Connors State College and Northeastern State University have announced a joint partnership—the Orange to Green Smart Choice Program. The purpose of the program is to help students make a smooth transition after obtaining a degree from the two-year institution to complete a bachelor’s degree at NSU. President Dr. Donnie Nero from Connors and President Dr. Don Betz from Northeastern signed the cooperative partnership agreement in October at ceremonies at the NSU campus in Muskogee. In signing the document, both pledged support to help students identify and achieve their long term educational goals.

Dr. Nero spoke of the unlimited potentials the program offers students who desire to enhance their educational opportunities after achieving an associate’s degree or other credentials at Connors. “The partnership that exists between Connors and NSU allows students the opportunity to earn four-year degrees for those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to do so,” Nero said.

Dr. Betz added, “Smart Choice represents a model of cooperation and collaboration that demonstrates our mutual commitment to helping students become lifelong learners.” Both institutions also reaffirmed their commitment to building and strengthening relationships between faculty and staff to the benefit of degree-seeking students.

Dr. Nero also stated that the agreement could help raise public awareness of efforts underway by Connors to build a joint center on the NSU-Muskogee campus. “We’re still meeting on this and still have potential donors for the facility,” Nero said.

The logo of the Smart Choice program is a combination of the primary school colors of each institution—Connors orange and NSU green. Both presidents emphasized that each school will keep its own identity, school colors, and mascots.
Alpha Gamma Delta and Phi Kappa Phi induction ceremonies were held on November 14 in the Westbrook Library auditorium. Pictured in the front row are Catilyn Barnett, Carolann O’Connor, Jolene Armstrong - Advisor, Buffy Hall - President, and Natalie Sydebotham - Treasurer.

Alumni Spotlight - Coach Perry Keith

Coach Perry Keith and Dr. Nero

Coach Perry Keith, inducted last spring into the National Junior College Baseball Hall of Fame, was honored at halftime of the Connors-Oklahoma City University JV basketball game on November 5th. Keith was presented a plaque commemorating the occasion by CSC president, Dr. Nero. He was also recognized by State Representative Jerry McPeak who presented him with a proclamation from Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry.

“It’s an honor for me, my family, and for Connors,” Keith said. “It goes back to the players and coaches I’ve had here. It’s been a wonderful ride. We have had so many great supporters. My family has been involved from day one, and I couldn’t ask for a better situation as far as that goes. I’ve been blessed.”

Keith is not only a former CSC student, but he also was a member of the CSC baseball team in 1980 and 1981. After graduating from CSC, Keith went to Missouri State and played baseball. He received his bachelor’s degree in marketing, and later received his master’s degree in counseling from NSU. After graduating from Missouri State in 1983, he went to work at Connors as an assistant baseball coach, and the rest is history.

“Coming to Connors was a springboard for me academically and athletically. My wife, daughter, and I all are Connors graduates. It is not fancy buildings or facilities, but it is the people here that make Connors special. It is easy for me to sell when I’m recruiting because I’ve experienced it.”

Phi Theta Kappa Induction

On November 14 an induction ceremony was held in the Westbrook Library auditorium. Pictured in the front row are Catilyn Barnett, Carolann O’Connor, Jolene Armstrong - Advisor, Buffy Hall - President, and Natalie Sydebotham - Treasurer.

In the second row are Calvin Chapman, Linda Overbey, Rachel Vinson, Britanny Horton, Kasey Gant, Shad West - Vice President, Kim Littledave - Public Relations, and Hailey Kinnamon - Secretary. Not pictured is Jessica McCullough.
On October 14th, the Connors State College Agriculture Ambassadors hosted two workshops from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University.

In attendance were Mrs. Amy Gazaway and Ms. Natalie Still, OSU Ag Ambassadors and Career Liaisons. The workshops were entitled “Developing a GREAT Resume” and “Winning the Interview Game.”

Jake Walker, head of the Ag Ambassador program, reported that the following were in attendance at the workshop: Ben Scott, Josh Cribbs, Sage Shoulders, Valerie Jones, Rachel Blundell, Kacie Duncan, and Sarah Bates.

Coach Walker also explained, “The Ag Ambassadors serve the Division of Agriculture in various functions for leadership training and recruitment.”

Ms. Gazaway teaches on building a resume.

OSU Ag Ambassadors, CSC Ag Ambassadors, and Micro Computers in Agriculture students listen to tips for building a successful resume.

CSC BASKETBALL - Don’t Miss It!

Yes, the Cowboys and Cowgirls have begun their seasons and in a mighty way.

Connors men have a record of 8-2 and beat Western on November 24th, snapping Western’s eight game winning streak.

Connors women are currently ranked number 12 in the NJCAA polls with 12 wins and no losses.
Members of the Cowboys basketball team include, left to right, front row—Hasaan McCaskill, Ray Jones, Stephon Weaver, J.J. Wesley, and Orlando Brown. Second row—Assistant coach Jeff Johnson, Jamel Speed, C.J. Washington, Joe Fontenot, Justin Butler, Rakeem Couch, Chris Blake, Bill Muse Jr., and head coach Bill Muse.

Members of the Cowgirls basketball team include, left to right, front row—Ashleigh Franklin, Kristen Dixon, Ricshanda Bickham, Magen Roth, and Candice Bayliss. Back row—Assistant coach Sammy Clark, Tara Smith, Mariah Norwood, Chelsey Roth, Staci Carter, Gabrielle Rosiji, Taylor Mumphrey, Kameisha Johnson, Jalisa Montgomery, Aliesha Clark, manager, and head coach Eddie Kite.