A NATIONAL LEADER
Southeastern ranks 10th in producing Native American graduates

According to the latest rankings in Diverse Issues In Higher Education, Southeastern Oklahoma State University is among the top schools in the nation for producing Native American graduates.

In the undergraduate category, Southeastern has nine different fields represented in the national top 10; in the graduate degree category, Southeastern has three programs recognized in the top 10.

The University ranks number one in Occupational Safety & Health (undergraduate and graduate) and 10th in the nation in all disciplines combined (undergraduate).

“It is a great honor for us to be recognized nationally for our work with Native American students,” said Southeastern president Larry Minks. “What is most impressive to me is the number of different subject areas that are represented in the rankings. We have a number of programs in place, including the U.S. Department of Education grant that we received last year, to assist students. The Native American Center for Student Success continues to do an outstanding job as well. Finally, we are very appreciative to have tremendous support from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation. The partnerships that have been established with both nations make a tremendous difference in the lives of our students.”

Each year, the magazine publishes its top 100 rankings of minority graduates. The report is based on preliminary data from the U.S. Department of Education for the 2010-11 school year.

Last year, the University received a $2 million federal grant to enhance the academic success of its Native American students.

The five-year, $1,995,623 Title III grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Following are Southeastern’s national rankings, by field, in the top 100 degree producers list (Native American students) as released by Diverse Issues In Higher Education:

**Undergraduate**

1 -- Engineering Technologies and Engineering Related Fields (Occupational Safety and Health)
2 -- Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs
3 -- Transportation and Materials Moving (Aviation)
4 -- Education
4 -- Psychology
5 -- Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies
7 -- Marketing
8 -- Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies, and Humanities
9 -- Biological and Biomedical Sciences
10 -- All Disciplines Combined

**Graduate**

1 -- Engineering (Occupational Safety & Health)
4 -- Psychology (Clinical Mental Heath Counseling)
8 -- Education
11 -- All Disciplines Combined
The Oklahoma Small Business Development Center (OSBDC) statewide network has received full accreditation without conditions from the Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC).

Since 1984, the OSBDC has grown to become the state’s most comprehensive business assistance network and has helped more than 150,000 Oklahomans realize their entrepreneurial dreams. Through a state, federal, and university partnership, the OSBDC has significantly impacted Oklahoma’s economy by helping create business start-ups, expansions, export development, and business sustainability.

In 2011, the OSBDC statewide team of business management advisors assisted with the successful start-up of 275 new Oklahoma businesses. This year, they supported more than 4,000 small business owners in creating and retaining more than 1,070 jobs. In addition, the team helped these entrepreneurs acquire more than $22 million total in new capitalization for business expansion.

“During our visit we were very impressed with the vision, guidance, direction, and outstanding support being provided to the Oklahoma SBDC by state director Bill Carter and his team,” said Mark Petrilli, lead accreditation team member. “It is very obvious that the staff of the SBDC truly welcomes the strong leadership and focused mission of the Oklahoma SBDC.”

OSBDC’s state headquarters are housed at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. There are 15 offices in Oklahoma, including regional centers at Northeastern, Southwestern, East Central, Northwestern, and Central Oklahoma regional universities. Additional offices are at Langston and Rose State universities with satellite centers in Tulsa, Lawton, Edmond, Norman, Broken Arrow and Muskogee. Business advising services are provided in all 77 Oklahoma counties to small business owners without cost.

“SBA relies on resource partners like the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center network to provide a critical element of assistance to small businesses who are looking to start or expand their business,” said Dottie Overal, SBA Oklahoma district director. “OSBDCs are located throughout the state and many of their services are free. Our research shows small business counseling makes a tremendous difference in the long-term success of a small business.”

“This full accreditation reaffirms the fact that the OSBDC performs a vital function in supporting economic development throughout the state,” said Southeastern president Larry Minks. “Bill Carter and his staff are to be commended on this achievement. The university partners, region, and state of Oklahoma all benefit greatly from the expertise OSBDC provides to entrepreneurs. Their mission is direct – to assist our small businesses – and they continue to stimulate economic development by any and all measures of achievement.”

“Full accreditation by the national accreditation examiners is recognition of the quality of OSBDC’s staff, statewide partnerships and world-class performance,” Carter said. “This accomplishment was not easy. The accreditation process measures every aspect of our organization relative to world class standards.”

To learn more about OSBDC, go to www.osbdc.org.

Southeastern Oklahoma State University will honor the 2012 Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Former Faculty, along with presenting the Benefactor and Heritage Awards, during Homecoming, September 28-29.

The Distinguished Alumni are Captain Gail Gorski (’74), Mr. Stephen Robinson (’86), and Mr. Towana Spivey (’68). Distinguished Former Faculty award recipients are Dr. Walter Britt, Dr. Elbert Hill, and Dr. Pat Robbins (’60).

The Benefactor Award will be presented posthumously to Albert H. Brigance (’55), and the Heritage Award will be presented posthumously to Dr. Bernice Crockett (’34).

The 2012 honorees will be recognized at a dinner scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Friday, September 28, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

“Faithful to the Gold and Blue” is the theme of this year’s festivities.

For more information, visit alumni.SE.edu or call 580-745-2875.
Dr. David Conway was recently elected chairman of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, succeeding Tulsa’s Rick Armstrong whose chairmanship ended June 30.

Conway, director of the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Aviation Sciences Institute, will lead the seven-member board that is responsible for encouraging, fostering and assisting in the development of aviation in Oklahoma.

“It’s a privilege and an honor for me to serve as the Aeronautics Commission’s next chairman. The success of our state’s aviation and aerospace industry is critical to our state’s economic future. I am looking forward to working with my fellow board members to expand and strengthen this vital industry in our state,” Conway said.

Conway previously served as chair of the Southeastern Aerospace Department and has been a member of the faculty since 1998. In 2003, he received the University’s Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Service.

An avid pilot who holds commercial, instrument, CFI and multi-engine ratings, Conway retired as a command pilot from the United States Air Force, where he served as an instructor pilot and evaluator pilot in the Cessna T-37 and Boeing KC-135. He is also one of a handful of flight-rated aerospace physiologists.

Conway earned his Bachelor of Science at Texas A&M - Commerce, Master of Science at the University of Southern California, and Doctorate of Education from Oklahoma State University, and has completed coursework in human factors and physiology at specialized schools across the country, including OSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

He has had numerous articles published in various journals and magazines focusing on human factors in aviation. In addition, Conway recently completed four programs at Harvard University: The Art of Discussion Leadership, Management & Leadership in Education, Crisis Leadership, and the Institute for Educational Management, as well as a fellowship in Higher Education Management at Vanderbilt University.
University implements tobacco-free policy

Beginning August 1, 2012, Southeastern Oklahoma State University implemented a tobacco-free policy.

This is in accordance with an executive order signed by Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin on February 6, 2012. In part, the order states, “The use of any tobacco product shall be prohibited on any and all properties owned, leased or contracted for use by the State of Oklahoma, including but not limited to all buildings, land and vehicles owned, leased or contracted for use by agencies or instrumentalities of the State of Oklahoma.”

Southeastern has taken an informative, pro-active approach to implementation of the new law. University president Larry Minks formed the Southeastern Tobacco-free Task Force in the spring to assist with this transition. The task force has been working to create programming and materials to assist with this transition and to make the community aware of the new change in policy.

For more information, visit tobaccofree.SE.edu.