



Making a recruiting pitch....

Hundreds of students visit campus to learn about aviation, scholarship opportunities

Several hundred high school/community college students visited the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University recently in conjunction with a number of recruiting events.

On Feb. 17, the Southeastern Aviation Sciences Institute held its annual Aviation Day for students and parents. Nearly 300 students attended as they learned more about the University, the aviation program, toured facilities, and met current aviation students and faculty members.

On the following day, high school students competed for scholarships as part of the President's Leadership Class and Honors Program Scholars Day. In addition, Music Scholarship Audition Day (vocals) was held.

On Feb. 25, the first John Massey Leadership Scholars Day was held, along with another music scholarship audition day.



A record number of students attended Aviation Day.



A Grand Opening

Southeastern president Thomas Newsom cuts the ribbon signifying the grand opening of the SE Esports arena, located in the Glen D. Johnson Student Union. The ceremony was held Feb. 20. See additional photo, page 3.

Higher Ed Day

Students travel to State Capitol to engage legislators

Students from Southeastern Oklahoma State University joined their counterparts from Oklahoma's other state system institutions at the State Capitol Feb. 14 to demonstrate the value and importance of higher education in the state.

At an annual event known as "Higher Education Day," students, presidents, and other college officials had the opportunity to visit with their local legislators to discuss the issues impacting education.

Among the individuals speaking to SE students were Rep. Cody Maynard, Rep. Eddy Dempsey, Sen. Greg McCortney, and Regent Connie Reilly, chair of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents.

In the afternoon, at a formal program in the House Chamber, speakers included Dr. Brandon Tatum, Chief of Staff for Governor Kevin Stitt; Speaker Charles McCall; Rep. Anthony Moore; Sen. Adam Pugh; State Regents chair Michael C. Turpen; and Chancellor Allison D. Garrett.

Three students also spoke at the event, sharing how pursuing higher education at Oklahoma's public college and universities has positively impacted their lives.

"Students, faculty and staff from Oklahoma's public colleges and universities came together today at our State Capitol to highlight the value of a college degree," said Garrett. "Over half of the top 100 occupations identified by Oklahoma Works as critical to economic growth in our state will require an associate degree or higher, including the top 29 highest paying jobs. Bachelor's and associate degree holders earn 75% more and 25% more, respectively, than those with only a high school diploma. Investing in higher education drives economic opportunity for individual Oklahomans and attracts high-wage employers, which creates vibrant communities across our state."



SE students pose for a group photo inside the State Capitol.



Southeastern students visit with Rep. Cody Maynard at Higher Ed Day.

Nominations being accepted for Distinguished Alumni Award

Southeastern Oklahoma State University is now accepting nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award through April 30.

“The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor bestowed upon a graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University,” said SE president Thomas Newsom. “The award recognizes members of the Southeastern family who have distinguished themselves through outstanding achievements and success in their professions or service to their communities. It is important that we recognize members of our university community with this distinction, but in order to do so, we need alumni and others to nominate those worthy. I encourage everyone who knows someone who is worthy of this award to complete and submit a nomination, so that we can honor those deserving the recognition of Distinguished Alumnus.”

“The selection of Distinguished Alumni recipients is always an exciting time for the Southeastern Alumni Association,” says Joe Hill, president of the Alumni Association. “I look forward to seeing the list of nominees. I anticipate that once again our recipients will be second to none and representative of Southeastern’s very best.”

You may submit a nomination online or mail in a printed form. For nomination guidelines and to submit a nomination, visit <https://www.se.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni-award-nomination/>.



Game on

Students enjoy the new SE Esports arena during the official ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Feb. 20. The arena is located on the east side of the Glen D. Johnson Student Union.

Choctaw jersey presentation

In photo at right, Choctaw Nation chief Gary Batton receives a special jersey worn by the Southeastern men’s and women’s basketball teams recently. The jerseys are inscribed with “Kucha Okpulo,” which means “Savage Storm” in the Choctaw language. Making the presentation are Southeastern president Thomas Newsom and director of athletics Keith Baxter.



Calendar of Events

March

- 3 -- Freshman Success reception, Ballroom, 3 p.m.
- 13-19 -- Spring Break
- 23-25 -- Occupational Safety & Health Department is hosting the Safety Olympics, Ballroom
- 29 -- McCurtain County Prospective Teacher Academy
- 29 -- Curriculum Contest

April

- 5 -- Prospective Teacher Academy, Ballroom
- 7 -- Holiday
- 21 -- Aviation Career Fair, Magnolia Room
- 22 -- Aviation Alumni Golf Tournament & Fish Fry
- 22 -- Jazz Fest

May

- 5-6 -- Commencement

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Mark Schurig from the FAA presents the Charles Taylor Award to Drew Spears as Southeastern president Thomas Newsom offers congratulations.

Aviation instructor receives prestigious FAA award

Southeastern Oklahoma State University aviation adjunct instructor Drew Spears is the recent recipient of the Federal Aviation Administration's prestigious Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award.

The award is named in honor of the first aviation mechanic in powered flight, and recognizes the lifetime accomplishments of senior mechanics. Charles Taylor served as the Wright brothers' mechanic and is credited with designing and building the engine for their first successful aircraft.

Recipients must have a minimum of 50 years of aviation maintenance service. Currently, only 62 individuals have received this award in Oklahoma and only 3,296 nationwide have earned the honor.

Drew Spears has devoted his life to aviation. He served for 20 years on active duty in the United States Air Force. Since then, he has been employed at Tinker AFB (from 2005 to present), AAR Corporation, Mundo-Tech Inc., L-3 Com Vertex, Dassault Falcon Jet, Ozark Aircraft System, and Pratt-Whitney.

Spears has held an Airframe & Powerplant mechanic's license since 1980, keeping hundreds of aircraft airworthy and safe to fly. In his spare time, he obtained a bachelor's degree in Aviation Management and a master's degree in Aerospace Administration and Logistics. He has shared his vast knowledge of aviation by serving as an adjunct instructor for Southeastern since 2011, teaching 10 different course offerings.

The Charles Taylor award was formally presented to Spears at the Rose State Community College's Community Learning Center where he teaches the aviation curriculum for Southeastern. Mark Schurig from the FAA's Oklahoma City Flight Standards District Office made the presentation, with Southeastern president Thomas Newsom, Assistant Vice President Dr. Susan Ronnenberg, Tinker AFB Chief Engineer Greg Hughes, Southeastern faculty, staff, and students, and members of the Spears family also in attendance.