

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 7 • NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2013

# CONNECTION

 CONNORS STATE COLLEGE | BUILDING COMMUNITY ONE PERSON AT A TIME SINCE 1908



**SEASON OF  
GIVING**

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### ABOUT THE COVERS

Connors students give to the less fortunate this holiday season.

Pictured: Katie Smith & Willie Atwood



Students, alumni & friends compete in the second annual CSC Horse Show & Rodeo.



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## SMITH EARNS NATIONAL GOLD

From the national blue and gold stage to the dirt-filled collegiate arena, Adair, Okla., native Wyatt Smith has proven successful in his judging endeavors this fall. A freshman on the Connors State College livestock judging team, Smith took first place individually in the horse evaluation competition at the 86th Annual National FFA Convention, held in Louisville, Ky., November 2.

"I was excited when they called my name on stage at National FFA Convention," said Smith. "All my hard work and dedication finally paid off."

The National FFA Horse Evaluation CDE is a competitive event that tests the student's ability to select and evaluate horses. Event components include eight selection classes that consisted of four halter classes and four performance classes. Students also give four sets of



oral reasons with two sets coming from each evaluation class. Teams also work together to complete practical activities and a team presentation.

"We are proud of Wyatt for his accomplishments on the national level," said CSC President, Dr. Tim Faltyn. "Given his hard work in the arena thus far, I look forward to his successes here at Connors."

In addition to his individual honors, Smith led his Adair FFA teammates to first place in the team competition. For his achievements, Smith was awarded two \$1,000 cash scholarships.

The 18-year-old pre-vet major is a member of the CSC Aggie Club and the Baptist Collegiate Ministries. He is the son of Darrell and Quannah Smith.

*By Hannah Allen & Stacy Pearce*

## HLC ACADEMY SHOWCASE



*Left to Right: Dr. Tim Faltyn with HLC Academy members Lynett Rock, Robin O'Quinn, Debi Corrado, Julie Dinger, Colleen Noble and Dr. Ron Ramming.*

The Higher Learning Commission provides accredited member institutions the opportunity to participate in an Academy for Assessment of Student Learning, with specific topics over five year cycles.

Connors State College was selected to participate in the HLC Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning in 2008. Through subsequent annual workshops, periodic information sharing with mentors, and networking with peer institutions, the CSC Academy Team completed an intensive self-study of

the college's general education student learning outcomes.

Over the course of the three-day Academy Results Forum retreat, the team presented findings of CSC's project, "Reexamining and Refocusing General Education Student Learning Outcomes."

The work on this academy project, along with new initiatives on campus, including the Connors Success Centers, and innovations in developmental education, have all had a real impact on student success.

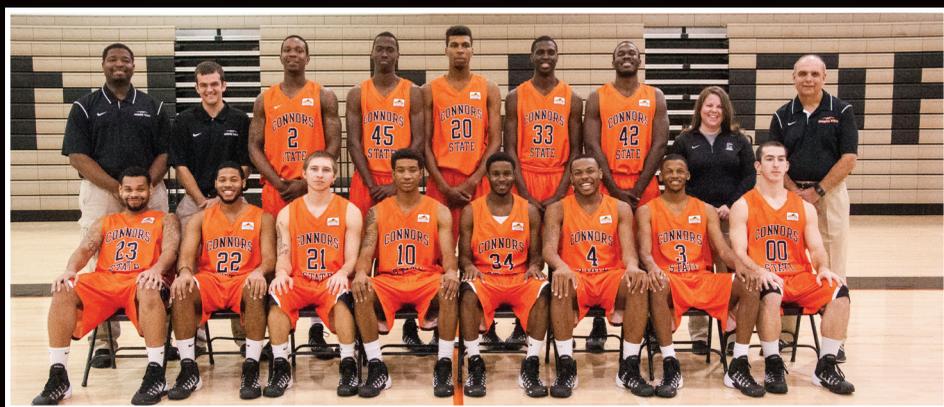
"The HLC Academy Team is dedicated to learning and using best practices to assess and improve student learning at Connors," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, CSC President. "I'm proud of the work they have done to better our campus and focus on outcomes in student education."

The outstanding work of the Academy Team, with the design assistance of Creative Services Specialist Stacy Pearce, was showcased during a poster session at the Results Forum in October. HLC recognized the project and poster for their excellence, and the CSC Academy Team has been invited to present the poster and results at HLC's annual meeting in April 2014, in Chicago, Ill.

"Academy Team members are excited to share our experiences," said Debi Corrado. "We are ready to share with the HLC community, in support of improving student learning."

*By Julie Dinger*

# CONNORS STATE



Connors State Cowboys and Cowgirls primed to open the 2013-14 basketball season as Cowboys' head coach Bill Muse begins his 22nd year and Cowgirls' Eddie Kite his 11th season at the helm.

The Cowgirls opened the season on Saturday, Nov. 1 and have posted a 2-4 start while the Cowboys opened play on Nov. 2 and have rolled to a 6-1 record during the early season.

Both squads bring young ball clubs to the court this season. Muse's Cowboys, who are coming off a 24-9 season and a trip to the National Junior College Athletic Association National Tournament in Hutchinson, returns only one starter.

Kite, whose club finished with a 16-13 record last year, returns no one

from that team. It's a completely new team. Something he has not experienced since taking the job.

Muse believes this season's club has the potential for a repeat performance, despite being a very young team.

"I have been in this situation before with just one returning starter," said Muse. "In junior college it turns over every couple of years. You try to keep each class balanced and that's why you bring in sophomore transfers."

Missing from last year's 24-9 club are All-Region II performers Hakeem Harris (Seton Hall University), Josh Cameron (Coastal Carolina University) and Denell Henderson (Oral Roberts University), who all moved on to NCAA Division I programs.

However, Muse does return starter Willie Atwood, who has All-American candidate written all over him, along with squadmen from last season Quan Jones and Tony Cabrera.

"We have good size and plenty of post players," said Muse, "but what we have to do is develop our young perimeter players. That will set the tone on how successful we will be this year.

"If our perimeter players play like we are hoping, then we will have

a successful year. But they are very inexperienced back there."

One of those perimeter players Muse is counting on is sophomore transfer Terrance Carroll from Pima Community College. While at Pima, Carroll averaged 15.2 points and 4.9 rebounds.

Joining Carroll will be several freshmen on the perimeter, Ronnie Boyce from Putnam City, Corlbe Ervin from Edmond North and Kayshaune Spencer from Toronto, Canada.

But it will be Atwood, that Muse and the Cowboys put much of the load on this campaign.

Atwood, 6-8 from Memphis, Tenn., averaged 10.6 points an outing last year and collected 6.1 rebounds per game.

"We have to have a good year from Willie for us to really be successful," said Muse. "Willie works very hard and plays extremely hard. I am expecting him to have a very successful campaign this year."

Another sophomore transfer is Kris Brown, 6-8 forward, who came to Connors after one season at Central Arkansas, where he averaged 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Another outstanding prospect is freshman Corlbe Ervin, who was an All-Stater his senior season.

"He was a highly recruited player in this state, who has a lot of talent. But he's like every freshman he hasn't played a minute of college basketball. It's going to be an adjustment period for him," said Muse.

Connors will have plenty of post players this season, something they didn't have a year ago. Expected to see action in the middle are Brown,

# BASKETBALL

# Patriot Night

Atwood, redshirt freshman Eric Broadnax from Porter, Devante Robinson, 6-9, who was highly recruited from Dallas and Darryl Levert, 6-9 from Pickerington, Ohio.

“Our inside is going to definitely be the strength of this team,” said Muse. “We have five quality post players. We have to be sure that we aren’t one dimensional. Hopefully our perimeter players can hold their own,” said Muse. “We have inside presence, but once again a lot depends on our perimeter play.”

Not since Kite’s first year as the Cowgirls head coach has he come into a basketball season with so many unknowns. Kite is entering this year with a “Fresh Look.”

“I really like our team,” said Kite. “They are working very hard. I haven’t had such an overhaul before.”

Among those hard working Cowgirls are 12 freshman, Jessica Dalman from Apache High School; Lauren Godfrey, Liberty Eylau High School at Texarkana, Texas; Taylor Goff, Gans High School; LaNessa Grayson, Okatah High School; Janet Hill, Eufaula High School; Mari Jackson, Muskogee High School; Alyssa Jones, Temple Texas High School; Johnesha Major, DeSota High School in Dallas; Heather Marshall, Gentry High School; Sherrell McHenry, Haskell High School; Katie Smith, Checotah High School and Kayla Whyne, Tulsa Memorial High School.

The one sophomore on the team is transfer Destinee Thrash from Howard

Texas Junior College.

“We will be lacking experience, but the work ethic is there,” said Kite. “It’s going to be an intriguing group of players. We have good size, quickness and athleticism. It’s a very well balanced group. It’s just very young.”

Kite said the leadership of the squad will go to the sophomore Thrash, but admitted that’s by default because of her experience.

Thrash, a 5-7 point guard, averaged 11.2 points at Howard last year.

Kite is also looking for leadership from freshman Katie Smith, a two-guard and Johnesha Major, a point guard.

“If the chemistry keeps developing, which is always an issue, we could be pretty good. Chemistry is the key. It’s an exciting time here,” said Kite.

The Cowgirls Coach says their inside game is much improved because of size, when they had only one player over 6-foot tall a year ago.

That has changed this season with three players at 6-foot or taller, starting with Janet Hill at 6-foot, Lauren Godfrey 6-1, and Heather Marshall at 6-4.

“We have some good size with kids who don’t mind contact with some skill level,” said Kite. “That’s an area we have improved. And, our quickness is better than a year ago which helps our style of play.” 🦅

*Article By: Wayne Bunch*

*Layout By: Katie Bullard*

Connors State College held their Annual Veteran’s Day Recognition during the Nov. 6, Cowboys’ home basketball game. The event honored approximately 30 individuals who served in the armed forces.

The recognition event took place during halftime of the men’s basketball game. Lt. Col. James W. Sanders of the U.S. Marine Corp., retired, began the event at CSC in 2003.

The recognition ceremony included a presentation of the colors by the Junior ROTC, singing of the National Anthem, a prayer, the introduction of each service man and woman, and the presentation of a memento, by CSC President Tim Faltyn, as a small gesture of thanks for their service.

“I think it’s important to do these events because students need to understand that freedom is not free,” said Sanders. “Someone has to pay the price.”

Sanders, who served as a pilot in the U.S. Marine Corp. for 27 years, believes it is important to honor Veterans for their service and to teach students the importance of their sacrifice.

“I am pleased that Col. Sanders was able to join us and help us with this event,” said Faltyn. “I agree that our students need to be reminded that freedom is not something to be taken for granted. Recognizing our veterans is one way to connect a face to our freedom. It’s a very important lesson and reminder for our students.” 🦅





## Show Team Competes at the American Royal

Since 1899, The American Royal has been a tradition in Kansas City. It began as the national Hereford show in the Kansas City stockyards, with 55,000 people in attendance. Today, the Royal draws over 1,600 exhibitors from all over America, with almost 2,000 head of cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats combined.

The Connors State College Beef Show Team made its second appearance at the American Royal, exhibiting Simmental and Angus cattle.

“The American Royal was the one show that I’ve always wanted to attend during my junior showing career,” said pre-veterinary major, Fabian Tinajero, from Midland, Texas. “I was honored with the opportunity to represent

Connors State.”

In the open Percentage Simmental bull show, CSC exhibited Steel Force 178Y and Cowboy On 306A. Steel Force 178Y, owned with Casey Nail of Vinita, Okla., brought home Reserve Champion Percentage Simmental bull. Cowboy On 306A, raised by CSC, was named Reserve Champion Junior Bull Calf.

“It’s great to go to a show like the American Royal and show against some of the breed’s best and have a successful day in the ring,” said Dale Pitchford, show team coach. “The team did an excellent job preparing and presenting our cattle.”

Each year the American Angus Association hosts the Angus Royalty Sale in addition to its breed show.

Connors show team members prepared and exhibited five heifers for KiamichiLink Angus Ranch of Finley, Okla. Two out of the five heifers were top three sellers in the open female sale, which consisted of 18 lots. Lot 9, Madame Pride 2305, sold for \$5,000 and Lot 10, Madame Pride 2246, sold for \$4,000. 🦄 *By Hannah Allen*



## Shotgun Team Takes Silver at Conference Championship



In its first full competitive season, the Connors State College Shotgun Shooting Sports Team has begun traveling the highways to numerous contests. The Cowboy team took second place honors at the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Central Midwest Conference Championships, held in Pacific, Mo., Oct. 19-20.

The silver finish netted the CSC

shooters their first trophy and \$8,500 in endowment funds from MidWay USA.

Wildlife Management Major Reagan Rhodes finished sixth overall, leading the shooters from CSC with a combined sporting clays, American trap, and American skeet total of 240.

Ryan Ashcroft distinguished himself in American trap, shooting two perfect rounds and finishing tied for third in the men’s division. He broke 97 out of

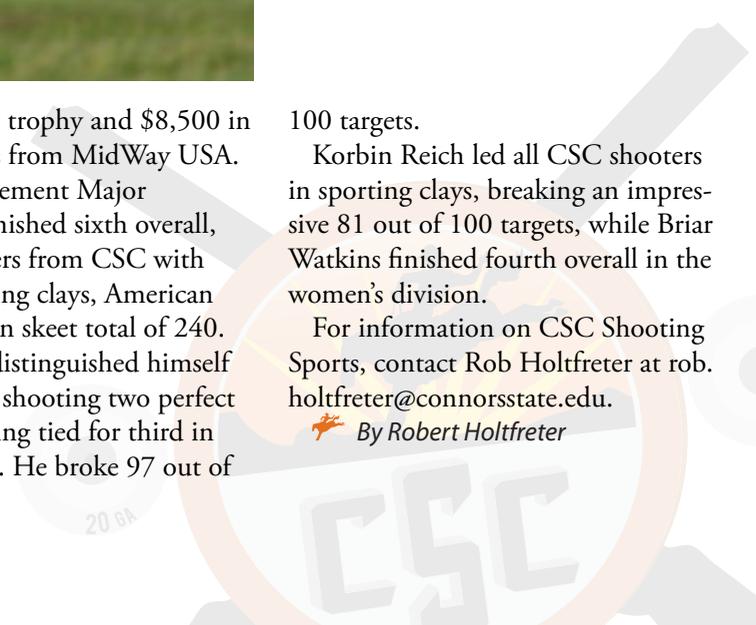


100 targets.

Korbin Reich led all CSC shooters in sporting clays, breaking an impressive 81 out of 100 targets, while Briar Watkins finished fourth overall in the women’s division.

For information on CSC Shooting Sports, contact Rob Holtfreter at [rob.holtfreter@connorsstate.edu](mailto:rob.holtfreter@connorsstate.edu).

🦄 *By Robert Holtfreter*



# Alumni & Friends Horse Show & Rodeo Results

Connors State College equine and rodeo programs recently hosted two competitions – the Alumni & Friends Versatility Ranch Horse Show and a Timed Event Rodeo, which were open for entry to alumni, friends and the public.

In partnership with Nutrena, the Timed Event Rodeo, held Fri., Nov. 22, had 100 participants competing in breakaway roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing and team roping.

Timed Event Rodeo Placings:

Calf Roping: (1) Budge Herbert; (2) Cameron Ousley, current student; (3) William Whyne, current student; (4) Spencer Nero, alumni.

Breakaway Roping: (1) Lyndsay Wood, alumni.

Steer Wrestling: (1) Chase Crane; (2) Mason Carter; (3) Michael Edgmon, current student.

Barrel Racing: (1) Paula Mercer, alumni; (2) Ronna Bell, current student; (3) Blaize Weippert, current student; (4) Lacy Kilgore, current student.

Team Roping: (1) Brock Dimry / Tater Lux; (2) Cody Camerer / Cody Roberts; (3) Cody Bailey / BJ Clark; (4) Weston Jones / BJ Clark; (5) Cheyenne Johnson / Dillon Burns, current students.

The Versatility Ranch Horse Show took place on Sat., Nov. 23, and was comprised of two major classes: (1) ranch riding/trail and (2) working ranch horse. Open to all for competition, the show featured added prizes

specifically for CSC alumni riders and alumni horses.

Versatility Ranch Horse Show Class Placings:

Ranch Riding: (1) Kirt Wingate; (2) Jake Lawson, alumni; (3) Cheyenne Johnson, current student; (4) Michael Edgmon, current student; (5) Jake Walker, alumni.

Ranch Trail: (1) Jake Lawson, alumni; (2) Kirt Wingate; (3) Bryan Vandiver; (4) Cheyenne Johnson, current student; (5) Michael Edgmon, current student.

Working Ranch Horse: (1) Brian Vandiver; (2) Michael Edgmon, current student; (3) Brian Vandiver; (4) Levi Price, current student; (5) Jake Lawson, alumni.

Overall Placing

Alumni Horse: (1) Dun Playin Chic, owned by Jim Loftin and shown by Brian Vandiver; (2) Miss Cool Sabre, owned by Bobby Faries and shown by Jake Lawson; (3) Bar Star Poptart, owned by Brian Henderson and shown by Michael Edgmon.

Alumni Rider: (1) Jake Lawson; (2) Joey Griffith; (3) Jake Walker.

Current Student Rider: (1) Michael Edgmon; (2) Cheyenne Johnson; (3) Levi Price.

As an added bonus, on Saturday, the horse show judge, Mary Ingwerson, conducted a clinic for all those entered.

Prizes for the show included monogrammed winter blankets and hay bags, while winners in timed event competitions received monogrammed rope bags and saddle blankets. 🐾



LAYOUT BY  
Hannah Allen

# SEASON OF GIVING

## WEST CREW SHARES FOOD & SMILES



More than 30 Connors State College West campus employees, students and friends shared a warm meal and good cheer with area residents who turn to the Gospel Rescue Mission for food and shelter.

A helping presence in Muskogee since 1931, the Gospel Rescue Mission is the community's only full service homeless shelter, dedicated to meeting the needs of the poor and transient in the community. The facility located at 326 South Second Street in Muskogee can house up to 34 men at any given time and offers eight rooms for women and children.

In addition to shelter, Gospel Rescue Mission provides food, clothing, and counseling and recovery support for neighbors in need. During a Sunday of Service opportunity, the Connors family brought a feast to feed the nearly 30 at the mission that day. From fried chicken to homemade tamales, and a variety of side dishes to delicious desserts, the Connors crew ensured that no one left hungry and provided enough leftovers for another two meals.

Mike Jackson, CSC West Campus Administrator, coordinated the event and was thrilled with the turnout

and generous offerings of food from the CSC West crew.

"That was the most food I have seen any group bring in a long, long time," said Jackson. "Providing the meal doesn't take a long time to do on a Sunday, but you make a big difference for those who are there."

Gospel Rescue Mission Director Jack Murr agreed.

"First of all we so appreciate you (Connors) coming and preparing a meal and serving it to our guests, but the greatest blessing the guests and staff receive from your visits is the human contact you provide; that is the opportunity to interact with all of you who so obviously care for those of us in crisis," said Murr. "Just to come here and show that you care is so important to the emotional well-being of our guests and our staff. It really makes a difference in all of our lives."

According to Jackson, sharing with those in need is also good for the volunteers.

"I get more out of it than those who get to eat," said Jackson.

His hope is that Connors West will continue to regularly contribute to the community in this and other ways.

 By Lisa Wade

## PHI BETA LAMBDA HUGS CAMPAIGN

Connors State College's Phi Beta Lambda society kicked off a HuGS (Hats, Gloves and Scarves) campaign, encouraging the donation of winter items to help needy families, Nov. 1 – Nov. 26.

Upon conclusion, PBL donated the more than 700 items to the Muskogee Mission Shelter and the Salvation Army's Angel Tree campaign.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL BALLIN' 4 BLANKETS

The Cowboys basketball team recently kicked off "Ballin' 4 Blankets," a community service project to collect donated blankets for the homeless.

"It's important for our team to give to the community," said CSC Athletic Director Bill Muse. "We want to graduate well-rounded, community-minded individuals, not just stellar basketball players."

Donations were accepted through the month of November at the Melvin Self Field House and during all CSC home basketball games.

## STUDENTS COLLECT FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS

Connors State College Sophomore, Deniese Leach, and her Introduction to Social Services class began a food drive to help the area's hungry. What started as a class project soon spread to involve all three Connors' campuses.

"I was reading the Muskogee Phoenix one Wednesday to look at the ads to fill my pantry for the winter, ironically enough, and I saw the article talking about the Gospel Rescue Mission's pantry being out of food," Leach said. "After much thought, I decided to talk to Mr. J [Muskogee Campus Administrator, Mike Jackson] to see if he would let me challenge my class members to raise canned goods for the shelter. He said, yes, definitely. That evening I went home, prepared the challenge, and presented it to the class the next week."

Leach challenged her classmates to bring three canned goods, per week, per student.

"This is about the equivalent of one Big Gulp or two McDoubles per week," she said. "This could give 25-30 homeless people several hot meals."

Leach's class food drive soon spread though Connors' three campuses. Classes were encouraged to donate as a group and Campus Life representatives picked up donations using borrowed shopping carts. *By Ami Maddocks*



## CONNORS GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

ANGEL TREE: Softball Team, Ag Communicators of Tomorrow

NURSING HOME VISITS: Aggie Club

GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION: Intro to Social Services Classes, Women's Basketball; SGA

READING BUDDIES: Softball Team

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Baseball Team

SALVATION ARMY: Stephanie Anderson



## AIM Reveal Highlights Plan for Muskogee

Dr. Tim Faltyn said he can't go anywhere in Muskogee without someone telling him "what we ought to do" to fix the city.

Faltyn, who is co-chairman of the Action in Muskogee committee, addressed that issue at the AIM Reveal Tuesday night at the Roxy Theater.

"Now's the time," Faltyn said. "Tonight is about finding your reason. Great communities are like great people and great moments in your life. You have to work at it."

The AIM Committee was formed in mid-2012 and is a project of the Muskogee City-County Port Authority

to develop a community inspired implementation plan with accountability to improve Muskogee.

That plan was revealed in front of an audience packed into the Roxy. The reveal was the culmination of five public community visioning sessions of more than 370 area residents who aspired to make Muskogee a more vibrant community in which to live, work, learn and play, according to the fact sheet.

The committee came up with eight initial initiatives which were: Educational Excellence; Safe and Secure Community; Strong Economy; Community Pride; Clean and Beautiful; Great Place to Live and Visit; Health and Wellness; Community Infrastructure.

Several ideas were proposed at the meeting, and two of them which met all eight of the initiatives were a complete renovation of the Muskogee Little Theatre and public Wi-Fi for the city of Muskogee and its residents.

According to the fact sheet, the

Muskogee Little Theatre draws audience members from 33 communities and 12 counties. Twenty-seven percent of those audience members travel more than 40 miles to attend, and more than \$250,000 has been put into the local economy as a result of theater events.

The renovation of the MLT would be a part of the opening of a cultural district in downtown Muskogee. The new MLT will be a 15,000-square-foot, two-story performing arts facility and will include an upper- and lower-level 260-seat capacity auditorium that will also be wheelchair accessible.

The plan is to complete fundraising by June 2014 for the proposed building, then to secure bids on the project prior to June 2014, when construction is scheduled to begin.

Max Boydston, a local businessman, said he appreciated the timeline laid out in the reveal.

"The meeting was excellent," Boydston said. "It was a glimpse of the future and something we have needed for a long time. I think that a lot has been talked about and those projects that aren't ready, they will be soon."

The public Wi-Fi is an economic development and infrastructure important to small and corporate businesses looking to locate and expand, according to the fact sheet. It would also support common and higher education, career technology and make Muskogee a progressive and viable city.

Public Wi-Fi would be made available to everyone and help provide job opportunities to underserved populations, as well as facilitate waves of innovation and brand the city as being technology and business friendly.

The timeline for the public Wi-Fi was



listed “as soon as possible,” and the cost as “to be announced.”

The total cost of the Signature Projects revealed at the meeting was \$29.6 million, with a total timeline of 12 to 60 months. Faltyn said if you want a better community you have to work for it.

“If we didn’t work hard to raise the money for these projects, then people wouldn’t appreciate all the good things that will happen in the next five years,” Faltyn said.

In addition to the MLT renovation and public Wi-Fi, plans were announced to demolish the Hunt’s Building, improve Muskogee’s streetscape, try to attract a hotel and convention center and improve the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center.

Faltyn said it was his goal to have a totally walkable city, meaning one could walk down Fourth Street in Muskogee and have access to shopping, eating and entertainment.

Mayor Bob Coburn said the reveal on Tuesday evening was “absolutely exciting.” “We’ve recognized where we are,” Coburn said. “And we’ve recognized where we want to go. This is the first plan like this I’ve seen. The projects displayed tonight were doable and will ultimately make Muskogee successful. I want to thank the AIM Committee for all their hard work.”

Coburn also addressed concerns that the work was focused on downtown only.

“The whole project literally has footprints all the way across town,” he said. “There’s been a huge amount of interest expressed on Shawnee Street across from Walmart. We just need to continue to make improvements.”

Wren Stratton commended the vision displayed at the meeting.

“It was awesome,” Stratton said. “It’s a big vision, but you have to have big visions.” 🍂

*Article By: Travis Sloat, Muskogee  
Phoenix; Layout By: Katie Bullard*



## NSU, CSC enter into Reverse Transfer Agreement

Northeastern State University and Connors State College came together Nov. 11 at the NSU-Muskogee campus for the signing event of their newest academic agreement. The two institutions of higher education have collaborated in an effort that can be extremely beneficial to former CSC students who have transferred to NSU.

This agreement allows both currently enrolled NSU students, as well as potential students, to transfer the credits obtained from NSU back to CSC in order to complete requirements for an associate degree. This process is referred to as a Reverse Transfer.

“I am pleased to sign the Reverse Transfer Agreement with Connors State President, Dr. Tim Faltyn,” said Dr. Steve Turner, NSU President. “This action is a natural progression of the partnership between Northeastern State University and Connors. The students, appropriately so, are the big winners. They can transfer back hours earned at NSU to CSC to be applied to an Associate degree. This effort certainly supports Governor Fallin’s Complete College Oklahoma Initiative.”

Each institution would allow employees to access directory information of students who are eligible for the

associate degree completion program, while maintaining the confidentiality requirements under the FERPA Act. NSU will provide a list to CSC of all former students who have transferred to NSU since the previous semester. Staff at CSC then have an opportunity to contact these students with the purpose of explaining this agreement and see if they are interested in participating.

Students will be responsible for initializing all transcript requests for submission, at which point CSC personnel will determine if students are eligible for the associate degree. There will be trained employees on each campus to assist students completing the process.

Once semester grades post, the credit for the NSU class can be posted to the student’s official CSC transcript. Connors will then conduct a degree audit—students who meet all degree requirements will be eligible to receive an associate degree from CSC.

“I’m very proud of the hard work that has gone into making this program a reality,” said Dr. Faltyn. “This program will help change the lives of many people by allowing them to continue their education and earn a degree.” 🍂

# Athletic 2ND ANNUAL HALL OF FAME HONORS FORMER PLAYERS

Connors State College inducted its second class into the CSC Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, October 26, at the Muskogee Country Club.

A total of 10 former Connors State College athletes, along with a leadership award entered into the Hall by Connors State College President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, and Athletic Director, Bill Muse.

"The Connors State Athletic Hall of Fame is the highest athletic honor that can be bestowed on a Cowboy or Cowgirl that participated in athletics," said Muse. "The newest members of the Athletic Hall of Fame excelled

both on and off the athletic courts and playing fields at Connors State College."

Bryndon Manzer, studio basketball analyst for ESPNU and former basketball player at Oklahoma State University, emceed the event. This year's inductees include: Baseball: Baine Brooks, Julio Lugo; Men's Basketball: Clarence, Lynch, Regie Tinch; Women's Basketball: Dr. Alicia Burke, Kamara Stangle; Football: Harold Cagle, Cecil Devine, Harry Jackson; Softball: Dr. Kayse Shrum; Outstanding Leadership: Duwayne Briley. 🌟



## Keith named Diamond Sports COACH OF THE YEAR



Connors State Head Baseball Coach Perry Keith has been named the 2013 South Central Region Coach of the Year by Diamond Sports.

Keith, who led the Cowboys to the 2013 National Junior College Athletic Association College World Series in Grand Junction, Colo., and a fifth place finish, will be recognized at the American Baseball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame/Coach of the Year banquet on January 3, in Dallas, Texas.

Keith has coached at Connors State 28 years compiling a record of 1375-399. He was inducted into the NJCAA Baseball Hall of Fame in 2008. He was the youngest NJCAA coach to win 1,000 games at the age of 42.

During his coaching career he has had 11 players reach the major leagues in their career. 🌟

## Port Authority Awards Connors, Faltyn & Wade

Connors State College leadership was honored during the 16th annual Muskogee City-County Port Authority's Business & Industry Awards in early November. The Port of Muskogee's

Special Recognition Award was given to CSC President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, and Lisa Wade, Director of the Muskogee Difference Healthcare Scholarship and Outreach, for their leadership of the Action in Muskogee Community Visioning Initiative and leadership in the creation of Muskogee Difference Health Care Scholarship.

Under Faltyn, Connors has also increased enrollment 3-5 percent for the 2013-14 school year.

The awards have honored the diversity and excellence of Muskogee-area business for more than a decade and honor organizations and individuals for their contributions to Muskogee's economy and quality of life.

Nominations are received from local-area companies and individuals who recognize outstanding success. 🌟





## Judgers Division Champs at the NAILE

The Connors State College sophomore livestock judging team members made their intentions clear for the rest of the year during the North American International Livestock Exposition, Nov. 20 in Louisville, Ky. Connors won the swine contest with a score of 1434, earned fourth in the reasons division, ninth in cattle and 10th in sheep, while placing eighth overall and falling short of the champion team by a mere 69 points.

“We were happy with the improvement our team members showed since the last contest,” said Chase Reed, assistant coach. “Our final placing in the contest is really deceptive relative to how close we actually were . . . we were definitely within striking distance.”

The team members, all raised with cattle backgrounds, exceeded expectations and racked up hardware in the hog contest. CSC earned first place by three points, while Kaitlin Pritchett took

second individually.

“Our team has had a slow start this year, but I think Louisville marked a turning point for us,” said Pritchett, an animal science major from Kingfisher. “We may not be close to where we would like to be, but it is a good start. Winning the swine division was a huge accomplishment and has us excited about the upcoming Denver contest.”

Connors was well-represented in Louisville by Pritchett. Just missing the gold by one point in the swine division, she placed tenth overall individually with a score of 951. Furthermore, Pritchett and Dirk Murphy, agriculture major from Kiowa, Colo., both ranked top 20 individually in the reasons division.

“This proves to us that hard work and commitment will lead to success,” said Michael Buckley, agriculture major from Collins, Miss. “I am anxious to see how the rest of our season turns out and we

can only hope to be blessed with future successes.”

A score of 289 earned Buckley 10th in the swine division.

“It was great seeing the team members’ hard work come to fruition; and although our final rankings may not have been our ultimate goal, we showed signs of a championship team in many aspects,” said Blake Nelson, head judging coach. “We are very excited and will carry this momentum through our practices in preparation for Denver.”

Sophomore team members include: Pritchett, Murphy, and Buckley; Whitney Andras, Checotah; Zakary Laubach, Woodward; Tucker Malotte, Pryor; Kaitlyn Merriman, Allen; Kolton Moore, Cave City, Ark.; Megan Skiles, Bowie, Ariz.; and Bryson Williams, Earth, Texas.

 *By Alicia Castaneda*



## PTK Sponsors

Connors State College recently hosted several events asking students to agree to complete their degree. Participating students signed commitment forms at all three Connors campuses.

“The members of the Mu Chi chapter responded to the call to completion initiative set for by the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society,” said Colleen Noble, a



community college students.

Mu Chi members hosted five events on three campuses: Warner, Muskogee West and Muskogee Three Rivers Port campus. In order to impact as many students as possible, events were held during the day and evening.

“Students were encouraged to sign pledge cards and sign the Completion Banners,” said CSC Academic Advisor, Kim Phillips. “At this time, we have

CSC retention specialist.

Phi Theta Kappa is committed to actively encouraging completion of a college credential, an associate degree or certificate among

252 student and several faculty signatures on three banners. The banners will be displayed on all three campuses.”

Phillips and Noble, Mu Chi Chapter advisors, were also invited to speak to several classes about the importance of college completion. Encouraging student leadership, they showed a presentation created by student Tiffany Morales, Mu Chi chapter president. Tiffany developed the presentation as part of her persuasion speech for the Introduction to Oral Communication class.

Students were also offered the opportunity to participate in an essay contest describing the importance of completing a degree program. First place went to Cassandra Sallis, second place went to Judy Capps and third place was awarded to Keli Miles. 🏆

**COMMIT  
2  
COMPLETE**

In an effort to make the student-experience more fluid, Connors State College began offering online enrollment for select students Oct. 31, 2013.

Students must be in good standing with the Office of Financial Aid, the Bursar Office and the Office of Admissions/Registrar. In addition, students eligible for online enrollment must have completed all remedial courses and have a minimum 2.0 GPA.

Concurrent, non-degree seeking, transfer students and first-time freshmen must consult an advisor and are not eligible for online enrollment.

Learn more at:  
[connorsstate.edu/enroll](http://connorsstate.edu/enroll) 🏠

**NOW ENROLL ONLINE**





## CONNORS BREAKS GROUND ON AG HALL OF FAME

On October 30, Connors State College broke ground on the lobby expansion of the Fred Williams Indoor Arena.

Dr. Tim Faltyn, CSC President, joined by donors Charlie Randolph and Jeff McPeak, Warner Mayor Jack Tatum and Council Members Bill Gardner, Barbara Watson, and Roger Thomason, as well as Rep. Jerry McPeak and Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture and

OSU A&M Regent, Jim Reese, ceremoniously turned the first shovels of dirt to begin the construction process.

“This expansion project would not be possible without our private donors and demonstrates the impact our agricultural programs have on our students and community,” said Connors Development Foundation Executive Director, Ryan Blanton.

The expansion will add 2,800 square

feet to the indoor arena and will be the home of the Connors State College Agricultural Hall of Fame.

“We cannot chart our path in the future without first recognizing our past,” said President Faltyn. “It is because of the legacy of people like Rep. Jerry McPeak that we are among the best agricultural schools in the nation.”

*By Ryan Blanton*

## Russell Speaks to Leadership Connors Group

The Director of State Government Relations with Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents, Jessica Russell, spoke to Connors State College employees in Leadership Connors, Class II.

Leadership Connors meets monthly and allows participants to interact with a different state and/or community leader each time. The year-long program, now in its second year, is designed to enhance the leadership abilities and knowledge of selected Connors employees.

Russell discussed leadership techniques and shared about her position with the Board of Regents.

Pictured are, (L to R), Row 1: Karen Seabolt, accounting; Lisa Wade,

Muskogee Difference Healthcare Scholarship, Wellness and Outreach; Russell; Teresa Williams, Human Resources; Lynett Rock, Chair of Mathematics, Science and Physical Education; Row 2: Robin O’Quinn, Chair, Communication, Fine Arts, Development Education and Connors Success Centers; Angie Lane, Bursar; Baxter Stewart, Director of Financial Aid;

Dr. Gary Grady, Psychology; Stacy Pearce, Creative Services; Spencer Nero, Recruitment.

*By Ami Maddocks*





# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

## BAINE BROOKS

Baine Brooks from Decatur, Georgia, was a member of the Connors State baseball team in 1985, where he graduated.

Before attending Connors, he attended Georgia State University for a year, fulfilling a dream of playing baseball on the collegiate level with his brother.

During his one year at Connors he was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-American team.

Brooks then moved on to the University of Oklahoma where he graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts in Communications and was an All-Big 8 Conference center field selection in 1987.

Brooks is currently partner and manager of TwoRows Restaurant in Allen, Texas, where he employs 43 team

members.

He is currently on the Allen City Council and is the liaison for Parks and Recreation for the city of Allen. Brooks is past president of Greater Dallas Restaurant Association and served as a Regional Director for the Texas Restaurant Association. He also served on the board of directors for the North Texas Food Bank.

Brooks was awarded the 2013 Community Builder Award for the Allen Masonic Club in Allen. He has been and participated in Allen rotary and has had many involvements with Allen Community Outreach.

During his other various charity activities Brooks has helped raise \$150,000.

Brooks and his wife Juli have been married 16 years and have two girls, Brittani and Brenna. 🏈



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