



Fall enrollment once again tops 5,000 students

For the second year in a row, fall enrollment has topped the 5,000 mark at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

This fall, Southeastern’s enrollment is 5,328 students – the second-highest in school history – falling just 11 students below last fall’s record of 5,339.

“It is amazing to maintain this high level of enrollment as we continue to operate in the midst of the global pandemic,” said Southeastern president Thomas Newsom. “While our enrollment is stable this fall, we anticipate consistent growth in the future as we implement new initiatives and programs to attract students from throughout Oklahoma and north Texas. Southeastern remains committed to providing students with a quality education at an affordable cost. And we will continue to offer academic programs in both traditional face-to-face instruction and online delivery modes to meet the varied needs of our students.”

According to figures provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Southeastern’s enrollment has increased by 37.7 percent over the past 10 years, marking the
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For the second year in a row, Southeastern’s fall enrollment has surpassed 5,000 students.

Full schedule of homecoming activities on tap for Oct. 15-16

“Back to the Future” is the theme for this year’s homecoming celebration at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Homecoming festivities are scheduled for October 15-16, capped by the Southeastern-Northwestern football game.

This year’s Distinguished Alumni that will be honored are Bill Brock, Greg Duffy, and Mike Metheny.

Below is the schedule of homecoming activities.

Friday, October 15

-- Whang Bang Golf Tournament, Chickasaw Pointe Golf Club, 9 a.m.

-- Distinguished Awards Dinner, Visual & Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.

-- Homecoming Bonfire, Amphitheater, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 16

-- Semple Family Museum of Native American Art grand opening, 10 a.m.

-- Tailgate Alley (live band, reunions, food), 11 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.

-- Football: Southeastern vs. Northwestern State, Paul Laird Field, 2 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://www.se.edu/homecoming2021>

Austin College to honor President Newsom with top award

Southeastern Oklahoma State University president Thomas Newsom will be honored as a Distinguished Alumnus by Austin College this fall during homecoming activities.

Newsom, a 1991 graduate of the Sherman (Texas) college, is one of six individuals to receive this recognition at an awards dinner on Oct. 22.

A Sherman native, Newsom began his duties as the 21st president of Southeastern in April of 2020. Under his leadership, the University achieved record enrollment with more than 5,000 students in fall 2020 – all in the midst of the pandemic.

Throughout a career of more than 20 years in higher education, he has lead several colleges and universities in the Southwest on a path to academic excellence and achievement.

Prior to arriving in Durant, Newsom served as Vice President of Student Success and Dean of Students at Texas A&M-Commerce. He also served for five years as President of Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari, New Mexico.

Newsom has established a number of working groups at Southeastern to address such important issues as academic excellence, growth, student recruitment and retention, diversity, athletics, and support services.

One of his goals is to increase the number of undergraduate students on campus by building a more vibrant in-person experience.

Newsom is active in Imagine Durant, the Durant Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Durant Industrial

Authority.

He earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of North Texas, an M.S. in Higher Education from Texas A&M-Commerce, and a B.A. in Business Administration from Austin College.

He will become the third member of his family to receive the AC Distinguished Alumni Award, joining his parents Don and Carol Campbell Newsom, both retired public school educators, who received the honor in 2019 and 1997, respectively.

Newsom and his wife Vicky, a teacher in the Denison ISD, have three children – Katie, a current Southeastern student, Will, an Austin College graduate, and John, a current AC student.



SE president Thomas Newsom will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award at Austin College on Oct. 22.



Back in action

After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Southeastern Savage Storm is back in action this fall. In photo at left, SE wide receiver Braxton Kincade breaks a tackle during the Storm's 32-31 upset of Harding University on September 11. Harding came into the game ranked 17th in the nation in Division II.



Southeastern admissions counselor/recruiter Sarah Hughes visits with students in Bloomer Sullivan Arena during the Texoma College Fair.

Texoma College Fair attracts 225 students

Some 225 students from a number of area high schools attended the Texoma College Fair September 16 at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

A total of 25 colleges and universities had representatives in attendance to provide information on admissions, scholarships, financial aid, and academic programs.

Upcoming SE Live is largest recruiting event on campus

SE Live – the largest event for high school and transfer students interested in attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University – is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 6, at the Durant campus.

The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to tour the campus, learn about academic and social life from current SE students, meet faculty and staff members, check out residence halls, and learn about admissions, scholarships, and financial aid.

Attendees are also entered to win one of multiple \$1,000 scholarship awards.



Sponsored by the Office of Admissions and Recruitment, students can register for SE Live at <https://www.se.edu/experiences>. Walk-in registration and check-in on the day of the event is at 8 a.m. in the Glen D. Johnson Student Union.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 580-745-2060.

SE is fastest-growing university in state over past decade

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largest growth of any of the 25 public colleges/universities in Oklahoma during that time period.

“We take great pride in being the fastest-growing university in Oklahoma over the past decade,” Newsom said. “Much of the credit for this growth is due to the leadership of (former SE

president) Sean Burrage and (interim president) Dr. Bryon Clark. But at the end of the day, what sets us apart from others is our dedicated faculty and staff. They do an incredible job every day they come to work to ensure that our students are successful.”

Calendar of Events

October

- 2 -- Football vs. Henderson State, here, 2 p.m.
- 6 -- SE Live recruiting event
- 6-- Vaccination Event, Campus Loop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 9 -- Football at Southern Arkansas, 2:30 p.m.
- 15-16-- Homecoming
- 16 -- Grand opening of Semple Family Museum of Native American Art, 10 a.m.
- 16 -- Football vs. Northwestern, here, 2 p.m.
- 20-- Vaccination Event, Campus Loop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 23 -- Football at Oklahoma Baptist, 6 p.m.
- 29 -- Top 10 Freshman Award, ballroom, 3 p.m.
- 30 -- Football vs. Arkansas-Monticello, here, 2 p.m.

November

- 6 -- Football at Ouachita Baptist, 1 p.m.
- 12 -- Native American Symposium
- 13 -- Football vs. East Central, here, 2 p.m.
- 22-26 -- Thanksgiving holidays

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Southeastern president Thomas Newsom, Secretary Kevin Corbett, and County Commissioner Ron Boyer visit at the vaccination event.

State Secretary of Health visits SE vaccination site

The COVID-19 vaccination event at Southeastern Oklahoma State University on Sept. 8 drew the attention of an interested visitor.

Kevin Corbett, Secretary of Health and Mental Health for the State of Oklahoma, was on campus to observe the process of the administration of the vaccines to students, faculty, staff, and the public.

Southeastern is partnering with the Oklahoma Department of Health Mobile Unit to provide access to free COVID-19 vaccines.

Corbett visited with Southeastern president Thomas Newsom, Bryan County commissioner (District 1) Ron Boyer, and officials from the Health Department while on campus.

The Mobile Unit was parked in front of the Glen D. Johnson Student Union again on Wednesday, September 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Earlier, the University announced it was providing a one-time incentive to those providing proof of their COVID-19 vaccination.

All currently enrolled part-time and full-time students were eligible for the \$100 vaccine incentive. All actively employed part-time and full-time staff, actively employed full-time, part-time and adjunct faculty were eligible for the \$125 vaccine incentive. To be eligible, proof of vaccination record or exemption documentation had to be submitted by September 30, 2021.