Dr. Kyle Stafford Selected as New Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College President

The A&M Board of Regents selected Dr. Kyle Stafford as the next President of NEO in a special meeting held on December 6, 2019. Dr. Stafford previously served as Vice President of University Advancement at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Stafford began his position on January 6, 2020. He succeeds Jeffery L. Hale, Ph.D., who retired last summer after eleven years as president.

Tucker Link, A&M Board Chair, shared his thoughts on the hire. “The A&M Regents are thrilled with the selection of Dr. Stafford as the next President of NEO. His leadership role at Southeastern Oklahoma State University has prepared him well for this position. We look forward to the continued success and growth of NEO under his direction and guidance.”

The appointment follows a six-month search by the Regents that began with the formation of a search committee consisting of NEO administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community leaders. The committee forwarded three names, including Dr. Stafford for the full Board of Regents to consider.

Prior to NEO, Dr. Stafford served for two decades at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, holding positions as the Vice President for University Advancement and formerly the Executive Director of University Advancement, Dean of Enrollment Management and Marketing, Director of Admissions and Recruitment Services, and Recruiting Coordinator/Admissions Counselor.

Dr. Stafford is a native of Madill, Okla., and he and his wife, Kim, have two daughters, Miranda Matlock and Emma.
NEO Hosts Second Annual Day of Service in Honor of MLK Day

To honor the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., NEO hosted the second annual NEO Day of Service on January 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. For the second year, students and faculty were released from class and encouraged to spend the day participating in community service projects.

“I am thankful for this opportunity for our students, staff, and faculty to give back to our community on the Day of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Watching the students serve is so meaningful. I believe our students benefit from having this opportunity and we also show our community that we appreciate where we are!”

Amy Ishmael, Vice President for Student Affairs

Students, staff, and faculty representing organizations around campus volunteered at the Ketcher/Keheley Animal Shelter, the Boys and Girls Club, the Community Crisis Center, and the LEAD Agency.

“Making connections with the students was so rewarding and enjoyable,” said Holly Silvey, a freshman from Bend, Ore., who volunteered alongside members of the NEO Honors Program at the Boys and Girls Club. “Being able to spend time with them really ignited a passion for service and I hope we were able to make their day memorable.”

For more information on the annual NEO Day of Service, contact Amy Ishmael at 918-540-6060.
NEO has announced its President’s and Dean’s Honor Rolls for the fall semester of the 2020 academic year. To qualify for the President’s List, a student must carry a minimum of twelve hours and maintain a 4.0 grade point average. To qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must carry a minimum of twelve credit-bearing hours and maintain a 3.5 grade point average.

The following students who were named to the President’s Honor Roll and Dean’s Honor Roll respectively for the fall semester of the 2019 academic year:

### President’s Honor Roll

**International**
- Brandon Fraser - Alberta, Canada: Agriculture
- Edouard Savoie - Quebec, Canada: Business Administration
- Mathieu Vallee - Quebec, Canada: Pre-Engineering

**Arkansas**
- Anna Turner - Bentonville: Agriculture

**Georgia**
- Taylor Barber - Brinson: Agriculture

**Iowa**
- Kaitlyn Ricke - Lawton: Business Administration
- Shianne Votava - Pella: Pre-Veterinary Medicine

**Illinois**
- Hallie Horsman - Shelbyville: Agriculture
- Georgia Agan - Venedy: General Studies

**Indiana**
- Ashley Peterson - Remington: Agriculture
- Owen Coon - Wingate: Agriculture

**Kansas**
- Alexis McCollough - Andover: Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Alexis Lawellin - Chetopa: Early Childhood Education & Development
- Morgan Leeper - Columbus: Natural Sciences
- Emily McNett - Galena: Nursing
- Lyssa Schabel - Independence: Natural Sciences
- Katie Krehbiel - Inman: Agriculture
- Jon Trowbridge - Linwood: Construction Management
- Scott Radke - McPherson: Business Administration

**Missouri**
- Hannah Shasserre - Cuba: Agriculture
- Leighton Bridgewater - Diamond: Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Hannah Snow - Diamond: Physical Therapist Assistant
- Lauren Vogel - Higginsville: Agriculture
- Casandra Ford - Joplin: Physical Therapist Assistant
- Taylor Scheulen - Linn: Agriculture
- Emily Norris - Mountain Grove: Agriculture
- Laura Biggers - Niahu: Agriculture
- Courtney McNary - Seneca: Psychology/Sociology

**New Jersey**
- Alex Pike - Bloomfield: Business Administration

**New York**
- Samantha Vallone - Ballston Spa: Pre-Veterinary Medicine

**Oklahoma**
- Amber Gibson - Afton: General Studies
- Daniel Jacobs - Afton: Pre-Engineering
- Murphy Mulvane - Afton: English
- Hailee Sherrod - Afton: Business Administration
- Victoria Warren - Afton: Music
- Emily Morris - Barnsdall: General Studies
- Alfred Fry - Big Cabin: General Studies
- Payton Adamson - Bluejacket: Business Administration
- Coy McGlasson - Bluejacket: Equine & Ranch Management
- Elizabeth Hokit - Chouteau: Agriculture
- Payton Moreland - Chouteau: Physical Therapist Assistant
- Hannah Tweed - Chouteau: Business Administration
- Hannah Cain - Claremore: Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Anna Seat - Claremore: Music
- Melissa Amos - Colcord: Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Kristen McQuesten - Colcord: Nursing
- Crissi Blevins - Disney: Medical Lab Technician
- Jack Martin - Eucha: Nursing
- Kaylee Brewster - Fairland: Business Administration
- Karly Chase - Fairland: Criminal Justice
- Mia McCool - Fairland: Nursing
- Trinity Pratt - Fairland: Psychology/Sociology
- Kiyah Sisco - Fairland: Early Childhood Education & Development
- Destiny Bridgeman - Grove: Psychology/Sociology
- Lani Goldner - Grove: Nursing
- Sabrina Landreth - Grove: Psychology/Sociology
- Brandon Robins - Grove: Business Administration
- Jessica Walker - Grove: Physical Therapist Assistant
- Jacob Wallace - Grove: Business Administration
- Ravyn Whitebird - Indioma: Art
- Callie Callihan - Jay: General Studies
- Mattie Haynes - Jay: Agriculture
- Billy Overbey - Jay: Criminal Justice
- Kalley Whitlock - Jay: Agriculture
- Caley Eslick - Jenks: Pre-Engineering
- Emily Long - Jenks: Pre-Engineering
- John O’Neal - Lawton: General Studies
- Charles Hallum - Marietta: Pre-Engineering
- Kristian Ethridge - McAlester: Computer Science
- Reagan Alsbaugh - Miami: Psychology/Sociology
- Aaron Benkle - Miami: Construction Management
- Kolton Browning - Miami: Business Administration
- Carter Christman - Miami: Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Claire Coyne - Miami: Social Sciences
- Nicholas Douglas-Eickhoff - Miami: General Studies
- Heather Downey - Miami: General Studies
- Alexandre Frances Salmon - Miami: Pre-Engineering
- Leland Hanson - Miami: Physical Therapist Assistant
- Cassandra Holt - Miami: Nursing
- Shelby Hubbard - Miami: General Studies
- Jessica Johnson - Miami: General Studies
- Amanda Looney - Miami: Pre-Engineering
- Ty Miller - Miami: Business Administration
- Robyn Olsen - Miami: Nursing
- Jessi Raney - Miami: Business Administration
- Shia Rutledge - Miami: Psychology/Sociology
- Taylor Shackelford - Miami: Nursing
- Gentry Stell - Miami: Business Administration
- Anna Turner - Miami: Agriculture
- Caleb Fiddler - Ochelata: Pre-Engineering
- Savanna Suttles - Oklahoma City: General Studies
- Russell Baker - Owasso: Pre-Engineering
- Stephenie Martin - Peoria: Nursing
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Colin Sixkiller - Eucha: Sports Management & Marketing
Amy Archer - Fairland: General Studies
Samantha Payne - Fairland: Business Administration & Technology
Kayla Turley - Fairland: Nursing
Michael Wilson - Fairland: Natural Resource Management
Megan Witte - Fairland: Pre-Elementary Education
Gabrielle Barnes - Grove: Pre-Elementary Education
Damon Blackfox - Grove: Business Administration
Melissa Buck - Grove: Medical Lab Technician
Brittney Gilpin - Grove: Nursing
Emily Goins - Grove: Natural Resource Management
Alfred Jackson - Grove: General Studies
Emma Lawson - Grove: Medical Lab Technician
Kelsey McGhee - Grove: General Studies
Dusty Mitchell - Grove: Natural Sciences
Haley Pabis - Grove: Nursing
Emeli Patterson - Grove: General Studies
Laura Scalfani - Grove: General Studies
Brenna Tamayo - Grove: Medical Lab Technician
Seth Sarasua - Guthrie: General Studies
Zachary Carroll - Jay: Physical Therapist Assistant
Jett Gibe - Jay: General Studies
Cody Johnson - Jay: Undecided
Delaney Curtis - Jennings: Natural Sciences
Katherine Delgado Lopez - Ketchum: Business Administration & Technology
Brian Pinkston - Ketchum: Business Administration & Marketing
Julie Pitts - Ketchum: Nursing
Conner Rice - Krebs: Music
Janessa Rice - Locust Grove: Agriculture
Matthew Allen - Miami: Business Administration
Ismael Chavez-Trejo - Miami: Natural Sciences
Caitlyn Coombes - Miami: Physical Therapist Assistant
Angela Curry - Miami: Psychology/Sociology
Annalysa Dimercurio - Miami: Early Childhood Education & Development
Cooper Duncan - Miami: Business Administration
Zachary Garrett - Miami: Natural Resource Management
Ashley Gonzalez - Miami: Business Administration
Johnathon Good - Miami: Nursing
Amber Goodman - Miami: English
Bonnie Hall - Miami: Nursing
Jordan Hargett - Miami: Early Childhood Education & Development
Abby Ishmael - Miami: English
K'lynn Kelley - Miami: Nursing
Patryk Kulawik - Miami: Sports Management & Marketing
Elizabeth McDowell - Miami: Nursing
Bethany Meador - Miami: Nursing
Tashauna Miles - Miami: Medical Lab Technician
Hayden Moss - Miami: Natural Sciences
Breanne Reeves - Miami: Nursing
Jenna Scali - Miami: Agriculture
Matthew Scott - Miami: Construction Management
Trenton Seigel - Miami: Equine & Ranch Management
Libby Thomasson - Miami: General Studies
Thales Vilar - Miami: Computer Science
Kedra Wade - Miami: General Studies
Clarissa Walters - Miami: General Studies
Chloe Walters - Miami: General Studies
Cheyenne Watson - Miami: Business Administration & Technology
Emma Westphal - Miami: Business Administration
Tea Woods - Miami: Nursing
Cooper Duncan - Oklahoma City: Business Administration
Ashton Been - Okmulgee: Agriculture
Jordan Blom - Owasso: Business Administration
Shaun Keith - Owasso: Medical Lab Technician
Mikayla South - Owasso: Pre-Veterinary Medicine
Tearah Arnold - Quapaw: Nursing
Breauna Garrett - Quapaw: Nursing
Katelyn Hart - Quapaw: Early Childhood Education & Development
Tea Woods - Quapaw: Nursing
Caden Tinsley - Ramona: Construction Management
Lily White - Salina: Early Childhood Education & Development
Justin Richards - Sallisaw: Natural Sciences
Harrison Diamond - Shawnee: Business Administration
Elijah Gott - Skiatook: Natural Resource Management
Jared Nicholson - Skiatook: Agriculture
Nicolas Rutledge - Skiatook: Pre-Engineering
Brooklyn Downs - Spavinaw: Agriculture
Kristian Wilcoxon - Stillwater: Nursing
Trey Kiser - Sulphur: General Studies
Kassandra Vineyard - Sulphur: Medical Lab Technician
Daniel Merrill - Tulsa: Business Administration
Payton Smith - Tulsa: Criminal Justice
Lavarious Taylor - Tulsa: Construction Management
Andrew Allen - Vinita: Art
Johnathon Good - Vinita: Nursing
Alayka Hayes - Vinita: Pre-Veterinary Medicine
Melissa Hirschman - Vinita: Nursing
Alex Miers - Vinita: Business Administration
Jamal Morris - Vinita: General Studies
Keeton Ornder - Vinita: Equine & Ranch Management
Benton Phillips - Vinita: Criminal Justice
Kristin Rider - Vinita: Early Childhood Education & Development
Jewel Bibelheimer - Wagoner: Agriculture
Tristen Chapman - Welch: Nursing
Mace Dawes - Welch: Social Sciences
Hailey Haskell - Welch: Business Administration
Samantha Kons - Welch: Psychology/Sociology
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Deborah Satterwhite - Welch: Nursing
Makinsey Sears - Welch: Business Administration
Alexandria Baker - Westville: Pre-Veterinary Medicine
Makayla Baker - Westville: Pre-Veterinary Medicine
Emily Browning - Wyandotte: General Studies
Dustin Dees - Wyandotte: General Studies
April McCorkell - Wyandotte: Nursing
Roy Stovall - Wyandotte: Agriculture
Oregon
Paige Millard - White City: General Studies
South Dakota
Carter Calmus - Canova: Agriculture
Kaleb Lunstra - Lennox: Agriculture
Texas
Yealex Lopez - Lewisville: Business Administration
In 2018, the Saint Francis Health System donated a branch building to the NEO Development Foundation. Just before the new year, the Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma agreed to purchase the building for $375,000.

“We have a special partnership with NEO and this was another way to show our support, while also acquiring an asset for the tribe,” said Peoria Tribal Chief Craig Harper. “The Peoria Tribe supports $1.7 million in scholarships each year, so we know how important the work of the NEO Foundation is in supporting students.”

NEO is nationally recognized by “Diverse: Issues in Higher Education” as a top degree producer for Native American students and serves the northeast Oklahoma area that is home to nine Native tribes and nations.

The purchase was made possible through the generous donation of a branch medical building near the Peoria Housing Authority.

“Saint Francis Health System is committed to investing in the communities we serve through the support of health and wellness activities, education, and programs that seek to elevate the quality of life in our region,” said Lauren Landwerlin, executive director of Corporate Communication for Saint Francis Health System. “We are pleased that this donation has benefited both NEO and the Peoria Tribe. Great things can happen when we’re all working toward the same goal—a better future for Oklahoma and all those who call it home.”

“We were so grateful for the donation from Saint Francis and the Peoria Tribe for purchasing the building,” said David Thomas, NEO Foundation Chair. “It’s a win for everyone involved and we are ready to put these funds to work in supporting our students.”

The NEO Development Foundation distributes nearly $150,000 each year in student scholarships and operates a total fund of nearly $8 million. For more information or to give to the NEO Foundation, visit NEO.edu/foundation or contact Jennifer Walker at 918-540-6250.

NEO Foundation Receives $375,000 through Donation and Sale of Medical Building
Mikey Mascarenas took first and was one of nine Northeastern A&M wrestlers who placed in the Roger Denker Open on Sunday, Jan. 19. Mascarenas logged an 8-2 decision over John Feeney of Central Missouri in the open 133-pound final.

He got a 9-3 decision against Marcus Castillo of Arkansas-Little Rock in the first round then rolled to a 12-4 decision over teammate Luke Montgomery in the semifinals.

Michael Kumlien, Jayden Smith and Colben Dodson all placed second.

Kumlien suffered a 10-4 loss to Connor Dalton of Central Missouri in the 141-pound final.

Sean Harmon of Missouri notched a 15-3 major decision against Smith in the 174 title match.

Dodson lost 10-5 to Zach Elam of Mizzou at 197.

Jon Trowbridge and Seth Seago were third at 157 and 285, respectively.

Luke Montgomery was fourth at 133, Jeffri Juanes fifth at 125 and Tanner Gregory and Vincent Cherry placed sixth, Gregory at 133 and Cherry at 157.

Norsemen who competed but didn’t place were Shawn Tillman and Austin Johnson, 149; Tyson Smith, 157; Scott Radke and Nolan Saale, 165; Dayton Fields, 174; Joshua Molinar, 184; Seth Sarasua, 197, and John Simpson, 285.

NEO Food Pantry Receives Donation Through Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation

NEO recently received $1,000 to support the NEO Food Pantry. Each year the Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation supports food pantries across the nation. Since its inception in 1999, the Stop Hunger Foundation has granted more than $29 million to help end childhood hunger.

“We have paired with community programs in the past, but this year we decided to stay close to home,” said JaVonne VanCuren, NEO Sodexo Marketing Coordinator.

“Since the inception of the NEO Food Pantry, the outpouring of support has been incredible,” said Ryan Orcutt, Center for Academic Success and Advising Coordinator and food pantry administrator. “We are extremely appreciative of Sodexo’s donation and it will allow us to expand our resources and support even more students and their families.”

For more information about the NEO Food Pantry, contact Orcutt at ryan.orcutt@neo.edu or to learn more about the Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation, contact VanCuren at JaVonne.VanCuren@sodexo.com.
NEO Alumnus Headed to the Super Bowl in His Rookie Season

NEO alumnus Darwin Thompson is headed to the Super Bowl after the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the Tennessee Titans 35-17 in the AFC Championship Game on January 19. Thompson, who was drafted by the Chiefs in the sixth round of the 2019 NFL Draft, had one carry for seven yards during the matchup. With Chiefs running back LeSean McCoy inactive for much of the postseason, Thompson has seen significantly more playing time behind running back Damien Williams.

Thompson has had a few standout moments during his rookie season; picking up a rushing touchdown against the Oakland Raiders and making a clutch Special Teams fumble recovery in the Divisional Round of the Playoffs against the Houston Texans. Thompson will now join reigning NFL MVP Quarterback Patrick Mahomes and First-Team All-Conference, and Southwest Junior College Football Conference Offensive MVP honors. After transferring to Utah State University for one season, Thompson again rushed for over 1,000 yards and had 23 receptions, with one going for 88 yards.

In his first year with the Chiefs, Thompson made twelve appearances, picking up 128 yards rushing on 37 attempts and a touchdown. He also caught ninety percent of his passes and totaled 43 receiving yards, with a 19 yard reception.

In addition to Thompson, NEO Alumni and Green Bay Packers Tight End Jace Sternberger played in the NFC Championship Game against the 49ers, picking up his first NFL touchdown after spending much of the season out on injury.

The Super Bowl game will be held on February 2 at 5:30 p.m. CST on FOX.

For more information on the Golden Norse Football program, contact Lisa Severe at lsevere@neo.edu.
Horse Judging Team Named Reserve Champions at NRHA Futurity Contest

The NEO Freshman Horse Judging Teams recently earned both Reserve Champions and Third High Team of the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) Futurity Horse Judging Contest in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Under the direction of Horse Judging Coach Kevin Pool, NEO students also claimed five of the top ten spots. Leading the pack, Hannah Cain, a Pre-Vet major from Claremore, Okla, was third high individual. Shianne Votava, Lexi Coleman, Holly Silvey, and Elizabeth Hokit also finished in the top ten.

“This was the first contest of the year for the freshmen and they did an outstanding job. I look forward to seeing what they can accomplish over the next year. They have a tremendous amount of talent so I expect big things from them.”

Kevin Pool, Horse Judging Coach

Individual Results:
3rd – Hannah Cain
5th – Shianne Votava
6th – Lexi Coleman
8th – Holly Silvey
9th – Elizabeth Hokit

NEO Blue (Reserve High team) – Hannah Cain, Hannah Shasserre, Holly Silvey, Mikayla South, Lexi Coleman
NEO Gold (3rd high team) – Bailey McAlister, Jewel Bibelheimer, Elizabeth Hokit, Shianne Votava
Haynes Claims National Championship for NEO Livestock Judging

NEO Sophomore Mattie Haynes was recently named National High Individual at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), the largest all-breed, purebred livestock event in the world. Haynes’ championship breaks the 28-year drought for NEO Livestock Judging. NEO also enjoyed team success, finishing Fifth High Team Overall.

“TO say I am humbled thus far would be an understatement,” said Haynes. “God had a place for me at NEO. I found an agriculture department where I am surrounded by people that support and encourage me to pursue my aspirations as well as teammates that have become my dearest friends.”

During the competition, Haynes put together strong finishes in individual categories, including second-high overall in cattle and reasons divisions. She also claimed top-ten in hogs, which helped cement her championship.

The NEO team earned their fifth-high placement by finishing third in sheep and second in hogs. Ashley Peterson, a sophomore from Remington, Ind., also claimed eighth in sheep, seventh in cattle, and the Third High Individual Overall.

“It is a true honor to represent NEO at a contest of such prestige. We are eternally grateful for those who have encouraged and shared their talents and stock with us as we prepared for the contest,” said Head Coach Taylor Graham.

Haynes is from Jay, Okla., and majors in Agriculture Business. She is also a member of the NEO Honors Program and PTK. Upon graduation in May, she plans to attend Oklahoma State University as an Agriculture-Business major with an option in Pre-Law.

For more information about NEO Agriculture or the NEO Livestock Judging Team, contact Gentry Hutchison at gentrsh@neo.edu.
NEO recently bid farewell to two longtime employees. Lisa Lewis retired after serving as administrative assistant in the Student Affairs office for the last two decades and spending the previous decade with Fairland Public Schools. While at NEO, she offered her creative services, hand crafting many of the centerpieces for special events in the Calcagno Ballroom. With her newfound free time, she plans to spend more time with her grandchildren and plans to continue crafting.

Dr. Mark Rasor spent over a decade at NEO, most recently as the interim president and Vice President for Fiscal Affairs. During his tenure, Dr. Rasor was instrumental in the renegotiation of the Dobson Trust, which led to an increase in over $400,000 annually without depleting the trust. Dr. Rasor accepted a position as the Vice President of Administration and Finance at Rogers State University, a move that will put him closer to family.

Thank you to Lisa and Dr. Rasor for your years and dedication to NEO. We will miss you!