

Enrollment increases slightly, sets all-time record for spring

The pandemic may still be lingering, but so is the enrollment growth at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

In its preliminary enrollment reported recently submitted to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Southeastern has a current spring enrollment of 5,095 students. That number represents a 1.7% increase over last spring's number of 5,010, and ranks as the school's largest-ever spring enrollment. Prior to that, the largest spring total was 4,744 in 2020.

"Our enrollment growth is the result of the dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff," said Southeastern president Thomas Newsom. "Like our students, the faculty has faced unprecedented challenges during the pandemic and con-

tinued to be flexible. This has allowed our students to continue their education and progress toward a degree without interruption. In addition, our alumni and the Durant community have been phenomenal in supporting the University, and that makes a big difference."

Southeastern is seeing significant growth in its extensive online programs, particularly at the graduate level.

The University offers more than 45 academic programs with both traditional and face-to-face instruction and online/remote deliveries of instruction.

More than 80% of Southeastern students receives some type of financial aid, and about half of its graduates each year are first-generation college graduates.

Higher Ed Day



Speaker of the House Charles McCall introduces Southeastern student Angelita Winter for remarks in the House Chambers at Higher Ed Day.

Students and personnel from Oklahoma's state system institutions gathered at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City February 15 to demonstrate the value and importance of higher education in the state.

Southeastern Oklahoma State University was well-represented at the event, with president Thomas Newsom, other staff members, and a group of student leaders attending.

Speakers included Gov. Kevin Stitt, Secretary of Education Ryan Walters, Speaker of the House Charles McCall, Sen. Roger Thompson, Rep. Kevin Wallace, Sen. Adam Pugh, State Regents chair Jeffrey W. Hickman, and Chancellor Allison D. Garrett.

Four students also spoke at the event, including Angelita Winter of Atoka, a senior at Southeastern, who shared how pursuing a degree has positively impacted her life. She was introduced by Speaker McCall.

In addition to having a group photo taken with Gov. Stitt, Southeastern students engaged in question-and-answer sessions with Rep. Dustin Roberts, Sen. David Bullard, and Rep. Eddy Dempsey.



Gov. Kevin Stitt meets Southeastern mascot Bolt.

Aviation hosts prospective students; adds planes

Friday, February 18, was a big day for the aviation program at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

The University hosted 154 high school students from Oklahoma and Texas who are interested in pursuing a career in aviation.

At the same time, officials with Southeastern's Aviation Sciences Institute (ASI) announced that the program has recently purchased two new Piper Seminole aircraft.

Aviation Visitation Day participants toured the main campus as well as the ASI facilities at Eaker Field, while learning more about the SE aviation program.

According to ASI director/assistant professor Michael Gaffney, the Piper Seminole is one of the most popular multi-engine training aircraft in use today. It is manufactured by Piper Aircraft in Vero Beach, Florida; the planes are expected to arrive in Durant this fall.

"This addition to the fleet will certainly enhance our Aviation Sciences program, which is already recognized nationally for its excellence," said Southeastern president Thomas Newsom. "The potential to grow this program is unlimited, and we will continue to look for innovative ways to support its operation."

The two PA44 Piper Seminoles will be used in



This is an artist rendering of the Piper planes purchased by the University.

the flight training program to train advanced students on how to operate in a complex aircraft with more than one engine in visual and a multitude of weather conditions and emergency conditions to prepare them for the pilot career ahead of them.

Gaffney said the decision was made to purchase two of these aircraft to allow for simultaneous training of multiple students and to provide training redundancy when the aircraft undergo Federal Aviation Administration-mandated inspections and maintenance.

When the students have successfully mastered the multi-engine training aircraft, they are ready to move to the Transport Aircraft simulation environment of the Boeing 737 MAX.

Last fall, the ASI announced the purchase of a new Flightdeck Solutions 737 MAX Flight Training device.

This will teach students how to operate one of the most popular airliners in operation today, the Boeing 737 MAX. Gaffney said students will be taught airliner-centric advanced system operations, advanced aerodynamics, flight management system programming, and to function as coordinated crew in a complex airline environment using the new trainer/simulator.

The simulator is expected to arrive in May 2022 and will be fully functional in June.

The ASI has a rich history of academic and professional pilot accomplishments dating back 55 years. Its mission is to provide its students with the highest quality aviation education and flight training possible.

Southeastern's airline partners in the Professional Pilot Program are Southwest Airlines, Envoy Airlines, and Delta Airlines.



Aviation Visitation Day was held February 18 at Southeastern.

Southeastern begins utilizing new SE logo

In an effort to standardize branding and marketing efforts, Southeastern Oklahoma State University recently introduced a new logo (at right).

This interlocking SE will be used in place of the pillars and oval SE logos that have been utilized over the past several years.

Southeastern is also using “Texoma’s University” as a tagline in various marketing efforts, such as on billboards, shirts and various other items.



Students and parents learn more about the President’s Leadership Class.

PLC-Honors Competition/Scholars Day attracts high school students to SE

High school students from throughout the area were vying for scholarships February 19 on the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University as part of PLC-Honors Competition/Scholars Day.

Students competed for SE scholarships in the President’s Leadership Class and Honors Program.

Faculty members were also on hand to provide information about the various academic programs.

Campus tours were provided to students and parents, and many attended the Savage Storm basketball games later in the day.

STEM Academy to be held this summer on campus

For the second year in a row, Southeastern Oklahoma State University will be the site of a PI-STEM Summer Academy for students who will be in 8th or 9th grade in the fall of 2022.

The application period began on March 1, and the selection of participants will begin on April 1. This free day-camp experience will be June 6-10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Southeastern’s Durant campus.

Water rocket and water balloon launching, calculating tree heights, exploring light & sound, and water & soil testing are among the activities planned. Students will be exploring, experimenting, and solving problems related to environmental, physical, and life sciences as well as a broad range of secondary mathematics topics.

To that end, participants will use a variety of technological and other tools to explore, experiment, problem solve and communicate.

A data collection field trip and pool party are also part of the academy. Early drop-off and late pick-up will be provided as needed, and each participant will receive a TI-84 CE graphing calculator and a t-shirt.

Applications will be available through the website noted below.

The PI-STEM Academy is funded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

To register, visit the PI-STEM website: <https://www.se.edu/math/pi-stem-academy-2022/>

Calendar of Events

March

4-5 -- Theatre at Southeastern presents Oklahoma!, Montgomery Auditorium, 7 p.m.

6 -- Theatre at Southeastern presents Oklahoma!, Montgomery Auditorium, 2 p.m.

8 -- Ribbon-cutting for Einstein Bros. Bagels, sponsored by Durant Chamber of Commerce, 509 W. University Blvd., 10 a.m.

14-18 Spring Break

26-- Gold & Blue Gala presented by Southeastern Alumni Association, Ballroom, 6:30 p.m.

30 -- Curriculum Contest

April

8-9 -- Aviation Alumni Reunion

15 -- Holiday

26 -- Tri-County Honors

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Freshman Success reception

A Freshman Success reception was held February 11 at Southeastern to recognize those fulltime freshmen with a minimum GPA of 3.25 and enrolled in the spring. Some 100 students qualified for the recognition, and President Thomas Newsom congratulated the students and their family members who were in attendance.



Gala raises funds for scholarships

The Southeastern Alumni Association is hard at work planning the Gold & Blue Gala. It will be an evening of food, fun and music, but the real purpose of the evening is to raise money for scholarships at Southeastern. There will be some amazing auction items up for bids in silent and live auctions. The event is scheduled for March 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Southeastern Ballroom.