

Northeastern State University



**NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT

October 29, 2024

Regional University System of Oklahoma  
305 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
PO Box 407  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Board Members:

The recommendations of Northeastern State University are as follows:

**I. PERSONNEL**

The recommendations of Northeastern State University are as follows:

**A. FACULTY EARNING A DOCTORATE**

**Dr. Susmit Gulavani**, Assistant Professor of Health and Kinesiology in the College of Education has completed his Ph.D. in Sports Management from Florida State University. The degree was conferred on August 3, 2024.

**Dr. Rachel Olienyk**, Assistant Professor of Counseling in the College of Education has completed her Ph.D. in Counselor Education & Supervision from the University of the Cumberland. The degree was conferred on August 23, 2024.

**Dr. Bradlee Ross**, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education has completed his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies from Oklahoma State University. The degree was conferred August 2, 2024.

**Dr. Saroj Thapa**, Assistant Professor of Geography and Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts has completed his Ph.D. in Environmental Resources and Policy from Southern Illinois University. The degree was conferred on August 3, 2024.

## **B. FACULTY APPOINTMENTS (NON-TENURE TRACK)**

**Mr. Brandon Berryhill** has been appointed Instructor of Criminal Justice in the College of Extended Learning effective November 1, 2024. This is a full-time, regular, non-tenure track, 9-month position at an academic year salary rate of \$52,710.

Mr. Berryhill holds the following degrees: M.S., Criminal Justice, Northeastern State University; and B.A., Criminal Justice, University of Central Oklahoma.

His professional experience includes: Chief of Police, Broken Arrow Police Department – seven years; Officer, Broken Arrow Police Department – 23 years.

**Ms. Courtney Helm** has been appointed Instructor of Library Services in the NSU John Vaughn Library effective October 14, 2024. This is a full-time, regular, non-tenure track, 12-month position at a fiscal year salary rate of \$43,956. She is filling the position left vacant by Ms. Sophia Beverly Threatt. Ms. Helm was employed previously by NSU from February 2023 through May 2024.

**Dr. Johnathan Peck** has been appointed Clinical Assistant Professor /Principal Faculty of the Physician Assistant Studies Program in the Gregg Wadley College of Science and Health Professions effective September 16, 2024. This is a full-time regular, non-tenure track, 12-month position at a fiscal year salary rate of \$104,340. He is filling the position left vacant by Dr. David Dube`.

Dr. Peck holds the following degrees: D.M.S., Medical Science, Shenandoah University; M.S., Physician Assistant Studies and B.S., Biology, Northeastern State University.

His professional experience includes: Family Medicine Physician Assistant, AVV Health Centers – one year; and Physician Assistant, Medwise Urgent Care – six months.

**Ms. Christel Poston** has been appointed Instructor of Library Services in the NSU John Vaughn Library effective October 21, 2024. This is a full-time regular, non-tenure track, 12-month position at a fiscal year salary rate of \$45,312. She is filling the position left vacant by Ms. Courtney Helm.

Ms. Poston holds the following degrees: M.L.I.S., Library Information Studies, University of Oklahoma; and B.S., Elementary Education Cameron University.

Her professional experience includes: Librarian and Technology Assistant, Bartlesville Public Schools – two years; Elementary Education Teacher, Broken Arrow Public Schools – two years.

**Ms. Catherine Wilcox** has been appointed Clinical Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies in the Gregg Wadley College of Science and Health Professions effective November 1, 2024. This is a full-time regular, non-tenure track, 12-month position at a fiscal year salary rate of \$104,340.

Ms. Wilcox holds the following degrees: M.H.S., Physician Assistant, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; and B.A., Biological Science, Louisiana State University.

Her professional experience includes: Physician Assistant, Surgery Department, Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center – six years.

### **C. FACULTY APPOINTMENTS (TEMPORARY)**

**Ms. Rhonda Cambiano** has been appointed Temporary Instructor of Psychology and Counseling in the College of Education effective August 19, 2024. This is a full-time temporary, non-tenure track, 9-month position at an academic year salary rate of \$46,120. She is filling the position left vacant by Dr. Kenny Paris.

Ms. Cambiano holds the following degrees: M.Ed., Junior College Teaching Psychology and B.S., Psychology, Northeastern State University.

Her professional experience includes: Adjunct, Psychology and Counseling, Northeastern State University – 20 years.

### **D. DEATH OF A FACULTY MEMBER**

Northeastern State University regrets to inform you that **Dr. Kevin Woller**, Associate Professor of Psychology in the College of Education passed away on October 14, 2024.

### **E. RESIGNATIONS**

**Dr. YenTing Chen**, tenured Associate Professor of Health and Kinesiology in the College of Education has submitted his letter of resignation effective December 31, 2024. Dr. Chen will continue as an adjunct faculty for the Spring semester of 2025.

**Dr. Tracy Freudenthaler**, Assistant Professor of Public Health in the Gregg Wadley College of Science and Health Professions has submitted her letter of resignation effective October 2, 2024.

**Dr. Brian Jackson**, tenured Associate Professor of Accounting in the College of Business and Technology has submitted his letter of resignation effective December 31, 2024.

**II. BUDGET**

NSU requests approval *to provide a \$500 stipend to all Full-Time Eligible Employees. Funding will be provided from additional revenue due to increase in fall enrollment.*

**III. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

OAC NSU Chamber Music Series 2025.....\$3,045.00

The NSU Chamber Music Series will bring professional musicians to the Tahlequah area to provide both chamber music ND SOLO PERFORMANCES. These artists will also provide masterclasses to area music students. The Project Director is Benjamin Hay.

OAC 58th Annual Green Country Jazz Festival.....\$4,650.00

NSU's Green Country JAZZ Festival is a storied event in the development of arts and culture in Oklahoma. The festival nurtures young musicians while cultivating an understanding and appreciation for live music in the community. The Project Director is Jordan VanHemert.

OAC Sequoyah Institute's 38th Annual Performing Art Series..... \$6,555.00

NSU's Green Country Jazz Festival is a storied event in the development of arts and culture in Oklahoma. The festival nurtures young musicians while cultivating an understanding and appreciation for live music in the community. The Project Director is Dr. Robyn Pursley.

Project DREAM-Developing Rising Educators of Autism Mastery Yr 2 of 5 2024-25  
.....\$245,970.00

The purpose pf Project DREAM is to reduce the shortage of highly qualified education teachers and related personnel (speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, school social workers, and school counselors) including teachers and personnel of color serving school-age children. The Project Directors are Lisa Bisogno/Jarilyn Haney.

NASNTI – Collaborative – NSU Yr 2 of 5 2024-25.....\$465,674.00

To renovate the current student engagement space and provide more transfer student assistance in collaboration with Tulsa Community College (TCC). The Project Director is Dr. Kendra Haggard.

NASNTI – Collaborative – TCC Yr 2 of 5 2024-25.....\$334,326.00

To renovate the current student engagement space and provide more transfer student assistance in collaboration with Tulsa Community College (TCC). The Project Director is Dr. Kendra Haggard.

NASNTI - Individual Yr 2 of 5 2024-25.....\$599,866.00

Focus on increasing the capacity of the institution to better serve American Indian and lowincome students, with the primary goal of increasing their retention and graduation rates. Accomplished by strengthening infrastructure and student support services, increasing quality and efficiency, and focusing on Cherokee language and cultural preservation. The Project Director is Dr. Jim Ferrell (until new PI is chosen).

Northeastern State University

OAC See My Ability 2025.....\$2,450.00  
Teacher will provide a specialized curriculum in a Four-Day visual arts summer camp utilizing an arts integration program where participants will get to display their artwork at the end of the camp during a gallery walk-through on the NSU Broken Arrow Campus. The Project Director is Dr. Eloy Chavez.

**Total Grant and Contract Awards: \$1,662,536.00**

Respectfully submitted,



Rodney S. Hanley, Ph.D.  
President