

PRESS RELEASE

In 2006 it was announced that the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Department of Occupational Safety & Health had been approved for a significant expansion of their academic teaching and lab spaces. This expansion was due to phenomenal growth in enrollment and increased facilities requirements due to the impending launch of the departments Master of Science in occupational safety & health degree.

Since the departments inception in 1989 it has been on a steady track of improvement. The department exceeded 300 in number of students majoring in occupational safety; passed the 800 mark in number of students taking at least one occupational safety course; registered 30 in the inaugural Master of Science class; marked its 650th occupational safety alumnus and, with the new facilities expansion, doubled the size of the academic teaching and lab facilities. The new facilities include two additional offices, a conference room, four new labs (industrial hygiene/hazardous materials; ergonomics/construction; and acoustics, noise, and vibration; and an expanded 16-computer lab especially for the occupational safety students).

With the addition of the new teaching spaces additional funds were required to equip the new labs so a request for donations was sent to area, state and national organizations. Many responded and, as usual, one of the largest contributors was the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Through the office of Chief Greg Pyle, the Nation donated a substantial monetary gift for equipment in the new industrial hygiene and acoustics, noise, and vibration teaching labs. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma employs several occupational safety program graduates.

“As always, the people of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma can be counted on to come through. Our department trains many members of the Choctaw Nation who go on to make substantial contributions to occupational safety in the safety department of the Choctaw Nation as well as in industry and government around the world. We are truly indebted to Chief Pyle and the people of the Choctaw Nation for their continued trust and support. We would not be the largest undergraduate occupational safety program in the country if not for the support of friends such as these” stated Dr. Wayne Jones, department chair.
