Southeastern named military-friendly by G.I. Jobs

Victory Media, a media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has named Southeastern Oklahoma State University to the Military Friendly Schools® list, as published in G.I. Jobs magazine.

The 2013 Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

“Inclusion on the 2013 list of Military Friendly Schools® shows Southeastern’s commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students,” said Sean Collins, Director for G.I. Jobs and Vice President at Victory Media.

The 1,739 colleges, universities and trade schools on this year’s list exhibit leading practices in the recruitment and retention of students with military experience.

“We are proud to have received this designation as a military friendly school,” said Southeastern president Larry Minks. “We consider it an honor but also as a reminder that we must continue to provide assistance to those who have served our country as they transition back into school and the workforce.”

Over the course of a calendar year, Southeastern assists more than 200 veterans, according to Kristie Luke, Associate Dean of Academic Records/Registrar.

Southeastern provides assistance to veterans and their dependents in a variety of areas, from applying for admission and financial aid to understanding their VA education benefits. Additional resources such as career counseling and tutoring are also available.

Now in its fourth year, the 2013 list of Military Friendly Schools® was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 12,000 VA-approved schools nationwide. The survey tabulation process, methodology and weightings that comprise the 2013 list were independently verified by Ernst and Young LLP.

Each year, schools taking the survey are held to a higher standard than the previous year via improved methodology, criteria and weightings developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Board (AAB) consisting of educators from schools across the country.

Categories analyzed were military support on campus, academic credibility, percentage of military students, academic credit for military service, flexibility for military students, veteran graduation rates, government approvals, student tuition assistance, student survey and employment rates, and military spouse policies.

For Southeastern, this is the second time this year the University has been recognized for excellence by a national publication. This summer, according to rankings in Diverse Issues In Higher Education, Southeastern is among the top schools in the nation for producing Native American graduates.
Eleven outstanding Southeastern Oklahoma State University students have been chosen for the fifth class of True Blue Ambassadors.

These student leaders will represent Southeastern at high school recruitment events, provide campus tours to prospective students, and assist with Alumni Association events.

Three states are represented by the new True Blue Ambassadors, with four students from Oklahoma, six from Texas, and one from Arkansas.

New Oklahoma Ambassadors are Brittney Bailey, Crowder, Biology/Chemistry major; Chelsea Connel, Madill, Biology; Danielle Julian, Valliant, Psychology; and Leslie Wesberry Jr., Tishomingo, Business.

Texas Ambassadors are Whitney Bowen, Rowlett, Psychology; Kevin Holzbog, Denison, Occupational Safety and Health; Kyle Ludwick, Fort Worth, Political Science; Kailea Marshall, Howe, Occupational Safety and Health; Helen Moore, Denison, Music Education; and Darrin Wade, Houston, Technical Theatre.

New Arkansas Ambassador is Dylan Henson, Aviation-Professional Pilot major, from Siloam Springs, Ark.

The new True Blue Ambassadors will join 15 returning Ambassadors.

Southeastern Oklahoma State University will host the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) competition October 7-12.

Southeastern is in Region VI, along with Kansas State University at Salina, Oklahoma State University, Spartan College of Aeronautics in Tulsa, St. Louis University-Parks College, the University of Central Missouri, the University of Nebraska-Omaha and the University of Oklahoma.

The competition includes flying events and ground events. All flying events and Aircraft Preflight Inspection will be held at Eaker Field; the remaining ground events will be held on the Southeastern campus.

Regional competitions are held in the fall with nationals in the spring.

Southeastern will have 13 students participating in the competition.

Dr. David Conway is director of the Southeastern Aviation Sciences Institute, while faculty members George Jacox and Kyle Thomas serve as flight team advisor and regional flight competition coordinator, respectively.

Amanda Steele is the student president of the event.

On Friday, Oct. 12, the NIFA Region VI awards banquet will be held at 6 p.m. in the Choctaw Resort Conference Center ballroom. Guest speaker will be James Hanny, first aviation graduate from Southeastern (’68) and a Distinguished Alumnus of the University. Hanny is also a former president of the Southeastern Alumni Association.

At left, Southeastern president Larry Minks congratulates Gwen Simmons, Jonathan Rodriguez, and Allen Fritts III, recipients of the Presidential Partners scholarships. Simmons is a senior finance major, Rodriguez is a senior majoring in Health & Physical Education, and Fritts is a junior pre-med student pursuing the Chemistry-Medical Science Interdisciplinary double major.
Southeastern Athletics kicked off its efforts in a renewed spirit of volunteerism at Southeastern with an afternoon of service on Aug. 27.

More than 200 student-athletes, coaches and staff completed 30 campus and community projects - ranging from weeding and mulching to washing windows and helping locals with their groceries - all as a part of the first CommUNITY Engagement kick-off. By design, it was the student-athlete’s first official athletic event of the 2012-13 academic year.

“After the dust settled, we had logged over 750 man hours in one afternoon,” said Athletics Director Keith Baxter. “We are hopeful we had a positive impact on our campus and community. I know some of the student-athletes earned All-American status in my book because of their tremendous work ethic, I bet those student-athletes are going to be fun to coach.”

2012’s CommUNITY Engagement Day is meant to be the first step toward the vision of a collective CommUNITY service day that is much bigger in future years.

Senior offensive lineman Matt Unger participated as a part of his management internship with the athletic department through Southeastern’s John Massey School of Business.

The projects were chosen primarily on campus to start this CommUNITY initiative by giving back to our most immediate community – the University that supports our department and student-athletes.

An engagement committee was formed early this summer to lead the effort for the day of service. Coaches Darin Grover, Kelly Green and Shawn Hamil served on the team led by Luke Willman, Director of External Athletic Operations.

2012 SE Athletics Hall of Fame members

At right, four new members were inducted into the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Athletics Hall of Fame on August 25. Director of Athletics Keith Baxter and Southeastern president Larry Minks offer congratulations to Cary Ammons (baseball), Natalie Brown-Cooksey (basketball), Kent Samuel (golf), and Charles Gulley (track, football). The induction ceremony was held in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.
Riding the Storm Route

Students can ride this bright Storm Route bus from north Texas to class in Durant as part of a unique partnership of governments, community organizations, and employment representatives. The Texoma Area Paratransit System (TAPS) began the service for Texas students on Aug. 20, the first day of fall classes at Southeastern. The Storm Route is a component of the larger Red River Route that runs to various locations between Oklahoma and Texas. TAPS has similar transportation programs in place for students attending Austin College and Grayson College in Sherman-Denison (Texas).

Transfer Enrollment Day is October 16

SE Live Transfer Enrollment Day at Southeastern Oklahoma State University will be held Tuesday, October 16.

Prospective students transferring to Southeastern this spring should reserve their spot now for a “one-stop” admissions and enrollment day.

Students currently enrolled in a higher education program and those with an Associate’s degree are invited to the Durant campus for the day of activities.

Transfer Enrollment Day features a “Come and Go” format. Check-in will be from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Office of Admissions in the Southeastern Administration Building.

Calendar of Events

October

4 SE’s Career Management Center Career & Graduate School Fair, new classroom building, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
7-12 National Intercollegiate Flight Association regional competition
16 SE Live Transfer Enrollment Day, Office of Admissions, Administration Building, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
18-19 Fall Break
25 Texoma Area College Fair, Bloomer Sullivan Arena
25 Grant Seeking Workshop, Library, 1 - 3:30 p.m.
26 10th annual Dr. Wayne Dixon Scholarship Workshop, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

November

7 SE Live open house, Montgomery Auditorium, 8 a.m.
12 Veterans Day event
21-23 Thanksgiving holidays

December

3 Faculty-Staff Open House, Magnolia House, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
3 Tree and Campus Lighting ceremony, front lawn, 6:45 p.m.
3 University Candlelighting, Montgomery Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
14 Last day of Fall classes
15 Commencement

Southeastern Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. This publication is issued by the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Office of University Communications and was printed by SE Printing Services of Durant, Oklahoma. One-hundred-fifty copies have been prepared for distribution at a cost of $120 to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma.

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