

# AGGIELITE

FEBRUARY 2023

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**MURRAY**  
STATE COLLEGE

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At Murray State, we are standing on the shoulders of giants. Our past has led us to where we are today.

Since the beginning, Murray State College has fostered growth in our students and communities. Our student body and programs have grown to a level where the expansion of our current capacity and facilities is needed. As we complete our Facilities Master Plan, designed to lay out a 15-year vision that will equip our college with what we need to be successful, I would like to share some of our facility plans.

***“We have several renovation projects that will help accommodate the needs of Aggie Nation in the coming years.”***

In partnership with the Chickasaw Nation and the U.S. EDA, Murray State is renovating Chickasaw Hall, built in 1917, to be a boutique hotel on our Tishomingo campus. This hotel will be a living laboratory, creating 68 jobs for students and community members

At our Ardmore campus, Murray State is a project partner with the

Chickasaw Nation on a USDA Climate SMART grant that provides start-up funding for an Agriculture and Healthy Living Center. This program is designed to provide education to underserved students and local farmers about agriculture practices on a small scale. It will also educate the public about the importance of agriculture, such as the sustainable farming of crops like native pecans.

Looking to the future, our Board of Regents have settled on two top facility priorities. First, a state-of-the-art renovation of the student union at our Tishomingo campus. A delegation of our student leaders toured other student unions for ideas and gave recommendations based on the needs of our students and the community. Our new student union will have modern dining and catering capability, both large and small community meeting spaces, student activities areas, and may even host student wellness services. The idea is to create an attractive hub of the important elements in student life.

Another priority is to develop and build our Ardmore campus to reflect our dedication to the Ardmore community and provide state-of-

the-art healthcare and student support facilities. Therefore, we have begun the development phase for the Southern Oklahoma Center for Nursing and Health Education.

Murray State College's gunsmithing program was started in 1979 and provides training in custom gun-making and gun repair. The program has outgrown its current facility. A new facility is required to accommodate this unique program's growth and expansion plans.

Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce Chad Mariska recently referred to Murray State's gunsmithing program as a point of pride for the state of Oklahoma.

These are just some of the projects in our comprehensive Facilities Master Plan.

As I reflect on the rich history of Murray State, I look forward to paving the way for even greater levels of success for our students and the communities we serve. Our future is as bright as it has ever been because we are focusing on our strengths and building upon the strong foundation of our past.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Faltyn'.

**DR. TIM FALTYN**  
President  
Murray State College





# 2022-2023 MURRAY STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS

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## REGENT HIGHLIGHT



Regent Larsen is a Murray State College alum and is currently pursuing a master's degree in social work at The University of Oklahoma.

She is a lifelong resident of southern Oklahoma and a member of the Chickasaw Nation. Larsen is the former executive director of Ardmore Family Literacy, a non-profit that works with adults in need of a high school equivalent diploma.

She enjoys traveling and hiking adventures.

Larsen began her first term in 2021 appointed by Governor Stitt.

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***“Leslie is a successful entrepreneur, an accomplished leader and a loyal friend. Murray State College struck gold when they landed her as a Regent. She has a passion for southern Oklahoma and genuine care for the people who inhabit it.”***

**ADISHA CHAPMAN**

Murray State College Board of Regents Board Member





# FOUNDATION

The Murray State College Foundation has a long tradition of supporting student scholarships and providing stewardship of endowment funds given by individuals and families who love MSC and its mission.

One such endowment is the Chapman Family Endowment. Established in 2017, this endowment provides two opportunities for freshmen and sophomore students: The Fred Chapman Jr. and William C. Chapman Family Endowed Scholarships.

The families of Fred A. Chapman Jr. and William C. Chapman of Ardmore, Oklahoma, own and operate Chapman Ranches, located in the vicinity of Mannsville, Oklahoma. The family has grown pecans and raised cattle since their father, Fred A. Chapman Sr., began the farm and ranch operations in 1917. Chapman Ranch spans across Carter, Marshall and Murray Counties in Oklahoma, and into Red River and Bowie Counties in Texas.

The scholarships are available to students majoring in Agriculture, due to the generosity of the Chapman family. Recipients must be enrolled full time and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher.



**You can support this endowment by giving at [tingurl.com/mscfendowments](https://tingurl.com/mscfendowments).**

## In other news...

Murray State College partners with the MidwayUSA Foundation to support youth shooting sports programs.

MidwayUSA helps communities and organizations raise funds to support their high school, college and other youth shooting teams and activities. It also manages a variety of special-purpose endowed funds for the support and advancement of youth shooting sports.

All funds donated to the MSC Shooting Sports Team in 2023 via the MidwayUSA Foundation will be matched 1:1 by Larry & Brenda Potterfield.



**Visit the team page at [tingurl.com/mscshootingsports](https://tingurl.com/mscshootingsports).**



# ALUMNI

Happy New Year! I am excited to report that Murray State College and the MSC Foundation have made an historic investment.

The ability to communicate effectively with our biggest cheerleaders and supporters - our alumni - has been made possible through the purchase of a well-known customer-relationship management (CRM) system known as Blackbaud. This software, used by colleges and universities, corporations and nonprofits around the world, will change the way that we are able to communicate, manage contacts, receive donations, host events and more! Full alumni and donor records can now be accessed and updated at the click of a button.



Now that Blackbaud is in place, we need your updated information. We will begin publishing alumni highlights in our future Aggielite issues, including marriages, anniversaries, birthdays, passings and more.

***Tell us about yourself by submitting our form at [tinyurl.com/mscalumnisignup](https://tinyurl.com/mscalumnisignup).***

We look forward to hearing from you!

HEARD:

***“Murray State is the best kept secret in Oklahoma.”***

**DR. JOHN COCHRAN**  
1960's MSC Alum

## Give Back Promo

In November 2022, Murray State College rolled out a monthly program that allows anyone to give back with a retail purchase at the College's Murray on Main stores (*Ardmore and Tishomingo*) or the Tishomingo campus bookstore.

Our March item is a logo travel cup.

\$1 of each sale will go to the Murray State College Business program.

Each cup is \$42





# FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

## Murray State College's Amy McCain Named Dean of Online School



As we go through life, we acquire wisdom, knowledge and passion that we can pass along to others in the form of support. Support is a valuable gift someone can bestow onto another to help them keep reaching new heights. Being the one on the giving side is even more rewarding.

Amy McCain has been on the giving side for 12 years at Murray State College. With a cheerful and amiable disposition, McCain has contributed to the professional development of her students in person and online. She looks forward to her next adventure supporting online students at a higher level as the new Murray State College Dean of Online.

"Child Development moved to a 100% online program several years ago," McCain said. "It became my mission to support my students as online learners and ensure they were learning and growing regardless of how the content was delivered."

Through the online nature of the program, McCain came to discover the valuable opportunities it provided to students who were unable to attend in person. She is excited to see this opportunity being offered to others. Serving as the dean will provide McCain the chance to ensure quality instruction is being offered to those students.

"I am most excited to see us offer students the opportunity to continue their education regardless of their location or circumstances," McCain said. "We will be able to support students' growth and opportunity for career advancement. This opportunity can open doors to industry partnerships to educate potential employees and prepare students to excel in their careers."

Having a passion for the industry as well as obtaining professional development for herself, McCain uses these aspects to help students navigate their way into realizing their career goals. Her impressive educational background has equipped her with knowledge and wisdom she has and will continue to pass along to her students.

Growing up in Madill, Oklahoma, McCain graduated from Madill High School. She attended Oklahoma State University and earned her bachelor's degree in family and community relations specializing in early childhood education. Being a continuous learner, McCain obtained two master's degrees, human relations with an emphasis in counseling from the University of Oklahoma and a Masters of Applied Science in Behavioral Health from Mid-America Christian University.

"I have been an advocate for years in the early care industry and found a love for training and working alongside those in the industry," McCain said. "Education has become a passion. I have a love for learning and enjoy watching others learn and seeing that moment when the wheels start to turn. I am now an advocate for adult education and support for students of all ages."

McCain is not the only one in her household supporting students in the Murray community. Her husband, Dr. Patrick McCain, has been teaching psychology as adjunct faculty at MSC since 2011. He is also a licensed professional counselor. Both McCain and her husband reside in Madill and have five children ranging in ages 16-28. They also have three grandchildren.

McCain looks forward to the new aspects that she will learn in her new role.

***“Amy is one of the most knowledgeable online education leaders in Oklahoma. She brings with her more than 20 years of teaching experience and technical and administrative skills. Amy is the ideal mix of knowledge and skills you look for in a leader for online higher education.”***

**BECKY HENTHORN,**

Murray State College Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.

**2010**  
Child Development Program Chair and Instructor

**2012**  
Department Chair of Nursing and Child Development

**2016**  
Department Chair for Education and Behavioral Sciences

**2017**  
Quality Matters Coordinator

**2019**  
Faculty Liaison for Blackboard (Learning Management System)

**2021**  
Dean of Learning and Student Success, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Officer; Associate Professor

**2023**  
Dean of Online School



# STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Ginger Cothran Takes the Reins as Interim Vice President of Murray State College Ardmore.



Some journeys begin with one person believing in another. Something that gives momentum to take a pivotal first step in paving a pathway to achieving career hopes and aspirations. Each step along the way serves as a reminder of something paramount that aided a successful journey of realization. It might represent an event, an accomplishment, a class or a person.

With a warm smile and caring nature, Ginger Cothran has been influential to many students throughout her tenure as an educator. She has reinforced to students that they can do anything that they put their minds to and looks forward to doing so in a larger capacity as the new Interim Vice President of the Murray State Ardmore campus, where she will oversee operations.

Cothran has called Murray home since 2005. She began her tenure in higher education as a music

instructor and choir director, and eventually became the Fine Arts and Humanities Department Chair in 2012. She became the Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs in 2014, a position that served as a predecessor to her new role.

"Ginger has immense experience in developing new academic and support programs," said Becky Henthorn, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. "She has a heart for student success and will be an excellent leader for the Ardmore campus," said Becky Henthorn, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs of Murray State College.

With the needs of both students and the community in mind, Cothran has made significant contributions to program development during her tenure at Murray State College.

Cothran was responsible for developing Murray State's Applied Technology Degree program. This program grants course credit toward a college degree to students attending Southern Tech, thus allowing students to seamlessly transfer and capitalize on skills already acquired through a technology center or an occupation. She was also instrumental in starting a partnership with Michelin North America in Ardmore to develop MSC's Industrial Engineering program. This initiative led to the creation of the Michelin Tech Scholar Program, which pays for students' tuition, fees and textbooks.

She has also worked to increase the number of online programs

at Murray State College. This educational flexibility for students led MSC to create an online college, Murray Online.

While working primarily at the MSC-Tishomingo campus, Cothran is not new to the area. With seven generations having lived in the Ardmore and Gene Autry area, the educational footprints left by her family run deep in southern Oklahoma. Her mother and several other family members have served or are currently serving as teachers in the Ardmore, Dickson, Lone Grove, Marietta and Plainview school districts. Cothran also served as a music teacher for Springer Public Schools when she began her career in education. Both sets of Cothran's grandparents were business owners in Ardmore. She is married to a classmate from Dickson Schools, Brian Cothran, who is an agriculture professor and the new Dean of the School of Agriculture, Business, Occupational Technology. They have two adult children, Cody and Macy.

Cothran looks forward to continuing the strong and contagious momentum that she has always possessed into her new role. Alongside her team in Ardmore, they hope to further aid new and current students in paving successful journeys and assisting potential employers.

"I hope to discover and learn the needs of our community and students and how we can better support our industry partners," Cothran said.

Cothran says she is also committed to meeting the needs of the students by offering programs relevant to the student's future that will impact generations to come in the Ardmore area.

"It's exciting, and I look forward to developing sustainable opportunities and removing barriers to provide students with higher education in the community where I was born," Cothran said.

***“The best part of working for Murray is the opportunity to watch students succeed and change their futures for themselves and their families for the better. I’m excited to see the future growth of the Ardmore campus and help improve our community one student at a time.”***



# LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Murray State's livestock judging team started out the new year strong at the Arizona National competition.

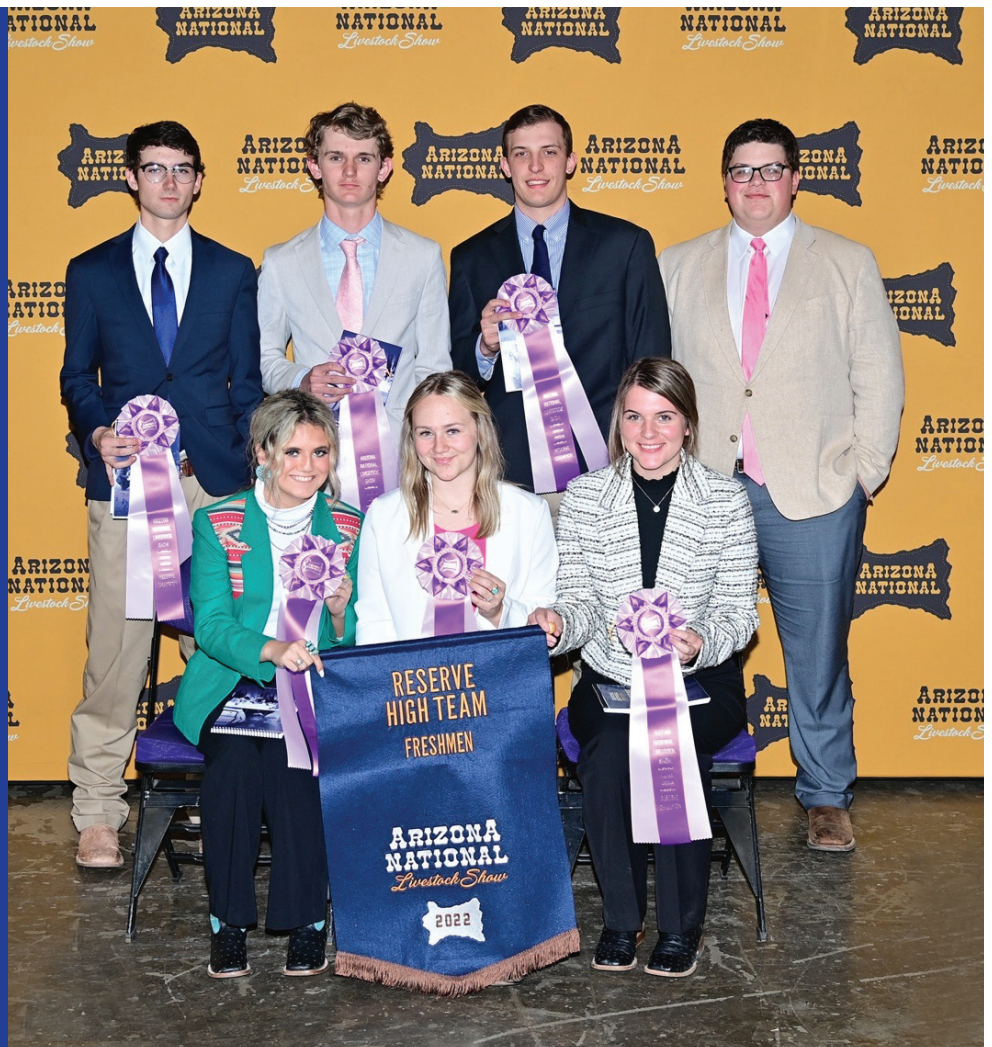
In the high individuals' placings, Carsen Lewter was 6th, Ryann Ball placed 7th and Conner Hamilton was 9th.

*The freshman  
team won the  
reserve  
high team.*

*Pictured:*

Back Row (L-R):  
**LANE BELL**  
**CONNOR HAMILTON**  
**CARSEN LEWTER**  
**NATHAN WOLFE**

Front Row (L-R):  
**OLIVIA HUEY**  
**RYANN BALL**  
**CARLI DOERGE**





# ACADEMIC TEAM

In January, Murray State College was the host site for the Community College South Central Sectional Tournament academic quiz bowl.

New to the quiz bowl, Murray's academic team went 9-1 and secured a bid to the national championship tournament. Freshman team captain Marshall Barnett was the tournament's leading scorer.

*\*The national tournament will be on February 24-25 in Chicago, Illinois. Results will be provided in the April issue.*



***At the community college level, quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for which players attend periodic practices, and then represent their school at varsity tournaments.***

Those tournaments may be based on the school's athletic conference or state, but in most cases, they are open to all schools able to make the trip.

Quiz bowl questions range across the entire spectrum of a community college curriculum, and also include a certain number of current events, sports and popular culture. The matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, since no individual player is likely to

be an expert in all subject areas. Quiz bowl can reinforce classroom lessons and encourage players to go beyond their majors to master other areas as well.

Nationwide, the most common form of competition is the so-called "Saturday tournament," in which anywhere from 4 to 24 teams from different community colleges drive to a central location (the "host") and play five to twelve matches, each of which takes about 30 minutes.







# BASEBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
27-Feb	12:00 PM	Richland College	Dallas, TX
3-Mar	6:00 PM	LSU-Eunice	Eunice, LA
4-Mar	1:00 PM	East Central Community College	Eunice, LA
5-Mar	1:00 PM	LSU-Eunice	Eunice, LA
9-Mar	1:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa	The Ranch-MSC
9-Mar	3:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa	The Ranch-MSC
11-Mar	1:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa	Tonkawa, OK
11-Mar	3:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa	Tonkawa, OK
17-Mar	1:00 PM	Southern Arkansas University Tech	The Ranch-MSC
17-Mar	3:00 PM	Southern Arkansas University Tech	The Ranch-MSC
18-Mar	1:00 PM	Southern Arkansas University Tech	The Ranch-MSC
18-Mar	3:00 PM	Southern Arkansas University Tech	The Ranch-MSC
21-Mar	1:00 PM	DFW Postgrad	The Ranch-MSC
21-Mar	3:00 PM	DFW Postgrad	The Ranch-MSC
23-Mar	1:00 PM	National Park College	Hot Springs, AR
23-Mar	3:00 PM	National Park College	Hot Springs, AR
24-Mar	1:00 PM	National Park College	Hot Springs, AR
24-Mar	3:00 PM	National Park College	Hot Springs, AR
27-Mar	1:00 PM	Rose State College	The Ranch-MSC
29-Mar	1:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Enid	Enid, OK
29-Mar	3:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Enid	Enid, OK
1-Apr	1:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Enid	The Ranch-MSC
1-Apr	3:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Enid	The Ranch-MSC
6-Apr	1:00 PM	University of Arkansas Rich Mountain	Mena, AR
6-Apr	3:00 PM	University of Arkansas Rich Mountain	Mena, AR
8-Apr	1:00 PM	University of Arkansas Rich Mountain	The Ranch-MSC
8-Apr	3:00 PM	University of Arkansas Rich Mountain	The Ranch-MSC
13-Apr	1:00 PM	South Arkansas Community College	El Dorado, AR
13-Apr	3:00 PM	South Arkansas Community College	El Dorado, AR
14-Apr	1:00 PM	South Arkansas Community College	El Dorado, AR
14-Apr	3:00 PM	South Arkansas Community College	El Dorado, AR
18-Apr	1:00 PM	Rose State College	Midwest City, OK
20-Apr	1:00 PM	Redlands Community College	El Reno, OK
20-Apr	3:00 PM	Redlands Community College	El Reno, OK
22-Apr	1:00 PM	Redlands Community College	The Ranch-MSC
22-Apr	3:00 PM	Redlands Community College	The Ranch-MSC
25-Apr	2:00 PM	Seminole State College	The Ranch-MSC
27-Apr	1:00 PM	Carl Albert State College	The Ranch-MSC
27-Apr	3:00 PM	Carl Albert State College	The Ranch-MSC
29-Apr	1:00 PM	Carl Albert State College	Poteau, OK
29-Apr	3:00 PM	Carl Albert State College	Poteau, OK

## RODEO

**3/10 - 3/12**

Fort Scott Community College  
Fort Scott, KS

**3/31 - 4/2**

Garden City Community College  
Garden City, KS

**4/13 - 4/15**

Southwestern Oklahoma State  
University  
Weatherford, OK

**4/20 - 4/22**

Fort Hays State University  
Hays, KS

**4/27 - 4/29**

Oklahoma Panhandle State University  
Goodwell, OK



# SOFTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
28-Feb	1:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Enid	Tishomingo, OK
28-Feb	3:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Enid	Tishomingo, OK
1-Mar	1:00 PM	Dallas Christian College	Dallas, TX
1-Mar	3:00 PM	Dallas Christian College	Dallas, TX
7-Mar	1:00 PM	Eastern Oklahoma State College	Wilburton, OK
7-Mar	3:00 PM	Eastern Oklahoma State College	Wilburton, OK
9-Mar	1:00 PM	Southern Arkansas University Tech	Tishomingo, OK
9-Mar	3:00 PM	Southern Arkansas University Tech	Tishomingo, OK
17-Mar	2:00 PM	Mountain Home	Mountain Home, AR
17-Mar	4:00 PM	Mountain Home	Mountain Home, AR
18-Mar	12:00 PM	North Arkansas College	Harrison, AR
18-Mar	2:00 PM	North Arkansas College	Harrison, AR
19-Mar	10:00 AM	North Arkansas College	Harrison, AR
19-Mar	12:00 PM	North Arkansas College	Harrison, AR
28-Mar	1:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Enid	Enid, OK
28-Mar	3:00 PM	Northern Oklahoma College Enid	Enid, OK
1-Apr	12:00 PM	Carl Albert State College	Poteau, OK
1-Apr	2:00 PM	Carl Albert State College	Poteau, OK
6-Apr	1:00 PM	Univeristy of Arkansas Rich Mountain	Tishomingo, OK
6-Apr	3:00 PM	Univeristy of Arkansas Rich Mountain	Tishomingo, OK
8-Apr	12:00 PM	National Park College	Tishomingo, OK
8-Apr	2:00 PM	National Park College	Tishomingo, OK
12-Apr	2:00 PM	Dallas Christian College	Tishomingo, OK
12-Apr	4:00 PM	Dallas Christian College	Tishomingo, OK
15-Apr	12:00 PM	Southern Arkansas University Tech	Camden, AR
15-Apr	2:00 PM	Southern Arkansas University Tech	Camden, AR
16-Apr	12:00 PM	National Park College	Hot Springs, AR
16-Apr	2:00 PM	National Park College	Hot Springs, AR
18-Apr	1:00 PM	Eastern Oklahoma State College	Tishomingo, OK
18-Apr	3:00 PM	Eastern Oklahoma State College	Tishomingo, OK
21-Apr	1:00 PM	Mountain Home	Tishomingo, OK
21-Apr	3:00 PM	Mountain Home	Tishomingo, OK
22-Apr	5:00 PM	South Arkansas Community College	Tishomingo, OK
22-Apr	7:00 PM	South Arkansas Community College	Tishomingo, OK
23-Apr	12:00 PM	South Arkansas Community College	Tishomingo, OK
23-Apr	2:00 PM	South Arkansas Community College	Tishomingo, OK
27-Apr	1:00 PM	Carl Albert State College	Tishomingo, OK
27-Apr	3:00 PM	Carl Albert State College	Tishomingo, OK
29-Apr	1:00 PM	Univeristy of Arkansas Rich Mountain	Mena, AR
29-Apr	3:00 PM	Univeristy of Arkansas Rich Mountain	Mena, AR





# MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

## Gunsmithing

From Here,  
Go Anywhere.

Murray State College was founded in 1908 in Tishomingo, OK as an agricultural school. In 1979, the gunsmithing program was started to provide students with training in custom gunsmithing and gun repair. The program has a long standing history of helping students develop the basic knowledge and skills needed to become professional gunsmiths.

### Gunsmithing Programs in the United States



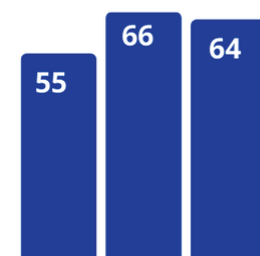
Black River Technical College - Pocahontas, AR  
Colorado School of Trades - Denver, CO  
Iowa Valley Community College - Grinnell, IA  
Lenoir Community College - Kinston, NC  
Marshalltown Community College - Marshalltown, IA  
Pennsylvania Gunsmith School - Philadelphia, PA  
Piedmont Technical College - Greenwood, SC  
Pine Technical College - Pine City, MN  
Sonoran Desert Institute - Tempe, AZ  
Yavapai College - Prescott, AZ

#### NRA Affiliated Schools

Murray State College - Tishomingo, OK  
Lassen Community College - Susanville, CA  
Montgomery Community College - Troy, NC  
Trinidad State Jr. College - Trinidad, CO



**MSC AAS  
Total Cost  
\$15,305**



2019-20 2020-21 2021-22  
MSC Student Enrollment



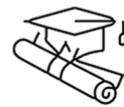
#### Associate of Applied Science in Gunsmithing Technology

Basic knowledge to perform gun repairs/maintenance and operation to customization and management.



#### Associate of Applied Science in Custom Gunmaking Technology

Create custom firearms to meet the specifications of the individual shooter.



#### New Degree Plan

#### Bachelor of Applied Technology in Gunsmithing

Unique, all-inclusive training program ensures that our graduates are second to none and more than prepared for high-paying, successful careers in all areas of the firearm industry.



#### Associate's Average Salary\*

**\$73,212**

\*Data USA

#### Bachelor's Estimated Salary\*\*

**\$92,212**

\*\*Bureau of Labor Statistics

#### Workforce Demand

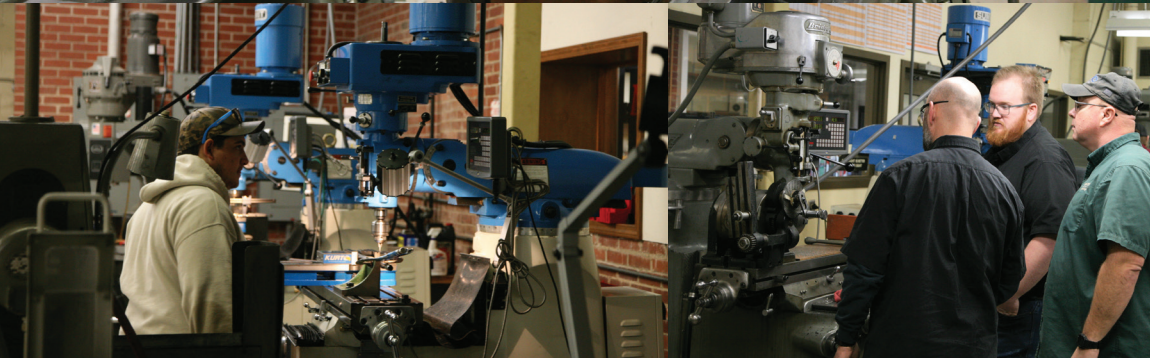
**91%**

Murray State College graduates employed in industry at graduation.





THE MURRAY  
STATE COLLEGE  
GUNSMITHING  
PROGRAM'S  
MISSION IS  
TO PREPARE  
A DIVERSE  
GUNSMITHING  
STUDENT  
POPULATION  
FOR A  
SUCCESSFUL  
AND  
PRODUCTIVE  
CAREER IN THE  
INDUSTRY.



In 1979, Murray States' program began and has evolved to meet the needs of industry over the years.

Murray's gunsmithing program is a two-year Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Gunsmithing Technology.

What sets Murray State College's program apart from others is the Associate in Custom Gunmaking degree. Once students earn their Associate in Gunsmithing Technology, they have the option to continue for one more year and apply for the custom gun-making program. This opportunity provides an in-depth look at the customization work that is often requested for shotguns and pistols. Students also learn specialized techniques in one year, that would normally take others years to master.

***“What I like best is that we actually learn the theory about why we do certain tasks, not just ‘do it,’ and move on. We get to see the overall picture of how everything comes together.”***

**CHARLES HOOD**

Gunsmithing student from San Antonio, Texas

Charles Hood came to Murray State because it has the best program options for what he wants to do.

When asked what was next for him after graduation, he could either be a vice-president of a company that his best friend started; he would be the main gunsmith and trainer. His second option is to go back to the Department of Energy where he did an internship.







Pictured:

**CAREER  
MOBILITY  
PROGRAM**

# NURSE PINNING CEREMONY

Pomp and circumstance were in full swing when 28 nursing students received their pin from a special person in their life, while other loved ones supported them from the audience.

Many hours of hard work, studying and simulation laboratory practice contributed to their successful completion of the nursing program. These 28 individuals represented students from both the Ardmore and Tishomingo campuses, either in the traditional or Career Mobility program. The pinning ceremony signified that the students had joined the sisterhood and brotherhood of nurses and are ready to serve society as a healthcare professional. Now begins their next chapter in life.

***“The spirit in which the nurse does her work makes all the difference. Invested as she should with the dignity of her profession and the cloak of love for suffering humanity, she can ennoble anything her hand may be called upon to do.”***

**- ISABEL HAMPTON ROBB, NURSING ETHICS, 1900**  
Founder of American Nurses Association.

## ACADEMIC AWARD

The Nursing academic award is presented to the student who has the highest percentile grade for all of the nursing courses combined. This is an accomplishment to be proud of.

Two academic awards were given, one for the traditional nursing program and one for the Career Mobility program.



Traditional program:  
**ALEXIS LESTER**



Career Mobility program:  
**STEPHANIE WATSON**





### JANET LORENTZ AWARD

In 1990, the Murray State College chapter of the Oklahoma Nurses Student Association established the "Janet Lorentz Award for dedication, determination and achievement in the nursing profession."

Janet Lorentz was the Murray State College Nursing Program Chair from 1982 to 1988.

This award was established in honor of Janet Lorentz and is now given in her memory. The recipient of this award, as determined by the sophomore nursing class, is the sophomore student who best demonstrates professionalism, nursing achievement and humanitarianism, and promotes a positive image of nursing.

2022 Recipient:  
**KELLY STOKES**



### NIGHTINGALE AWARD

In 2009, the online Career Mobility nursing class established the Nightingale Award for dedication and compassion to the nursing profession. Thanks to Florence Nightingale, nursing has come to be viewed as an honorable vocation. To this day, she is broadly acknowledged and revered as the pioneer of modern nursing.

2022 Recipient:  
**LISA DAVIS**



### THELMA M. BIDDLE AWARD

*Outstanding Student Leadership in Nursing*

The Trustees of Mercy Memorial Health Center, aware of the inadequate supply of professional nurses in our area, appreciate the Associate Degree program in Nursing offered by Murray State College and contributions the graduates of the program will make to enhance patient care. In commemoration of her devoted service to the nursing profession and her 17-year tenure as Director of Nursing Services at Mercy Memorial Health Center, the Trustees designated this plaque the "Thelma M. Biddler Award."

2022 Recipient:  
**HEATHER MADDOX**



*Pictured:*  
**TRADITIONAL  
PROGRAM**



# 2022 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT (OTA) PROGRAM PINNING

The nine graduating Occupational Therapy Assistant students for 2022 received their pin from a loved one in front of their peers and instructors. Some awards were also presented.

As an Occupational Therapy Assistant, these students will be part of a healthcare team working to improve the lives of people of all ages so they can “live life to the fullest.”



Valedictorian:  
**MARIAH LASHMET**



Salutatorian:  
**KYLIE BOWEN**



Outstanding Fieldwork Student:  
**TALANA BENNETT**



Outstanding Fieldwork Instructor:  
**KEIKO MUNHOLAND, OTA**



OTA Honor Society:  
**HUNTER PALESANO**



# IN THE NEWS

## "BEST COLLEGE" RANKING



Intelligent.com, a trusted resource for program rankings and higher education planning, has included Murray State College to its list of the Best Community Colleges in Oklahoma in 2023. The research identifies top schools in the state based on tuition costs, the number of credits required to graduate and the online coursework delivery format.

Murray State College was awarded Best in Southern Oklahoma on the final list. Intelligent.com implemented a unique methodology that ranks each institution on a scale from 0 to 100 across six categories. The scoring system compares each school to tuition costs, admission, retention and graduation rates, faculty, reputation and the student resources provided for online students.

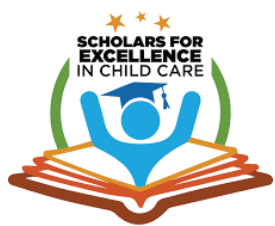
## MURRAY STATE COLLEGE RECEIVES WATER CONSERVATION AWARD



Murray State College was honored with the Heart of Conservation award from the Chickasaw Nation for its dedication to ensuring natural resource stewardship in its communities. Murray continues to be a partner in community sustainability across the Chickasaw Nation and has worked to break down community barriers for the development of enhanced water supply that will serve all citizens of Tishomingo.

## MURRAY STATE COLLEGE STUDENT FEATURED IN STATE CHANCELLOR'S EDITORIAL

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education administer the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care (SECC) program, which awards scholarships to provide eligible child care professionals the opportunity to complete coursework in childhood development and early education.



Oklahoma State Regents for  
Higher Education

This program helps individuals continue higher education after completing an initial child development credential. Murray State College graduate, Tamela Cheadle-Lewis, is one of the award recipients. She credits the SECC program as a game-changer. "I was very much appreciative of receiving this scholarship," Cheadle-Lewis said. "I was able to finish my degree after 26 years. I was able to go back to school and officially complete my degree, and be able to say "officially," I

have a degree! Not many people can say those words and without the help of this scholarship, I'm not sure that I would have. Just applying for it gave me the motivation to go on and complete my associates degree."

Murray State College Scholars of Excellence Coordinator Heather McLean works with these students who are not typically traditional college students. "I thoroughly enjoy being able to help child care providers find a way to gain an education so that they can better care for children," McLean said. "I love to see them accomplish things that they never dreamt that they could."

## MURRAY STATE COLLEGE ANNOUNCES EXPANSION TO ONLINE COLLEGE

Murray State College has announced that their new online college will be named Murray Online.

Murray State College has been offering online programs for more than 20 years. In 2013, Murray State College became a quality matter campus to ensure best practices and support online students. The same year, business was the first online degree offered. The new Dean, Amy McCain, will further provide attention to the virtual needs of the online campus that currently offers 11 programs. Several new online degrees will be launched this year.

The online college will allow students to focus on their daily lives and careers while still attending a Quality Accredited College. One of the goals is to help students earn their degree and start to work or prepare for the next level of education.

It is a great opportunity for students in rural communities. It provides a college experience for students who are seeking quality and affordable education who cannot make it to either of Murray's campuses. Murray State programs provide students easier access to distance education across state lines.

Courses are offered to meet different needs, including multiple-week intersession courses to support opportunities to learn at a convenient pace. Some online programs have embedded certificates for career advancement and potential employability or career advancement early in their degree options.

Many of the skills developed as an online learner provide the student with the soft skills that can translate into a work environment, such as being self-motivated, self-disciplined, time management and communication skills, and of course technology skills.

Murray Online will be an option to support students' growth and ability to increase their income. Online courses make earning a degree more attainable.

***"Our goal is to meet students where they are and get them where they want to be, educationally and professionally. Murray Online will connect students to educational programs that will allow them to fulfill the promise of their potential."***

**DR. TIM FALTYN**

Murray State College president



# CHRISTMAS HIGHLIGHTS

MSC was busy this holiday season making spirits bright. Here's a recap of the events and how everyone celebrated a "Murray Christmas."

## COOKIES AND HOT COCOA.

Murray's Student Government Association and Dr. Faltyn kicked off the Christmas season for students to socialize with fellow classmates and warm up with hot cocoa and cookies.



## ARDMORE AND TISHOMINGO PARADES





# CHRISTMAS HIGHLIGHTS

## VET NURSING SANTA NIGHT:

Vet Nursing hosted Santa Night at the Johnston County Fair Barn for kids 10 and under. Boys and girls across Johnston County enjoyed classic holiday favorites like cookies, hot chocolate and carols as well as getting their picture with Santa. Before heading back to the North Pole, Santa gave each kid an early Christmas present.



**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**, hosted by the Johnston County Chamber of Commerce, was held at Murray State College's Student Union. Families were able to enjoy a festive breakfast, make ornaments as well as take their picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus to remember their special day.



**MSC CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Murray State employees and their families gathered to celebrate the holidays with each other. Games, door prizes and a photo booth with funny props kept the fun going after the meal.







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***FROM HERE,  
GO ANYWHERE***