

SEPTEMBER 2024

# **Panhandle**

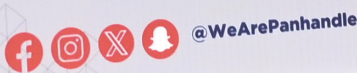
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I'M A PART OF  
**HISTORY!**

CELEBRATING 115 YEARS



welcome back  
**2024**  
panhandle state  


**OPSU CELEBRATES**  
115 YEARS

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# GEARS UP

## FOR FALL 2024 WITH A NEW ERA WELCOMING THE 115TH CLASS

**As the Fall 2024 semester begins,** excitement is building at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. This semester marks the arrival of the 115th class in Goodwell, Oklahoma. The 2024 freshman class is larger than 2023, with an increase in freshman class credit hours, up by 8%, and a 7% rise in freshman headcount compared to last year. The most common GPA among the 2024 freshmen is a perfect 4.0, up from 3.48 in 2023. This upward trend reflects the academic potential of our newest Aggies, many of whom are coming to OPSU with a solid foundation and an eagerness to excel.

In addition to academic achievements, the composition of the freshman class reflects a broader representation of Oklahoma residents. The proportion of in-state students has grown, strengthening ties with local communities and attracting talented students from across the state.

University President Dr. Julie Dinger expressed her enthusiasm for the incoming class, stating, "I'm proud of the work our team has accomplished in bringing in this larger freshman class. These aggies are coming to OPSU with a strong foundation from their high schools." She continued, "We're already seeing them actively engage in classes and supporting each other at campus events. We look forward to supporting them as they build their path to the future."

Another area of success is concurrent enrollment, which has surged by 38% from last year, thanks to Cindy Kincannon's dedicated efforts. Her work has been instrumental in expanding the reach and appeal of this program, offering high school students an invaluable opportunity to jumpstart their college education while still completing their secondary education.

"Mrs. Kincannon's relentless efforts to connect with students and educators have driven concurrent enrollment to new heights and set a standard of excellence echoed across our campus. Our team's collective commitment to

enhancing the student experience, both in and out of the classroom, is truly inspiring," stated Dr. Julie Dinger.

This year's freshman class is particularly unique as it is the first to enter our doors without having experienced the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic during their high school years. "There's an undeniable energy on campus this semester that feels positive and bright. While overall enrollment may not be up as sharply as in previous years, the increased participation in campus activities and more students in classrooms rather than online signals a promising shift," stated Laura Hutchinson, Dean of Student Affairs.

**"I'm proud of the work our team has accomplished in bringing in this larger freshman class. These aggies are coming to OPSU with a strong foundation from their high schools."**

— Dr. Julie Dinger, University President

OPSU kicked off the semester with a Welcome Week like never before. Each evening featured various events to help students connect with their peers, explore the campus, and dive into university life. There was something for everyone, from social mixers and game nights to informational sessions and interactive activities.

As OPSU grows and adapts, the university remains focused on providing an enriching educational experience that prepares students for successful futures. The enthusiasm and commitment of students, faculty, and staff this semester is an indication of the bright days ahead for the Aggie family. **P**



# OPSU STUDENTS

## SECURE SUMMER INTERNSHIPS, GAINING HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

**Attending OPSU opens doors to** invaluable career-enhancing experiences through internships that prepare you for the workforce after graduation. This summer, nearly 30 OPSU students secured internships across a variety of industries, gaining hands-on experience that directly impacts their career readiness. These opportunities highlight OPSU's dedication to workforce development by equipping students with the practical skills and knowledge needed to excel in their chosen fields.

"At Oklahoma Panhandle State University, our mission goes beyond graduation. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to equipping our students with the skills and experiences necessary to thrive in the workforce," stated University President, Dr. Julie Dinger. "We take great pride in knowing that our graduates are not only leaving with degrees but the practical knowledge and experience that make them invaluable in their chosen careers. Preparing our students for success in the workforce is one of the most important commitments we make as a university."

The College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing had over 21 students in internships across various sectors, including agribusiness, environmental science, healthcare, and veterinary services. The College of Business and Technology had 4 students in internships that increased their practical skills and professional networks.

Tracy Kincannon, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing expressed immense pride in the students' achievements, stating, "Our students' ability to secure these internships showcases

their dedication and the high quality of education they receive at OPSU. These experiences enhance their academic knowledge and provide critical real-world skills that will serve them well in their future careers."

Vicki Pasque, Dean of the College of Business and Technology, highlighted the significance of these opportunities, saying, "Internships are a vital part of our students' education. They bridge the gap between classroom learning and professional practice. We are thrilled that our students have the opportunity to learn from industry professionals and apply their knowledge in real-world settings."

The College of Business and Technology placements include business administration, information technology, and marketing internships, providing students with a broad spectrum of experiences that prepare them for various career paths. These internships enable students to tackle real business challenges, work on live projects, and develop problem-solving and leadership abilities.

The success of this year's placements in internships identifies the university's role in fostering a practical, career-oriented education that meets the demands of today's job market. As students return to campus or head into the workforce after serving their internships this summer, they carry with them the knowledge and skills honed at OPSU, ready to make significant contributions to their organizations and, ultimately, to their chosen professions.

For more information on summer internships and how to be a business that provides a summer internship, please get in touch with the Academic Resource Center via email at [arc@opsu.edu](mailto:arc@opsu.edu). **P**

# DR. JULIE DINGER

## NAMED TO THE 2024 JOURNAL RECORD POWER LIST OF NATIVE AMERICANS



**The Oklahoma Journal Record** announced an influential list of Native honorees from across Oklahoma who play a valuable role in moving the state forward and ensuring that Oklahoma’s workforce thrives in a constantly changing landscape. Dr. Julie Dinger, President of Oklahoma Panhandle State University, has been recognized in the 2024 Journal Record Power List of Native Americans. Dr. Dinger is a proud citizen of the Osage Nation. Dr. Dinger has led OPSU since 2022, where she has spearheaded numerous initiatives to enhance academic programs, student engagement, and a supportive campus community.

The Journal Record Power List of Native Americans annually recognizes influential Native American leaders across diverse sectors, including education, business, government, and nonprofit organizations. Being named to this list is a notable achievement, reflecting Dr. Dinger’s influence as an Oklahoman

and an educational leader. “I am incredibly honored to be included among these great Native American leaders,” Dr. Dinger stated. “The impacts of Native Americans across our great state and nation is a testament to the strength and resilience of our sovereign nations.”

Dr. Dinger’s inclusion in the 2024 Journal Record Power List of Native Americans is a proud moment for Oklahoma Panhandle State University and a significant milestone in her distinguished career. As she continues to lead, Dr. Dinger remains committed to making higher education more accessible and affordable for all students, ensuring that OPSU is a place where everyone can succeed. **P**

# VICKI PASQUE

## NAMED INTERIM DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

**With a career spanning two decades at OPSU,** Vicki Pasque brings a wealth of experience, deep-rooted connections to the Panhandle, and a clear vision, making her the perfect choice as the Interim Dean of the College of Business and Technology at Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

Pasque, a proud OPSU alumna, began her journey in higher education as an adjunct faculty member in the Computer Information Systems Department in 2004, under Diane Murphey's mentorship. She transitioned to a full-time instructor role in 2006 and became an Assistant Professor.

Her educational background is extensive and specialized. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems from OPSU and a Master of Science in Information Assurance from Capitol College. Pasque's professional certifications further expand her expertise, including certifications from the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security in various national information assurance training standards.

As a native of the Panhandle, Pasque is deeply connected to the community. She graduated from Texhoma High School and returned to the Panhandle after completing her education, where she has since been dedicated to the advancement of OPSU and its students. Her passion for the region and commitment to the university are evident in her vision for the College of Business and Technology.

Pasque envisions the COBT as a hub of excellence, where faculty are empowered with the tools and opportunities to excel in their fields and continue to inspire students to achieve greatness. "The College of Business and Technology has a rich history of graduating students who go and do amazing things. The foundation of that is having great faculty and giving them the opportunity and tools to be their best, to continue learning, and to continue investing in and inspiring our students," said Pasque.

"I am consistently impressed by Mrs. Pasque's leadership. She is uniting the college in alignment with our mission with her



experience and deep understanding of our unique challenges and opportunities. I know that under her leadership, the College of Business and Technology will continue to thrive, empowering our faculty and students to achieve a new level of success," stated Dr. Julie Dinger, University President.

Her immediate goals include fostering a supportive and collaborative environment for faculty, building sustainable programs, and strengthening partnerships within the community. Pasque is committed to enhancing student engagement and success, recognizing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in maintaining student involvement. She aims to reinvigorate student participation in clubs, activities, and internships, which she sees as crucial for helping students apply their learning and build strong professional networks.

Under her leadership, the COBT will continue to cultivate relationships with local businesses, many of which are led by OPSU alumni. Pasque is enthusiastic about these businesses' role in providing valuable internships and feedback, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared for the workforce. She has established a College of Business and Technology Advisory Board to facilitate this and enhance communication and collaboration with local business leaders.

Pasque acknowledges the unique challenges OPSU faces due to its rural location and size but is confident in its ability to overcome them through strong community and alumni support. "Things that are always welcome at OPSU: more students, more community support, and more money," she stated. The newly established Aggie Partners program is one such initiative aimed at bolstering scholarship funds and supporting academic programs.

"I am deeply honored to take on this new role. My heart is in serving the needs of our community and supporting our students and faculty," Pasque expressed. With her leadership, the future of the College of Business and Technology at OPSU looks bright, promising continued success and innovation in education. **P**





# OPSU WOMEN IN AG

## ARE SHAPING TOMORROW'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

**On August 23, five members** of the OPSU Women in Ag club, accompanied by their advisor and Executive Director of the Panhandle State Foundation, Chyanna Black, attended the AgHERculture Collegiate Conference at the Governor's Mansion in Oklahoma City. This event aimed to empower young women pursuing careers in agriculture. Organized by the Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, Secretary Blayne Arthur and her team, held this conference that brought together female leaders from across the state, all with a shared goal: to uplift and prepare the next generation of women in agriculture.

The keynote speaker, Kirbe Schnoor, a well-respected figure in the agricultural community and TV Host of FarmHer, captivated the audience with her powerful message of that related to the women in the room as they plan their future. She focused on resilience, leadership, and the importance of women networking and supporting one another in the industry.

After the keynote speaker, the ladies had the opportunity to network with several industry leaders in a one-on-one conversation. Schnoor and mentors Kelli Payne, Kylee Deniz, Kirby Smith, Alisen Anderson, Brandi Herndon, Cortney Cowley, and Kass Newell all rotating every 25-minutes among the tables to tell their stories, answer questions from the collegiate women, and get to know what the next generation of women in ag are interested in and facing.

For Rylin Baker, President of Women in Ag at OPSU, the conference

was a reminder of the vast opportunities available to women in the agricultural field. "Being surrounded by accomplished women made me realize the sky's the limit. We have the power to shape agriculture's future, and events like these give us the tools and confidence to do so," Rylin shared.

For Kaylee Woolman, Vice President of Women in Ag at OPSU, was inspired by the conference, stating, "Seeing women who have already blazed the trail for us is incredibly motivating. It's a reminder that we're not alone on this journey and that we have a responsibility to continue paving the way for those who will come after us."

Chyanna Black, stated, "Watching these young women engage with industry leaders and soak up the wisdom shared tonight was truly inspiring. The excitement and inspiration the group has for their upcoming conference along with new ideas for it, is exactly why these conferences and connections are important. They are the future of agriculture, and I have no doubt they will leave their mark on this industry."

The OPSU Women in Ag club is already looking forward to bringing the inspiration and knowledge they have gained to campus. On October 9, they will host their Women in Ag conference, continuing the conversation with speakers from the conference and empowering their peers. With leaders like the ones in the Women in Ag club at the helm, the future of women in agriculture looks brighter than ever. **P**



# OPSU ALUMNA

SHELBY ROSE  
NAMED FALL 2024  
ALUMNI ON THE  
MOVE

**The OPSU Association of Alumni and Friends** proudly announced that Shelbie Rose, Head Women's Rodeo Coach, and distinguished alumna, has been named the Fall 2024 Alumni on the Move. Rose, a standout in the rodeo community, has earned national attention for her achievements and leadership, earning her the title of Rodeo Coach of the Year for the Central Plains Region for the fourth consecutive year.

Since taking the reins as Head Women's Rodeo Coach at OPSU, Rose has made a lasting impact on the program. Her dedication to the sport and her students has elevated the OPSU Rodeo team to new heights and inspired the next generation of rodeo athletes. Under her leadership, the OPSU Women's Rodeo team has consistently performed at an elite level, with numerous athletes qualifying for the College National Finals Rodeo and achieving top rankings in the region. Rose's commitment to excellence in and out of the arena is evident in the team's success and her players' growth as athletes and individuals.

OPSU President Dr. Julie Dinger stated, "Shelbie Rose is rock solid OPSU. Her commitment to her team and rodeo is unparalleled, and we are incredibly proud to honor her as our Fall 2024 Alumni on the Move. She always sets the standard of excellence and has made a lasting impact on our students and our community."

The Alumni on the Move recognition is awarded to alums who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and dedication in their respective fields. Rose's ongoing success as a coach and her commitment to her team exemplify these qualities, making her deserving of this honor.

For more information about the Alumni on the Move and the Alumni Association, please visit <https://opsu.edu/alumni-friends/> or contact Shawn Joy in the Alumni office at 580-349-1361. **P**

# OPSU SECURES \$3.5 MILLION

## IN DEFERRED MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOLLOWING LEGISLATIVE STUDY



### **At Oklahoma Panhandle State University,**

every brick and every classroom carries the stories of students who've come here to transform their lives. Situated in a rural setting, OPSU has always faced unique challenges, but our commitment to delivering quality education has never wavered. The Oklahoma Higher Education Legislature allocated deferred maintenance funding. These funds will improve safety, accessibility, and technology, ensuring the university can continue providing high-quality education while managing operating costs effectively.

An interim study conducted in October at the State Capitol allowed University President Dr. Julie Dinger to address the unique challenges OPSU faces as a rural institution. She highlighted the rising costs of energy and property insurance and the urgent need for infrastructure upgrades.

With the deferred maintenance funding, OPSU plans to undertake several critical upgrades. Among these are the replacement of aging roofs, windows, and HVAC units, which are essential for improving energy efficiency and sustainability across

campus. These upgrades will not only reduce operational costs but also create a more comfortable environment for students, faculty, and staff. Additionally, the university will invest in IT infrastructure and modern classroom technology to enhance the teaching and learning experience, ensuring that OPSU continues to provide high-quality education in a state-of-the-art setting.

After OPSU submitted its priority planning list to the OSRHE, Texas County was struck by a catastrophic thousand-year flood. This natural disaster devastated the community, leaving the university with significant additional repair needs. Among the most urgent is replacing two roofs that sustained severe damage. These repairs are now critical to ensure the safety and functionality of our campus, adding to the list of deferred maintenance items that must be addressed to restore and protect our facilities.

"I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our state leaders for their continued support of higher education in the Panhandle," stated Dr. Julie Dinger, University President. "Your commitment enables institutions like OPSU to thrive, fostering academic excellence and driving regional development. Thank you for being so dedicated to advancing educational opportunities and strengthening our community."

Oklahoma Panhandle State University sincerely thanks state legislators and Governor Stitt for their commitment to higher education by approving state appropriations for FY25. This vital funding will help address deferred maintenance at OPSU, ensuring a safer and more conducive learning environment. By investing in critical fields like information technology infrastructure, building infrastructure and engineering, and teacher education, our leaders empower the next generation of Oklahomans to meet the state's workforce demands and achieve their educational goals. Thank you for prioritizing the future of Oklahoma. **P**

# OPSU PBL

## STUDENTS PLACE TOP-TEN IN THE NATION



Left to right, **Carlos Flores, Madison Galvin, Hunter Harris, Ryan Sinclair, Daniel Byers, Alan Anchondo, and Julie Johnson**

**Oklahoma Panhandle State University's** Future Business Leaders of America recently attended the Future Business Leaders of America, Inc.'s (FBLA) National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Orlando, Florida, from June 24 to June 27. The NLC provides education, competition, and networking opportunities for business-minded individuals.

Seven students participated in the event and returned with three top-ten awards. Alan Anchondo secured 5th place in the Parliamentary Procedures competition and expressed his gratitude to OPSU for the opportunities and friendships gained. Hunter Harris secured 9th place in the Foundations of Technology. Hunter shares that PBL has transformed his readiness for the professional world in ways that traditional classes couldn't. "I owe a big thanks to Professors Curtis and Professor Smith for creating such a supportive environment where I've grown and found success. It's incredibly rewarding to see PBL consistently achieving success year after year in competition," Hunter stated. Madison Galvin secured 10th place in the Future Business Educator competition. Madison also shared that NLC was a positive experience.

University President, Dr. Julie Dinger stated, "I am incredibly proud of the OPSU PBL students for their national placement at the National Leadership Conference. Their achievements demonstrate the excellence of our students and their dedicated faculty."

"The College of Business and Technology students have proven their exceptional abilities at the National Leadership Conference through hard work and dedication. Their passion for success is not

just evident, but a promise of the great heights they will undoubtedly reach in their professional careers," said Tracy Curtis, PBL Advisor.

If you are an OPSU student looking to enhance your leadership skills and build a network for your future career, join the PBL club. This is an opportunity to participate in professional development, competitive events, and community service activities. If you want to join this club, please email Tracy Curtis at [tracy.curtis@opsu.edu](mailto:tracy.curtis@opsu.edu) for more information. **P**

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**— Tracy Curtis, PBL Advisor**



# OPSU AND LAMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENS EDUCATIONAL TIES

**Partnerships in education are vital for** fostering growth, innovation, and community engagement. By combining resources, expertise, and enthusiasm, institutions can create opportunities far beyond their capabilities. The partnership between Oklahoma Panhandle State University and Lamar Community College shows just that. This collaboration showcases the power of teamwork and mutual support, illustrating how two institutions can work together to achieve outcomes.

Dean Kincannon was presented the Lamar Community College Premiere Partner Award for 2023-2024. This award recognizes the outstanding collaboration between OPSU Agriculture College and Lamar Community College in hosting the Colorado FFA Southeast District Contest. This past spring, with the support of OPSU professors and students, Lamar Community College successfully hosted over 900 students from across Southern Colorado for FFA career development events. OPSU played a significant role in assisting with the livestock and meat judging contests. While assisting those contests, our faculty and students helped organize livestock and meat judging classes and organized the officials for each contest. This served as a great opportunity to build our connection with Lamar Community College and connect with students from all over southern Colorado.

“Dean Kincannon and the entire faculty and staff have worked so hard this last year, devoting their time to promoting agricultural excellence regionally and nationally. Their achievements showcase the talent within our programs and highlight our commitment to serving and partnering with our community. I could not be more proud of their hard work and the positive impact they have made,” said Dr. Julie Dinger, University President.

Lead Agriculture Instructor of LCC, Dr. Brian Gauck, stated, “The long-standing partnership between OPSU and Lamar Community College continues to grow when serving rural youth. The amazing people at OPSU lend their expertise to Meats and Livestock FFA CDE contests, ensuring the high school students have a premier opportunity to excel.” He continued, “I am excited to continue working with Mr. Kincannon and OPSU as we explore and develop greater opportunities for our college students.”

Building on the successes of this partnership in the last year, both institutions are committed to expanding their joint efforts to reach even more students. Plans are underway to introduce new programs and events that will offer enhanced educational and career development opportunities. By leveraging their combined strengths and resources, OPSU and Lamar Community College aim to create a vibrant, interconnected learning community within agriculture that supports student achievement. This ongoing collaboration promises to not only benefit the students of today but also lay a strong foundation for future generations. **P**



# OPSU ALUMNI

## HONORS THE KINSEY FAMILY AS THE 2024 ALUMNI HONORED FAMILY

### **OPSU proudly announces the Kinsey family**

as the 2024 Alumni Honored Family. The Kinsey family's legacy at OPSU began when four brothers, Steven, Scott, Skylar, and Stuart, with Steven Kinsey, decided to set the foundation for a tradition of educational achievement at OPSU that spanned over the next 50 years. Over eight family members have graduated from OPSU in degrees ranging from Social Studies and Education to Business and Animal Science.

JA and Patricia (Cornell) Kinsey, parents to the four brothers, were from the Balko area. All four brothers graduated from Balko Public School. Steve was the oldest and graduated in 1975 from OPSU with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies. His wife, Beverly Cates, attended PSU in 1973-74. After Beverly passed away, Steve married Debbie Grimmer. She also graduated from PSU in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Debbie received a Master of Education degree from the University of Central Oklahoma. The second oldest, Scott, graduated in 1977 from OPSU with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He then received his Master of Education from East Central University. The third oldest, Skylar, graduated in 1979 from OPSU with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. The youngest, Stuart, graduated in 1982 from OPSU with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He married Roxie Miller, who graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Their two daughters, Sage and Shay, also graduated from OPSU. Sage (Kinsey) Edsall graduated in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in

Fine Arts and then received her Master of Fine Arts from West Texas State University. Shay graduated in 2022 with two Bachelor of Science degrees in Animal Science and Biology and a minor in Chemistry. Sage and Shay both received the prestigious J.R.P. Sewell Award. Shay married Chandler Evans, who graduated from OPSU in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy. They even had their wedding pictures taken on the OPSU campus.

The Kinsey family's contributions to the community are immeasurable. They have produced several teachers who have collectively spent 123 years educating our youth. JA and Patricia would be so proud of their boys and their families for the legacy they have created. This recognition celebrates not only their academic accomplishments but also their significant contributions to the community and the fields of business, education, and science. The Kinsey family's dedication to education and service embodies the spirit and values of OPSU, and we are all grateful for their contributions.

University President Dr. Julie Dinger stated, "The Kinsey family represents the best of what OPSU stands for, commitment to education and dedication to the community. Their legacy is a testament to the power of higher education, and we are honored to celebrate their achievements."

The Kinsey family will be formally recognized during the 2024 Homecoming celebrations on September 21, 2024. Alumni, students, faculty, and staff are invited to join in honoring their contributions and celebrating their enduring legacy at OPSU. **P**

# OPSU EXPANDS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## PARTNERSHIP WITH GOODWELL PUBLIC SCHOOL TO ENHANCE DIGITAL LEARNING



**Oklahoma Panhandle State University** is pleased to announce its partnership with Goodwell Public School (GPS). The OPSU Information Technology team will expand its services to provide essential IT support to GPS, ensuring that students, teachers, and staff have access to the necessary tools and resources for success in today's digital age.

In addition to the expanded partnership, OPSU IT will explore new opportunities to enhance the school's technology capabilities. This may involve implementing new technologies, developing customized solutions, or providing additional support services.

OPSU and Goodwell Public School have partnered over the years in several areas. One existing partnership includes a facility use partnership for Athletics, which allows Goodwell Public School students to practice and play in sporting events at Anchor D Stadium and in Anchor D Arena. Other initiatives that have operated in the past include an after-school care program. When a need was recognized for a shared IT service, both OPSU and GPS took a closer look to see how we could expand the partnership.

Daniel Byers, a recent OPSU graduate of the 2024 class, took on the role of Academic Technology Coordinator. Working alongside the IT team, his responsibilities will involve leading the integration of technology into the curriculum, providing professional development for faculty and staff, and managing the technology infrastructure. His role will be crucial in ensuring that both institutions have access to the tools and resources necessary to provide a high-quality, innovative, and relevant education in

today's digital age.

The IT team has already begun upgrading campus IT infrastructure by installing new classroom technology this fall semester that will enhance the academic spaces and instruction at OPSU. Upgrades that we've already seen on campus include a new help ticket system and the launch of electronic approvals for campus forms. Information Technology will make huge strides this academic year at OPSU as we upgrade the fiber and network gear on campus to boost connectivity and accelerate troubleshooting.

Jerome Ortiz, Director of Information Technology, stated, "I am truly grateful for the opportunity to take on the role of IT Director at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. As I step into this position, I am eager to unveil my vision for the IT department and actively pursue opportunities for collaboration to drive innovation and progress." Technology is a powerful tool that can improve lives, education, and community. "My objective is to establish OPSU as a trailblazer in technology, not only in the region but in the entire state. I envision a campus where technology seamlessly integrates into our daily lives, from the classroom to the administrative offices."

By partnering with Goodwell Public School, OPSU can create a technologically advanced environment for both campuses that nurtures a conducive space for students to learn, grow, and achieve their full potential.

Eddie Smith, Goodwell Public School Superintendent, stated, "We are so blessed to be able to utilize the resources offered by the IT department at Panhandle State. Jerome Ortiz and Daniel Byers were an integral part in getting our school year going in the right direction." He continued, "This is going to be yet another great partnership between Goodwell Public Schools and OPSU. The Goodwell School District would like to thank Dr. Dinger, Shawn Joy, and the athletes at OPSU for all the extra things that you do for the district."

Elizabeth McMurphy, Vice President of Fiscal Affairs, commented, "The future of Information Technology at OPSU is bright. Under the leadership of IT Director Jerome Ortiz, there is excitement in the air about where we're headed in the realm of technology, as students, faculty, and staff are already seeing new initiatives making a huge impact on their experience. Not only will we see this impact on our campus, but we have the opportunity to partner with and provide a level of service to Goodwell Public School that reaches the students, teachers, administrators, and Goodwell community. **P**

# OPSU RODEO

## SHINES AT CNFR WITH MCKENNA BRENNAN WINNING RESERVE NATIONAL CHAMPION



Photo by: **Jackie Jensen Photography**

### The Oklahoma Panhandle State University

Rodeo team delivered outstanding performances at the 2024 College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming. The women's team finished tied for 8th in the nation, with McKenna Brennan named Reserve National Champion Goat Tyer.

McKenna Brennan's skills and determination were on full display throughout the competition. In Breakaway Roping, Brennan finished 29th in the nation, clocking 3.3 seconds in the first round, 3.6 seconds in the second round, and receiving no time in the third round. Her Goat Tying performance was exceptional with times of 6.5 seconds, 6.4 seconds, and 6.7 respectively through the three rounds. Brennan ran a 6.7-second run in the short round which put her second in the aggregate and secured her the title of Reserve National Champion.

OPSU's success at the CNFR extended beyond Brennan. Parker

**“I’m so proud of our Rodeo athletes and coaches for putting in the work this year. From our college rodeo named Rodeo of the Year for the Central Plains, to Coach Rose being named Coach of the Region four years in a row, to McKenna Brennan securing Reserve Champion, there is so much for us to celebrate”**

**— Dr. Julie Dinger, University President**

McIntyre finished 11th in Goat Tying, recording times of 6.5 seconds, 6.8 seconds, 7.0 seconds in the first three rounds respectively, and finished with a 9 -second in the short round. Camree Slavin, competing in Breakaway Roping, finished 49th in the nation with a 2.8 second run in the first round, had tough luck resulting no times in the second and third rounds. In Saddle Bronc Riding, Brett Coffman had challenging draws that resulted in no scores in all three rounds.

Head Coaches, Shelbie Rose and Robert Etbauer, expressed immense pride in the team's achievements, highlighting their determination and grit as they competed. University President, Dr. Julie Dinger added, “I’m so proud of our Rodeo athletes and coaches for putting in the work this year. From our college Rodeo named Rodeo of the Year for the Central Plains, to Coach Rose being named Coach of the Region 4 years in a row, to McKenna Brennan securing Reserve Champion, there is so much for us to celebrate.”

The OPSU rodeo team's accomplishments at the CNFR are a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the supportive environment created by the coaches, their teammates, and the entire OPSU community that was cheering them on. **P**



# OPSU AGGIES

## HONOR FOUR AT ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CEREMONY



**Oklahoma Panhandle State University Athletics** is proud to announce the 2024 induction of four exceptional athletes into its Athletic Hall of Fame. Sidney Diggs Jr., Murry Gloude, Roger Schenks, and Doug Williams were all inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame on August 31. We honored their dedication, achievements, and lasting impact on the university.

Sidney Diggs Jr., a standout basketball player from 1981-1985, was known for his double-doubles and 1,000-point career. Originally from Waynesboro, VA, Diggs played a pivotal role in the Aggies' historic 1982-1983 season, which saw the team achieve a record 35-5. A 1984 article from *The Oklahoman* highlighted Diggs' impact in a crucial NAIA game, where he scored 25 points and led the Aggies to victory. Post-college, Diggs continued his passion for basketball by coaching at Waynesboro Public Schools from 2011-2019. Reflecting on his OPSU days, Diggs credited his success to his teammates and coaches, stating, "I wanted to win and get championships when I came to OPSU. My team was a major part of my success."

Murry Gloude, a dominant football player for the Aggies from 1989 to 1992, was renowned for his toughness, recording 238 tackles, even playing his senior year with a cast. Gloude, who transferred from Southern University in New Orleans, led his team as captain and cherished memories like the victory over West Texas A&M. After OPSU, he enjoyed a 30-year career at PTCI and co-owned Quality Carpet Care for 16 years. Gloude also served on the Goodwell Public Schools board for 12 years and actively supported the Goodwell Booster Club. Grateful for the foundation OPSU provided, Gloude expressed, "It's very special, very exciting. Just sitting at home thinking about this tremendous honor; you never know who is looking over you."

Rodger Schenks, a punter from 1995-1997, left a legacy at OPSU. Named First Team All-Conference in 1995 and leading the nation in punting in 1996, Schenks earned First Team All-American honors. His excellence extended beyond college, as he played arena football and later became a successful educator and coach, earning Arizona Coach of the Year in 2002. Schenks expressed gratitude to his coaches and teammates, emphasizing the importance of hard work and dedication. "Being the best in the conference both years in 95-96 and the best in the nation in 97 is a great honor," he reflected.

Doug Williams, a football star from 2009-2010, made his mark with numerous accolades, including All-American honors. Williams recorded 151 catches for 1,982 yards and 26 touchdowns during his OPSU career. He continued his success in arena football, playing for several teams and winning back-to-back championships with the Amarillo Venom. After his playing career, Williams became a special education and PE teacher, coaching middle school sports in northern Colorado. Reflecting on his induction, Williams said, "It validates sacrifice, dedication, hard work, adversity, and fighting through it to get to this point." **P**



OKLAHOMA  
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# HOMECOMING EVENTS

9/20/2024

**7PM Volleyball Game**

Coronation Immediately Following the Game

9/21/2024

**8AM PBL 5K**

Sunset Lake in Guymon

**10AM MSC Legacy Fundraiser**

Methodist Student Center

**11AM COASN Alumni Reunion**

Science and Ag Building

**1PM Volleyball Game**

Anchor D Arena

**3PM Parade**

Aggie Avenue

**3:30PM Tailgate & Alumni Meal**

Tailgate Area

**6PM Football Game**

Anchor D Stadium

**CHECK OUT  
ALL THINGS  
HOMECOMING!**



**#wearepanhandle**