

JANUARY 2022

Panhandle

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EXCELLENCE**



“Dr. Blanton has been a strong leader at OPSU and in the A&M System for a number of years. The board is grateful for his commitment to OPSU and his willingness to lead the institution during this time.”

— Regent Trudy Milner,
Chair of the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents

/ CAMPUS /

BLANTON NAMED OPSU INTERIM PRESIDENT

On December 3, 2021, the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents voted unanimously to name Dr. Ryan Blanton the Interim President of Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Dr. Blanton began his duties on January 1, 2022, as the Regents conduct a nationwide search for the next president of OPSU. Blanton has been with the University since 2017 and served as the Vice President of Operations and previously as Vice President of Outreach.

“Dr. Blanton has been a strong leader at OPSU and in the A&M System for a number of years. The board is grateful for his commitment to OPSU and his willingness to lead the institution during this time,” said Regent Trudy Milner, Chair of the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents.

Previous to OPSU, Blanton served as the Associate Vice President of External Affairs and Executive Director of the Development Foundation at Connors State College and has been part of the Oklahoma A&M System for 11 years. Blanton holds a Bachelor of Art, a Master of Art, and a Doctor of Philosophy, all in anthropology, from the University of Oklahoma.

Prior to entering the Oklahoma A&M system, Blanton served as an Outreach Coordinator for the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, as well as an instructor of anthropology and a research assistant at both the American Indian Diabetes Prevention Center and the Center for Health Ethics, Research, and Policy at the University of Oklahoma.

“Dr. Blanton is a trusted leader on campus, in the community, and across the state” said outgoing OPSU President, Dr. Tim Faltyn. “He has been instrumental in the success of OPSU to this point and is an excellent choice to lead the university during this critical time. His passion to serve the region and the State of Oklahoma will serve the panhandle well.”

OPSU was originally founded by an act of the Oklahoma State Legislature in 1909 as Pan-Handle Agricultural Institute offering secondary agricultural education for the Panhandle area. In 1974, Oklahoma Panhandle State University became the official name of the University. Rooted in “Progress through Knowledge,” OPSU is committed to promoting excellence in the preparation of students for success in a global community.

“I am truly honored and humbled by the Board’s decision to be named as the Interim President,” said Blanton. “As an institution, we will continue to work diligently to build on the momentum and national reputation we have achieved these past several years.” **P**

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OKLAHOMA
PANHANDLE STATE
UNIVERSITY

P.O. Box 430 Goodwell, OK 73939

Tel: 580-349-2611 / Toll Free: 1-800-664-OPSU

Fax: 580-349-2302



@wearepanhandle

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Ryan Blanton — Interim President

Dr. Julie Dinger — Provost

Liz McMurphy — Associate Vice President of Fiscal Affairs

Dr. Jared Bates — Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

PANHANDLE MAGAZINE

Natasha Eidson — Director of Campus Communications

Chyanna Black — Director of Alumni Relations

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Natasha Eidson — Chyanna Black — Whitney Davis — Veronica

Ray — Joshua Ngalaba — Felipe Covarrubia — Chase Davis

/ CAMPUS /

EVENTS ON CAMPUS & IN THE COMMUNITY







/ CAMPUS /

OPSU STARTED THE SPRING 2022 SEMESTER ON JANUARY 10TH

Oklahoma Panhandle State University continues a traditional classroom setting for the Spring 2022 semester which started on January 10th.

OPSU Interim President Dr. Ryan Blanton stated, “We are prepared and ready to have a safe and successful spring semester. I am confident that this semester we will build on our momentum and further enhance the University’s reputation of excellence.”

OPSU ensures a safe and healthy experience for students, faculty, staff, and community members. Alongside campus health advisors, OPSU will continue to monitor the Oklahoma State Health Department’s recommendations and guidelines. While masks are welcome, they are not required. All Aggies have to do their part to keep each other safe and successful in the classroom.

Interim Dean of Student Services and Director of El Centro Valentina Allen stated, “Student Services and El Centro are continuing to work closely together to provide events that engage students from all walks of life. We have had a lot of things in the planning stage for Spring 2022 and I am so excited to begin unveiling those. These two departments directly serve our diverse Panhandle State community and I believe the students are going to have a great experience this semester.”

Student Senator Joshua Ngalaba commented, “Starting my last spring semester of OPSU has been a little overwhelming due to anxieties of moving forward, but reflecting on my time here and the

relationships made with professors & administration I feel confident in how they’ve prepared me to handle the challenges that come during a typical school year. I look forward to a bright future for my life as well as the University which has given me a great learning experience and I believe will continue to do so for others.”

Professor Dr. Justin Collins commented, “The students and faculty that I have come in contact with since the semester began are very excited for this semester, not only being back but for what the future holds in store. I am excited for what the future holds!”

OPSU offers in-person, hybrid, and online classes to accommodate all students. Students are encouraged to check Aggie Scholars frequently for class updates. Please reach out to your advisor or the Academic Resource Center arc@opsu.edu with any concerns. **P**

“We are prepared and ready to have a safe and successful spring semester. I am confident that this semester we will build on our momentum and further enhance the University’s reputation of excellence”

— Dr. Ryan Blanton,
Interim President

“Panhandle State Association of Alumni & Friends has been revitalized by participation and activities the past 5 years! We appreciate the increased sense of pride among our members, as well as the energy and leadership of the University as we help reconnect alumni and friends to each other and to Panhandle State.”

— Diane Murphey,
President, Panhandle State Association of
Alumni & Friends



/ CAMPUS /

PANHANDLE STATE STRIVES TO CONTINUE STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

The Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends has long been an avenue for Oklahoma Panhandle State University Alumni to stay connected with their alma mater. Throughout its history, the Alumni Association has recognized outstanding alumni through the Alumni Hall of Fame and the annual Honored Family recognition at Homecoming each year. It has been the primary office for engaging alumni with the University.

In 2017, OPSU President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, asked newly elected Panhandle State Alumni and Friends President Diane Murphy and OPSU Vice President of Outreach, Dr. Ryan Blanton, to reimagine what the Alumni Association could do to engage students, alumni, and the community. With a focus on engagement and advocacy for the University, Murphey and Blanton went to work on building new pathways for OPSU alumni to reconnect, and more importantly, be actively engaged in the mission of Panhandle State.

Among the first tasks were hiring a full-time Director of Alumni Relations, developing a new alumni database, recruiting new Alumni Association Board members, restructuring membership, and engaging with current OPSU students. Working together, the Alumni Association and OPSU leadership developed several new fundraising campaigns focused on specific college, activity, and University-wide projects.

Since 2017, the Panhandle State Alumni Association has been instrumental in assisting the university raise over \$2.5 million in external funds dedicated to scholarships, campus beautification, and activity-specific projects. One of the most highlighted projects was the restoration of the Sower Statue through the Century Club campaign in 2020, as well as the Hughes-Strong Renovation in 2021, and the current 2022 project to modernize the England Center.


“The focused partnership with the Alumni Association has been a game-changer for the University,” said OPSU Interim President, Dr. Ryan Blanton. “Diane has been a driving force in modernizing the engagement and fundraising efforts of the Alumni Association, and I am thankful to have worked alongside her these past five years.”

Murphey has helped to bring a more diverse and engaged Board of Directors members to the Association to advocate for the University. Along with these changes, Diane has been vital in annual Giving Challenges, and Century Club fundraisers.

Murphey stated, “Panhandle State Association of Alumni & Friends has been revitalized by participation and activities the past 5 years! We appreciate the increased sense of pride among our members, as well as the energy and leadership of the University as we help reconnect alumni and friends to each other and to Panhandle State.”

Director of Alumni Relations Chyanna Black, stated, “The Alumni Association is as healthy financially as it has ever been through Diane’s leadership. She has poured her heart into building up the Association to be something everyone can be proud of, and with her guidance, we will continue to grow!”

Black has also been very active as the Director of Alumni Relations, developing the Alumni on the Move recognition program, and is a central leader in the OPSU Athletics capital campaign to modernize and update the Aggie Baseball/Softball complex. Black, an OPSU Rodeo alumnae, has been instrumental in the growth of the Association and ensuring the success of campaigns and projects.

Alumni Association Vice President Meagan Greeson commented, “The amount of growth and success the University has shown over the past 5 years has been incredible to see. A growing and successful University leads to increased alumni involvement, and this has definitely shown true at Panhandle State. I couldn’t be more proud to be an Aggie and being able to witness the amazing things this University and alumni have shown and continue to show.” 



/ STAFF /

NIKKI STORK

Originally from Guymon, OK, Nikki Stork has built her roots for her own family in the Goodwell area. She is in her sixth year at Panhandle State and has enjoyed every minute. She started out working as the part-time Mail Room Clerk when she realized she wanted more of a career at OPSU. She was offered the position as an Academic Records Clerk, and she accepted quickly, knowing she would be able to help students one-on-one.

One of her favorite parts of working in the Academic Records Office is the parents. “I love talking to students and their parents, and it is such a one-on-one experience for them. I constantly try to reassure the student’s parents that we will take care of their children and help them along the way.

Stork has been married for 25 years to Chris, and they have two children, Davis and Pencie. In her time away from Panhandle State, she owns “No Man’s Land Designs” and uses her excellent decorating skills as an interior and floral designer. While in this business, she was invited to the White House in 2019 as a team member for the White House Holiday Decorating Volunteers hosted by First Lady Melania Trump.

“I love that everyone at the college encourages my side hustle passion, and how many individuals were a part of helping me get to Washington D.C.”

Nikki knows that her heart belongs to Panhandle State and the amazing people that work with her. “I didn’t anticipate how much I would love OPSU. My colleagues and the administration have always made me feel valued as an employee. I thank Dr. Faltyn for that because, during his time here, he went out of his way to show his appreciation.” **P**



/ STUDENT /

EMILY ELLIOT

Before attending Panhandle State, senior Emily Elliott grew up in Newkirk, Oklahoma. She will graduate in the Spring of 2022 with a Bachelor’s degree in Health and Physical Education.

Elliott plays for the Women’s Soccer team as a center midfielder. As a member of the program, she found pride in being one of the firsts among the program. She stated, “I was most excited to be a part of the new soccer program and its upbringing. My high school soccer program was in its second year just like when I arrived at OPSU.”

She came to Panhandle State because of the reputation of the education department. Elliott said, “I came to Panhandle State because of the well-known and successful education department. The small classes were also a bonus because I enjoy getting extra help when needed.”

In her time here, she has grown from the support of a small community. “My favorite thing about Panhandle State is the small community which brings lots of support for all activities on campus. This allows everyone to become familiar with each other, which makes the campus feel vibrant and the professors and students approachable.”, she noted.

After graduation, she plans to stay in the area with her fiancé and teach at one of the Panhandle area schools. Her goal is to bring more soccer to the Panhandle area’s smaller schools and start more summer athletic programs for kids to have more options. **P**



/ FACULTY /

ALICE BRAZEAU

Originally from Massachusetts, Alice Brazeau made her way to Panhandle State in the Summer of 2020 as an Instructor of Mathematics. She currently teaches Modeling & Basic Statistics, Modeling & Basic Statistics PLUS, and Physics.

Brazeau received her Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1989. Then, in 2006 she completed a Bachelor’s degree in Education centering around Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Mathematics.

Prior to OPSU, Brazeau taught at the secondary level, but her dream was to teach in Higher Education. “The family atmosphere and student-centered philosophy of OPSU were major factors in my decision to become an Aggie.”, said Brazeau.

One of her favorite things about teaching in Higher Education is that she does not have recess duty. “One thing I often point out to my former colleagues who are still teaching middle school and high school is that I do not have recess duty.”

Dean Shawna Tucker commented, “Ms. Brazeau is an awesome addition to the OPSU mathematics faculty. Her diverse background makes her a very effective and interesting instructor. We are delighted to have her as part of the OPSU family!”

Brazeau is an active member of the Victory Center Church in Guymon, often finding her at the sound booth. She also likes puzzles and board games. Brazeau stated, “Students are often a bit surprised to hear that I consider myself to be a gamer. Jigsaw puzzles, cryptograms, board games, card games, word games, and computer games are all things I enjoy.” **P**

/ ALUMNI /

JACK BRYON TEST, JR.

Jack Bryon Test, Jr. is a Guymon native working as an Internal Medicine Physician in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He graduated from Panhandle State in 2011 with a degree in Computer Information Systems. He continued his education at Panhandle State to receive a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2012.

Test chose to attend Panhandle State because his father taught at the university and the educational value for an affordable cost. His father, Bryon Test, recently retired after 26 years as a faculty member and Chairman of the Art Department.

The close and personal connection with faculty and staff that Panhandle State offers is one of his favorite things. He said, “My education was personally tailored to fit my career goals.”

He was extremely involved as a student, where he served as Student Government Association President for three years and Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Student Advisory Board Chairman.

Panhandle State holds many memories for him. He reflected, “I have too many memories of fun times with the Art Department projects like the Dorm of Doom to share. OPSU offered me a great number of leadership opportunities in the University Student Association and the Oklahoma Student Government Association. AITP trips were always a great treat, as well. I could not have achieved those posts without the opportunities OPSU offered me.”

Test and his wife, Juliann, have two young children, Trigg and Lauralee. Test enjoys traveling, skiing, water sports, and volunteering at the Oklahoma American Legion Boys State when he’s not working at the practice. **P**



OKLAHOMA
PANHANDLE STATE
UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH



/ CAMPUS /

OPSU PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH FOR 16TH PRESIDENT BEGINS

The A&M Board of Regents has started the search process for the 16th President of OPSU. The OPSU Presidential Search Committee and Board of Regents invite nominations and applications for the position of President of Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and is responsible for providing leadership to and assuring the effective administration of a four-year institution in Goodwell, Oklahoma.

OPSU was founded in 1909, to provide higher education opportunities primarily for people of the Oklahoma Panhandle and surrounding areas. The University offers a comprehensive range of academic programs, research, and public service activities in its College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing; College of Arts and Education; College of Business and Technology; and College of Online Learning with a total enrollment of approximately 1,600 students.

Applications may be considered up to the time the position is filled; however, to be assured of consideration they must be received by February 18, 2022.

More information related to this position and the search process can be found at <http://www.opsu.edu/presidentialsearch/>.

OPSU Presidential Search Committee - OSU/A&M Board of Regents - 900 N. Portland Ave.- Oklahoma City, OK 73107

Call: (405) 945-3263 or Email: board@okstate.edu

OPSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity/E-verify employer committed to diversity. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment and will not be discriminated against based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or protected veteran status. **P**

/ CAMPUS /

VALENTINA ALLEN TO SERVE AS INTERIM DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES



Oklahoma Panhandle State University announced that Valentina Allen will serve as Interim Dean of Student Services through the Spring 2022 semester to ensure students see no interruption to the student experience.

Allen currently serves as the Director of Hispanic Student Center, where she will continue her duties during her Interim appointment.

Provost, Dr. Julie Dinger stated, "Mrs. Allen has demonstrated her professional skill and leadership in the growth and development of El Centro since joining our team last year. We are thankful for her service and look forward to excellent student experiences this spring semester."

Allen commented, "I am beyond honored to serve in this role. My goal is to ensure that students continue to have the best possible experience at Oklahoma Panhandle State University and a seamless Spring 2022 semester. I will be surrounded by an amazing team, and I can't thank them enough for their tireless work. I look forward to working with everyone to continue what we have been building on."

Panhandle State will conduct a search for a permanent Dean of Student Services later in the Spring semester. **P**

/ CAMPUS /

DR. JARED BATES NAMED ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS




Oklahoma Panhandle State University named Dr. Jared Bates as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. Before accepting the position as Associate Vice President, Bates served as an Assistant Professor and Department Head of Animal Science for the College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing.

Provost Dr. Julie Dinger commented, “Dr. Bates is going to do an excellent job in this position. He has already hit the ground running this semester with a focus on building relationships and continuing our growth. The future of OPSU is bright with Dr. Bates on the academic leadership team.”

Bates received his Bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Oklahoma State University in 2004 and then attended the University of Nebraska to earn a Master’s in Animal Science concentrating on Breeding and Genetics. After attaining his Master’s, he earned a Ph.D. in Animal Science with a concentration in Breeding and Animal Diseases.

After working in Oklahoma State Government for six years, Dr. Bates decided to return to his passion, working and teaching in the agricultural sector and animal science field full-time, which is what brought him to Panhandle State.

Bates stated, “I’m excited to assist this University in this position as we move forward. The University can definitely play a role in furthering economic and workforce development in the Oklahoma Panhandle and surrounding areas. My goal is to help build and solidify relationships with other education institutions and our workforce partners to help our communities prosper. Go Aggies!!!” 



/ CAMPUS /

PANHANDLE STATE HOSTS 70TH ANNUAL BULL TEST SALE




Oklahoma Panhandle State University will hold the 70th Annual Bull Test Sale on February 21, 2022 in the Milton England Activity Center. The beef bulls are consigned to the performance test for 112 days. The final weigh-day for the bulls will be January 29, 2022.

The first Bull Test was established in 1952 by Milton England, making it the oldest Bull Test in the United States. In 1980, England retired and Jerry Martin was appointed Director of the Bull Test. Jerry and his wife, Gwen, have managed and ran the Bull Test and Sale for the last 42 years. They have both served at Panhandle State for 53 years.

Gwen stated, “We have conducted the Bull Test and Sale for the past 42 years in addition to our other full-time duties. It involves feeding the bulls twice daily seven days a week, compiling the data each twenty-eight days after each weighing, getting the information out to the breeders and prospective buyers each weigh day, and conducting the sale each year.”

“Dr. Jerry Martin has done a tremendous job again this year in managing and oversight of the OPSU Bull Test and Sale. This year marks the 70th Annual Sale for the OPSU Bull Test, and we are excited to present this offering, from producers in Oklahoma and Texas, an excellent set of Angus, Red Angus, Hereford, and Shorthorn bulls. The OPSU Bull Test provides OPSU students an opportunity to gain real-world experience in animal handling and feeding, and allows area producers an opportunity to purchase bulls from sons of some of the top genetics in the cattle industry.”, stated Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Jared Bates.

Those interested in following the performance of the bulls through the test can contact Gwen Martin in the Animal Science Department at OPSU at 580-349-1500 to be placed on the mailing list to receive performance reports and a sale catalog. 



FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	USW	USW
					ALLEN TOURNAMENT	ALLEN TOURNAMENT
	6	7	8	9	10	11
ALLEN TOURNAMENT	13	14	15	16	17	18
KWU	21	22	23	24	USAO	USAO
27	28					

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	LANGSTON TOURNAMENT	LANGSTON TOURNAMENT
					SAGU	SAGU
	6	7	8	9	10	11
	13	14	OCU	16	17	MACU
	20	21	22	23	24	25
BC	28	29	30	31		

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					TWU	TWU
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10	11	12	LU	LU	15
	17	18	CCU	CCU	21	OCU
	24	25	26	27	SCU	30

/ATHLETICS/

AGGIE SOFTBALL

SPRING 2022 PREVIEW

Panhandle State Softball starts their season picked to finish middle of the pack in the talent-loaded Sooner Athletic Conference. The Sooner Athletic Conference holds two top-10 nationally ranked programs. The Aggies return Head Coach Marc Benjamin and Assistant Coach Jackie Sanchez.

The Aggies currently hold one of the younger teams in the conference; however, they return critical upper-level students for the 2022 season. Seniors Kinzie Jones and Kayli Grove are joined by returning juniors Sarah Conley, Kaitlyn Lord, Caitley Adams, and Veronica Ray. After solid offensive showings, Jones and Grove finished their 2021 season on the All-SAC list. Jones is in her third season for the Aggies and looks to end her career on a high note. Jones stated, "I am super excited for the 2022 season to begin! I am extremely blessed to have an opportunity to take this fifth year to complete my softball career. The team has been putting in hard work, and everyone is dedicated to achieving the goals we've set for the season. This team is exceptional, and I am honored to be a part of it."

Before starting their preseason tournament slate, Aggie Softball begins their season on the road facing the University of the Southwest Mustangs in Hobbs, New Mexico, competing in tournaments in Allen, Texas, and Chickasha, Oklahoma. The Aggies then host their first home games against Kansas Wesleyan University before hitting the road for twelve straight games as they begin conference play. **P**

2022 PANHANDLE STATE RODEO SCHEDULE



FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
						5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
					KANSAS STATE	KANSAS STATE
KANSAS STATE						
	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
						5
	6	7	8	9	10	FSCC
FSCC		14	15	16	17	18
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	27	28	29	30	31	



APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					GCCC	GCCC
GCCC		4	5	6	SWOSU	SWOSU
10	11	12	13	14	FHSU	FHSU
FHSU						
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	OPSU	OPSU

/ATHLETICS/

OPSU RODEO SPRING 2022 PREVIEW

Panhandle State's Rodeo team will continue their season at Kansas State in Manhattan on February 18th, 2022. Both the men's and women's teams will compete at six spring rodeos to finish out their season with hopes of qualifying for the College National Finals Rodeo in June.

Head Coach, Robert Etbauer, said, "We have a lot of good rodeos coming up with great kids to compete, and we're looking forward to a great spring semester."

The men's team will start with momentum to build on sitting third going into K-State's rodeo. It is no surprise that the men's team is a force to be reckoned with in the Saddle Bronc Riding, with six of the Top 10 wearing the blue and red vest. Senior, Ean Price, leads the way sitting third overall. TJ Schmidt, a senior, hangs in there in the Bull Riding as he hopes for another trip back to Casper in June.

On the Timed Event end of the arena, sophomore, Darcy Kersh, is tied for third in the Steer Wrestling, followed by freshman Tom Simpson, sitting sixth. Simpson shows his ability as an all-around as he sits fifth in the Tie-Down Roping. He's not the only overall on the time, with Price and Kersh holding their place in the Top 10 of the Team Roping.

The cowgirls go into the spring sitting third overall with senior Beau Peterson leading the pack. Peterson is leading the Breakaway Roping. She's accompanied in the Top 10 by freshman Chaley Hext, who made her name known in the fall semester as an all-around cowgirl. Hext is sitting ninth in the Goat Tying behind junior McKenna Brennan, who's on the bubble in fourth going into the spring. Peterson continues to prove herself an all-around as she sits seventh in the Barrel Racing, just behind fellow senior Savanna Morgan in the sixth hole.

Panhandle State's cowboys and cowgirls push through the semester's rodeos to qualify for the CNFR. They will have to place in the Top 3 of their events individually to qualify, and as a team be in the Top 2 at the end of the final rodeo. **P**

AGGIES

TRACK & FIELD



MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	CSU PUEBLO
20	21	22	23	24	OBU	OBU
27	28	29	30	31		



APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					FRIENDS UNIV.	FRIENDS UNIV.
3	4	5	6	WTAMU	WTAMU	WTAMU
10	11	12	13	LCU		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	ACU	29	30



MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	SAC CONFERENCE MEET	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
WTAMU	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31				

/ATHLETICS/

AGGIE TRACK & FIELD SPRING 2022 PREVIEW

Oklahoma Panhandle State University has brought back Track and Field as a University recognized sport to compete at the NAIA level of collegiate athletics for the 2022 season, upping the number of sports Panhandle State offers to 17 total programs.

The Track and Field program holds an essential spot in the history of the University as it had the only student-athlete that was a national champion, Truman Medders. Medders is an NAIA National Champion and holds a spot in the Panhandle State Athletic Hall of Fame. In 1954, Medders won the NAIA 400-meter hurdle championship with a time of 53.4 seconds, which was the fourth-ranked time in the United States in 1954. The Aggies look to follow in the footsteps of Medders as they enter the first year of their reinstatement.

Head Coach, Jessi James stated, "I woke up January 1 knowing this was the semester the dream has and will become a reality. We have many exciting days ahead; we kick off the season on March 19 in Pueblo, Colorado, and then head to my alma mater at OBU. I am super excited about these first two meets to gauge where we are and what we need to change to get to Gulf Shores, Alabama, in May. I have been truly blessed with some amazing upperclassmen that have taken the reins and led the team strong in the offseason."

Senior Quentin Fankouser from Goodwell will compete in the decathlon. Another leader for the men is Junior Traegan Flanagan from Kingman, Kansas. Kingman will lead the very young 4x800 team. Sophomore Zoe Salazar from Cimarron, New Mexico, has been all around in leading the outside team; she will compete in the women's 4x400m and javelin as well.

James stated, "There are so many athletes that I have been blessed with this first year. I can't name them all, but big things are coming for Track and Field this year."

The Aggies look to compete in eight total meets this year. They will begin their season Saturday, March 19, at Colorado State-Pueblo. Following that, they head to Kansas to Texas, then back up into Oklahoma throughout the season. They hope to qualify for the NAIA National Championship held in mid-May in Gulf Shores, Alabama. **P**

OKLAHOMA **PANHANDLE STATE** UNIVERSITY



OKLAHOMA
PANHANDLE STATE
UNIVERSITY
Rodeo Team **2022**

TOP HAND AUCTION

February 5, 2022

Pickle Creek Event Center

Guymon, OK

Starts at 6 P.M.

Doors open at 5:30 P.M.



Keeping the winning tradition alive

Contact Robert Etbauer at 620-655-3829 or Shelbie Rose 719-691-1796