” “*Into the Woods*,” “*Matilda*,” “*Annie*,” and many more. We delivered a deliciously devilish evening for your Friday the thirteenth pleasure.”

Mary Susan Whaley, choir director

- Hannah Baker – Mannford, Okla.
- Rachel Bartlett – St. Louis, Mo.
- Emily Bond – Miami, Okla.
- Jessica Cryan – Skiatook, Okla.
- Jessica Darnell – Vinita, Okla.
- Whitney Farley – Jay, Okla.
- Riley Helton – Skiatook, Okla.
- Shaun Hill – Tulsa, Okla.
- Hailey House – Delaware, Okla.
- Kaylee Johnson – Grove, Okla.
- Chelsea Landrum – Commerce, Okla.
- McKenzie Marks – Cabot, Ark.
- Michael Rarick – Baxter Springs, Kans.
- Christina Roodé – Grove, Okla.
- Cheyenne Sanchez – Riverton, Kans.
- Mackenzie Shamblin – Miami, Okla.
- Meghan Sharp – Jay, Okla.
- Emily Rose Simon – Stilwell, Okla.
- Justice Tamplin – Frisco, Texas
- Jacob Turner – Skiatook, Okla.
- Lyssa Warren – Riverton, Kans.



(Academic Advisor Ryan Orcutt helps a student with a degree audit during the Community College Completion Corps “Commit to Completion” day. The event, sponsored by PTK, focused on having students make a plan to graduate on time.)

## PHI THETA KAPPA HOSTED “COMMIT TO COMPLETION” SIGNING AT NEO

Statistics show the surest way for anyone to land a job in their chosen field is to finish college and earn a degree or certificate. That is exactly what students at NEO promised to do by signing a mass pledge to complete their associate degrees or certificates before leaving community college for transfer or to enter the job market. Administrators, faculty, and staff also signed the pledge, committing themselves to do whatever they can to facilitate completion of student credentials.

On Monday, Oct. 19 students gathered to sign the completion pledge, part of a national community college movement. The event was hosted by the Mu chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. The signing started a week of events designed to help students access resources that would help them complete their degrees and reach their educational goals.

Students who complete their degrees or certificates will earn an average of \$500,000 more over the course of their careers than their peers who did not complete. In addition, individuals with credentials are less likely to become unemployed than their co-workers who did not earn credentials.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, headquartered in Jackson, Miss. is the largest honor society in higher education. It has 1,280 chapters on college campuses in all 50 of the United States, Canada, Germany, the Republic of Palau, Peru, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates and U.S. territorial possessions. More than two million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918, with approximately 135,000 students inducted annually. Learn more about Phi Theta Kappa at [www.ptk.org](http://www.ptk.org).





(Holly Herrera, Transfer Admissions Coordinator from the UIUC, spoke with NEO students about the exciting scholarship opportunities available through the NEO, Peoria Tribe, UIUC partnership.)

## NEO WELCOMES UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS TRANSFER ADMISSIONS COORDINATOR AS PART OF A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP

Holly Herrera, Transfer Admissions Coordinator from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) was on the NEO campus on Monday, Oct. 12, 2015. During the 2014

summer, Peoria Chief John Froman invited NEO to enter into a triangular partnership with the university and tribe based upon his belief that the college has proven successful in meeting the needs of American Indian students.

UIUC offers full tuition scholarship covering up to three years of study for American Indian students with preference given to students of tribes forcibly removed from Illinois. The scholarships resulted from the Peoria Tribe of Indians and Illinois officials' shared efforts to increase educational attainment. The Peoria Tribe is headquartered in Miami, along with other tribes that were removed from Illinois by the Indian Relocation Act including the Miami, Ottawa, Shawnee, and Wyandotte tribes.

Joining Mrs. Herrera were NEO's previous recipients of the scholarship: PJ Attocknie and Kolton Kitterman. Herrera, Attocknie, and Kitterman answered questions students had about the program. Tuition costs vary by program and course delivery format, but the base rate for out-of-state students is \$30,796. Up to five scholarships will be awarded annually in future years, and the university plans to actively recruit students from NEO.

## NEO'S PRESIDENT'S PARTNERS AND PVAMA AWARDS \$4,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO VETERANS

The NEO President's Partners again offered their support of \$2000, which was matched by the Mid-America Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), to provide four \$1,000 scholarships for veterans at NEO. The scholarship was established to support the River Bottom Annual Hunt for Disabled Veterans, held in Miami each year.

"NEO President's Partners value higher education and are very supportive of improving access through scholarships," says Jennifer Hesse, executive director of the NEO Foundation. "Several of the President's Partners are veterans themselves, so providing funding for this scholarship was a good partnership."

"This scholarship is just another example of how our community pulls together to accomplish positive community growth. NEO is a stand-alone diamond in a beautiful set, and the PVA is no less brilliant on its own," said Jack Dalrymple, president of the River Bottom Sportsmen. "Who better to receive a hand up to a better life in our nation, through education, than a person willing to give of themselves to protect that same nation."

NEO sophomores, Anthony Amicone, Hayden Harmon, Charles Mount, and Richard Palma were selected as this year's recipients. Amicone is from Okmulgee and currently serving in the Army National Guard. He is a nursing major with a 3.6



(From Left: Dr. Jeff Hale, NEO President; Bill Kokendoffer, PVAMA President; Donna Hale, NEO First Lady; Richard Palma, NEO Sophomore; Hayden Harmon, NEO Sophomore; Stacey Satterwhite, NEO President's Partner; Dr. Mark Osborn, NEO President's Partner.)

GPA. Harmon is from Wyandotte and served four years in the Marines, which included two deployments to Afghanistan. He is majoring in Physical Education and has a 3.2 GPA. Mount is from Fairland and served in the Army from 2006-2013. He is majoring in Ag Business and has a 3.2 GPA. Palma is a Nursing major from Vinita. He has a 3.3 GPA and served in the Navy from 1985-1991.



(The first of two Graduating Art Student exhibits kicked off with a reception. The first exhibit featured the work of Elora Swenson and Sandy Showen. The second exhibit featured the work of Clarissa Magley)

## NEO ARTISTS ON EXHIBIT IN CHARLES BANKS WILSON GALLERY

The NEO Art Department is hosting two exhibits during November that feature the art of three graduating students. The Graduating Art Major Exhibit features the work of Elora Swenson, Sandy Showen, and Clarissa Magley.

The first exhibit featured the paintings, drawings, photography, and sculptures of Elora Swenson and Sandy Showen in the Charles Banks Wilson Gallery in Kah-Ne Hall on the NEO campus. The exhibit began with a reception on Nov. 3.

The first exhibit ran until Nov. 16 when the second exhibit began, which displays the art of Clarissa Magley until Dec. 2. The second exhibit also began with a reception on Nov. 16.

The three art students will be graduating in Dec. 2015. For more information on the exhibit, contact Jessica Stout at [jessica.s.stout@neo.edu](mailto:jessica.s.stout@neo.edu).



(Annette Black, a Peoria Tribal Member and 2015 AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honoree, now serves as a mentor in the American Indian Center for Excellence on the NEO campus.)



## NEO WELCOMES ANNETTE BLACK AS COORDINATOR FOR STUDENT MENTORING

Annette Black has joined NEO's American Indian Center for Excellence as the new Coordinator for Student Mentoring. Ms. Black was recently honored as one of the 2015 AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honorees. As a member of the Peoria Tribe, she worked as an administrative assistant for 18 years. She also serves on the NEO Foundation Board.

"As our Coordinator of Student Mentoring, Annette Black will oversee initiatives that involve Elder mentors in inter-generational mentoring and students in providing peer support," said Rachel Lloyd, grant project director. "She brings enthusiasm, culturally relevant experience and wisdom gained from years of dedicated service to her tribe, higher education, and her community."



(Director of Sodexo Food Service Cathy Cunningham, left, and NEO Energy Manager Jamie Williams, right, present Janet Epperson with the October Best Energy Practices award.)

## NEO NAMES OCTOBER BEST ENERGY PRACTICES WINNER

Congratulations to Janet Epperson, accounts payable clerk for winning the Best Energy Practices for the month of October. The Sodexo rewards program sponsors the monthly award. Director of Sodexo Food Service Cathy Cunningham has partnered with NEO Energy Management to reward the faculty and staff for helping NEO achieve our energy efficiency goals. Sodexo provides free lunch vouchers and a \$25 gift card each month for the employee with the best energy practices. Energy manager Jamie Williams performs monthly walk-throughs to evaluate how each person's space is using energy. The mission of the

20x2020 is to reduce our energy consumption 20% by the year 2020.

The Best Energy Practices Top Five List includes:

1. Turn off lights when you leave the room.
2. Turn off computers, monitors, speakers and printers when not in use.
3. Turn off televisions, stereos, microwaves, and coffee pots.
4. Unplug all chargers when not in use.
5. Keep doors and windows closed when heating and air conditioning systems are in use.

**Thanks for making our Blue a little Brighter!**

## CINDY BIGBY NAMED EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO NEO PRESIDENT

Cindy Bigby has been named as the new executive secretary to NEO President Dr. Jeff Hale. Bigby has worked at NEO for nearly 15 years and most recently served as the help desk manager for the technology department. During her tenure in the position, she was honored as a Staff of the Month winner. She will officially begin on January 1, 2016.

"Cindy has been a dedicated, loyal NEO employee for nearly 15 years and has made student success and service to



(Cindy Bigby will serve as the new executive assistant to President Hale.)

faculty and staff her top priority," said Hale. "I'm excited about the skill set she brings to her new assignment and have confidence that she'll maintain the quality of service that Peggy Rhine has provided the past three decades."

Cindy succeeds Peggy Rhine who is entering retirement. Rhine has served NEO for over 34 years and has been instrumental in expanding student services such as Peggy's Closet. Peggy plans to remain engaged with NEO.





(NEO public safety officers receive instruction on using the MILO training system.)

## NEO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINS WITH INTERACTIVE SIMULATOR

The Department of Public Safety at NEO trained with a state-of-the-art system called MILO Range. The training gives officers an opportunity to train for a variety of scenarios while in a low risk environment.

“The Milo range training offers NEO officers several valuable things,” said Mark Wall, director of the department of public safety. “It helps us realize our strengths and weaknesses in order to better train for the officer’s needs and serve the campus.”

The training system uses interactive video that is able to respond to an officer, including their use of a flashlight, pepper spray, or a firearm. Along with the interactive real-world situations, officers are able to engage in a low cost method of firearm range training.

“The training also allowed us to stay on campus and train together,” added Wall. “It put us in stressful situations, but allowed a chance to discuss and debrief once the simulation was over. This is the best computer training I have ever had the opportunity to be a part of.”

## NEO NAMES 2015 MISS INDIAN NEO



(Photo from left: current Miss Indian NEO Allison Reyes (Osage); 2014 Miss Indian NEO Dava Daylight (Osage))

The American Indian Center for Excellence (AICE) and the Native American Student Association (NASA) at NEO hosted a day of activities to continue celebrating Native Heritage Month, including the Miss Indian NEO pageant.

NEO named Allison Reyes (descendant of the Osage Nation and Prairie Band Pottawatomie Nation) from Pawhuska,

**“I will dedicate my time and summer to representing as Miss Indian NEO with the utmost pride and respect. As Miss Indian NEO, I will promote the importance of education, culture, and leadership. I would like to see more Native American girls voice their opinions and become involved in their heritage, education, and tribal government. I want today’s youth to learn their language and traditions so they can pass them down for many generations. I also would like to thank NEO and the President’s Partners for their support.”**

Allison Reyes, Miss Indian NEO 2015

Okla. as the 2015 Miss Indian NEO during the annual pageant. The competition, in its fourth year since its re-introduction to campus, was open to female NEO students who met GPA requirements. Candidates were scored based on essays, reference letters, and their pageant performance. First runner-up was Aubreyanna Blalock (Peoria) from Miami, Okla. and second runner-up was Kelsi Foust (Cherokee), also from Miami. Along with the title and the chance to compete in the national competition, the President’s Partners from NEO contributed a \$200 scholarship to Reyes.

2015 Homecoming King Caleb Cox emceed the pageant and Reyes was crowned by Miss Indian NEO 2014 Dava Daylight. Anna McKibben (former Miss Indian USA), JulieAnna Rhode, and Dr. Linda Sue Warner served as judges for the competition. The event also featured the flute music of Talon Silverhorn.



# ATHLETICS



(The crowd throws toilet paper rolls onto the court after NEO scores the first basket of the season)

**“This is our third year to do it and it has become one of our most popular games. We received a technical foul for the disturbance, but it is a foul that I am willing to give up to keep our fans, players, and students engaged.”**

Dustin Grover, head coach of the Golden Norsemen

## NEO HOSTED THIRD ANNUAL TOILET PAPER GAME

Officials at NEO ordered over 600 rolls of toilet paper to prepare for their first home basketball game. The game is a tradition at NEO and celebrated the first point of the season. The Toilet Paper game was held Monday, Nov. 2, 2015 as the Golden Norsemen opened up the season against Oklahoma Wesleyan.

TP games are traditional at other schools as well. John Brown University in Siloam Springs, AR has been doing it for over three decades. The concept is that when NEO scores their first basket of the season, the crowd throws the rolls of toilet paper onto the court.

Rolls of toilet paper were handed out after the Lady Norse game. “I had heard about this game and couldn’t wait to experience it first hand,” said NEO student Sierra Hernandez before the game. “I watched the video and it looked so fun.” For a complete listing of all NEO Basketball games, check out [www.neoathletics.com](http://www.neoathletics.com).

## NEO WRESTLERS EARN TITLES AT MARYVILLE KAUFMAN-BRANDS OPEN

NEO wrestlers traveled to Maryville University on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015 to participate in the prestigious Maryville Kaufman-Brands Open wrestling tournament. The Norsemen entered 29 wrestlers and came home with 14 medal winners. There were 24 four-year colleges/universities entered and two junior colleges. NEO wrestlers were entered in the amateur division for college freshman and sophomores and advanced eleven to the semi-finals.

Earning titles were 157 lb. sophomore Kristian Holguin-Mendez (Sapulpa, Okla.); 165 lb. sophomore Dawaylon Barnes (Muskogee, Okla.); and 174 lb. sophomore Jacobe Smith (Muskogee, Okla.). Finishing second was 133 lb. freshman Curtis Burnett (Independence, Kans.); 184 lb. redshirt sophomore Jacob Hill (Augusta, Kans.); and 285 lb. sophomore Blake Andrews (Grapevine, Texas.).

Earning third place finishes were: 125 lb. Logan Terrill (Arkansas City, Kans.) and 285 lb. redshirt freshman Shawn Beeson (Monett, Mo.). Other place-winners were 133 lb. freshman Michael Lopez (Piedmont, Okla.) fourth; 141 lb. sophomore Mitchell Sellers (Tahlequah, Okla.) fourth; 149 lb. freshman Asa (Alex) Nelson (Guthrie, Okla.) fourth; 197 lb. sophomore Josh Latham (Chickasha, Okla.) fourth; 165 lb. freshman Saul Ortiz (Wichita, Kans.) sixth; and 184 lb. freshman Joe Gaither (Kingfisher, Okla.) sixth.

Coach Renfro was pleased with the performance but also stated, “We still have a lot of work to do and we will be back at it Sunday night in the weight room.”



(Photo: Coach Joe Renfro, left, proudly displays new score clocks purchased with funds provided by President’s Partners, represented by Annette Black, right)



(Jacobe Smith, returning National Champion from Muskogee, Okla. works the mat.)



# U P D A T E S



(President's Partners from left: Dr. Clark McQuigg, Carmen Couch, Annette Black, Rob Kimbrough, and Jackie Kreeger present the volleyball team with shirts for their National Tournament run)

## NEO VOLLEYBALL EARNS BERTH TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

The NEO volleyball team travelled to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II National Women's Volleyball Tournament in Phoenix, Ariz. on Nov. 19-21. They placed tenth in the tournament falling to fifth seeded Owens Community College in the ninth place championship round.

"Owens is a really, really good team with a solid volleyball program," said Eric Iverson, volleyball coach in a Miami News Record article. "Our girls earned a

lot of validation by reaching this level of the national tournament against teams of this caliber."

Central Community College defeated NEO is the first round of the tournament, but NEO won two consecutive games in the consolation bracket to earn a trip to the ninth place championship game. NEO lost one set to three against Owens after four very close sets.

Prior to the tournament, the Lady Norse earned the number one seed going into the District O tournament in Lexington, Mo. Lady Norse Volleyball defeated Longview Community College to advance to the national tournament. The team mounted an all-out attack with 47 kills, 7 service aces, and 47 digs. The game only lasted three sets, with NEO sweeping the opponents.

**"Our girls played very well all year. Our strength is our maturity and consistency, and I felt we were able to have a great season."**

Eric Iverson, volleyball coach

Before leaving for the national tournament, NEO's President's Partners provided shirts to the Lady Norse Volleyball Team. Congratulations on a great season!



(The NEO Volleyball Team poses with Dr. Hale as they present him the District O Tournament trophy.

From left, top row: Dr. Hale, Carol Martins, Jalee Dollarhide, Adi Etheson, Jordan King, Lauren Gaither, Mackenzie David, Savannah McAmis, Asst. Coach Lee Johnson, Coach Eric Iverson.  
Bottom Row: Juliana Tomasoni, Madison Sherman, Sunny Clark, Lexie Livingston.)



# NEO A G G I E



(The equestrian team traveled to MSU and earned the high point finish.)

## NEO EQUESTRIAN TEAM TAKES HIGH POINT AT MISSOURI STATE SHOW

The NEO Equestrian Team traveled to Missouri State University over Halloween weekend where they were the high point team on Sunday and the third place team on Saturday.

The team also received several individual awards, including first in the intermediate II, advanced, open classes, and high point individual on Saturday and first in beginner, intermediate II, and open on Sunday.

The NEO teams competed in Galva III. for their final show of the season at Black Hawk College. The event took place Nov. 21 and 22. The teams will have three more shows during the spring semester. The spring shows include the Missouri State University regional show and the Black Hawk College semi-final show.

## NEO EQUINE JUDGING TAKES SECOND AT ALL AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE CONGRESS AND AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION WORLD SHOW



(Coach Amanda Burrows, right, stands with her Reserve World Champion team at the AQHA World Show)

The NEO Equine Judging Team traveled to the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio to compete in the largest single breed horse show in the world. Along with several individual awards, the NEO team claimed Reserve Champions and Fourth Overall ranking at the congress.

The team competed in the Junior College Division where students judged twelve classes and gave five sets of reasons for each placement. NEO took second in halter, second in performance, and first in reasons.

The NEO teams then traveled to Oklahoma City on Sunday, Nov. 15 for their last fall show, the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Collegiate Horse Judging Contest. In that contest, the team finished Reserve World Champions. The team also earned a \$1,250 scholarship for their excellent finish.



# U P D A T E S



(The men's rodeo team proudly displays their prize from the Northwestern Oklahoma State University rodeo, a genuine Yeti cooler)

## NEO WRAPS UP FALL RODEO SEASON

The NEO Rodeo Team has completed its fall season and is celebrating several successes. Among the top awards, the men's rodeo team recently finished first at the Northwestern Oklahoma State University rodeo in Alva, Okla. The women's team took fourth place at the rodeo.

One standout from the women's team is Rilee Proffitt, a freshman in nursing from Knoxville, Iowa, who has made a short-go at every rodeo event for the fall season. Proffitt is a barrel racer and by making a short-go, she has placed in the top ten of each rodeo. Jenny Earp

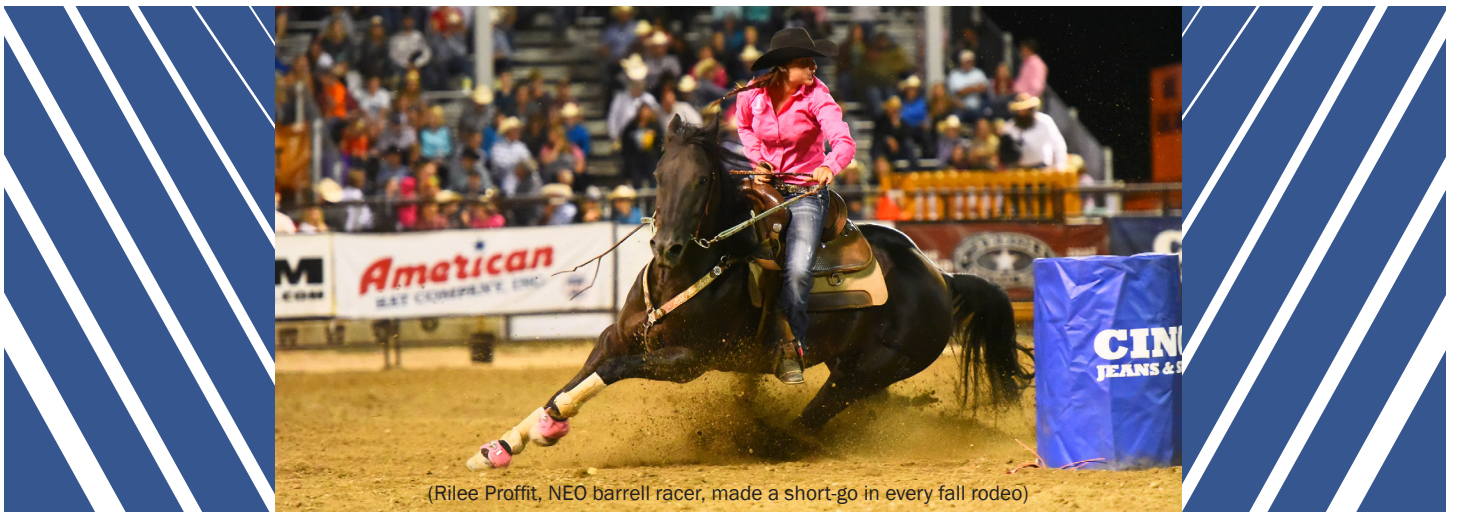
joins Proffitt as one of NEO's barrel racing competitors. Earp placed top ten at the Alva, Okla. rodeo.

Among the men, Tylan Layton, a junior in the Missouri State Pathways Program from Copan, Okla., has made a short-go in calf roping in three of the four rodeos, finishing as high as third at the Alva, Okla. rodeo. Other top ten finishers Quinton Inman and Dillon Sherrick join Layton. The three ropers were also invited to the 2015 Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. In the tie down roping event, Sherrick took high point, Layton placed third, and Inman placed fifth.

With the fall season now over, both the NEO men's and women's teams are ranked second among two-year colleges. The teams compete in the Central Plains Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. The body includes eight four-year colleges and eight two-year colleges.

**"I'm very proud of this team. We lost several veteran team members last year and this young team has really stepped up."**

Kolby Ungeheuer, Synar Farm manager and rodeo coach.



(Rilee Proffitt, NEO barrel racer, made a short-go in every fall rodeo)



# NEO SPOTLIGHT



(Photo: President's Partner Dr. Matt Osborn presents the bronze Norseman statue to his close friend Larry Reece, OSU's Voice of the Cowboys, for his extraordinary achievements)

## NEO DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING GALA A HUGE SUCCESS

The NEO Development Foundation reports that the annual fundraising gala raised over \$40,000. The Red Carpet Gala was held on Thursday, Nov. 5 in the Calcagno Family Ballroom. The event included both a live and silent auction with items donated by community members and businesses.

**“I want to send a special thank you to the generosity of our community. The money raised from this event will make a difference in the lives of our students. For many students, without a foundation scholarship they would not be able to realize the dream of a college education.”**

Jennifer Hessee, executive director of the NEO Development Foundation

Larry Reece, OSU's Voice of the Cowboys served as the emcee for the event. Reece, who attended NEO before transferring to OSU, shared the inspirational story of his battle with throat cancer. He was also presented with a bronze Norseman. The late Nick Calcagno, former NEO art instructor, designed the Norseman statue.

NEO alumni Brian Mooney and Dewayne Turner served as guest auctioneers for the live auction items. Items included a pampering package with a Vera Bradley handbag, a sportsman's package with a Traeger grill, an NEO spirit package, a Christmas at Tiffany's holiday tree, and an outdoor themed décor set, among others. The total amount raised during the auctions totaled over \$40,000. The funds from the event benefit NEO students through scholarships and student services.

