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WELCOME HOME,
AGGIES

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Together, We Are Panhandle Proud

I am honored to be the 16th President of Oklahoma Panhandle State University, and I believe that together we will continue to provide exceptional student experiences and bring value to each other and all those we serve.

I may be the university's first female and first Native American president, but I'm stepping into a legacy of over 110 years of excellence in higher education at OPSU. As a campus community, our university mission of Progress through Knowledge remains our central driving force.

To continue our brand of excellence into the next 110 years, we will be skillful stewards of our resources and aspire to be the model of a sustainable rural university in the 21st century. This is an exciting time at Panhandle State, and there is an energy and excitement on campus as we celebrate being nationally recognized while reaching new heights.

This year, U.S. News and World Report ranked Oklahoma Panhandle State University third in the West for value and affordability of our undergraduate programs. We offer small class sizes and experiential learning opportunities for students across our more than 35 degree programs and certificates across our four academic colleges, and we host over 60 student organizations, teams, and clubs for student engagement.

Together with our first-class faculty, dedicated staff, bright students, and supportive community, we usher in a new era of renewed excellence. When it comes down to it, what matters most are our people. In this new chapter, we will focus on making our values of integrity and inclusion front and center in our process. Doing so will ensure that we always welcome, value, and respect one another. **P**



Dr. Julie Dinger
University President



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PANHANDLE MAGAZINE

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/ CAMPUS /

WELCOME HOME, AGGIES MOVE-IN DAY







/ UNIVERSITY /

PANHANDLE STATE EARNS TOP RANKINGS FOR U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Oklahoma Panhandle State University earned multiple spots for the 2023 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings: #3 Best Value Regional Colleges West; #8 Top Public Colleges for the Western Region; and #17 Best Regional Colleges West. This is the first year for OPSU to be ranked under the Best Value category for Regional Colleges West. The western region covers 14 states, including Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and California. Panhandle State was also recently named #2 Most Diverse College in Oklahoma for 2023 by Niche.

University President Dr. Julie Dinger stated, “These rankings solidify that together, we have made Panhandle State a destination for students seeking the best education. Our region is better because of the dedication our people put into their work every day. Students who choose OPSU get to join a community dedicated to excellent student experiences.”

Panhandle State offers over 35 degree programs in four different colleges within the University: The College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing; the College of Arts and Education; the College of Business and Technology; and the College of Online Learning.

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Theresa Billiot, commented, “Panhandle State has made great strides in improvements and creating positive impacts on our communities.”

These rankings are helpful for applicants choosing a college because they rate the strength of the academic program at each undergraduate institution which gives applicants information on critical factors to consider when selecting a college. **P**

“This record-breaking session was a collaboration and expansion of classes and support services for our students. Our community is committed to expanding access and improving student success. I am so thankful for the faculty and staff who made this possible.”

— Dr. Julie Dinger,
University President



/ UNIVERSITY /

RECORD-BREAKING SUMMER ENROLLMENT FOR PANHANDLE STATE

Oklahoma Panhandle State University set a record-breaking summer enrollment in both headcount and credit hours that have never been seen in university history. The 2022 summer sessions saw an increase of 12% in headcount and 22% increase in credit hours from the 2021 summer sessions.

“This record-breaking session was a collaboration and expansion of classes and support services for our students. Our community is committed to expanding access and improving student success. I am so thankful for the faculty and staff who made this possible,” stated University President Dr. Dinger.

Most students taking online courses over the summer were working or living at home. The courses offered over Summer 2022 were primarily online, with over 3,900 credit hours. The traditional courses for the summer made up around 130 credit hours. With interest in more online courses, students can live off campus, work, and more all while moving closer to graduation. The online coursework also accommodates students around the world.

Director of Admissions, Brooke Morgan, commented, “This summer we wanted to focus our efforts on retention with current students. We started this effort by campaigning for summer classes for students who wanted to get ahead or catch up with their studies. In addition to OPSU offering online courses, it has allowed our students more access to enroll in classes. I am beyond proud of OPSU for reaching record-breaking enrollment for the summer. I hope to see enrollment continue to increase as we move forward into the upcoming semesters.” **P**



/ STAFF /

DILLON **SCHOENHALS**

Raised on a farm and ranch between Elmwood and Slapout, Oklahoma, Dillon Schoenhals enjoys supporting the people around him at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Schoenhals has been the Director of Institutional Research since 2016. He is essentially the data hub for the university. He creates reports and sends the data to help support students and also sends reports to the State and Federal levels for compliance.

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Billiot, stated, “Dillon performs an essential role with helping us make data-driven decision-making. He has proven to be extremely reliable and resourceful, and OPSU is extremely appreciative with his responsiveness to gathering critical data that helps us to move forward.”

Schoenhals is a 2015 graduate of Panhandle State with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems. He decided he wanted to join the family at OPSU because of the small-town environment. “OPSU has given me the ability to stay out in the middle of nowhere and be able to spend time with my family,” he stated.

Schoenhals commented, “I was looking for a job in small towns right after graduation and had been talking with Diane Murphy. She had suggested applying for the job here at OPSU.”

When he is not busy taking care of his two-year-old son, one-year-old daughter, and preparing for his third child, Schoenhals enjoys woodworking (e.g., cutting down trees and milling them for lumber) and riding his bicycle in big events like the 2018 Biking across Kansas ride. **P**



/ STUDENT /

TATUM **HALL**

Panhandle State Senior Tatum Hall was named the 2022-2023 Central Plains Region Student Director for the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. Hall is the first OPSU student to have this position since 2015. As the Student Director, Hall will be responsible for the region’s finances and ensuring the national sponsors are represented at all of the regional rodeos. She will also be the voice for the entire Central Plains Region student body.

Originally from Springfield, Colorado, Hall will graduate in May of 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She credits Professor Justin Collins for his influence on her decision on a major. “Doc makes things relatable, is reasonable, and keeps things interesting.”

Hall has been on the Panhandle State Rodeo Team since 2019. She said she looks up to her coach, Shelbie Rose, and is thankful to be under her leadership.

“Tatum is the kind of athlete coaches dream to coach. She’s responsible, takes care of her schoolwork, and works hard. I’m so excited for her to be the student director for our region. Since I am the Faculty Director for the region, I look forward to working with Tatum and coaching her during her final season here. She has a bright future ahead, and I can’t wait to see where life takes her,” stated Shelbie Rose.

Hall favors the small family community that Panhandle State offers. “The relationships with my teachers and everyone on campus have made my experience great. My rodeo teammates are my family, and I am so thankful for them.”

If she isn’t roping, you can find Hall working at the No Man’s Land Café in Texhoma. She has two siblings, Porter and Conley. After graduation, she plans to stay in the rodeo industry and hopes to build roots around the Panhandle region. She also does booking for Mark Freeman and hopes to keep doing that after graduation. **P**



/ FACULTY /

ALLISON COLLINS

Certified Nurse Educator Dr. Allison Collins is from Durant, Oklahoma, and has devoted a wealth of time and effort to her craft. Dr. Collins earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master in Nursing Education from the University of Oklahoma, then furthered her higher education at the University of Alabama, where she received a Doctorate in Educational Leadership in 2019. She also became a Certified Nurse Educator by demonstrating proficiencies in nursing education by the National League of Nursing.

Dr. Collins is a part of the nursing faculty at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, serving as an assistant professor. “Our RN-BSN program is attracting nurses state-wide, and I wanted to be a part of a successful program,” stated Dr. Collins.

Working in fields such as medical, surgical, public health, and psychiatric nursing for 25 years, Dr. Collins understands the difficulty of continuing to further one’s education while working as a nurse. Dr. Collins remarks about OPSU’s nursing program, “I love that our Nursing program is 100% remote and caters to our hard-working nurses.”

Dr. Collins teaches the introductory and senior-level courses in the RN-BSN program, and she enjoys witnessing students’ progress professionally through their studies. Dr. Collins says, “I think our program prepares registered nurses for continuing in graduate programs to become nurse practitioners, nurse educators, and other nurse leaders.”

Dr. Collins enjoys making memories with loved ones and spending time with her husband of 21 years and her three children. **P**



/ ALUMNI /

ASHLYNN REMINGTON

Ashlynn Remington grew up in Meade, Kansas, and graduated from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in 2015. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and a Bachelor of Science in AgriBusiness. She continued her education receiving a master’s degree at West Texas A&M before returning to her hometown.

Ashlynn currently works as a territory manager at Merck Animal Health. In this position she travels within her territory to feedlots and cattle producers to keep them educated on the current health procedures and products that they offer.

Ashlynn chose OPSU to be close enough to home to help her family with their cattle operation, and she was drawn to the small town environment and the OPSU community. “We had a lot of fun being trailer park kids and thinking we had the tiger by the tail. We would have ‘family suppers’ and pack those trailers full of students and play card games until we were crying from laughing.”

Professor Justin Collins commented, “Ashlynn was a great student with a very strong desire to learn and also had an outgoing personality. She was a pleasure to have in class.”

She was the first of four children to attend Panhandle State. Her brother, Taten, and two sisters, Reagan and Affton, also attended and graduated from OPSU.

Ashlynn met her husband, Cody, at OPSU and they have been married for four years. She enjoys team roping with family and friends and keeping up with her curious one-year-old. A fun fact about Ashlynn’s family connection to Panhandle State is that both other brothers-in-law are also alumni. **P**



“The Board of Regents looks forward to Dr. Blanton’s continued leadership at OPSU in the role of VP of Advancement. We appreciate his years of service to OPSU and engagement with partners in the region. As a board, we will continue to do all that we can to assure a bright future for OPSU.”

— Dr. Trudy Milner,
Chair of the A&M Board of Regents

/ ADMINISTRATION /

BLANTON NAMED VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT

On June 1, 2022, the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents voted to name Dr. Ryan Blanton Vice President of Advancement for Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Dr. Blanton began his duties in this new position on July 1, 2022. Blanton has been with the University since 2017 and previously served as the Interim President. Prior to his time as Interim President, Dr. Blanton was the Vice President of Operations and Outreach.

“The Board of Regents looks forward to Dr. Blanton’s continued leadership at OPSU in the role of VP of Advancement. We appreciate his years of service to OPSU and engagement with partners in the region. As a Board, we will continue to do all that we can to assure a bright future for OPSU,” said Dr. Trudy Milner, Chair of the A&M Board of Regents.

Blanton will provide leadership for the University’s advancement efforts, including alumni and foundation relations, grant development and management, economic development, marketing, and support for athletic programs.

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 12 years. A third-generation veteran of the U.S. Army, Blanton holds BA, MA, and PhD degrees in anthropology from the University of Oklahoma.

“I am excited by the Board’s decision to be named Vice President of Advancement,” said Blanton. “I look forward to building on our successes and developing new and productive advancement opportunities for our University.” **P**

“Dr. Billiot’s experience in higher education will make her an asset to Panhandle State. She has an ability to join individuals together and that is what we need for our academic and student affairs team.”

— Dr. Julie Dinger,
University President



/ ADMINISTRATION /

DR. THERESA BILLIOT SELECTED AS VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS

Oklahoma Panhandle State University selected Dr. Theresa Billiot as the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs following a national search completed by an 11-member search committee. Prior to Panhandle State she served as an Assistant Dean and Associate Professor at Woodbury University and a tenured Associate Professor in Marketing at Cameron University.

University President Dr. Julie Dinger said, “Dr. Billiot’s experience in higher education will make her an asset to Panhandle State. She has an ability to join individuals together and that is what we need for our academic and student affairs team.”

Dr. Billiot earned a Doctorate in Mass Communications with a Cognate in Marketing from Texas Tech University, a Master’s of Business Administration in Marketing from Florida Atlantic University, a Master’s of Art in Mass Communications and Media Arts from Southern Illinois University, and a Bachelor of Art in Mass Communications from Nicholls State University.

Dr. Billiot’s goals are student centered and purpose driven. “We use to ask students, “what do you want to be when you grow up?” Now we need to ask students, “what problems do you want to solve?” This approach will help us fulfill OPSU’s mission statement as well as become more purpose driven.”

“To carry this out, my office is going to launch Panhandle Teaching and Learning (PTL). PTL’s mission is to create a collaborative ecosystem of faculty, staff, business leaders, and community partners to identify how our campus can solve industry challenges and community problems.”

Improving the student experience is high on Dr. Billiot’s to-do list for herself. “I want to improve the student experience at every touchpoint. We have a strong and motivated community who is very student centric. Together, we can identify areas of improvement and create even more positive impacts.”

Alumni engagement is important to Dr. Billiot’s mission, kick starting the semester in this new role. She stated, “It’s important to also get our alumni engaged in every stage of the student life cycle. From applying to OPSU, choosing a major, and interviewing for jobs, I want our alumni to serve as mentors for first generation college students throughout their academic studies.”

Dr. Billiot commented, “I look forward to having healthy discussions with faculty on how we can differentiate ourselves so we can attract students and employers to hire our graduates.” **P**



/ FACULTY /

DR. KAREN GOOSEN NAMED DEAN OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

Dr. Karen Goosen has been named the Dean of the College of Business and Technology (COBT) at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Before this position, Dr. Goosen served as an instructor for the Business and Agribusiness programs and the advisor for the 100% online program.

Originally from Lowell, Massachusetts, Dr. Goosen graduated from Panhandle State with a Bachelor of Business Administration. She then completed her master's from Liberty University with a minor in leadership, and received her Doctorate of Management from Colorado Technical University with an emphasis in Higher Education, Teaching, and Learning.

University President Dr. Julie Dinger commented, "Dr. Goosen brings a breadth of experiences in both higher education and industry that will drive success. She is passionate and ready to take the college forward in a new and exciting direction."

Building meaningful relationships with students, faculty, and the community is important to Dr. Goosen in this position. "I want to help develop stronger links between the community and COBT. I would love to see our students and faculty actively engaging in local projects that benefit the families and businesses in the surrounding area," she stated.

"Getting the Master's in Business Administration in Agribusiness program up and running is another goal that is forefront in my mind. Finally, building up our industrial program is crucial to our area; the needs are great and the talent is out there, and I believe we can truly shine in this discipline."

Dr. Goosen is constantly growing her knowledge by reading journals and research articles. She is a peer reviewer and editor for the Organizational Development Journal. On top of this all, she is currently working on a second master's degree. **P**

/ FACULTY /

TRACY KINCANNON NAMED DEAN OF THE AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE, & NURSING COLLEGE



Oklahoma Panhandle State University announced the Dean of the Agriculture, Science, and Nursing College (COASN) as Tracy Kincannon. Kincannon is a third-generation graduate of Panhandle State with over two decades of experience as an agriculture education teacher and administrator.

Originally from Boise City, Kincannon graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education in 1999 from Panhandle State. He then taught agricultural education classes in Hardesty and Texhoma. In 2006, he received his Master's in Educational Leadership from Southern Nazarene University and began his career in education administration. He dedicated 22 years to K-12 education before being called to higher education.

University President, Dr. Julie Dinger stated, "I am so pleased to welcome Mr. Tracy Kincannon to the OPSU family. He brings a commitment to excellent student experiences and a leadership style that will continue to grow and improve our work and reputation."

"I am so very excited to join the team and help execute the mission of OPSU, progress through knowledge," said Kincannon.

Kincannon and his wife, Cindy, have been married for 28 years and have three children Clayton, Brett, and Audrey. Tracy and his wife love to travel and spend time with their family. **P**



“Chyanna is very outgoing, professional, and has an outstanding work ethic that will be very valuable to handle the work load of this office. We are all looking forward to working with her, helping the Panhandle State Foundation grow and prosper, to meet our needs for the future.”

— Jim Quimby,
Panhandle State Foundation Board
Director

/ FOUNDATION /

CHYANNA BLACK NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PANHANDLE STATE FOUNDATION

Oklahoma Panhandle State University and the Panhandle State Foundation are excited to announce Chyanna Black as the newest Executive Director of the Foundation. Chyanna was previously the Director of Alumni Relations, a position in which she will continue until that position is filled.

Black graduated from Panhandle State in 2016 and is originally from Hudson, Colorado. She graduated with two Bachelor of Science degrees: one in Animal Science and another in Agribusiness.

University President, Dr. Julie Dinger stated, “I am so proud of Ms. Black and look forward to her leadership as we continue our excellent partnership with the Foundation. The future is bright.”

The Panhandle State Foundation board decided to make the executive director a full-time position at their April board meeting. Dr. Doris Looper held the role for over 20 years and left the position on July 29th. Black is eager to take the reins and has already hit the ground running with training in the office.

Panhandle State Foundation board director, Jim Quimby commented, “Dr. Looper will be missed by all the friends of the foundation that she grew to know and love over the years. Chyanna is very outgoing, professional, and has an outstanding work ethic that will be very valuable to handle the work load of this office. We are all looking forward to working with her, helping the Panhandle State Foundation grow and prosper to meet our needs for the future.”

“I’m grateful for the Foundation and its Board of Directors that have given me the opportunity to serve in this position. The Foundation has a history of success, and I’m excited to continue to build upon that in this new era with the board,” Chyanna commented.

Vice President of Advancement, Dr. Ryan Blanton stated, “Since Chyanna’s arrival in 2019, the Alumni Association has seen tremendous growth under her leadership. She has engaged not only with our alumni, but has also been eager to help other departments on campus.” **P**

2022

ATHLETIC



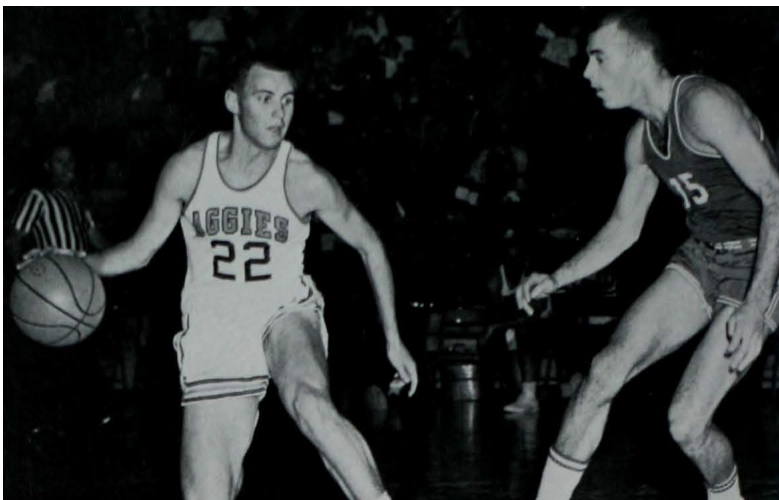
Hall of Fame

Jerry Havens (Men's Basketball)

Jerry Havens, born and raised in Cordell, Oklahoma, was a guard on the OPSU men's basketball team for four years. He graduated with a Bachelor of Business Education. After receiving his degree from OPSU, Havens stayed as an assistant coach for the Aggies.

Havens coached high school basketball for 38 years and was an assistant football coach for four years. Jerry and his wife, Susan, are semi-retired. He works part-time for the Oklahoma Coaches Association, and Susan evaluates student teachers for Oklahoma State University.

Their two sons, Ja and Jon, are basketball coaches at the college level, and each has won national championships in their divisions. Havens has been inducted into three other hall of fames: Oklahoma Coaches Association, Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association, and the National High School Coaches Association.



Jerry Havens, Men's Basketball



Greg Pinkerton, Football

Greg Pinkerton (Football)

Oklahoma native Gregory (Greg) Pinkerton was a standout Aggie on the football team from 1967 to 1971. He attended OPSU on a football scholarship and was attracted to the small school with a family atmosphere. During his time, he was Honorable Mention All-American in 1970, First Team All-All-Conference from 1969 to 1970, and Honorable Mention All-Conference from 1967 to 1968. Pinkerton graduated from Panhandle State with a Bachelor in Physical Education, minoring in Military Science.

After receiving his degree, Pinkerton enlisted in the military and was stationed at Fort Lee in Virginia. At Fort Lee, Pinkerton was in charge of the company motor. He was in the service for two years and then made first lieutenant after he served. Pinkerton and his wife, Bobbi, of 51 years, live in Oklahoma City and have a daughter, Jennifer.

Oklahoma Panhandle State University Department of Athletics is honored to announce the members who will be inducted into the 2022 Hall of Fame this year. The induction ceremonies are scheduled to take place on September 17, 2022. The Athletics Department will host the event in the ballroom of the Student Union and will start at 11:00 AM with a luncheon. The inductees will be acknowledged during the halftime of the Aggie football game that will occur later that evening versus Texas College.

The 2022 Hall of Fame Class is Ryan Forsythe ('05), Greg Pinkerton ('71), Jerry Havens ('64), and Tracy Flanagan(Glover) ('06). Athletic Director, Victor Esparza commented, "It will be an honor to celebrate our 2022 Hall of Fame Inductee Class. I commend them on their achievements while at Panhandle State, and I look forward to spending time with each of their families."

Tracy Flanagan (Softball)

Tracy Flanagan (Glover), born and raised in Tempe, Arizona, was a member of the Panhandle State Aggies softball team. She finished her first year with 28 doubles in 57 games, which earned her a spot on the First-Team All-Heartland Conference team in 2003. She holds the highest team batting average and caught all recorded and non-recorded games for the Aggies softball season that same year.

Flanagan was selected to represent Team USA as a Junior National Pan-American Softball Player in 2003 and was the pre-season All-American coaches pick.

Flanagan graduated from OPSU in 2006 with honors and received the Outstanding Education Student Award. She continued her education to receive her Master of Science in Education from Fort Hays State University with honors in 2011.

After graduating, she married Josh Flanagan, an OPSU Aggies baseball team member. Flanagan is currently teaching at Rolla Elementary, and she resides in Elkhart.



Tracy Flanagan, Softball



Ryan Forsythe, Baseball

Ryan Forsythe (Baseball)

Originally from Tempe, Arizona, Ryan Forsythe was a tremendous asset to the OPSU baseball team. He was named to the first team All-Heartland Conference three times while a student at OPSU in 2003, 2004, and 2005, with an incredible batting average of .396 in 2003 and 2004. He earned a Bachelor of Psychology in 2005 from Panhandle State.

After he graduated, Forsythe played in leagues at a minor level in the States and internationally. After his travels, he earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. Forsythe is now an engineer with the Scottsdale Fire Department in Arizona, where he lives with his wife, Kristen, and their son, Boston.



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