

AGGIELITE

DECEMBER 2023



**Charles McCall,
Oklahoma Speaker
of the House of
Representatives,
District 22**

President's Message 2

Regent Highlight 3
Suzie Brewster

Foundation 5

Alumni 6

Chickasaw Hall 7

Gunsmithing 9

Program Highlight 11
Occupational Therapy

In The News 14-17

Sports 19-22

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

REFLECTING ON OUR SUCCESSES, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.

As the semester ends and the holidays draw near, it's important to pause and reflect on our great successes of 2023.

The state of Murray State College is strong. I am proud to report that Murray State College was the fastest growing college or university in the state of Oklahoma this fall, with an 18% enrollment increase. By telling our story and giving people reasons to choose and invest in us, we are seeing increased interest from all campus constituencies.

A major component of our continued success is how the organization of our leadership and decision-making structure and processes enable decisions to be made more efficiently. Our enrollment management process has cut red tape and developed into a more student-focused system. Advisors and academic coaches have the opportunity to meet students where they are and get them to where they need to be, with less anxiety and stress on the student.

This fall, we celebrated the be-

ginning of two large construction projects, breaking ground on the historical Chickasaw Hall and the new Gunsmithing Education Facility. The ability to build these facilities without any debt to the institution demonstrates how the power of collaboration can produce positive results that benefit our students, workforce partners and the communities we serve.

Speaking of increased opportunities, this year, Murray State became the first independent, legislatively-created state two-year college in Oklahoma to offer a bachelor's degree. The College is also the first to offer a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Gunsmithing in the United States. None of this could have been accomplished without the hard work of many people on our campus and our industry partners.

Our strategic plan is complete and on the way to our stakeholders

as well as the people and communities we serve. This roadmap provides us with a guide as we navigate the ever-changing landscape of the higher education environment. A great deal of input from our students, faculty, staff, partners, supporters and communities were taken into consideration as our strategic goals and objectives were built.

Our new website will come online after spring break, reflecting our modern approach to educational attainment and innovative processes. With direct access to view our strategies and goals.

As the leader of our college, when I reflect on the many blessings that come with being a part of the Murray State family, I don't just think of the accomplishments and programmatic successes. I am most inspired by the people we serve and serve with

every day as a higher learning institution.

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I extend my deepest thanks to our students, faculty, staff, supporters and communities who do the good work and spread the good news of Murray State College. We are better together than any of us could be by ourselves.

We are better together than any of us could be by ourselves.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Faltyn', written over a white background.

DR. TIM FALTYN
President
Murray State
College

REGENT HIGHLIGHT

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENT CHAIR BREWSTER RETIRES

Murray State College Board of Regents Chair Suzie Brewster retired after serving as chair for two years. She began her appointment as a regent when appointed by Governor Fallon in 2017; her full term will expire in 2024.

Brewster was a teacher and counselor for 21 years, and spent more than 20 years as a consultant/lobbyist in Washington, D.C. for more than 10 different groups. She is a National Rifle Association (NRA) Certified Firearms Instructor, the Safari Club International Diana 2011 International Woman Hunter of the Year and received the Dallas Safari Club Outstanding Hunter Achievement Award.

“Suzie is a strong influential leader in all that she does, not just for Murray State, but for every organization she touches,” said Allen Benson, Murray State College Board of Regents Chair. “There are many things that would have not been possible without her guidance and support.”

Among many other accomplishments, she says her biggest ones were hiring Dr. Tim Faltyn as the new Murray State College President, seeing the expansion of Murray State’s fast-growing nursing program and working to get the gunsmithing bachelor’s degree program approved.

“We are very grateful to have had Suzie serve as our Board of Regents Chair for the last two years,” said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. “Her unwavering dedication, support and advocacy have made new partnerships possible, bringing to life the vision of a bolder, brighter future for Murray State College.”



“ Suzie is a strong influential leader in all that she does, not just for Murray State, but for every organization she touches. ”

Allen Benson

Murray State College Board of Regents Chair

2023-2024 MURRAY STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS

ALLEN BENSON
Chair

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ADISHA CHAPMAN
Secretary

DILLON SPARKS
MSC Foundation Board Representative

SUZIE BREWSTER
Board Member

KEITH GRAY
Board Member

DR. GARY GREENE
Board Member

RECOGNITION



BIG WINS FOR MURRAY STATE GET REGENT RECOGNITION

At the September Board meeting, students and coaches were recognized for their support and achievements.

Murray State students Walker Redman, Dillon Simpson and Skylar Davis were recognized for their immediate assistance to a student in a medical emergency situation. They kept the student safe until emergency professionals arrived.

Murray State Softball Head Coach

Aaron Mullens and Assistant Coach Charli Crawford were celebrated for their coaching successes this year. They each received a custom bat with their national awards engraved on them.

Oklahoma House District 49 Representative Joshua Cantrell attended the meeting to present a citation from the House of Representatives to Assistant Softball Coach Charli Crawford in honor of her being selected as the 2023 NJCAA Division 2 Easton/NFCA Assistant Coach of the Year.



Board of Regents Summit

In October, Murray State College hosted the Board of Regents Summit. The day started with lunch where CGA Architects provided the College's master plan survey results with the Regents. Murray State's Brian Cothran and Justin Rutledge presented the Agriculture Farm Master Plan. The Regents were given a copy of the College's strategic plan, and then the deans presented their strategies and goals.

FOUNDATION

The William R. and Billie Dean Buckles Endowed Scholarship was established in 2019 by Billie D. Buckles, a 1954 graduate of Coleman Public School. She is the author of "Changing Seasons," a moving account of a young girl, born into a poor but loving family in 1930s rural Oklahoma, who through hard work and faith, became a successful woman bank executive in the state of Oklahoma.

In a letter dated February 22, 2019, Buckles wrote the words of Benjamin Franklin, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

The Buckles Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need with a GPA greater than 2.75 and must be enrolled full-time. Preference is given to students from Coleman (Oklahoma) Public School.

The 2023-24 academic year recipient of the \$1,000 endowed scholarship is Mr. Cole Collins. Collins is a Coleman graduate with an intended major in Gunsmithing.

"I love to do things outside and enjoys woodworking," said Collins. "My love of working came from my Papa. He is my role



Cole Collins

"I didn't plan to go to college until I learned about the gunsmithing program," said Collins. "I appreciate the head start that's been afforded to me to pursue my education by the Buckles Scholarship. I hope the family knows how much this means to me and that their gift is being put to good use."

model and my favorite person in this world."

Collins is a freshman student and plans to go to work at a firearms manufacturer or repair shop, and then start his own business.



To contribute to the Murray State College Foundation endowment, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/mscfendowments>



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

GIVE BACK PROGRAM

Each month, a portion of each retail purchase will go towards a specific Murray State scholarship and/or program.

Purchases can be made at Murray State's Murray on Main Stores (Ardmore and Tishomingo) or the Tishomingo campus bookstore.

The "Give Back" amount is shown under each month's item.

January	February	March	April	May	June
SHOES	SHIRTS	JEANS/PANTS	BRACELETS	HOME DÉCOR	GREETING CARDS
(\$10)	(\$10)	(\$10)	(\$5)	(\$10)	(\$3)
July	August	September	October		
MURRAY STATE APPAREL/SUPPLIES	HATS/RINGS	SWEATERS	ALL ORANGE ITEMS		
(\$5)	(\$5)	(\$10)	(\$10)		

ALUMNI

CELEBRATING DR. JEFFERY MILLIGAN

In November 2023, Murray State College proudly honored Dr. Jeffrey Milligan with the Distinguished Alumni Award during the Murray State's annual Alumni Banquet.

Dr. Milligan's remarkable journey from his two years at Murray State to his current role as a distinguished scholar and educator has left an indelible mark on the institution.

Dr. Milligan's early years at Murray State were intertwined with his father, Larry Milligan, a prominent figure at the college, teaching art humanities and serving as the Chairman of the Liberal Arts Department from 1965 to 1992.

He and his wife, Aida, along with the Milligan children lived on-campus for a number of years. Jeff attended Murray in 1977, achieving early accolades by placing first in a statewide collegiate press writing competition, and his brother Aaron followed in 1979.

Dr. Milligan currently holds the position of Professor and Director of the Learning Systems Institute at Florida State University, showcasing a career marked by exceptional achievements in educational development and philosophy.

At the Learning Systems Institute, Dr. Milligan's prowess in securing external grants has enabled the execution of international educational development initiatives across 20 countries, fostering global progress. His dedication extends to mentoring doctoral students and guiding research within the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy

Studies at Florida State University.

Dr. Milligan's scholarly contributions are substantial with two published books and numerous articles in esteemed academic journals. His research delves into the complexities of religious tensions within multicultural educational systems

providing insights into communities in the United States and southeast Asia.

His academic journey, rooted in Murray State College, included roles such as Assistant Professor of English, and Dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Milligan's educational background, including a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degree in English from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He also carries a Master of Education and doctorate degree in Social, Historical, and Philosophical Foundations from the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Milligan's accolades extend beyond the academic realm with two Fulbright Senior Fellowships, a National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship and a stint as a visiting Fulbright Specialist. His dedication is evident in affiliations with prestigious organizations including the Philosophy of Education Society and the Comparative and International Education Society.

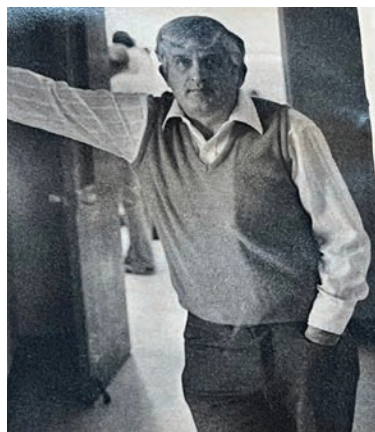
As Murray State College celebrates the achievements of Dr. Milligan, it takes pride in his journey from the halls of the Clyde Hall classroom building to the scholarly heights of global education and philosophy.



Dr. Jeffrey Milligan



Dr. Jeffrey Milligan captured in a moment of profound insight in the 1979 Tribesman, exemplifying the passion and intellectual vigor that defined his time at Murray State College.



Mr. Larry Milligan, standing in the halls of Murray State College in 1979, symbolizes a legacy of academic excellence and commitment to students that spans decades.



In the spirited camaraderie of 1972, faculty and children unite in a friendly football game between the old faculty apartments.

NEW LIFE FOR HISTORIC DORMITORY



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE HOSTS GROUNDBREAKING FOR A REVITALIZED CHICKASAW HALL

In September, Murray State College held a groundbreaking ceremony for the historic Chickasaw Hall, located on Murray State's campus in Tishomingo.

"We've marked in history the partnership that has formed between federal, state, tribal and private entities to see a community transformed," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College



President. "An estimated 68 job-ready students will graduate each year with real-life hospitality experience from their time working in Chickasaw Hall."

Ceremony speakers included: President Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College; Governor Bill Anoatubby, Chickasaw Nation; Charles McCall, Speaker of the House; Leslie Larsen, Vice Chair, Murray State College Board of Regents; Landrey Howard, Vice Chair, Murray State College Student Government Association.

Built in 1917, Chickasaw Hall is a former dormitory that housed Chickasaw and Choctaw students attending the Murray State School of Agriculture. Chickasaw Hall will soon become a space for a 14-room boutique hotel that will serve guests of the College, as well as visitors to Tishomingo and the surrounding area.



In his remarks, Governor Anoatubby praised the college and all other partners for working together to make southern Oklahoma more economically viable.

Chickasaw Hall will add 20 professional positions at Murray State College in areas including reservation services, food service, housekeeping and maintenance. Eight paid student internships will be available each semester, along with more than a dozen traditional student work study positions.

The first floor of Chickasaw Hall will feature the Chickasaw Nation Chokka Kilimpi` program for Chickasaw and other First American students, providing academic counseling, tutoring, life skills training, and graduation and career planning.

"As a First American student, I am excited by the plans to incorporate the student service center," said Howard.



The revitalized Chickasaw Hall will add:

20 PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS	8 PAID INTERNSHIPS	12+ WORK STUDY POSITIONS
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"It will be a wonderful resource to aid recruitment and retention efforts."

On average, an individual with an associate degree will earn more than \$1 million more in their lifespan. "Creating

opportunities for graduates to live and work locally, and giving them the education and experience to earn a living wage is how you transform lives and communities," said Faltyn.

"As a First American student, I am excited by the plans to incorporate the student service center. It will be a wonderful resource to aid recruitment and retention efforts."

Landrey Howard
Vice Chair,
Murray State College
Student Government
Association



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND, NEW GUNSMITHING BUILDING

In October, Murray State College held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new gunsmithing education facility to be located on their campus in Tishomingo.

“We celebrate making history for our college and state,” said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. “With a bachelor’s degree in place, Murray State College will provide the most comprehensive training in gunsmithing and custom gunmaking in the United States.”

Along with President Faltyn, Speaker of the House Charles McCall, Representative Kevin Wallace, Senator Roger Thompson, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor Allison Garrett, Murray State College Board of Regents Chair Allen Benson and Murray State gunsmithing student Tate Gruenwald provided remarks.



“ I’m excited to be among the first bachelor’s degree holders for this program. I plan to open my own business after graduation. ”

Tate Gruenwald, Murray State Gunsmithing Club President and Student Government Association Representative

Speaker McCall remarked, "This would not be possible without the local control of the Murray State Board of Regents. The best ideas start at ground zero, and are grown and sorted there before making their way to Oklahoma City."

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education approved Murray State's request to offer the first and only Bachelor of Applied Technology degree in Gunsmithing in America. Murray State became the first independent legislatively-created state college in Oklahoma history to be granted the authority to offer bachelor's degrees.

Chancellor Garrett praised Murray State's hard work and dedication to enhancing higher education. "Murray State College is tracking to be one of the fastest growing institutions in Oklahoma," said Chancellor Garrett. "With President Faltyn's innovative, strategic leadership and degree offerings in key fields, Murray State College is providing the state with highly skilled graduates who are prepared to strengthen our workforce."

Representative Wallace spoke to the importance of this investment as Oklahoma works to attract firearm manufacturers to the state. "As a second amendment state that wants the business of these companies, it is befitting that we have the best gunsmith program in the nation to feed their workforce pipeline."

In May 2023, the state of Oklahoma invested \$10 million to construct a state-of-the-art education facility to accommodate the growth of the current associate's degree programs, as well as the newest bachelor's degree program.

"I was proud to work alongside my colleagues in the house for the benefit of Murray State and the state of Oklahoma," said Senator Thompson.

"We appreciate the work of our state leaders and the Department of Commerce to recruit additional businesses to the state that will provide jobs for our skilled graduates," noted Murray State's longest serving regent and this year's chairman, Regent Allen Benson. "Murray State College will be recognized as the premier site for gunsmithing education in the



“ Murray State College is tracking to be one of the fastest growing institutions in Oklahoma. With President Faltyn's innovative, strategic leadership and degree offerings in key fields, Murray State College is providing the state with highly skilled graduates who are prepared to strengthen our workforce. ”

Allison Garrett, Chancellor
Oklahoma State Regents
for Higher Education

91%

PLACEMENT

The college has a 91% job placement rate before graduation for its gunsmithing students.

WHEN WILL IT BE COMPLETE?

The new gunsmithing facility is expected to be constructed by the summer of 2025.

United States.”

Murray State Gunsmithing Club President and Student Government Association Representative Tate Gruenwald spoke about his experience. "I'm excited to be among the first bachelor's degree holders for this program. I plan to open my own business after graduation."

"Our gunsmithing program isn't just about curriculum," said President Faltyn. "It's about building a culture of reverence for firearms and

cultivating self-responsibility for all who choose to be a safe and responsible gun owner."

Murray State College has invested in upgrades to the on-campus firing range, serving as a test site for the program's firearms, as well as a training location for the college's shotgun team and local law enforcement. Community workshops are also held at the range to teach firearm safety, self-defense and more.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM
THRIVING ONLINE AND IN PERSON



Occupational therapy is a healthcare profession that helps patients regain skills lost due to injury or disease, obtain new skills, maintain skills being lost due to disease, and prevent injury or disease.

Practice settings for occupational therapy include hospitals, rehabilitation centers, public and private schools, community settings and more. Occupational therapy assistants work with patients who have a variety of diagnoses such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, developmental delays, amputation, Alzheimer's Disease, Schizophrenia and autism.

OTA Faculty are consistently searching for opportunities to promote and help students enter the occupational therapy field.

The OTA program is an integral part of Murray State and has gone through many changes throughout the years. The program was originally housed in the Murray State College Engineering Building on the southwest corner of the Tishomingo campus; it is now located in the new Health Science Building with specially designed space and equipment.

The program began as an on-site, face-to-face teaching model every weekday and has transitioned to allow for distance learning.

Lab competencies are evaluated during the on-site, face-to-face lab weekends three to four times per semester. Students have the flexibility to listen to lectures and complete course work during convenient times.

DISTANCE LEARNING

The first distance learning cohort began in Fall 2023 with the first on-campus weekend in October. Students had the opportunity to practice the many skills they are learning in a variety of lab sessions. They learned about physical agent modalities, vital monitoring, designed treatment interventions from case study role plays and how to make orthotics, creating their first splint.

Prior to the first on-campus weekend, students analyzed activities to create fall projects to be completed with local nursing home residents. Students came prepared to have an encounter with a nursing home resident. Students used “therapeutic use of self” and therapeutic communication to practice connecting with residents for a successful therapeutic session.

Even though students are learning through a distance platform, students and instructors remain tightly connected. Instructors provide weekly feedback, have online office hours and meet with the students via zoom to discuss progress in the program. Students participate in the Student Occupational Therapy Association as a cohort, and complete fund raising and community events together.

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY

In the spring, qualified students are selected to apply for Alpha Omega Tau, the National Honors Society for



Left: In March 2023, Tiona Cohee was inducted into Alpha Omega Tau. Right: Murray State College and SouthernTech partner together on the SouthernTech's medical assistant program and Murray State's OTA program.

Occupational Therapy Assistants. As a member of AOT, students engage in community leadership activities to further strengthen their skills and ambitions. Program application requirements include one year to complete general education courses.

Applications are due in the spring. Once students are accepted, they will attend a summer orientation, complete full-time courses in the fall, spring and summer followed by a fall intersession course. They will then complete two, eight-week clinical rotations prior to graduating.

OKLAHOMA STATE CONFERENCE

The Occupational Therapy Assistant faculty are heavily involved within the OKOTA. Gina Hatfield, Murray State's OTA Program Academic Fieldwork Educator, is the OKOTA President, and Jayne Campanini, the OTA Program Chair sits on the board as a Director at Large.

The program recently hosted the 2023 OKOTA Conference with Murray State College President Dr. Tim Faltyn as the opening speaker. The OTA students volunteered for various positions at the conference, such as hosting a table to sell items for fundraising.

Occupational and Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants presented on a wide range of topics from pediatric feeding to mental health interventions. More than 300 OT practitioners were in attendance, making it one of the larger OKOTA conferences.

In the fall of 2023, Murray State College signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SouthernTech in Ardmore, allowing students to move from their Medical Assistant program into Murray State's OTA program after completing the required prerequisites.

A GREAT DAY TO BE AN AGGIE



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE, FASTEST GROWING OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

Murray State College has the highest percentage of enrollment growth of any public Oklahoma college or university for Fall 2023, with an 18% increase to 2,627 students.

Murray State focuses on four centers of excellence: agriculture, gunsmithing, nursing and online. By concentrating resources and expertise in these areas, the college can enhance its educational offerings, foster collaboration and innovation, and better serve its students and the community.

"There are several pieces of the puzzle that contribute to this increase," said Becky Henthorn, Murray State College Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. "Our academic and activity programs are growing in record numbers."

"Murray State College is tracking to be one of the fastest growing institutions in Oklahoma," said Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor Allison Garrett. "With President Faltyn's innovative, strategic leadership and degree offerings in key fields, Murray State College is providing the state with highly skilled graduates who are prepared to

18%

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

For the fall of 2023, Murray State College had the highest percentage of enrollment growth of public state colleges or universities

54%

ONLINE ENROLLMENT

Online students make up 54 percent of Murray State College's total enrollment

strengthen our workforce."

In May, Murray State's Nursing Program (#1 Career Mobility program in the nation) expanded to Duncan Regional Hospital, adding 17 students. Now, the program covers all of southern Oklahoma with the three additional locations: Ardmore, Durant and Tishomingo. The program currently has its largest group of 215 students.

In October, Murray State broke ground for a new gunsmithing building. The facility will accommodate the added Bachelor of Applied Technology in Gunsmithing program with a cohort of an additional 20 students. With the existing degree program, the gunsmithing program will serve 90 students each year.

Murray State's agriculture program has seen a large increase in numbers with 101 students majoring in agriculture. In 1924, the College began as the Murray State School of Agriculture.

"We focus on the areas that we are good at instead of trying to be everything to everyone," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "These increases are because of the focus and effort that our faculty and staff put on quality student education."

IN THE NEWS

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE DEAN, 2023 OACC GIFT AWARD WINNER

Murray State College Dean of Learning and Student Success, and Language Arts Faculty Tracey Hickman was selected as a 2023 Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges (OACC) Great Ideas for Teaching (GIFT) award winner.

Hickman's submission, "Teaching in the Age of Tik-Tok; The Method of Five and Twos," was based on a teaching strategy that he developed and uses in his classes. He has also presented this method at high schools throughout Oklahoma.



Tracey Hickman

The premise is that teaching in five-minute segments and then allowing two minutes of class discussion or short video to give the mind time to "digest" that material has led to students retaining knowledge and being more successful in his courses.

"Dean Hickman meets students where they are at and is always interested in helping them learn," said Becky Henthorn, Murray State College Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. "His teaching methods represent the caring and innovative faculty that we have here at Murray State."

"Being recognized for developing and implementing a best practice by a panel of my peers means a lot," Hickman said. "It means that what I am doing for my students is accepted as something that other people feel may benefit their students."

Access to Hickman's full submission can be found here: <https://okcommunitycolleges.com/awards/2015-gift-award-winners/>. It is the first entry listed.



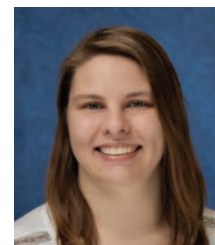
Dan Moore,
Dean of the
School of Health
and Science

**FACULTY
OF THE
YEAR**



Melissa
McBride,
Director of
Advisement

**STAFF OF
THE YEAR**



Lindsay
Brantley,
Retention
Coordinator

**SUPPORT
STAFF OF
THE YEAR**



"Each of these people are unique and have special talents," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "They each play an integral part in our students' successes. We are blessed to have them as part of the Murray family."

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE IN ARDMORE HOSTS VALERO, AIREVAC FOR WORKFORCE INTERVIEW SESSIONS

Murray State College in Ardmore hosted two companies that conducted interview sessions for open positions.

"These interviews were vital to hiring administrators to support our teams through the state and to opening a new base of operations in Pauls Valley," said Dan McLeod,



AirEvac Lifeteam Clinical Educator. "The Ardmore campus offered a professional atmosphere and the Murray State staff were friendly and

accommodating. We truly appreciate the opportunity that Murray has offered our team."

"We are honored and proud to partner with these local companies in putting Ardmore and the surrounding area to work," Murray State College President Dr. Tim Faltyn expressed. "Murray State is in the business of helping individuals reach their higher education goals and seeing them succeed in their career. Valero and AirEvac provide opportunities for professional success."

SERVICE AWARDS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION

5 YEARS

Raegin Holman
Terri Quinn
Sandi Hopson
Shellie Dodd
Melissa McBride

10 YEARS

Courtney Bralley
Eddie Cobb
Stephanie Henry

10 YEARS

Caroline Nenninger
Dabett McCarter
Bobbi Lafevers

15 YEARS

Don Loving

25 YEARS

Kathy Drinnon

35 YEARS

Brian Campbell

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

MALAIKA HORTON

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE DEAN OF NURSING

Malaika Horton's academic journey began in the fall of 2020 at Murray State College as a nursing faculty member. With a strong nursing background and passion for education, she dedicated herself to fostering the growth and success



of the nursing program by promoting an inclusive and supportive learning environment.

In the fall of 2022, her role expanded

to Career Mobility Instructor and Acting Assistant Director for the program. Because of Horton's dedication to the program and college, she was recently appointed

as the Murray State College Dean of Nursing at Murray State College this past summer.

Horton's transition from a faculty member to the dean has been a fulfilling journey, and her commitment to advancing the growth and success of Murray State College's nursing program remains vigilant.

She is a Murray State nursing program graduate, and her daughter, Jaliyah, is currently following in her footsteps!

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

KANDY RUTLEDGE

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Kandy Rutledge's connection to Murray State College began as a student where she earned her associates degree in business. After completing her bachelor's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and master's degree from East Central University, Kandy taught in middle and high school for 17 years.

Her passion for helping students continued when she returned to Murray State College as the Director of Admissions and Registrar six years ago. She was soon promoted to Executive Director of Academic Records and Registrar for the previous five years.



Rutledge was recently promoted to Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management. Earlier this year, Murray State implemented a new enrollment

management system to help make the full enrollment process smoother and more efficient for all students, faculty and staff. This was the perfect opportunity for Rutledge to apply her teaching knowledge, skills and experience into helping create the new system.

JORDYN FRAZIER

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MURRAY STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Jordyn Frazier began her relationship with Murray State College as a concurrent student at Mill Creek Public School. She met her husband, Nick, also an alumni, and graduated from Murray State in 2014 with an Associate's degree in history. She went on to complete her bachelor's and master's degrees in business from Southeastern Oklahoma State.

Frazier has a love for rural places and went to work as Executive Director of the Johnston County Chamber of Commerce, gaining experience in fundraising, event planning, relationship management and economic development.

In July 2021, Frazier accepted the position of Advancement Coordinator at Murray State with a focus on workforce development. Now, she holds the positions of Assistant Vice President of External Affairs and Executive Director of



the Murray State College Foundation. She helps manage capital projects, works to bring external dollars to Murray State programs and projects

through fundraising and grant development, strengthens community and workforce partnerships for the development of career pathways and college development, and organizes stakeholder events.

"I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be. Murray State gave me the start and connections that I needed to achieve my educational goals," said Frazier. "I feel incredibly lucky to serve with a passionate and goal-driven team."

IN THE NEWS

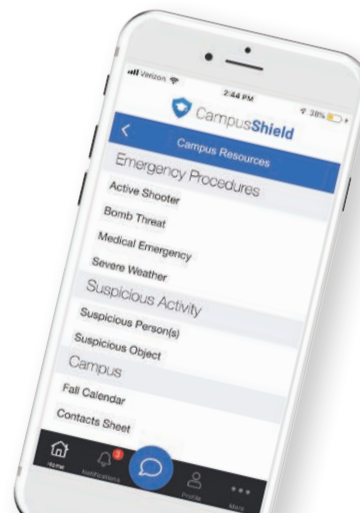
MURRAY STATE IMPLEMENTS APP FOR CAMPUS SAFETY

Murray State College rolled out the implementation of a phone and computer application developed by 911Cellular Technologies called "CampusShield" to increase safety across the entire campus.

"At our August All Employee Meeting, faculty and staff were trained on the use of the 911Cellular App," said Justin Cillum, Murray State College Vice President of Business Affairs. "This solution reflects our commitment to the safety and well-being of our campus communities."

911Cellular bridges communication gaps by building lifesaving technology that connects first responders and administrators with their community members.

"This app provides our students, faculty and staff instant access to our security and emergency response team," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "This will help us all in our efforts to respond to emergency or crisis situations, creating safer campuses."



IN THE NEWS

A NEW PATH FORWARD FOR FORMER MICHELIN EMPLOYEES

Murray State, SouthernTech, Southeastern and East Central join forces to aid displaced workers.

Institutions of higher education and CareerTech in Southern Oklahoma are partnering to provide career pathways for Michelin employees affected by the announcement made on October 26 to wind down Ardmore plant operations.

"The wind-down decision impacts approximately 1,400 people associated with tire-manufacturing activities (excluding additional contractors) at the Ardmore site," read the Michelin North America online statement.

Superintendent Ward, and Presidents Faltyn, Newsom and Godwin are committed to offering educational opportunities that allow for the affected employees to re-tool, upskill or change career paths altogether.

"Together, we're finding solutions that meet these employees where they are, to get them where they want to be," said Murray State College President Dr. Tim Faltyn. "Our goal is to help them be successful and maintain the ability to care for their families and live in our communities."

Each institution has centers of excellence that provide training that can be useful for the displaced workers. Murray State is providing up to one million dollars in tuition aid to anyone seeking training.

College scholarship will continue to benefit students

The Michelin Technical Scholars Program selects students to develop hands-on work experience while earning their degree. Michelin Technical Scholars receive scholarships to cover the cost of tuition, fees and books for the program along with competitive pay and part-time work in a Michelin manufacturing facility.

SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE

In early May, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Chickasaw Nation announced a scholarship challenge to all public colleges and universities in Oklahoma to raise \$50,000 in need-based scholarships. If done, the Chickasaw Nation scholars' fund would match the donated gifts, providing \$100,000 in new scholarships for the institution.

At this year's commencement ceremony, President Dr. Tim Faltyn announced that Governor Anoatubby's alma mater, Murray State College, was the first institution to accept and meet the challenge with the help of 16 local donors, including the Shaffers.

Murray State College Lifetime Alumni members Dan and Peggy Shaffer contributed \$10,000 to the Chickasaw Nation Scholarship Challenge, rounding out the local campaign to generate \$50,000 in matching funds.

BancFirst Trust & Investment Management presented a \$5,000 check



to President Dr. Tim Faltyn and Vice President of Ardmore Ginger Cothran as part of the scholarship challenge.

"Our communities care about our students and their educational success," noted Faltyn. "These funds

were raised in just under two weeks. This is a true testament to the sense of pride that our alumni, Board of Regents and affiliate associations have for Aggie Nation."

WEAR YOUR SCHOOL COLORS WITH PRIDE!

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and gifts page!
mscok.textbookx.com/merch



MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE



REELIN' IN A BIG RANKING

AGGIES RANKED
NO. 1 IN STATE AND
NO. 3 IN NATION

Fisher Hill and
Paris McCullers

The Murray State College bass fishing team has had an outstanding fall as they are ranked as the No. 1 Bass Fishing Team in Oklahoma, No. 3 junior college in the nation, and they have climbed all the way up to No. 26 in the national rankings among both two and four-year colleges.

The Aggies have tallied several Top-5 finishes in their tournaments this season. Brezlyn Hightower & Peyton Bryant claimed second place at the Oklahoma Regional Tournament, while Braden Lankford & Sam Sutter finished in third. Lankford & Sutter added another third-place finish at the OCBC Tournament, while Alan Kight & Shaden Farley claimed fifth place.

Due to their success, CJ Lawrence, Fisher Long, Sam Sutter and Braden Lankford will represent Murray State College at nationals. The competition will take place May 23-24 at Pickwick Lake in Florence, Alabama. The prestigious field will be capped at 200 elite teams that earned a spot in the event through a set qualification criteria.

The Murray State College bass fishing team returns to the waters March 14 for the Oklahoma Regional Tournament.



ROBERTSON WINS SHOTGUN WORLD CUP

Murray State College Shotgun Team member Clay Robertson recorded a perfect score to win the LR Helice World Cup in Brazil. He was one of only three people in the nation to earn the opportunity to represent the United States.

Robertson is also a member of the 2023 U.S. Helice Team which won the bronze medal at the world championships.



SPORTS RECAP



NEW COACHES



AKASH MIRIYALA
Assistant Women's Basketball Coach



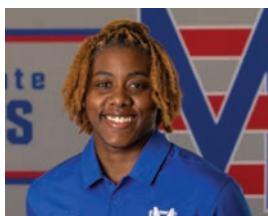
BEN BENNETT
Assistant Baseball Coach



GARY BANDY
Athletic Director



JEREMY WAGNER
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach



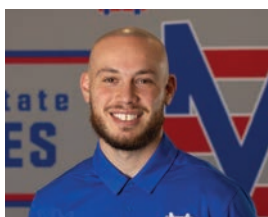
JEWEL SMALLS
Assistant Women's Basketball Coach



JUSTIN WAGNER
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach



LOGAN MCCOID
Assistant Golf Coach



NATE LEVINE
Head Women's Basketball Coach



SAIGE VANDIVER
Assistant Softball Coach

ALEXIS PEREZ
Assistant Women's Soccer Coach

MANUEL ESPARZA
Assistant Men's Soccer Coach

LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM FINISHES FALL SEASON STRONG

The Murray State College Livestock Judging Team impressed at several competitions throughout the fall. The Aggies started their season at The Stockman's Sort. Haiden Thayn captured third place, while Crae McPhie finished in the No. 13 spot.

Next, Murray State traveled to compete in the Texas and Tulsa State Fairs. Thayn and McPhie led the way at the State Fair of Texas in the sheep and goats division as Thayn was the high individual and McPhie claimed third place. The Aggie freshman team finished seventh overall, including a fifth-place finish in the sheep and goats category, and tenth-place finish in the cattle division. Andrea Pruitt paced the Aggies in the cattle division as she earned tenth place in the individual standings. The sophomore team also performed well as finishing one spot outside the top 10 in the overall standings.

The freshman team continued their success at the Tulsa State Fair as they recorded another top-5 finish in the sheep and goats category. McPhie also placed in the sheep and goats division as she finished in the No. 5 spot.

The Murray State College Livestock Judging Team saved their best performance for last as they dominated the Bucks Cattle Company 2023 Livestock Judging Contest. Olivia Huey won the junior college division, while Pruitt and McPhie finished in fourth and fifth place, respectively.

SPORTS RECAP

SOCCKER PROGRAMS MAKE HISTORY

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE REACHES NJCAA DIVISION I TOURNAMENT

The Murray State College Men's Soccer Team had the best season in program history. The Aggies earned the No. 3 seed in the Region II Tournament. They won the first two games in the tournament to advance to the NJCAA Region II Championship for the first time in program history. The Aggies continued their winning ways in the Championship against the No. 1 seed, Eastern Oklahoma State College. The Aggies dominated the Mountaineers from start to finish to win the Region II Tournament, 3-0, for the first time in program history.

Murray State hosted the NJCAA Mid-South District Championship against Hill College. The winner of the contest



would clinch a berth to the NJCAA National Tournament. The Aggies trailed 1-0 in the early stages of the match but rallied for a huge 3-1 victory to clinch a spot in the NJCAA National Tournament, which was another first for the Murray State College men's soccer team.

In the NJCAA Division I Soccer Tournament, the Aggies rallied from a second-half deficit to upset No. 2 Eastern Florida State College, 3-2. Murray State College battled No. 7 Tyler Junior College the next day. The Aggies fought hard but came up just short to conclude their season.

Six Aggies earned All-Region honors for their record-setting season. Joel Green, Lucas Peruzo, and Dominic Woolley claimed First-Team honors, while Joshua Adeyemi, Victor Mayrink, and Uros Vulovic were named to the Second Team. Coach Connor was also named the 2023 Men's Soccer Mid-South District Coach of the Year.

The 2023 Murray State College Men's Soccer Team also spent time receiving votes in the Top-20 Coaches Poll. They finished the year ranked No. 11 in the NJCAA Division I Soccer Tournament.

WOMEN'S SOCCER SETS SEVERAL PROGRAM RECORDS IN 2023

The Murray State College Women's Soccer Team put together a tremendous season that set several program records this year. The team won a program-record 15 matches and earned the No. 2 seed in the Region II Tournament. The Lady Aggies made their first appearance in the NJCAA Mid-South District Championship after defeating Eastern Oklahoma State College in the Region II semifinals, 2-1. Murray State battled No. 1 Seminole State in the Mid-South District Championship but fell just short.

The Lady Aggies also accumulated the most goals (73) and shutouts (13) in a season at Murray State. The team's dominance may be best seen



by their +60 goal differential on the year as they finished the season with the program record 73 goals and only allowed 13 goals in over 21 matches.

Five players earned All-Region Honors for their excellent play on the field. Jimena Guevara and Uxia Varela were named to the Region 2 First Team, while Hanna Brew, Cristina Escudero and Kaylee Foster earned Second Team honors.

The 2023 Murray State College Women's Soccer Team also spent

time ranked in the Top-20 Coaches Poll. Due to their fantastic season, Coach Connor was also named the Region II Coach of the Year.

One of the Murray State soccer players, Faith Wylie, also represented the United States in the Women's Soccer Deaf World Cup in Malaysia this past October. Wylie and the United States won the Gold Medal; this is Wylie's second Gold Medal as she won one the previous summer with the team.

SPORTS RECAP

ANNUAL AGGIE RODEO SHOWCASE A SUCCESS



In August, Murray State College students, faculty and staff, and local community members filled the stands to watch Murray State's Rodeo Team host their inaugural showcase. The 50 team members impressed the crowd throughout the night as they competed in their respective events -bareback riding, barrel racing, breakaway roping, goat tying, bull riding, saddle bronc riding, team roping and tie-down roping.

The Murray State College Foundation is the steward of three scholarships for rodeo student athletes. Donors for two of the three scholarships joined Executive Director Jordyn Frazier to present this year's recipients with a certificate.



The Bill and Delores Burch Memorial Team Roping Scholarship was awarded to Kristany Travis. She competes in team roping and breakaway.



The Johnny G. Russell Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Nikki Lewis. She competes in breakaway and team roping.



The Dustin Gaskey Memorial Scholarship recipient was Sam Seimer. He competes in tie-down roping.

THE MURRAY STATE RODEO TEAM HAD AN IMPRESSIVE FALL SEASON

The Murray State College Rodeo Team put together an impressive fall season as 16 Aggies have made it to the finals of the four regional rodeos, including a pair of Aggies claiming first place in their respective disciplines.

Blake Carter won the calf roping at the Colby Community College Rodeo

in September. Garrett Hughes and his teammate from Southeastern Oklahoma State University won the team roping at the OSU Stampede Rodeo in October.

Due to Murray State's success, five Aggies are currently ranked in the Central Region Standings. Hughes is in first place in the team roping

division as a heeler. Carter is in the No. 4 spot in calf roping. In the bull riding, Bryson Nelms holds the No. 7 position. Meanwhile, two Aggies are ranked in the barrel racing division. Rainey Coffman is in tenth place and Kagan Davis is in the No. 14 spot.

The Aggies will compete in six rodeos in the spring beginning with a trip to Manhattan, Kansas, to compete in the Kansas State University Rodeo on Feb. 18.

HAPPENINGS



LIGHTHOUSE BEHAVIOR WELLNESS IS BACK ON CAMPUS

Lighthouse Behavior Wellness Center has returned to the Murray State College campus. Lighthouse provides behavioral wellness services to Murray State faculty, staff and students.

Lighthouse celebrated the move by hosting a block party on Murray State's North Lawn in October.

WORKFORCE SUMMIT BRINGS LEADERS TOGETHER

The Ardmore Development Authority, Murray State College and SouthernTech hosted local educators and employers for the inaugural Southern Oklahoma Workforce Summit.

President Dr. Tim Faltyn presented statistical information about the workforce industry in the surrounding counties. Murray State and SouthernTech students served on a panel, sharing their thoughts about what they are looking for in potential employers.



HAPPENINGS



ROOTED IN HISTORY

Murray State College participated in the Chickasaw Festival Parade. Murray State's float, "Rooted in History," won first place.

Chickasaw citizen and Murray State Regent Leslie Larsen helped judge the parade entries.



HAPPENINGS



STUDENTS PACK ARDMORE CAMPUS FOR CONCURRENT NIGHT

Local concurrent students stopped by Murray State's Ardmore campus to learn about available resources, introducing them to the faculty and staff on campus who can be helpful to them.



FACULTY CPR TRAINING

16 Murray State faculty and staff at the Ardmore campus participated in CPR and Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) training. The campus received two AEDs from the Southern Oklahoma Memorial Foundation. The employees are now CPR and AED certified by the American Heart Association.



A SENATOR AND A PRESIDENT

United States Senator James Lankford stopped by Murray State College for a quick visit.

CRISIS PLANNING TRAINING INVOLVE MANY AGENCIES

At the all-employee meeting in August, Oklahoma Emergency Management Team members Kristal Kuhn and Pam Devore, along with Jason Bryant with the Johnston County Emergency Management team assisted everyone with crisis planning, management and response.

HAPPENINGS



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

In August, the Murray State College Physical Therapist Assistant Program celebrated the completion of the Class of 2023.

The class included nine students who have worked very hard since they began the technical portion of the program in January 2022.

The program faculty and staff are proud of this class and are excited to see how they will do on their National Physical Therapy Examination for PTAs in a few months.

This ceremony was the 27th class to complete the PTA Program which began in 1995 and has graduated a class each year.



8TH GRADERS DISCOVER CAREER PATHS

Approximately 500 8th grade students from Atoka, Caney, Kingston, Madill, Stonewall, Sulphur and Tishomingo visited Murray State College for a day of "discovery," learning about various career pathways available in southern Oklahoma.

MARTIN MARIETTA TRAINS ON CAMPUS

Martin Marietta is an American-based company and a leading supplier of building materials - including aggregates, cement, ready-mixed concrete and asphalt.



HAPPENINGS

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE HOSTS FFA INVITATIONAL

Seven schools attended Murray State's FFA Invitational. Students competed in the Greenhand Quiz Written Test, and Opening and Closing Ceremonies contests. Teams also had the opportunity to compete in the Senior Shuffle Opening and Closing Ceremonies contest.



GREENHAND QUIZ WINNERS

(not pictured)

- 1st place: Timber Collins
- 2nd place: Rylan Hanks
- 3rd place: Kara LaFavers

SENIOR SHUFFLE

- 1st place: Turner FFA team #1
- 2nd place: Durant FFA
- 3rd place: Atoka FFA

TOP 3 OVERALL

- 1st place: Turner FFA team #1
- 2nd place: Haworth FFA team #1
- 3rd place: Broken Bow FFA



ROOM #1

- 1st place: Haworth FFA team #1
- 2nd place: Milburn FFA
- 3rd place: Turner FFA team #2

ROOM #2

- 1st place: Turner FFA team #1
- 2nd place: Haworth FFA team #3
- 3rd place: Smithville FFA team #1

ROOM #3

- 1st place: Turner FFA team #1
- 2nd place: Haworth FFA team #3
- 3rd place: Durant FFA team #1



HAPPENINGS



GIVE THANKS

In November, Murray State College held its second annual "Give Thanks" event in Ardmore. There were food, games and prizes to thank Murray State College faculty and staff for their hard work.

President Faltyn provided a campus update and employees had the chance to win some prizes.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

Murray State instructors Shauni Kimbro and Che Deer received the Pyle Faculty Enhancement Grant. This grant provides support for faculty professional development.

Pictured: Jordyn Frazier, Assistant Vice President of External Affairs; Shauni Kimbro, Climate-Smart Grant Coordinator; Che Deer, Small Farms and Urban Horticultural Systems Instructor; and Dr. Faltyn, Murray State President.

HAPPENINGS

MURRAY STATE PARTNERS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

Murray State College, Ameristate Bank and Sooner Foods have partnered to expand the digital and static signage at the Main Street/Byrd Street intersection in Tishomingo.

Oklahoma Speaker of the House of Representatives Charles McCall, Murray State College President Dr. Tim Faltyn and Sooner Foods owner Kemper Howe signed an MOU in November.



JUNIOR/SENIOR PREVIEW DAY

Murray State College hosted its annual Junior/Senior Preview Day. High school juniors and seniors toured the Tishomingo campus, visited classrooms, and met with faculty and staff.



ARDMORE ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER (ARC) OPEN HOUSE

Murray State students and community members had the opportunity to hear about and tour the new Academic Resource Center on the Ardmore campus.

The ARC provides students with various academic support needs.



BOOTS & BONNETS

The Johnston County Historical Society hosted the "Boots and Bonnets" event at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center. The event provided the opportunity to experience a statehood-themed evening of time-period dress, food and entertainment. Murray State President Emeritus Joy McDaniel-Aldridge provided a history of Murray State College.



BOOTS & BUCKLES

Murray State's agriculture faculty attended Murray County's Boots and Buckles fundraiser to support the county's 4-H and FFA chapters



STUDENT LIFE



BINGO NIGHT

The Murray State College President's Scholars Program (PSP) hosted Bingo Night at the Johnston County Fair Barn. There was a silent auction, dinner and prizes awarded to the winners. All proceeds go directly toward Christmas Angel Tree donations.



FALL FESTIVAL

The Fall Festival took place at the Johnston County Fair Barn in October. Approximately 20 Murray State College student clubs had gaming booths for the public to enjoy, ranging from face painting to putt-putt golf.



DINE LIKE A LEADER

In leadership preparation, Murray State's PSP students participated in an etiquette dining course. Murray State College Regent Adisha Chapman presented on the importance of business and dining etiquette for those in leadership roles. She encouraged them to be confident and authentic during dining conversations. Dr. Faltyn gave some words of encouragement. The students were able to utilize the skills learned as they shared a formal dining experience.

FALL BREAK TRAVELS

During fall break, the PSP students traveled to Little Rock and Hot Springs, Arkansas, to explore water conservation. Students learned about Arkansas wildlife, pet a baby alligator, viewed a glass blowing art demonstration and participated in aerial team building activities.



SGA LUNCH

Murray State's Student Government Association had lunch with President Dr. Faltyn and Vice Presidents Henthorn and Cellum to talk about the Park Student Union remodel project.

STUDENT LIFE



CELEBRATING TOGETHER WITH COMMUNITY

Local community members helped host the second annual Murray State College community Thanksgiving. With their donations, three meals were prepared during the week.



BAKED POTATO FUNDRAISER

Murray State's Veterinary Nursing student club hosted their annual baked potato fundraiser. The students purchase gifts for the Johnston County children.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WELCOME NIGHT

Murray State's NICHE student group hosted an International Student Welcome Night. The night consisted of snacks, games and fellowship with Murray's international students.

HAPPENINGS



AGGIES ALL IN

Community organizations visited both Murray State campuses to meet with students, staff and faculty during the first week of school. They shared information, played games and awarded prizes.

Congratulations to Theresa Brown for winning the \$50 cash cup drawing at the Ardmore Aggies All In.

Digital Job Board

Scan the Code below to find jobs in your area, or scan "Career Services." for resources and information about upcoming events.

For more information or questions, please get in touch with Brooklyn Luelf at Bluel@mscok.edu or call 580-319-0342



All Counties
(Various Areas)



Ada Area



Ardmore Area



Atoka Area



Coalgate
Area



Davis/Sulphur
Area



Durant Area



Marietta Area

GO
Aggies!



Madill Area



Pauls Valley
Area



Tishomingo
Area



Remote Jobs

Would you like to
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our job board?
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Brooklyn Luelf at
Bluel@mscok.edu



Seasonal Jobs

MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE



Career Services
and Events

Internships

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Agricultural/
Wildlife



Business



Chickasaw
Nation



Choctaw
Nation



Health Care



Miscellaneous



Seasonal



Manufacturing



Remote



MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

Would you like to add something to our Internships board? Please contact Brooklyn Luelf at Bluelf@mscok.edu

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

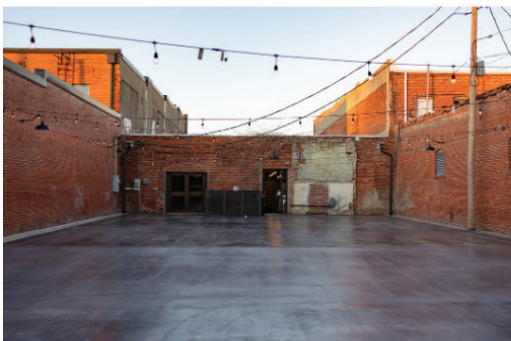
5 HOURS - \$400

Deposit

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

Contact Information

580-387-7320



AGGIELITE

DECEMBER 2023



***Tate
Gruenwald,
Murray
State College
Gunsmithing
Club
President***