

Campus Update

State Representatives visit ECU

More than a dozen members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, led by ECU alumni Rep. Ronny Johns, visited campus in July.

The group heard from a distinguished panel on the importance of early intervention in mental health and addiction prevention. They also toured the university, observing current renovations across campus, storm recovery, and progress of the Dan Hays STEM Center.



New clinic named in honor of Dr. Tawfik Ramadan

With construction of the Dan Hays STEM Center well underway, ECU recently announced the dedication of the Student Health Clinic that will be housed inside the new facility, in honor of Dr. Tawfik Ramadan.



SEE RAMADAN, PAGE 3

Campus sees rise of Dan Hays STEM Center

Upward construction for the Dan Hays STEM Center began in July. Grand opening for the new facility is expected August 2026.



President Godwin visits Clark Contractors, LLC on the site of the new Dan Hays STEM Center

ECU drives economic growth

ECU employs more than 477 faculty, staff and part-time employees. Over 3,600 students are projected to enroll this fall, with more than 2,000 living on or near campus. Many students work, volunteer and shop locally.

SEE ECONOMIC IMPACT, PAGE 2

New programs come to ECU!

SEE NEW PROGRAMS, PAGE 9

Economic Impact

According to a 2024 report by Economics Center Research and Consulting:

- ECU generated \$231.95 million in state-wide economic output.
- It supported 2,338 jobs—directly and indirectly—with \$114.36 million in wages.
- It contributed \$7.77 million in state and local tax revenue, including \$4.22 million in income tax and \$3.5 million in sales tax.
- For every \$1 in state appropriations, ECU returned \$14.45 in economic output to Oklahoma taxpayers.



An aerial view of ECU

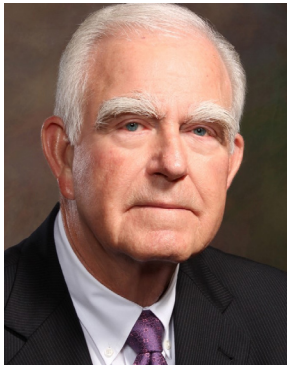
In 2024 alone, ECU hosted an estimated 100,000+ visitors through a wide variety of events:

- 60,000+ fans attended ECU athletic events and local high school tournaments.
- The Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center drew 30,000 attendees for performances, competitions, and national productions.
- The Chickasaw Business and Conference Center welcomed 12,100 guests for conferences and special events hosted by university departments, the Chickasaw Nation, and regional partners.

ECU Forward Campaign co-chairs announced



Tom Crabtree



Dr. Carlos Johnson



Dr. Tawfik Ramadan



Craig Scheef



Kevin Turner

Honorary co-chairs Faculty co-chair

ECU Forward is a comprehensive \$36.3 million capital campaign dedicated to advancing ECU's future. This initiative will enhance the ECU campus, strengthen academic programs and ensure that ECU students will continue to be provided with life-changing educational opportunities at an affordable cost.



Chickasaw Governor
Bill Anoatubby



Former Oklahoma
Governor George Nigh



Dr. Stacey Bolin

Ramadan

A dedication ceremony was held in Danley Hall with the Ramadan family in attendance. Speakers at the ceremony included Susie Bolin of the Valley View Foundation, portrait



artist Yousef Khanfar, Dr. Mohammad Ramadan, ECU President Wendell Godwin, and others.

Summer renovations across campus



New ECU football locker room coming soon



ECU Athletics is proud to announce that a major step forward has been made in the efforts to renovate the Elvan George football locker room, thanks to transformational gifts from longtime supporters of the Tiger program. For more information on these renovations, visit www.ecok.edu/news.

The Clinic to Provide Athletic Training for ECU

Sports Medicine specialist Dr. Josh Priddle, CAQSM, AME, FAOASM, will lead The Clinic athletic training team at ECU. He will be joined by trainers Judd Drake and Sarah Ferrell, with additional trainers coming aboard later. This team will care for more than 400 student-athletes at approximately 150 competitions each year, both on campus and on the road. For more information, visit www.ecutigers.com.

ECU, The Clinic recognized

The partnership between ECU and The Clinic, which was announced in Spring 2025, was recognized at the Regents Business Partnership Excellence Awards this summer.

The Clinic at ECU was honored for its role in delivering easily accessible, comprehensive healthcare services for all ECU students.



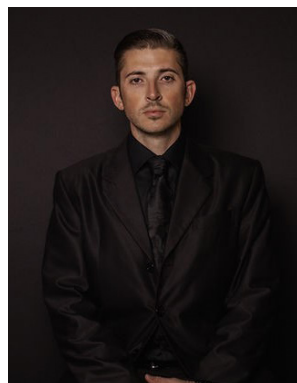
Oka' Institute, Chickasaw Nation, and partners celebrated through Pulaski Award Partnership



The Oka' Institute was honored this summer on the floor of the Oklahoma House of Representatives for its role in presenting the Pulaski Award to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Eastern Oklahoma Region on behalf of the National Interagency Fire Center.

Joseph Harris leads Oka' Institute water initiatives

For rural communities across Oklahoma, safe and reliable water infrastructure is not just a utility – it's the bedrock of sustainability. Joseph Harris, Community Coordinator at The Oka' Institute, stands at the forefront of this crucial effort, acting as a vital bridge between communities, technical partners, and essential funding opportunities. To read his full June 9 interview, visit www.ecok.edu/news.



Upcoming Events

- August 9
 - STEMpact Kick-Off Event, 10 a.m.
- August 12
 - Tiger Enrollment Day
- August 13
 - Honors Program - Move-In
- August 14
 - ECU Faculty and Staff Convocation, 8:30 a.m.
 - Honors Program Kickoff, 12 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- August 17
 - Mall Crawl, 5:30 p.m.
- August 18
 - Full semester (FA25) begins
 - FA25 Term A begins
 - Welcome Week Hypnotist Show, 7:30 p.m.
- August 19
 - Welcome Week Super Smash Bros. Tournament, 6 p.m.
- August 21
 - Honors Convocation, 4 p.m.
- August 22
 - ECU Alumni Reunion - OKC, 6 p.m.
- August 25
 - Esports League of Legends Tryouts, 10 a.m.
 - Honors Program Burkean Parlor, 7 p.m.
- August 26
 - Esports Smash Bros. Tryouts, 10 a.m.
 - BLA Round Up Block Party, 6 p.m.
- August 27
 - Esports Rocket League Tryouts, 10 a.m.

ECU celebrates those honored in 2025

2025 Evening of Honors

**State Auditor and Inspector
Cindy Byrd (Distinguished
Alumni)**



**David Jackson
(Distinguished Alumni)**



**Kathy Pinson
(Distinguished Alumni)**



**Chief Justice Dustin Rowe
(Distinguished Alumni)**



**Kitt Wakeley
(Distinguished Alumni)**



**Mark Stringfield
(Service Award)**



**Janey Thomas
(Service Award)**



**David Schallhorn
(Distinguished Former
Faculty)**



**Randall/Newcombe
Family
(Distinguished
Family)**

**ECU Honors
Graduation**

Taylor Spence (left) and Saul Padilla (right) were photographed with Vice President of Academic Affairs Jeffrey Gibson after being named recipients of the George Nigh Award at the 2025 Spring Commencement ceremony.



ECU celebrates the Class of 2025



For Spring 2025 commencement photos, visit
www.ecok.edu ecutigerpics.pixieset.com/springcommencement2025



Dobro Slovo Induction, 2025



Nursing Pinning Ceremony, Spring 2025



2025 ECU alumna, Jami Watson, has been named one of forty-two student-athletes honored with a \$10,000 scholarship by the NCAA and their Postgraduate Scholarship program.

A former ECU softball player and summa cum laude graduate of the Physics Department and Mathematics Department, Watson was chosen amongst a competitive field of candidates for the honor.



Roary's Athletic Banquet, 2025



Twelve ECU students, led by Dr. Mara Sukholutskaya, traveled to Washington, D.C. this spring. The educational goal of the 4-day trip was to discover Slavic cultural sites and to highlight centuries of cultural and political cooperation between the United States and Russia.



New PLC students and sponsor named this summer

The names of the 26 students selected for the 2025-26 President's Leadership class were announced in July. Students recently toured campus and had the opportunity to sample what life is like for an ECU Tiger before the Fall semester officially begins. In addition, Vision Bank, a long time supporter of ECU, has been announced as the new title sponsor for PLC, more details to come. For a full list of PLC student names, visit www.ecok.edu/news.

Oklahoma Business Week (OBW)



OBW is an annual event that gives high school students the opportunity to spend five days on ECU's campus while participating in a series of activities and competitions across campus.

In addition, students this year toured the Artesian Hotel and business located in Sulphur and learned from business leaders within the Artesian, Chickasaw Country Tourism and Lazer Zone Family Fun Center about operating each respective business.

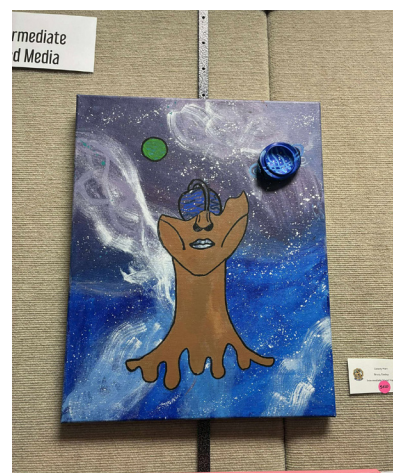
For more detailed information and the names of the contest winners, visit ecok.edu/news.

Molecules of Nature Summer Academy

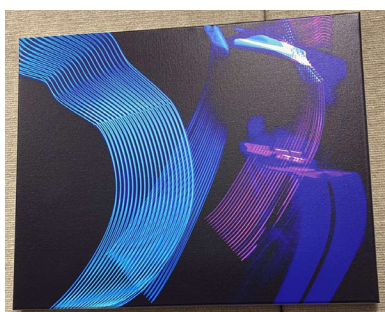


A residence camp hosted by ECU's Department of Physical Sciences, the summer academy is designed for 8th-9th graders. Through hands-on exploration, students synthesized molecules important in fields such as medicine, food processing and agriculture. Students were immersed in the college experience, gaining knowledge of high-tech laboratory equipment and safety.

Also on campus this summer were high school students participating in the Upward Bound program, the first ever Esports summer camp, FCA and more!



The Chickasaw Nation Arts Academy and more!



New programs come to ECU

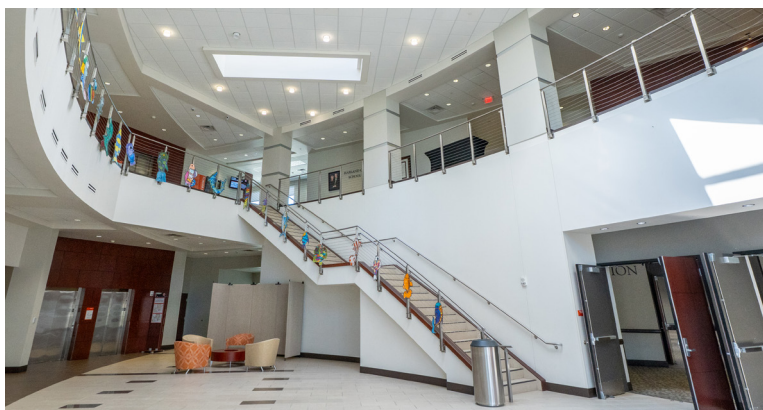
Master of Science in Applied Psychology

This program prepares students for roles in behavioral health, community health, instructional design, management, marketing, teaching and more. Students learn to analyze situations through a psychological lens, draw on appropriate psychological research and transform their knowledge into actionable solutions. For more information about the M.S. in Applied Psychology, contact Dr. Marc Klippenstine at mklippen@ecok.edu.



Master of Science in Sport Psychology

This program prepares students for roles in behavioral health, community health, instructional design, management, marketing, teaching and more. Students learn to analyze situations through a psychological lens, draw on appropriate psychological research and transform their knowledge into actionable solutions. For more information about the M.S. in Sport Psychology, contact Dr. Beau Leaf at bleaf@ecok.edu.



Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management

The Stonecipher School of Business currently offers a certificate in Human Resource Management. The new program will expand the course offerings and provide students with the opportunity to earn a B.S. in the Human Resources Management concentration. For more information about the B.S. in Human Resource Management, contact Dr. Dale Powers at dpowers@ecok.edu.



Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management

This new concentration in Health Care Management combines core business knowledge with specialized training for the healthcare industry. Students gain practical, industry-relevant skills to manage operations, improve patient services, and lead effectively in healthcare environments. For more information about the B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Health Care Management, contact Gary Tucker at gtucker@ecok.edu.

Spring and Summer signing



The ECU Pride of Tigerland continued its tradition of signing incoming freshman band members this spring and summer with Director of Bands and Percussion, Nick Meyers, traveling across the state to sign a

number of students. Additionally, this year marked the first official signing performed by the ECU Tiger Esports team with Esports Director Cody Soden signing Konawa High School senior Will Neurauter to the ECU Esports Program. "This is a huge first for Konawa, ECU, and the community," said Soden.



Preview Day

ECU recruitment and enrollment drive continued all summer long



Tiger Enrollment Day



Campus Tours

More updates on faculty/staff and alumni



Retiree Brunch, 2025



President Godwin speaks at Ada Rotary meeting



Dr. Sukholutskaya provides tour to visiting Professor Bakhtiyor

ECU Glass Recycling program makes the news all summer long



The program operates a convenient drop-off facility located behind the Education Building on the ECU campus. Clearly labeled polycarts are available for anyone in the community to drop off their clean glass bottles for recycling.

This initiative highlights the amazing potential for creative reuse and provides accessible ways for the community to participate in sustainable practices.

Hada publishes 12th book



Dr. Ken Hada announced the publication of his 12th book of poetry, "Visions for the Night," at ECU's 20th annual Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, an event that Hada has directed since its inception.

Danley Family bench dedication



A bench, dedicated in honor of James and Wanita Danley was presented this spring. As engraved on the bench, the Danleys are recognized as, "Alumni, Educators, and Administrators who shaped the characters of students through Math and English, with a touch of humor along the way." Photographed: (Back row) ECU President Wendell Godwin, Bill Chapman, Ron Anderson, Gerald Williamson of the ECU Foundation, Tom Criswell, (front row) Sheril Chapman, Global Education Director Dr. Mara Sukholuts kaya, Diane Criswell, Phyllis Danley and Buffy Lovelis of the ECU Foundation.

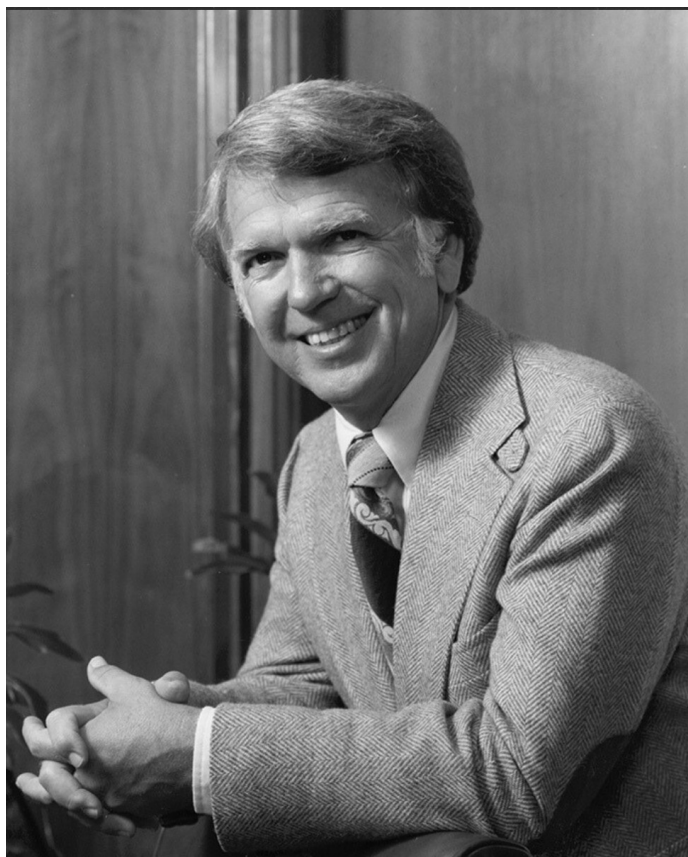
Faculty/Staff recognition



Dean of the College of Education and Psychology, Dr. Jerry Mihelic, was recently recognized for his outstanding leadership as the 2024-2025 President of the Oklahoma Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Dr. Mihelic was also presented the Jane M. Morse Leadership Award, a distinguished honor voted on by his peers.



Creative Specialist from the Department of Communications and Marketing, Tanner Capps, was presented with the Achievement Award in the "Informational or Event Brochure" category at the annual OCPRA conference. This marks the fourth consecutive year that Capps has received an award from the conference.



ECU remembers a giant: Governor George Nigh

"I'm not sure Oklahoma has ever had anyone who loved this state more than Governor Nigh. During my last conversation with him, he had tears rolling down his cheeks as he told me about his time at ECU. Our university was part of his foundation. What he accomplished in his lifetime will be hard to match. God gave him the paint brush and he created a masterful piece of art - life!! Proud to have called Governor my friend and a TIGER!!"

ECU President Wendell Godwin



"You can get there from here!"