CSC, NSU Agree to Combine on Muskogee Campus

Higher education opportunities in the Muskogee area will receive a major boost as Connors and Northeastern combine their operations at the NSU-Muskogee campus.

These higher education institutions have agreed to co-locate on the NSU campus as a base of service for their combined 23 academic programs now offered to regional residents.

Connors President Donnie Nero lauded the agreement.

“This is a win-win for both institutions as we have developed a great alliance and partnership through the years,” Nero said.

A groundbreaking ceremony will occur on December 18 on the NSU-Muskogee campus for the proposed Student Services facility that will house a campus bookstore, library, Child Development Program, and administration offices. The estimated cost for the project is approximately $2.2 million, which will be funded through the Oklahoma Capital Improvement Authority bonds allocated to Connors. The one-story facility will be from 8,000 to 10,000 square feet.

The site of the downtown Muskogee campus on Court Street, which houses approximately 1,100 students, will revert to the city of Muskogee which provided the facility to Connors.

Nero said that he expects CSC’s nursing program to begin offering its classes at the NSU-Muskogee facilities in January of 2010. The transition for the other programs is in the planning stages, with the intent to have all of CSC’s operation in place by January, 2011.

One educational program collaboration is already in place between the two campuses to serve Muskogee’s health care industry cluster, one of the largest and fastest growing in Oklahoma. Connors’ career ladder nursing program produces graduates who earn licensed practical nursing or registered nursing degrees. Many of those graduates then continue on at NSU to earn their bachelor of science in nursing degrees.
Meanwhile, the tail of my shirt is whipping in the wind, and the wind is making my eyes water. As I look to the side, I can see the ground zooming by at 35 mph, but it feels like I’m barely moving. As I come up on the steer, he starts to set; I know it is time for me to make my move. All I can hear is the clomping of the horse’s hoofs. Now that I’ve made my move, it’s time to dismount the horse and be locked up with a 500 pound steer. I pull the steer’s head to my lap and set my feet in the hard ground. I know that I’m in the position that I’m supposed to be. Then I hear “Come up!” from Luke as the steer slowly comes to a halt. Now it’s time to use my legs and pick the steer’s front legs up off the ground. The steer is bent over my lap, his front legs are off the ground, and all that’s left is to grab his nose and lay on my back.

Thump! I hear the steer’s backbone slam into the ground.

UGH! All the steer’s momentum and weight hit flat on my chest. As I stand up with my chest stuck out and filled with pride, I hear my time called.

“4.0 for the Connors State Cowboy, he’s moved to number one in the rodeo and the region,” says the announcer.

Whew! I knew then that I had done what I had come to do as I left Pratt Kansas as the champion of the college rodeo.

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**Fall Festival 2009**

“A Halloween hoot,” was a statement from one CSC student to describe this year’s 2009 Fall Festival held October 26th.

Several students’ clubs and organizations from Connors held booths of all kinds to bring the students of CSC and community members together.

The Aggie Club had a pie throwing contest and a good old fashioned jail. Phi Theta Kappa booth had a duck pond and ring toss. The Math and Science Club’s booth entailed fishing for candy, and the President’s Leadership Class hosted a cake walk, outdoor fun jumps and Trunk or Treat. Other booths were face painting by the Black Student Society and bean bag toss hosted by the cheerleaders.

Even though a small drizzle of rain fell on the festival, it didn’t stop anyone from coming and being a part of hopefully a new tradition at CSC.
Bon Appetit

Chef Brian Helt, the new chef at Connors State College on the Warner campus, is actually a graduate of neighboring Checotah High School. With a degree in Applied Sciences Management from NEO A & M, he started his career in the National Guard. Although he took his time becoming a chef, it is what he has always wanted to do. He comments that he will be a chef “until the day that I die.”

After the National Guard, Helt worked for the Cracker Barrel Corporation and at several different casinos and resorts as a pantry and pastry chef. Chef Brian is now working for Sodexo, one of the top five food corporations in the world, and was transferred to Connors from Tulsa University. He has plans to incorporate more fine dining to Connors, such as preparing the food from scratch, increasing the quality of the food, and adding more spicy and grilled meals. He hopes to also have more steak nights and a wing bar.

In support of the athletes at Connors, he plans to remove the food posters in the cafeteria and put up photos of students sports activities.

Chef Brian says that “food should be fun” and he invites all students for any questions or comments.

The Roving Reporter . . .

How do you prepare for finals week?

Phillip Stacy—“Go through all the tests I’ve taken. Make sure I know the information. . . . Pray.”

Clinton Sinclair—“I show up for class.”

Kathryn Walker—“I study like there’s no tomorrow.”

Stephanie Shahin—“Study!”

Felicia Norwood—“Study. Cram. Pray. There’s a lot of power in prayer.”

Felicia Brittle—“I make note cards.”

Ray Jones—“I take notes, read the books, and hope it’s enough.”

Lacrissa Pickup—“Spend a whole week studying.”

Joshua Touchstone—“I wing it.”
Think Pink

October was Breast Cancer Awareness month. Breast cancer affects everyone, young and old. Colleen Nobles, student advisor, wanted to alert students about breast cancer and inform them of ways to protect themselves. A table was set up on the first floor of the Muskogee Downtown campus where students and faculty could sign up for a drawing to win a door prize. Over 200 people signed up! Colleen Noble also passed out stickers and pamphlets and gave pink ribbons pins to those who had been a survivor of any form of cancer. She stated that as students signed up for a chance to win door prizes many shared stories of how they or a family member had overcome the battle with cancer. “It was very heart warming, and I also enjoyed spending the time talking with the students.” The winners of the Breast Cancer Awareness drawing were Jasma Jones, who won a pink t-shirt and a head band, Keyonnia Nolen, who won a sweatshirt and a t-shirt, and Keli Sadler, who won a purse.

CSC STUDENTS at Eddie Warrior and Jess Dunn

In 1997, Connors State College started college classes at the Eddie Warrior (women) and Jess Dunn (men) correctional centers. There are 15-20 classes now offered at the women’s and men’s facilities. CSC currently offers two degree programs, General Studies and Business Administration. There are about 150 students enrolled at both facilities.

Colleen Noble, Academic Advisor and advisor at both facilities, says, “I think this program is highly successful and the students are very appreciative of the education they receive and the instructors at the facilities.” There are several of these graduates who go on to pursue their four year degree. However, while the students can receive money through a number of different ways such as a grant called the Youthful Offender Grant, there is a need for books. “If students would like to donate their used books it would be greatly appreciated.” Colleen Noble states. Donated books should be taken to the second floor advisement offices at the downtown campus and ask for Colleen Noble.

Winter Mini-semester
Dec. 14-22
Start of spring classes
Jan. 11
Enroll now!
CSC Rodeo

The Connors State Rodeo Team has represented the school well this fall semester. The men’s team moved into 5th place in the region and the women’s team held at 10th place.

This semester’s team has fifteen freshmen and fifteen sophomores competing in every event except bull riding.

According to Coach Jake, “The CSC Rodeo Team is made up this year of some really good kids who take the rodeo competition seriously, and who have been a joy to work with so far. This form of excitement is contagious which has turned into more quality practice and has resulted in more winning. These students, for the most part, have been good ambassadors for CSC, and are a reflection of CSC students, faculty, and support staff.”

There are many student scores and highlights, but one successful participant is Ryan Bothum, who won the All-Around Award, earning 385 points.

The future for this team looks bright, and Coach Jake Walker states, “It’s been an exciting all with the rodeo team with multiple placing. We anticipate more students placing in the spring.”

CSC Basketball Back in Business

Graduation took all but two players from Coach Eddie Kite’s Cowgirls’ team that finished the last season with a 30-5 record, the Region II Tournament Championship, and a fifth place finish in the NJCAA National Women’s Championships.

The two returnees are Megan Roth, who is coming off an injury redshirt year, and Mariah Norwood, who provided valuable play off the bench.

Kite has a new assistant this year, Claire Coggins, a former All-Big 12 player at Kansas State.

While young, Kite says of his team that they have “good chemistry.” The Cowgirls presently have a record.

Coach Bill Muse returns three sophomores who helped the Cowboys win the Region II Championship and eventually finished fourth in the NJCAA National Tournament last season.

The returnees include guards Orlando Brown, Ray Jones, and center C. J. Washington.

“We have the core of our returning starters back and that gives us some strength on the floor,” Muse said. “I feel we’re going to have a very competitive club.”

The Cowboys’ record stands at
CSC Basketball