

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

AGGIELITE

DECEMBER 2024



MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

Bill Anoatubby

Governor, Chickasaw Nation

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

REFLECTING ON A REMARKABLE YEAR AND LOOKING AHEAD

As 2024 comes to a close, I am filled with gratitude and pride in our collective achievements at Murray State College. This year has exemplified our resilience, innovation and commitment to creating pathways for students of all backgrounds.

Through programs like the Accelerated College Experience (ACE), we've empowered high school students to earn associate degrees alongside their diplomas, transforming lives across six districts. Partnerships with organizations like SouthernTech continue to expand, offering seamless transitions from technical training to degree programs.

This year, we celebrated a significant milestone with a successful 10-year accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission and approvals for groundbreaking programs such as the online Occupational Therapy Assistant degree and the nation's

first bachelor's in gunsmithing.

Our students inspire us with their academics, athletics and community service accomplishments. Record-breaking enrollment and a 33% growth over three years showcase the expanding impact of our mission. This growth, supported by our board's visionary leadership and faculty and staff's dedication, allows us to reinvest in our campuses and communities.

As we look to 2025, we're excited to invest \$60 million in state-of-the-art facilities and initiatives across the Ardmore and Tishomingo campuses that further academic and athletic success. Together, we're creating a legacy of opportunity and excellence.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We wish you a season of reflection and joy as we prepare for a bright future.



DR. TIM FALTYN
President
Murray State
College

TOP HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR:



\$10 MILLION

Budgeted more than \$10 million in scholarships for students.



WORKFORCE

97% of our graduates enter critical workforce occupations.



COMMUNITY STRENGTHENED

More than 15 community partnerships were established.



LARGEST COMMENCEMENT

Murray State graduated its largest class in the 116-year history of the college.



LEADING PARTNER

Restored and renovated the Davis-Moore American Legion Post #164.



MOST AFFORDABLE

Online U named Murray State the most affordable community college in Oklahoma.



HIGHEST ENROLLMENT

Record-breaking enrollment and a 33% growth over three years.



RECORD FUNDRAISING

Raised \$30+ million in external funding since January 2022.



**“
With the steadfast
support of our Regents,
we are building a
brighter future for
our college and the
communities
we serve.”**

**Dr. Tim Faltyn,
President Murray State College**



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

Murray State's OACC Faculty, Staff and Support Staff of the Year were recognized at dinner during the Board of Regents October meeting.

2024-2025 MURRAY STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS

**ADISHA
CHAPMAN**
Chair

**LESLIE
LARSEN**
Vice
Chair

**KEITH
GRAY**
Secretary

**DILLON
SPARKS**
MSC Foundation
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Representative

**ALLEN
BENSON**
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Member

**SUZIE
BREWSTER**
Board
Member

**CLAY
MCCALL**
Board
Member

HONORED

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND CHAMPION AWARD RECIPIENT

Murray State hosted its annual alumni banquet at the Murray State Event Center in Ardmore, Oklahoma. This year's Distinguished Alumni, Athletic Hall of Fame inductees and Champion Award recipient were recognized.

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE ATHLETICS 2024 HALL OF FAME CLASS

Al Smith, Mark Hamilton and Tierani Smith were inducted into this year's athletic hall of fame at Murray State's annual alumni banquet.

The Hall of Fame is the highest athletic honor an institution can bestow upon someone. The inductees become etched in history for eternity.



MARK HAMILTON

Mark Hamilton graduated from Murray State College in 1981 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He furthered his education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, earning degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science.

Hamilton has had a distinguished career in education, spending 16 years at Coleman High School, where he taught Mathematics and Computer Science and coached multiple sports.

Hamilton began his tenure at Murray State as the Head Softball Coach for 10 years, Women's Basketball Coach for seven years, athletic director for three years and classroom instructor for 12 years. From 2000 to 2012, his teams won nine regional championships, made five Softball World Series appearances, produced seven All-American players and garnered 23 Academic All-American awards with 11 Academic All-American teams.

Hamilton is the general manager of his family's businesses, which include Tri-Agri Farm Center, Hamilton Feed & Grain, and Native American Specialty Products, providing agricultural



AL SMITH



TIERANI SMITH



services and pecan processing. Active in the pecan industry, he serves on various boards, including the American Pecan Council and the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association. Outside of work, Hamilton enjoys flying, skiing, scuba diving and watching sports, especially when it comes to cheering on his grandchildren. He has been married to his wife, Lori, for 43 years and has three children and eight grandchildren. Hamilton values the long-lasting friendships he has formed with fellow alumni from Murray State College and feels humbled and honored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

AL SMITH

Originally from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Al Smith now resides in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from Cameron University and began his academic journey at the University of New Orleans. Smith's passion for golf and coaching began early. In 2011, he became Murray State's Men's and Women's Golf Head Coach, helping pioneer the golf program. Under his

leadership from 2011 to 2019, his teams achieved great success, including 11 All-American players, eight regional championships and a best finish of third place at the national tournament. Smith's contributions earned him a 2019 Ping National Coach of the Year nomination.

In addition to his coaching accomplishments, Smith is semi-retired and works at Lakeview Golf Course in Ardmore. Outside work, he enjoys playing golf and supporting his granddaughters in softball. Smith and his wife Cynthia have two children, Julie Charnock and Ryan Smith.

TIERANI SMITH

Tierani Smith graduated from Murray State College in 2015, where she excelled academically and athletically. She earned a spot on the 2014 NJCAA All-Star Team and being named MVP of the 2015 NJCAA Regional Tournament. Smith led her team to a Region 2 Tournament Championship and a national tournament appearance in 2015. She finished second in the country

for three-pointers and holds Murray State records for the most points and three-pointers made in a single game. Smith averaged 20.3 PPG, shooting 37.6% from the three-point line and 78% from the free-throw line.

Following her time at Murray State, Smith continued her athletic career at Arkansas Tech University before deciding to focus on her educational goals and transferring to the University of Central Oklahoma for her bachelor's degree. She later completed her master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Oklahoma in 2020.

Smith works full-time as a Speech-Language Pathologist at Sensational Kids and PRN in skilled nursing facilities. In her free time, she enjoys watching University of Oklahoma sports, playing golf with her husband Chad, traveling, walking her dog, Zeno, and crafting.

Smith was a member of Murray State College's President's Scholar Program and was crowned Miss Murray State College in 2015.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have attained outstanding achievements and success in their professions and/or exemplary service to their communities.

ANN HOLLOWAY

Oklahoma State Regent Emeritus Ann Holloway served as a state regent for 11 years, having initially been appointed by Governor Mary Fallin in May 2013. The state regents are the constitutional coordinating board for Oklahoma public colleges and universities, responsible for allocating state funds and setting admission standards and academic policies, among other functions.

Before her service, Holloway was appointed by Governor Frank Keating in 2000 to a nine-year term with the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) Board of Regents. Keating also appointed her to the Professional Responsibility Tribunal for the Oklahoma Bar Association. Governor Henry Bellmon also appointed Holloway to various boards and commissions.

Holloway is active in many civic and community organizations, including the Ardmore Chamber of Commerce, March of Dimes, United Way, Ardmore Little Theater, OK Jaycee Auxiliary,

Committee for Small Business Owners and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. She has also held various positions with the Oklahoma Republican Party. Holloway has been honored among the Outstanding Young Women of Oklahoma and Who's Who of Outstanding Women in America.

Holloway lives in Ardmore, Oklahoma, where she was in oil field equipment manufacturing for 25 years. She is a managing member of EAH, LLC, and president of Holloway, Inc., operating in Playa del Carmen and Tulum, Mexico, focusing on real estate, including home building.

Holloway earned an associates degree from Murray State College and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She earned her bachelor's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. She has three daughters, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



LORENE WALKER-AULD

As one of the oldest living Murray State College alumni, Lorene Walker Auld attended Murray State in 1936 and graduated two years later in the top 10 percent of her class with an associates degree in science. Nearly a decade later, in 1944, Auld was invited by A.D. Patton, the then-acting president of Murray State, to join the school's staff. She would first serve as Patton's secretary before teaching classes in typing, shorthand and accounting while also serving as acting registrar. In 1946, she was appointed financial secretary, serving directly with Murray State President Clive Murray in establishing the college's program, offering educational opportunities to American soldiers returning home from World War II.

Lorene Walker Auld's great nephew Drew Dennis accepted the award on her behalf.





CHAMPION AWARD

The Champion Award honors an individual who has shown outstanding dedication and support to Murray State. This award recognizes those who have made significant contributions through resources, volunteering or advocacy.

WADE MIDDLETON

Wade Middleton is the President and Co-owner of Careco TV and Careco Multimedia-Entertainment, recognized as one of the largest outdoor media production and marketing companies in the United States. With decades of experience in the outdoors and media, he has worked as an on-air talent and producer for various television programs and events. Middleton is known for his expertise in managing events, creating fishing tournaments, designing sales programs and media planning. He has also helped bring new products to market while sharing his love for the outdoors through his media platforms.

Currently, Middleton hosts several shows, including Bass Pro Shops Fisherman's Handbook, Americana Outdoors Presented by Garmin, Yamaha's Whitetail Diaries, Cabela's DeerGearTV, and Fishing and Hunting Texas. Additionally, he co-owns organizations such as The National Walleye Tour, Texas Team Trail and the Inshore Fishing Association. Middleton also directs operations for events like The Bass Pro Shops Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship.

Originally from Oklahoma, Middleton served in the U.S. Air Force and has been active with various non-profit organizations. He has received numerous awards across different fields and supports hunting and fishing initiatives nationwide. Middleton's contributions to the Murray State College Bass Fishing program have been instrumental in its success. His guidance and support have helped elevate the program, providing students with invaluable opportunities in competitive fishing and fostering a greater appreciation for outdoor sports.



Murray State College Bass Fishing Coach John Owen accepted the award on Wade Middleton's behalf.



Murray State College's President's Scholars Program received the 2024 Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Environmental Excellence Award for Higher Education Institution. The program was also nominated for the Environmental Excellence Project of the Year.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the President Scholar's Program focused on water conservation, a critical issue in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, due to water shortages. The students were divided into five groups, each exploring water conservation from a career-related perspective.

"This program helps the students grow and develop important skills that are valuable beyond the classroom," said Emilie Dean, program sponsor. "The students are encouraged to engage in seminars and give back through service, gaining experiences that will benefit them in their future endeavors."

The five group topics were reclaiming environments, elementary water conservation demonstration, water conservation in local healthcare, marketing promotion and sponsored

**“
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”**

**Emilie Dean,
program sponsor**

community clean-up day. The students conducted research, planning and project execution throughout the year.

"The program sought to inspire a lifelong dedication to environmental stewardship by immersing the students in real-world challenges," said Terri Greer, program sponsor. "It also emphasized a strong connection to the local community."

The award celebrates the students' innovative efforts to address critical environmental challenges and

commitment to safeguarding Oklahoma's natural beauty for future generations.

"The President's Scholars Program's recognition at the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Environmental Excellence Celebration showcases their impactful water conservation project," said Becky Henthorn, Murray State College Provost. "Through leadership and innovation, these students have championed sustainable water use and the protection of Oklahoma's natural resources for future generations."

The students collaborated with the Tishomingo Development Team, Great American Clean-Up and Keep Oklahoma Beautiful grant to organize the Pennington Creek Clean-Up event.

"The scholar's dedication to learning about water conservation demonstrates their commitment to creating a sustainable future," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "Their efforts reflect the values of Murray State College, where education empowers individuals to make a meaningful impact on their communities."

Murray State College, SouthernTech Launch Biotechnology Pathway



Murray State College and SouthernTech have partnered to create a pathway from SouthernTech's Biotechnology Program to Murray State College's Science Program, Biotechnology Option.

This collaboration will support students enrolled in the biotechnology program, which combines the strengths of both institutions, such as offering career services and development opportunities.

Murray State will award 13 college credit hours to students who complete SouthernTech's program and want to further their education.

This is the fifth agreement signed between Murray State and Southern Tech.

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE'S ACCELERATED COLLEGE EXPERIENCE PROGRAM GROWING

Murray State College and Durant Public Schools are partnering to provide two pathway options to Durant high school students through Murray State College's Accelerated College Experience (ACE) Program.

The ACE program allows high school students to earn college credit beginning their sophomore year with the potential to earn an associates degree by the time they accept their high school diploma, saving students and their families time and money.

Murray State College will offer two curricular pathways for students who are seeking to enter the workforce after graduation or wanting to transfer to a four-year university, such as Southeastern Oklahoma State.

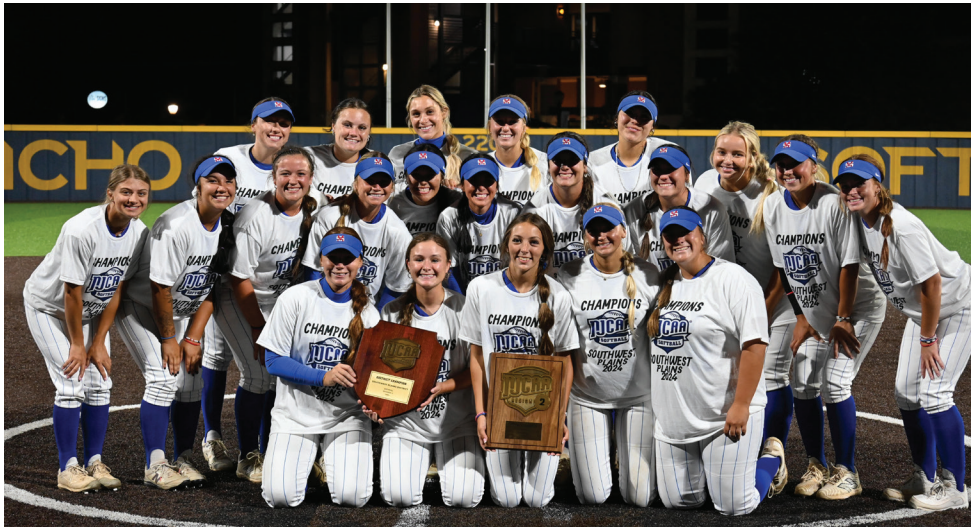


The workforce pathway will include technology degrees in Applied Technology, Business Management, Child Development, Computer Information Technology and Manufacturing Technology.

The higher education pathway will include an Arts and Science degree, allowing students to complete their general education requirements with electives in their area of choice.

NEWS

2025 NJCAA Regional Softball Tournament Coming to Ardmore



2024 NJCAA Division II Southwest District Champions

Murray State College, the Ardmore Tourism Authority and the City of Ardmore will host the NJCAA 2025 Southwest Plains Softball Tournament at Regional Park in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

The tournament will be a four-day event, and visitors from Oklahoma and Arkansas will travel to Ardmore. Renovations to the softball and baseball fields began this past spring to make Ardmore's Regional Park fields the best for the tournament and future events.

COTHRAN ELECTED TO ARDMORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD

Murray State College Vice President of Murray's Ardmore campus Ginger Cothran was elected to the Ardmore Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for a three-year term.

As a board member, Cothran will provide support and advocate for community businesses through legislative initiatives and active community engagement, while helping guide the

financial health of the Chamber all with the goal of promoting economic growth in the Ardmore area.

Cothran began her tenure as the Ardmore campus vice president in 2023. She has been a part of the Murray State family since 2005, joining as a Humanities Instructor and the College Choir Director.



Ginger Cothran

CELLUM SELECTED, HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION PEER REVIEWER

Murray State College Executive Vice President of Finance and Operations Justin Cellum was accepted as a Higher Learning Commission (HLC) peer reviewer.

As a peer reviewer, Cellum joins approximately 1,450 colleagues essential in assuring the quality of HLC member institutions. He was recently promoted to Executive Vice President of Finance and Operations after serving as the Vice President of

Business Affairs for five years.

The HLC is the institutional accreditor for degree-granting colleges and universities in the United States.

Peer reviewers are trained to evaluate colleges and universities and provide advice and consultation to help them continuously improve. He will begin training in February 2025.



Justin Cellum



Become an Aggie



MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

SPRING 2025
ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

MSCOK.EDU

Murray State College Admissions and Recruitment Office

ENROLLMENT ADVISEMENT

To align Murray State College's academic and student services more closely with its mission, Murray State developed an enrollment management plan to streamline the recruitment, admissions and advisement processes for new students.

Kandy Rutledge is the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management.



Murray State College has a dedicated admissions team comprising a Director of Admissions and Recruitment, a Digital Outreach Coordinator, an Admissions Clerk and two Recruiters. The team also has four student Aggie Ambassadors who provide tours and help with recruitment events.

Director of Admissions & Recruitment Darrell Riley ensures that Murray State College develops and works on a strategic recruitment plan that keeps our mission at the forefront. This includes working with Murray State's Academic Advisement office to ensure a personalized and seamless approach to new student recruitment, admission and enrollment. The team works closely with other departments to integrate efforts to provide an effective college-wide approach to recruiting students. Most often, the team is the student's first interaction with Murray. They strive to ensure they are informative, accurate and encouraging to help students reach their academic and professional goals.

Admissions Clerk Lisa Smith greets and assists students with the admissions process. She has a keen eye for detail, helps students complete the entry procedures and distributes the acceptance decisions. Smith uses her problem-solving skills to troubleshoot and ensure students are directed to the correct department for help.

Our Digital Outreach Coordinator Courtlan Weaver collaborates with

JUNIOR/SENIOR PREVIEW DAY

Murray State College hosted 130 high school juniors and seniors in November. The event allowed students to explore, connect and see what Murray State is all about.

Murray State's Admissions and Recruitment office to implement long-term strategies to impact enrollment goals. Weaver explores digital opportunities to promote Murray State College through social media and other platforms. She helps create event flyers, data for degree programs and follow-up plans for potential students.

Recruiters Carson McMahon and Ross Rodriguez serve as points of contact for new students to inform, direct and inspire them in successfully navigating admission to Murray State. They collaborate with each department to provide students with first-hand experience during college visits and events such as Murray's Junior/Senior Preview Day. They tailor presentations to prospective students in specific programs to motivate high school students to become Aggies. They have conducted more than 40 student-centered classroom presentations, attended numerous career fairs and conducted 60 campus tours for high schools in the Fall 2024-2025 school year.



Darrell Riley

Darrell Riley, a Garvin County, Oklahoma native, attended Murray State College in 1991-1992, where he met his wife of 32 years. Following college, Riley enlisted in the Air Force, serving more than 24 years. After retiring, he returned to Johnston County and began working in Admissions within the Murray State College Registrar's Office. With 13 years of military recruitment and retention experience, he naturally transitioned to his current role as Director of Admission and Recruitment. Riley is passionate about helping students achieve their goals and realize their potential.



Director of Advisement Melissa McBride is in her seventh year of academic advisement at Murray State. Starting as an advisor, she was promoted to Director of Advisement in the fall of 2022, around the same time Murray State’s enrollment management plan came to fruition. McBride enjoys the challenge of improving the student advising experience and registration process. She recognizes each enrollment management area’s integral role in ensuring student success.

The Academic Advisement team consists of two professional advisors: Rhonda Glenn on Murray State’s Ardmore Campus and Liz Hart on the Tishomingo Campus. Professional advisors assist students with their educational goals through degree audits, semester registration, grade reports, and advisement through the transfer process.

Concurrent Coordinator Jeanea Mitchell serves as a contact between Murray State College and high schools that have concurrent students. She also oversees the growing Accelerated College Experience (ACE) program, in which students start college courses as high school sophomores with the goal of earning an associate degree and high school diploma simultaneously.

Murray State College Academic Advisement Team’s mission is to assist students with defining, planning and achieving their goals in a positive and supportive environment. They work diligently to ensure that every student receives direct communication and seamless transfers from one department to the next. Their team has a heart for serving students, evident in everything they do.



**Melissa
McBride**

Melissa McBride, a Montana native, moved to Kansas in high school. She started her college success story at Hutchinson Community College, which sparked her enthusiasm for the mission and purpose of junior colleges. Upon completing her associate degree, Melissa transferred to Oklahoma State University, where she met her husband, Joey, a Murray State alumnus. They live in rural Johnston County, raising three children active in 4-H, FFA, baseball, softball, basketball and showing livestock.



LEAVING A LEGACY



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION LEGACY GALA

The Murray State College Foundation hosted its inaugural Legacy Gala on November 2nd, raising more than \$70,000 for operations and Murray State student scholarships. The elegant event featured a live and silent auction, dinner, and remarks from students who discussed the importance of scholarships in their lives and the lives of their peers.



“Tonight is about being a part of the 116-year legacy of Murray State College, representing thousands of lives changed,” said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. “This evening, we make history with this inaugural event, knowing that you are a part of the legacy we are building together — one that transcends generations.”

President Faltyn noted the significance of the Foundation's step forward to ensure future sustainability and highlighted the profound impact that scholarships have on students.

Murray State College students EJ Holliday and Courtney Grey remarked on their journeys and how Murray State has played an essential role in developing a path forward.

“When I was uncertain about my future after high school, a scholarship offer gave me the motivation and means to pursue a college education,” Holliday said. “Scholarships have repeatedly served as motivation to continue my pursuits, helping me enroll in college, keeping me focused on my journey and giving me the financial means to afford my goals.”

“I was so grateful to receive a scholarship from the Foundation because it will not only help me financially, but more importantly, it's made me feel like I am worthy as a person to people who matter to me,” said Grey. “I feel like a part of a family at Murray State, and I will be sad to leave when I graduate in May.”

Gala guests demonstrated remarkable



FOUNDATION

philanthropy throughout the evening, participating in auctions and games. The gifts will ensure the foundation's long-term sustainability and provide students with critical dollars to further their education.

"I am amazed by the incredible support of our communities and guests," said Jordyn Frazier, Murray State College Foundation Executive Director. "I resonated greatly with Ms. Grey's testimony, and it's rewarding to be in a position to help students achieve their dreams the way Murray State did for me. That's not possible without donors who believe in our mission."

The evening concluded with President Faltyn honoring Governor Bill Anoatubby, Murray State alumni and longstanding partner to Murray State College, with the inaugural Legacy Award. The award was created to recognize those whose enduring support has significantly enriched the communities impacted by Murray State. It highlights contributions beyond the ordinary, reflecting a profound impact on the college's mission and the advancement of its goals.

"Governor Anoatubby's leadership and the generosity of the Chickasaw Nation have touched virtually every academic and activity program at Murray State," said Dr. Tim Faltyn. "Governor Anoatubby has become a hero and mentor. His leadership is invaluable, and his support is unending."

The Murray State College Foundation is honored to recognize the partnership between the Chickasaw Nation and Murray State since the college's inception in 1908. We are better together and look forward to our continued work together.



MAKING AN IMPACT

If you are interested in joining the community of donors who make a generational impact in the lives of Murray State students, please visit <https://www.msoc.edu/community/foundation> or contact Jordyn Frazier at jfrazier@msoc.edu or (580) 387-7142.



RIMBERIO
FLORIST

MURRAY ON MAIN



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IMPROVING YOUR WELL-BEING

Occupational Therapy Assistant Online Program

Murray State College's Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program is a distance learning program that trains students to become Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs). It is designed with flexibility in mind. It enables students to work at their own pace and graduate in as little as two years. For those requiring additional time, a part-time track extends the program by a year, offering the same advantages of distance learning.

A highlight of the program is its five hands-on lab sessions each year. These labs are conveniently scheduled on weekends, allowing students to balance their work, family and school commitments during the week.

The OTA works under the supervision of and in collaboration with a licensed occupational therapist. Together, they help individuals engage in the "job of living." Learning, growing, playing, working, managing our homes and caring for families are among the "occupations" of daily life. A career as an OTA offers various opportunities to improve the lives of people of all ages. Occupational Therapy enables people of all ages to regain, restore, develop or master the activities of daily life in order to "Live Life to Its Fullest."

@ LEARN MORE ONLINE

https://www.msoc.edu/academics/school_health_science/ota/index



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



After completing the program, graduates take the National Board Certification OT Examination and apply for OTA licensure. OTA works with occupational therapists to help individuals engage in daily activities, improving overall well-being. This career offers diverse opportunities to make a positive impact across various age groups.

Murray State College's Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)

The non-profit, pre-professional student organization promotes leadership skills, professional development and the enhancement of the student's education experience. The organization allows students to work and collaborate with their peers.

Murray State College Alpha Omega Tau (AOT) Honor Society

AOT is the National Honor Society for Occupational Therapy Assistants. Occupational therapy assistant students can apply to this national honors society if they have a 3.5 GPA and are in the top 35% of their class after a full semester in the OTA program.

AOT is a nationally recognized association that promotes the "infinite power of the skilled occupational therapy assistant." AOT student members receive superior leadership, scholarship and/or service opportunities in the OTA program.



Gina Hatfield,
MOT, OTR/L



Dr. Jayne Campanini,
OTD, OTR

**“
With
occupational
therapy, we
take a more
holistic
approach
focusing on
the mind,
body and
spirit. We
aim to meet
them where
they are, help
engage them
in daily life
activities and
become what
they aspire
to be. ”**

**Dr. Jayne Campanini,
Murray State Oklahoma
OTA Program Director**



**APPLICATIONS
OPEN SOON**

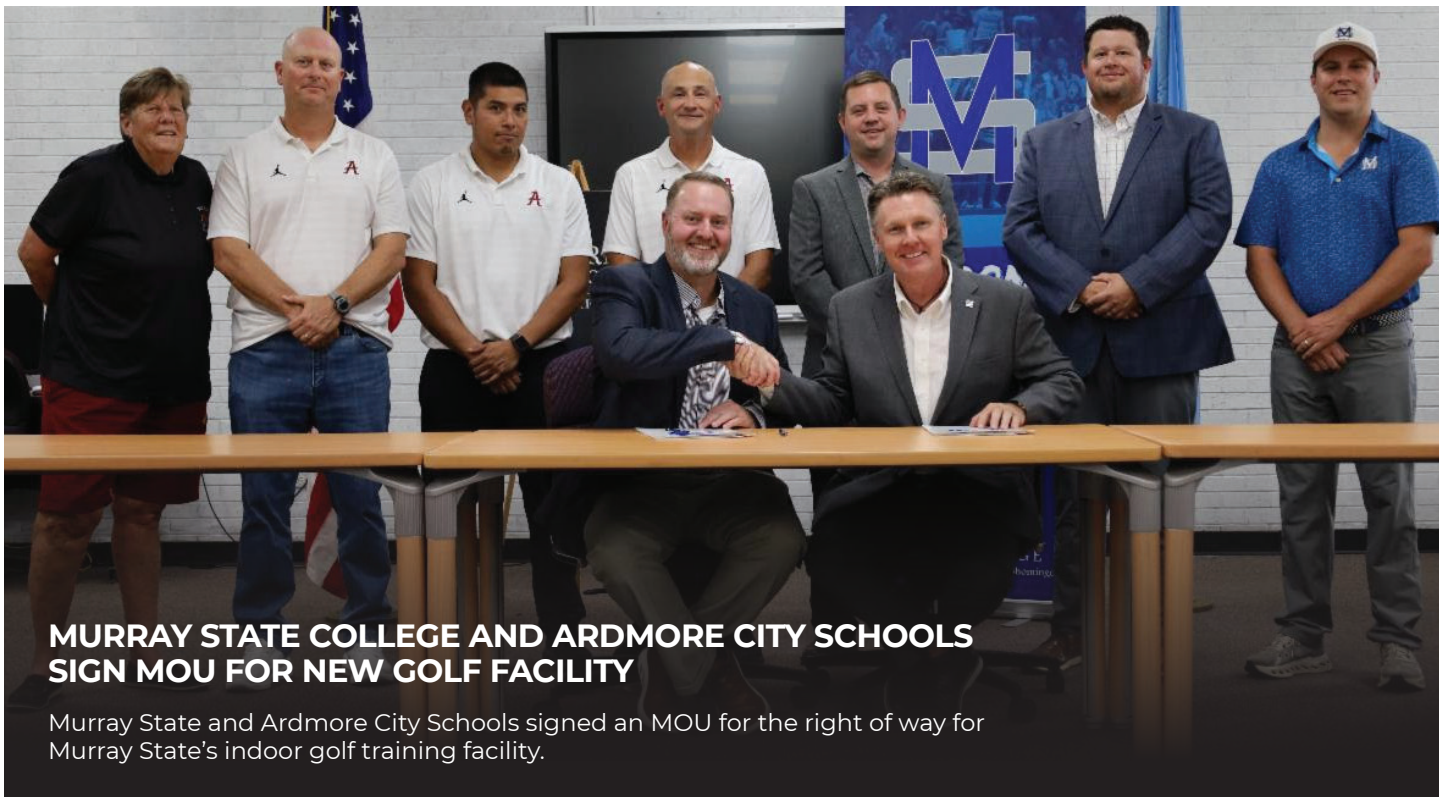
Applications will open on February 1, 2025. Applicants may apply for a Full-time or Part-Time OTA Track.



Murray State College Celebrates Beames Fieldhouse Renovation

Murray State College hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of phase one of the renovation of its Beames Fieldhouse. Regent Chair Adisha Chapman, President Faltyn and Athletic Director Brandon Bowling provided remarks.





MURRAY STATE COLLEGE AND ARDMORE CITY SCHOOLS SIGN MOU FOR NEW GOLF FACILITY

Murray State and Ardmore City Schools signed an MOU for the right of way for Murray State's indoor golf training facility.



THE OKLAHOMAN RECOGNIZES MURRAY STATE FOR LONGEST PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY

Murray State College was recognized for having the longest leave policy in Oklahoma, offering eight weeks of maternal leave and four weeks of paternal leave.

Employees only have to work at Murray State for 60 days to take advantage of the policy. Maintaining employees through family-friendly policies is important to the college.

“We’re competing against companies like Google and Apple that have 18-20 weeks of leave. When we look at the younger generations who are coming in and starting to work, the work-life balance aspect is very important for them.”



**Becky Henthorn,
Murray State College Provost**

@ READ THE STORY ONLINE
Go online to read the full story at bit.ly/MSCleave.



ACES STAFF TOURS GUNSMITHING BUILDING

Rob Wilcox, with the ACES program at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, visited Murray State's Tishomingo campus for an in-depth tour of the gunsmithing building.

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE ALUM, VETERAN RECOGNIZED

For his outstanding service and dedication to our country, Murray State College proudly recognized Murray alum Rear Admiral Wesley V. Hill at a home basketball game in November and the following day during an interview with President Faltyn.



LEGISLATIVE TOUR

A delegation of Murray State College attended the annual Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education Legislative Tour of the Southeast Region. The group was introduced to the new chancellor and learned about the new year's legislative agenda and budget requests.



ART RECEPTION

Murray State faculty, staff and community members celebrated the displayed work of Choctaw artist Candace Shanholtzer at a special reception. Shanholtzer specializes in acrylic drawings of people, animals and birds important to the Choctaw culture, such as children, foxes and crows. Her detailed use of color brings her subjects to life on the canvas.

Shanholtzer's co-exhibitor, Kim Johnston showed his colored pencil landscape drawings. Mr. Johnston is a retired Air Force graphic artist.



ARDMORE EDUCATION FORUM

Murray State President Dr. Faltyn discussed the importance of partnerships and the projects that lie ahead on the Ardmore campus.

ANDREW WOLLENBERG

Hometown: Marlow, OK

Academic Year: Freshman

Sport/Organization: Bass Fishing, NICHE and Shotgun Team

Major: Biology/ Health Sciences

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SEMESTER?

I look forward to next semester because there will be many more shooting team events.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE...

Movie/TV Show: Lion King

Holiday: Halloween or 4th of July

Food: Sushi

Music/Group/Artist: Zach Bryan

Hobbies: Anything outdoors and golf

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM...

Vacation: I would love to go to Italy and see the beauty of the countryside.

Job: Dentist

One word that describes you: Memorable

WHAT ARE THREE THINGS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

I would like to shoot a banded hybrid mallard/pintail drake duck, visit Japan and play golf at St. Andrews.

Special Talent: I can walk around doing a handstand.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT NICHE?

I enjoy its community aspect and being surrounded by like-minded people.



Andrew
Wollenberg

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST ABOUT MURRAY STATE?

I have enjoyed Murray's hometown feeling. The people here are amazing, and all my hobbies are around here.

KURSTIN KUHLMAN

Hometown: Asher, Oklahoma

Academic Year: Freshman

Sport/Organization: Bass Fishing, Livestock Show Team and NICHE

Major: Environmental Science/Animal Science

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SEMESTER?

My classes and hanging out with friends.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE...

Movie/TV Show: The Loki Series

Holiday: Christmas

Food: Pasta

Music/Group/Artist: Country/Rock Charlie Daniels Band and Def Leopard Hobbies: Music, Tracking, and Wildlife Photography

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM...

Vacation: Germany, The Christmas Markets

Job: Working at Yellowstone National Park as a Wildlife Biologist.

ONE WORD THAT DESCRIBES YOU:

Passionate/Dedicated

WHAT ARE THREE THINGS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

I want to take a road trip through the National Parks with friends and family, travel abroad, and visit the Red Wolf Conservation Center in North Carolina.

Special Talent: I play the Fiddle.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT NICHE?

I like how we come together in times of need to help our communities. I like the camaraderie we have among our organization's members.



Kurstin
Kuhlman

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST ABOUT MURRAY STATE?

The community and the welcoming atmosphere of the college are great.

STUDENT LIFE



2024 SOUTHWEST VETERINARY SYMPOSIUM

Murray State College Veterinary Nursing students and faculty had the opportunity to assist in preparing and facilitating the interactive labs at the Southwest Veterinary Symposium. Through this experience, the students develop valuable skills and work ethic that will benefit them throughout their careers.

CROSS COUNTRY PASSES OUT CANDY TO TISHOMINGO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

The Murray State College Cross Country team visited Tishomingo Elementary School to pass out candy to the students during their "Trick or Treat" event.





PIRATES TO PIGS... FALL FESTIVAL BRINGS OUT THE FUN

Approximately 15 Murray State clubs and organizations provided games at the annual fall festival open to the community each year.



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE SGA ATTENDS PRESIDENT'S RETREAT

Murray State College's Government Instructor Dr. Adam Bilinski, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Quinton Jones and Murray's Student Government Association members attended the Oklahoma Student Government Association's President's Retreat. This event promotes student networking and leadership development.



Murray Event Center



BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT WITH US

Logistics

INDOOR SPACE

2,600 SQ FT

SEATS 200

CHAIRS AND TABLES

OUTDOOR SPACE

3,000 SQ FT

COURTYARD SPACE

Rates

INDOOR OR OUTDOOR

9 HOURS - \$750

INDOOR OR OUTDOOR

5 HOURS - \$300

INDOOR & OUTDOOR

9 HOURS - \$950

INDOOR & OUTDOOR

5 HOURS - \$400

Deposit

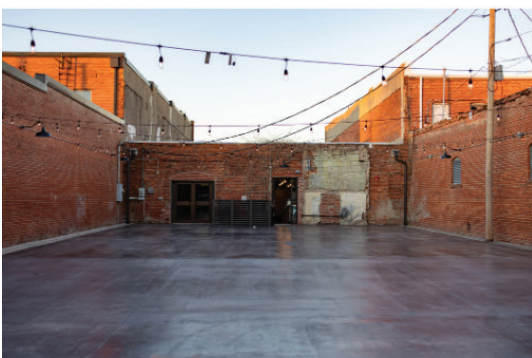
50% OF THE RATE IS
DUE AT THE TIME
OF SCHEDULING
THE EVENT.

Contact Information

580-387-7149

108 E. Main - Ardmore

EVENTS@MSCOK.EDU



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STUDENT LIFE



TRICK OR TREAT AGGIE STYLE

Murray State Student Life hosted various Halloween activities. From a zombie run, pumpkin carving and costume contests to pickleball tournaments and baseball games.





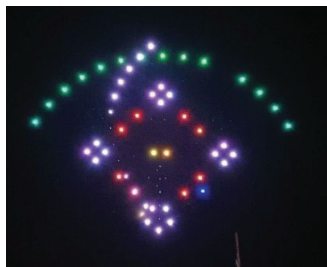
PSP STUDENTS TAKE ANNUAL TRIP

Murray State's President's Scholars Program (PSP) students took an educational trip to Charlotte, North Carolina, for an immersive experience focused on the impact of artificial intelligence across various industries, such as education, science and technology.

They visited the Catawba Science Center AI exhibit, engaged with Dr. Tara Cavalline at UNC Charlotte and toured the BATT CAVE lab, gaining insight into current AI research. The trip emphasized experiential learning, with students and sponsors participating in discussions and reflections on AI's future implications.



HOMECOMING

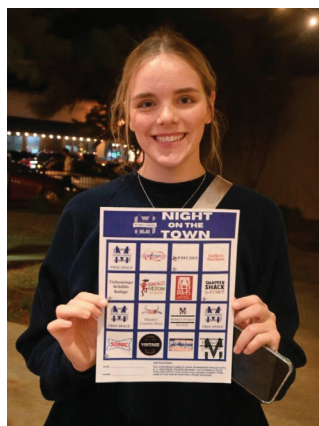


NIGHT ON THE TOWN

THIRD ANNUAL HOMECOMING EVENT LIT UP THE SKIES IN TISHOMINGO

Night on the Town brought the vibrant essence of Murray State to downtown Tishomingo. Murray State students and employees, and community members tested their knowledge at a Murray-themed trivia night. They explored community booths and carnival games scattered throughout downtown, while taking advantage of exclusive discounts while shopping on Main Street.

During the event, Dynamic Skies presented a drone show that displayed images that represented many of Murray State's organizations.



FLOOD THE FOUNTAIN



Murray State students, faculty and staff celebrated homecoming week by participating in the "Flood the Fountain" event, transforming it into a Murray blue.

COLLECTING CANNED GOODS FOR QUEEN TO BE

During homecoming week, each student organization collects canned goods; they are then weighed the morning of the basketball game. The queen candidate of the organization that collects the most goods is selected as the Homecoming Queen.

The NICHE student organization collected the most this year, with 1,550 pounds of canned goods.

More than 7,000 pounds were collected and delivered to the South Central Oklahoma Food and Resource Center.



MURRAY STATE BASKETBALL WATCH PARTY

Murray State students, faculty and staff gathered at the Murray Event Center in Ardmore for an exciting watch party to cheer on the Aggies and Lady Aggies basketball teams.

HOMECOMING



HOMECOMING QUEEN



KURSTIN KUHLMAN
ANDREW WOLLENBERG

HOMECOMING



HADLEIGH BASSETT
BLAIN WATSON

HOMECOMING COURT



SYDNEY NAVARRETT
RHETT COBLE



MORGAN BOYLES
JACOB BAKER



PAKANLI BROCK
CARSON OWEN



LACI STORY
CONNOR PERKINS

HOMECOMING COURT



SHELLI GINDEN
GRANT GILL



KHASI CALLAN
LOGAN EDGEMAN



BARBARA ALEXANDER
SAM MUNHOLLAND



HALLEIGH MCCAIN
JAYLEE FULLINGIM

HOMECOMING COURT



ELIX BARNES
ELI STAMPS



CHLOE PERDUE
BRYCE BRISTER



CHLOE BLOSSOM
CARSON ANDREWS



CODI RODRIGUEZ
GRADY PATTERSON

BASKETBALL RECAP



BASKETBALL TEAMS OFF TO HOT STARTS THIS SEASON

The Murray State College Men's and Women's Basketball teams have already accumulated six wins each this season. The Aggies are 11-2 and the Lady Aggies are 9-2. The women's team earned the No. 24 ranking in the NJCAA Division 1 Top 25 Poll.

Both teams begin their conference on January 6th at Murray State's Beames Fieldhouse.



CROSS COUNTRY RECAP



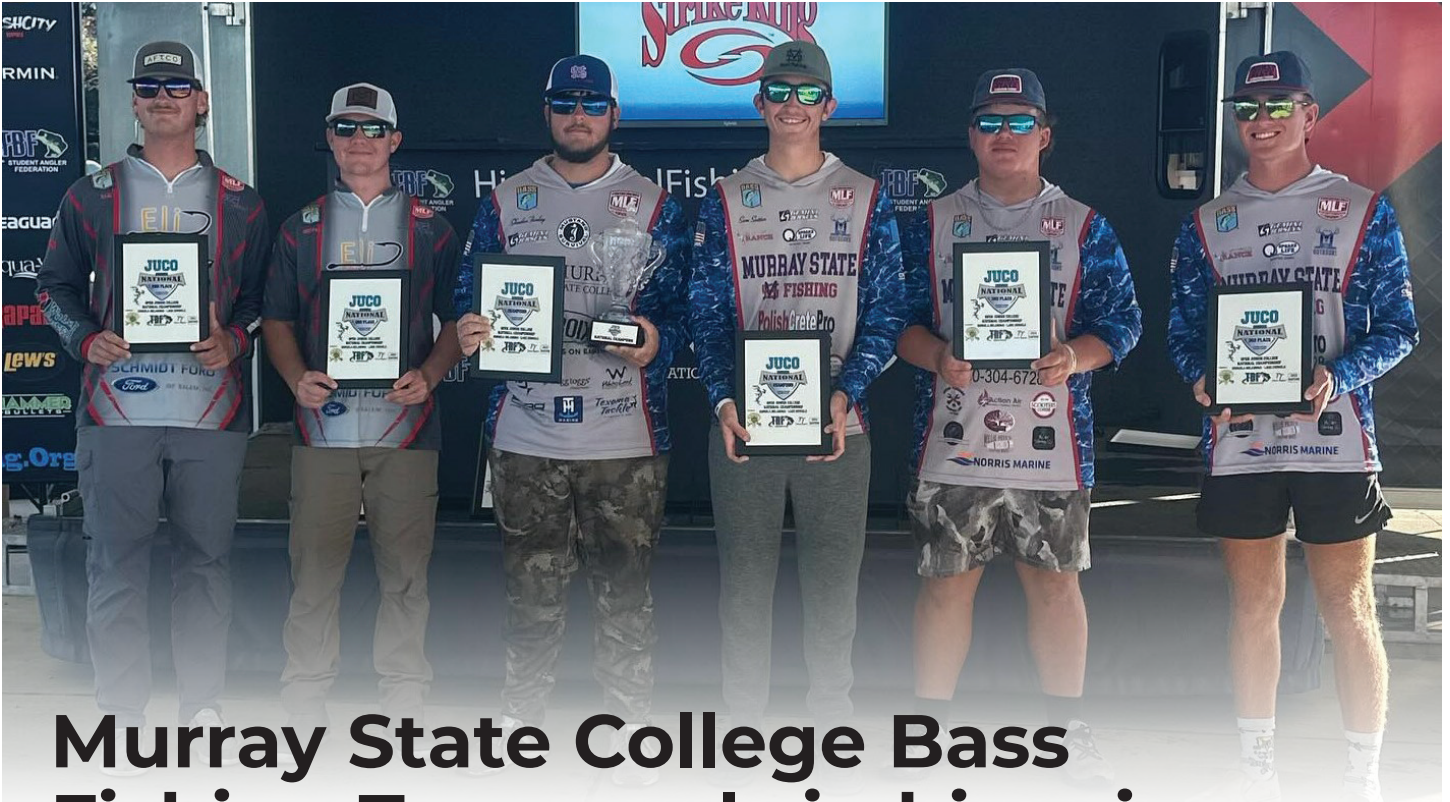
AGGIES CONCLUDE SUCCESSFUL FIRST SEASON AT NATIONALS IN VA

The Murray State College Cross Country Team exceeded expectations in its first season. The men's team finished as the No. 1 junior college team in Oklahoma, while the women's team finished in the No. 2 spot in the state.

The Aggies competed against the country's best runners at nationals in Virginia. The teams finished better than 68 on the women's side and 63 on the men's side of the NJCAA. The Aggies also visited the Arlington National Cemetery, Washington Monument, White House, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, and many other historical landmarks in Washington, D.C. and Virginia.



FISHING RECAP

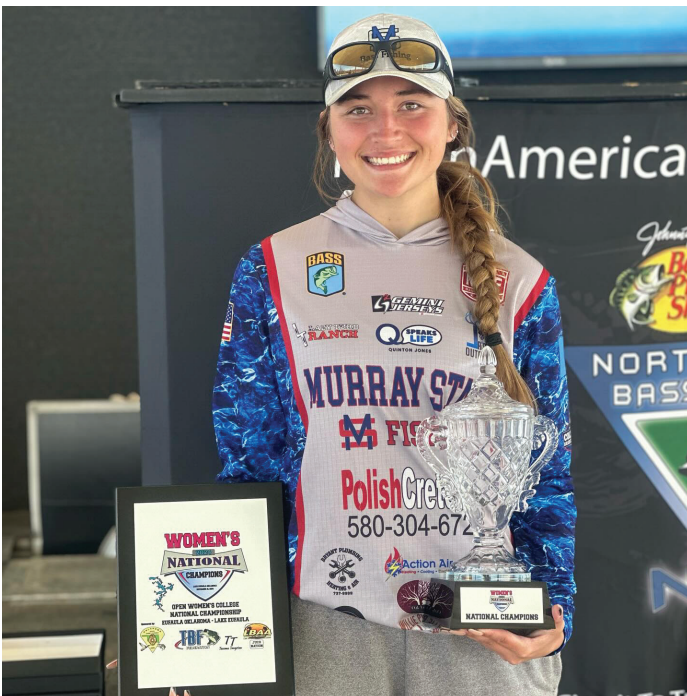


Murray State College Bass Fishing Team reels in big wins

The team competed in the JUCO National Championship in November.

Sam Sutter and Shaden Farley were named the national champions. Hunter Russell and Sam Ausbrooks placed second, and Cade Smith and Axel Pierce rounded out the top three.

Pakanli Brock won the women's championship.





A SEASON TO REMEMBER

MEN'S SOCCER'S HISTORIC SEASON ENDS IN THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Murray State College Men's Soccer Team had a historic season this year, compiling an 18-2-1 record. For the second consecutive season, the Aggies won the Region 2 Championship and District Championship, making the national tournament. They battled against two of the nation's best at the NJCAA Division I Soccer Tournament but came up a goal short in each match.

REGION 2 AWARDS

All-Region Teams: Cristina Escudero and Linda Trubger

Region 2 Most Valuable Player: Ryosuke Miyata

Region 2 Coach of the Year: Coach Morais

Morais led the Aggies to the most wins in program history





MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

EJ Holliday and Courtney Grey

Legacy Scholarship Recipients