

# SOUTHEASTERN

A CENTURY OF BUILDING FUTURES

## UPDATE

### Dr. Larry Minks named interim president

The Board of Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) voted on July 31 to retain Dr. Larry Minks as Interim President of Southeastern Oklahoma State University until June 30, 2010. Minks has been serving as interim president since July 1 of this year.

At the RUSO Board's January 2010 meeting, the regents will formally announce the opening of the permanent position, which will include an application process, according to RUSO executive director Sheridan McCaffree. It is the Board's intent to fill the permanent position on July 1, 2010, McCaffree said.

"I truly appreciate the support and confidence of our board of regents," Minks said. "We have a dedicated team of professionals in place at Southeastern, and we are looking forward to an outstanding year. Fall semester classes begin on August 17, and at this point, the numbers indicate that our enrollment is projected to increase over last year, which is always a positive."

Prior to being named interim president, Minks had served as executive vice president for academic affairs at Southeastern since Jan. 31, 2008.

Minks replaces Dr. Michael Turner, who resigned his position as Southeastern president on June 1 (effective June 30, 2009), citing family considerations. Turner became Southeastern's 18th president on Jan. 1, 2008.



Prior to coming to Southeastern, Minks was vice president for academic affairs at Rogers State University in Claremore. He has more than 34 years of higher education administrative/teaching experience, including two stints at Southeastern: from 1976-81, Minks was Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Management; from 1981-83 he was Director of the Center for Organizational Effectiveness and Associate Professor of Business Administration and Management; and from 1996-99, he served as Chair and Professor of the Management and Marketing Department, as well as MBA Program Director.

Minks joined Rogers State in 1999, and served as assistant vice president for academic affairs/instruction and then associate vice president for academic affairs. He has also held teaching/administrative positions at Ohio Northern University, Longwood University (Virginia), and Brescia University (Kentucky).

Minks earned his doctorate in Business Teaching at the University of Northern Colorado and his M.B.A. and B.B.A. in Business at Eastern New Mexico University.

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# Southeastern receives \$1.16 million grant to continue Native American program

Southeastern Oklahoma State University will be receiving a federal grant of \$1.16 million over the next four years to continue its Native American Excellence In Education program.

The project, a collaboration between Southeastern and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, with the support of the local public schools, provides support and training for 12 Native American students in completing a pre-service education program that leads to a Bachelor of Education degree. Students receive additional training and support regarding Native American learning and culture. Participants receive full tuition, fees, books, child care, lap-top computers and living stipends. After graduating, the students teach in schools with at least a 5% Native American student population.

The grant comes from the United States Department of Education as part of the Office of Indian Education's Professional Development program, which trains qualified individuals to become teachers and administrators in Indian communities.

Southeastern and The Choctaw Nation received the initial Native American Excellence In Education grant in 2005. This grant renewal will allow a new cohort of students to participate in the program.

"There is a large population of Native American students in Southeastern Oklahoma, and a disproportionate number of Native American teachers. The scholarships offered through the grant provide a tremendous opportunity to graduate

teachers who can serve as role models to children of the same ethnicity," said Choctaw Nation Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

"This grant demonstrates the strong partnership that exists between Southeastern and The Choctaw Nation and the shared commitment to provide opportunities for a quality education," said Dr. Larry Minks, interim president of Southeastern. "This program has already proven to be very successful and of great benefit to our students, schools, and communities. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved."

Serving as project director and principal investigator of the grant program is Chris Wesberry. Wesberry is an Academic Advisor who coordinates services in the Native American Center for Student Success. Co-principal investigators were Dr. Charles Weiner, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Tim Boatman, Associate Dean of Academic Services.

Involved in the original grant from The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma were John Jackson, Angel Rowland, and Dana Buchanan.

The original students in the program are now teaching in schools in such places as Atoka, Battiest, Dale, Farris, Buffalo Valley, Kingston, Springer, McAlester, and Wilburton.

Southeastern is among education programs in seven states – Arizona, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, and South Dakota -- to receive grants in the field of Native American education.

## *University ranks among nation's best in producing Native American graduates*

Southeastern Oklahoma State University has once again earned high rankings from "Diverse Issues In Higher Education" magazine.

According to the publication, Southeastern ranks sixth in the nation in awarding undergraduate degrees to Native American graduates in all disciplines combined. Each year, the magazine publishes its top 100 rankings of minority graduates. In 2007-08, 28.4 percent of all Southeastern graduates were Native American.

Southeastern also ranked high nationally in awarding degrees to Native American students in the following disciplines:

3rd -- Communication, Journalism and Related Programs

4th – Education

4th – Biological and Biomedical Sciences

6th – Psychology

6th – Visual and Performing Arts

8th – Computer and information Sciences & Support Services

10th – English Language and Literature/Letters

14th – Business, Management, Marketing and Related Support Services

19th – Social Sciences



*Leticia “Ticia” Burkhalter of Southeastern Oklahoma State University was honored at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education meeting recently in Oklahoma City. Burkhalter was one of two students in the nation to receive the 2009 Frank Newman Leadership Award, which honors outstanding civic leadership. Left to right are Chancellor Glen D. Johnson, Burkhalter, State Regent John Massey, and State Regent Dr. Ronald White. Gov. Brad Henry also sent a proclamation honoring Burkhalter.*

## *Professor pens book*

A new book by Dr. Daniel J. Weigel, Associate Professor and Community Counseling Program Coordinator in the Department of Behavioral Sciences at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, is now available.



The book, “The Challenges of Rural Clinical Mental Health Counseling: A Comprehensive Overview and Analysis,” is a look at a variety of issues related to rural mental health service delivery.

Weigel said, “Rural professional counselors face many unique practice challenges when compared to their urban counterparts. This book serves as a voice for the rural counselor and examines many of these issues to help educate the mental health community in general with regard to these challenges.

“Based upon my many years of experience in rural counseling, supervision, and educational settings, I felt compelled to pull together as much information as possible into a single source to offer support to my rural mental health colleagues.”

Weigel has taught graduate counseling courses in the Master’s Degree Programs in Community and School Counseling at SE for the past seven years.

He is now the Community Counseling Program Coordinator and Chair of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) Accreditation Committee. Along with other members of the Behavioral Sciences Department, Weigel is working toward the goal of achieving national specialty accreditation of the community counseling program through CACREP.

Weigel also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Oklahoma Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) Licensure Board and was honored in 2008 as Oklahoma’s Counselor of the Year.

## **Terry Matlock sworn in as RUSO regent**

Terry Matlock, Chief Executive Officer of the Choctaw Electric Cooperative, was sworn in as a member of the Board of Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) at the June 19 board meeting.

Matlock was appointed to the position earlier this year by Gov. Brad Henry.

RUSO, which is composed of nine regents, governs the following regional universities: East Central University, Northeastern State University, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and the University of Central Oklahoma. Regents are appointed to nine-year terms by the governor.

From 1990-2002, Matlock was a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, where he was elected Speaker Pro-Tempore. Prior to that, he served as Southeastern Oklahoma State University program coordinator at McCurtain County and as a special administrative assistant to Attorney General Robert Henry.

A graduate of Valliant High School, Matlock earned bachelor (1985) and master (1987) degrees in business at Southeastern. He was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus by the University in 2007.

## *Textbook Reserve program available for Southeastern students*

Southeastern Oklahoma State University is again offering the Textbook Reserve Program in an effort to meet the needs of its students.

This second-year program is designed to help offset the financial burden imposed on students by making available – free of charge -- required textbooks for basic courses.

All students who are enrolled for the Fall 2009 semester are eligible to participate in the program.

The reserve books will be located in the Henry G. Bennett Memorial Library on campus. Inquiries should be made at the circulation desk.

This year the program has been expanded to make available textbooks for all classes being taught on the main campus. Sharon Morrison, Library Director, encourages students to check the Textbook Reserve Program (TRP) website [www.se.edu/lib/trp](http://www.se.edu/lib/trp) for textbook availability.

Students can check by course number, course title or faculty name.

Students must have valid Southeastern identification and books may be checked out for room use only. Textbooks may be checked out for a 2-hour period, but may not be removed from the library or be checked out overnight.

The original Textbook Reserve Program committee – Morrison; Dr. Bryon Clark, (Dean of the School of Graduate and University Studies); Adam Lovell, (president of the Student Government Association); and Sharon Robinson, (vice-president of Student Affairs) – worked on the program for several weeks to ensure its successful start-up last year.

The textbooks may be checked out from the library staff at the front desk during regular hours – 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday; 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 3 p.m.-10 p.m. Sunday).

For more information, call Morrison at 580-745-3172 or [smorrison@se.edu](mailto:smorrison@se.edu); or Clark at 580-745-2064 or [bkclark@se.edu](mailto:bkclark@se.edu), or go to the library's website at [www.se.edu/lib](http://www.se.edu/lib).

## Calendar of Events

### July

31 -- Last day of summer classes

### August

12 -- New faculty orientation, Russell 300, 8 a.m.

13 -- Faculty-Staff meeting, Montgomery Auditorium, 9 a.m.

13 -- Faculty-Staff Luncheon, University Cafe, 11 a.m.

15 -- Freshman Convocation, Montgomery Auditorium, 4:30 p.m.; cookout, front lawn, 5:30 p.m.

17 -- First day of Fall classes

### September

7 -- Labor Day

11 -- Presidential Partners

26 -- Parents, Family and Friends Day

### October

10 -- Homecoming

15-16 -- Fall Break

### November

25-27 -- Thanksgiving holiday

### December

11 -- Last day of Fall classes

12 -- Commencement

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