Education Education

For the membership of the Oklahoma Education Association • May 2014



Putting education first

2 678,000 reasons to rally

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in June

On the cover – 2014 Friends of Education, researchers from OU's Center for Education Policy and OSU's Center for Educational Research and Evaluation.







Photo by Katy Hawk.

Focus

Volume 31, No. 5

The Education Focus is a production of the Oklahoma Education Association's Communications Center.

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The Education Focus (ISSN 1542-1678)

is published seven times annually:
October/November, December/January,
February, March, April/May, June/July and
August/September, for \$5
by the Oklahoma Education Association, 323 E.
Madison, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.
Periodicals postage paid at Okla. City, OK, and
additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes
to The Education Focus, PO Box 18485,
Oklahoma City, OK 73154.



The OEC rally was just the beginning

By Linda Hampton OEA President

n March 31, 2014, nearly 30,000 people, speaking with a united voice, gathered at the Oklahoma State Capitol with the message that there are "678,000 Reasons to Fund Public Education." What an inspiration for those of us who value public education and respect the professionals who are dedicated to the belief that every child deserves a well-funded, great public education! "49th per child is not OK," "Education Funding = Education Growth," and "Our kids deserve better" were just a few of the hundreds of pro-education signs, which said volumes.

Teachers, support professionals, administrators, students, parents, grandparents and business people braved the cold, windy start of the day to end up sunburned at the close of the rally. They endured long, long bus lines, but their spirit and enthusiasm wasn't dampened. They cheered as speakers shared their stories, spoke of the need to take action and demanded respect for public education. They went inside the State Capitol, acting as true professionals as they met with their representatives and senators. It was democracy of the people at work. No one can doubt their sincerity and passion for Oklahoma's children.

We should celebrate our success in gathering thousands of people with the common goal of increasing funding for public education – and a 30,000 person turn out is, indeed, a success.

However, as the busses headed home, and the legislators returned to their offices, it was also a time to reflect on the fact that our rally was just a first step in our fight for public education progress. While we made a powerful point, we can't just breathe a sigh of relief and do nothing more. The enemies of public education are many and well-funded. They would like nothing more than to give us a pat on the head for a rally well done, and then go back to the business of ignoring us. We can't let that happen.

Our next focus needs to be to be on a rally of a different sort. We need to rally at the voting booth – both in June and November. A closer look at the rally signs indicates problems with issues other than school funding. There were many signs which stated displeasure and mistrust of the current Superintendent of Public Instruction. Imagine if all 30,000 of our rally attendees went to the polls to vote for a new leader in the State Department of Education. Imagine if those same voters voted for only education friendly people. We can make a difference if we all vote and take our family and friends with us.

The March rally was a beginning; the beginning of a renewed fight for public education, for our students and for our profession. It's time for us to realize the power of our numbers. It's the beginning of us finding our collective voice and saying, "While we realize the need for change, it must be meaningful change which includes significant input from education professionals."



President Linda Hampton

It will be change that isn't for sale to the highest bidder or for the purpose of making a profit for some company. Change that improves education and provides every child a great public education. It will be an education system that values and respects education employees. It won't happen overnight, but, as with every great movement, it begins with the first step, and we have taken that step.

Thank you for everything you do.

Holding candidates accountable

As many as 2,000 people are expected to attend an Accountability Session next month for the candidates running for State Superintendent. During the event, each of the candidates for state superintendent will have one minute to answer a question on an important education issue, and will then receive a grade of "yes" or "no" based on that answer.

Sponsored by VOICE Oklahoma City and its partners, the Accountability Session will take place 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, June 8, at the Henry J. Freede Wellness and Activity Center on the campus of Oklahoma City University.

OEA and VOICE have been presenting "High Stakes Testing: Is It Worth the Cost?" at community meetings around the state over the last several weeks. During those meetings, education employees and parents shared stories of how testing affects their children and what they think an "A" school looks like. Their stories will serve as the basis for questions the candidates will be asked to answer.

All seven candidates for state superintendent have been invited.

The Oklahoma Education Association, working with its local affiliates, has committed to bringing 500 people to the event. OEA members and their families wishing to attend the Accountability Session are asked to reserve their spot by completing the registration form at june8accountability.eventbrite.com. For more information, contact David Williams, OEA Associate Executive Director, at dwilliams@okea.org, 800/522-8091 or 405/528-7785.



678,000 reasons to rally

By Dawn Jones

he Oklahoma Education Coalition Rally on March 31, the largest rally at the Capitol in at least two decades, was a powerful and inspirational movement in the history of Oklahoma education. Nearly 30,000 educators, parents, students, community members and legislators joined together petitioning our elected officials to make students a priority and adequately fund their education. The message was clear – our children deserve better than 49th in the nation on what is spent on their education. As well as, our schools can no longer operate in 2014 on a 2008 budget, with 40,000 more students.

Rally goers brought three possible solutions for the funding problem. Below are updates on each of the items.

Update: HB 2642

HB 2642 passed the Senate 43-0 and was in conference committee for final amendments at press time. This is a great step forward for our schools as this bill would add \$600 million to common education funding over the next few years. Please remember the language of this bill is subject to change at any time; it is not perfect or final. However, additional funding for education, as we all know, is desperately needed! Our children deserve better and must be a priority.

Update: Franchise tax

The Franchise tax is currently being collected, but the estimated \$60 million in new revenue has not been appropriated yet. The funds could be directed toward education. We are

discussing with legislators the need for appropriating some of those funds into our classrooms.

Update: Horizontal & Deep Well Drilling Tax

There is more than \$300 million in potential state revenue from this tax. Ultimately, we want the legislature to allow the tax break to expire next year as it is set to do. The OEA is monitoring this and will contact members as action is needed to encourage appropriating these funds toward education. To find out how much ending tax break for horizontal drilling could benefit your school district in total and per pupil funding, visit: http://bit.ly/1kBJtMM. (Source: TogetherOK.org)

Background: Until the 1990s, there was a 7 percent tax on all oil and gas wells. Because horizontal drilling was experimental in the 1990s, the legislature lowered the tax on horizontal wells to 1 percent (instead of 7 percent) and set the tax break to expire in 2015. Horizontal wells will be taxed at the normal 7 percent beginning in 2015, unless the legislature extends the tax break. In the 1990's, very few wells in Oklahoma were horizontal. Now, the process is no longer experimental. In fact, 90 percent of all wells in Oklahoma are horizontally drilled. The cost of the tax break has ballooned from \$36 million in 2008 to an estimated \$252 million this year.

For more information and to view videos from the March 31 rally, visit www.okedcoalition.org.



get connected





Shares, Likes, Comments!

FACEBOOK: Oklahoma Education Association

OEA, 4/24/14: SB 573 [charter expansion] was just defeated on the House floor 26-64. Thanks for all your calls and emails- this was a hard fought bill and your input made the difference!

OEA, 4/21/14: SDE has cancelled statewide testing today due to "glitches" ... again ... same testing company as last year.

Shree Young, 4/21/14: Not surprised!! Nothing like having your child, teachers and district being graded on a system and state administration that is incompetent.

OEA, 4/11/14: Mike Strain: Embarrassing truth: I just missed two questions on the third-grade reading test, www.tulsaworld.com

OEA, 4/01/14: Please share your OKED Rally pics with us. Add pics in comments below. Thank you and can't wait to see them all! #okedrally



Tickling Tweets

TWITTER: @okea

OKEA, 4/26/14: Barresi spent more on printing reports than what many educators make a year. Note to self: full color, more official. http://mccarvillereport.com/archives/20802

Joe Dorman @Dorman2014, 4/26/14: Thank you to @okea for having me speak at yesterday's Delegate Assembly! #oklaed #oeada14

OKEA, 4/23/14: What the horizontal drilling tax break is costing your kids' school, http://okpolicy.org/cost-horizontal-drilling-tax-break-oklahoma-school-districts via @okpolicy #oklaed @ccosa @OSSBAoklahoma



Simply Said. ... With Linda!

OEA President Linda Hampton's Blog

4/03/14: Gracias. Merci. Danke. Thank You.: "Thank you - two of the most important words in our language - yet they seem too brief to express the feeling of gratitude I have to all of you who supported THE rally on March 31." via http://okea.org/oea-blog



The OKED Rally March 31, was organized and sponsored by the Oklahoma Education Coalition (OEC). For more information, connect online at:



okedcoalition.org

Why June Matters!





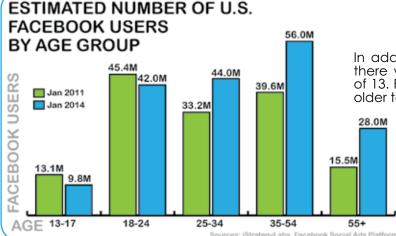
Search on Facebook: Why June Matters

of youths say bullying online is easier to get away with than bullying in person.

Source: EdTech Times

1 in 3 kids have been threatened online.





In addition to this information, EdTech Times reported there were 7.5 million Facebook users under the age of 13. Facebook requires users to be 13 years of age or older to create an account.

What social media networks are trending (most important) with U.S. teens?

Facebook: 23% Twitter: 27% Instagram: 30%

There were 7,500 teens polled with an average of 16. Source: PiperJaffray

For more information: www.statista.com

Friend of Education

OU & OSU Research Teams

OFtion,

Pictured are, clockwise from top left, Patrick Forsyth, Laura Barnes, Mwaruma Mwavita, Jam Khojasteh, Jordan Ware and Curt Adams. Not pictured, Ellen Dollarhide and Ryan Miskell. (photo provided)

OEA's highest award, the Friend of Education, is presented to the research teams that conducted an in-depth study of the state's A-F Grade System. Their findings confirmed what we all knew – the grades have no validity and the method of determining those grades does not paint a true picture of a successful public school. The study was conducted by the University of Oklahoma's Center for Education Policy - Curt Adams, Ellen Dollarhide, Patrick Forsyth, Ryan Miskell and Jordan Ware; and Oklahoma State University's Center for Educational Research and Evaluation – Laura Barnes, Jam Khojasteh and Mwaruma Mwavita.

ESP Award

Wilma Bunting

Wilma Bunting, OEA's 2014 ESP Award winner, is an outstanding paraprofessional and an association leader on the local and state level. She is assigned to a particular special needs child and is frequently asked to assist in Broadmoore Elementary's Special Education Resource classroom. She is president of the Education Support Professionals of Moore, an ESP At-Large director on the OEA Board and chair of the OEA ESP Committee.



Wilma Bunting with Broadmoore students Abbi Hays and Gavin Payne.

Collective Bargaining Award

Bartlesville EA Negotiations Team

During 2013 negotiations, the Bartlesville School Board asked teachers to add 15 minutes to the school day. The Bartlesville EA team accepted the offer if teachers were compensated and an agreement was reached. After double-checking the budget, the Board's team rescinded the item for lack of funds. The two sides continued to discuss the issue and a compromise was struck by adding five minutes to the non-teaching portion of the day. In turn, all teachers advanced one step and \$450 was added to the salary base. Both sides saw the compromise as a win for teachers and students. The success of this bargaining year can be attributed to a strong relationship that the superintendent described as constantly professional even during changes in the local association's leadership.



The Bartlesville EA Association bargaining team include (from left) BEA President Cheryl Fentress, Kelli Bryant, Chief Negotiator Granger Meador and Amy Hodges. Not pictured are team members Stacy Gerth and Terri Bryan and alternates Amy Hamilton and Gerald Thompson.



Jenks Middle School Principal Rob Miller, a former Marine and former 8th grade science teacher, has become an unlikely champion of public education through his blog, A View From the Edge.

Advocate for Academic Freedom

Rob Miller

Rob Miller has become a popular blogger, ruffling feathers all the way to the State Department of Education. His articles are thorough, humorous and full of biting social and political commentary. He regularly takes on the State Superintendent and the so-called education reforms that harm our students. An outspoken critic of the over-testing of students, his administrator's certificate was threatened after publishing an article that let parents know they could to opt out their children from high-stakes tests.

While there are plenty of controversial writers in the blogosphere, Rob is unique because he is the principal at Jenks Middle School. Check out his observations at viewfromtheedge.net.

May 2014

NFIE Award Nominee

Matthew Holtzen

Enid's Matthew Holtzen is OEA's nominee for the National Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, an award designed to recognize, reward and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession. Each state may nominate one member for the award.

A social studies teacher at Enid High School, Matt continually strives to improve on his craft, as evidenced by his National Board Certification and his active membership of several subject matter-related organizations. He serves as chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee, is a Social Studies Subject Matter Consultant and chair of the Social Studies Department.

While his students come first, Matt also makes time to be an active member on the local and state levels. He has served as Enid EA's First and Second Vice President and is president-elect. He has been a delegate to the OEA Delegate Assembly and the NEA Representative Assembly, and appeared in OEA's television commercials last fall.

Stan R. Bryant Political Action Award Oklahoma City Metro Zone B

Oklahoma City Zone B won the Stan Bryant Political Action Award, given annually to the OEA zone with the largest permember contribution to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education. OKC-B members donated nearly \$5,600 to the Fund for an average of \$5.87 per zone member.



President Linda Hampton presents the Stan Bryant Award to OKC-B Fund Chair Eric Winkle and Zone Director Renee Allen.

Teachers Teaching Teachers

Joan Gabelmann

When teachers in Lawton requested professional development that was engaging and relevant to changes in education, Joan Gabelmann was recruited to create training that met the need. She developed a unit called "Common Core, TLE, and ME," entailing two full days of interactive training to be followed up with half-day sessions throughout the year. The trainings feature a "we-all-teach-each-other" format, including round-robin learning where participants travel to the sessions with topics most relevant to their teaching responsibilities. By having a say in their own professional development, fears of Common Core and the new evaluation system were alleviated and morale improved for most participants.

The effort earned Joan OEA's Professional Excellence – Teachers Teaching Teachers award for 2014. She is an English teacher at Lawton's Eisenhower High School and a member of the Professional Educators' Association of Lawton.



Lawton's Joan Gabelmann with some of her Eisenhower High School students, from left, Talitha Simpson, Jessica Walters, Taylor Bone, Maurice Miller, Christopher Delahoy and Destiny Case.

Photos by Doug Folks.

Political Activist Award

Ruby Peters

Ruby Peters brings a passion for political activism to all of the organizations she works with. As the full-time release president for the Professional Educators' Association of Lawton (PEAL), she frequently contacts her legislators and brings them to local schools during our GLEE Week activities, giving legislators an educational experience. She is also very active in the Comanche County Democratic Party and the alumnae chapter of her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. For many years, she has

been a leader in registering voters in Comanche County, trained voter registration workers, recruited volunteers and educated countless people on the importance and civic duty of voting. Ruby is a driving force for Delta Sigma Theta's Political Awareness Committee, which conducts voter registration drives, get-out-the-vote activities, and keeps its members up-to-date on important political issues like voter ID requirements and redistricting.

Why June Matters

State Superintendent will have lasting repercussions on the quality of education for years to come. The best way to ensure that quality pro-public education candidates

are on the ballot for the general election in November is to have a strong turnout of educators and education supporters for the June 24 Primary Election. June 24 matters now more than ever.

When can I vote?

The Primary will be held June 24, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can vote early – before the primary – in person at your County Election Board from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., June 19-20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 21, or by Absentee Ballot.

I'll be out of town on the day of the Primary.

If you won't be in town for early voting or on June 24, you can vote "absentee." Any voter can request absentee ballots for a specific election, any specific number of elections or for a full calendar year.

Forms to request absentee ballots can be found at your county election board or online at www.ok.gov/elections. You may also mail a request by sending a letter to your county election board containing your name, birth date, the address at which you are registered to vote, the election or elections for which you are requesting ballots, the address to which the ballots should be mailed and your signature. Ballots will be mailed to you prior to the election.

For those wishing to vote absentee in this Primary Election, requests must be received by county election boards by 5 p.m., Wednesday, June 18, and notarized ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Is there still time to register?

The deadline to register to vote in the June 24 Primary Election is Friday, May 30. You can find voter registration forms at www.ok.gov/elections, your county election board or any post office.

What will the ballot look like?

Oklahoma is a Closed Primary state, meaning that you can only vote for candidates in the political party with which you are affiliated. No Republicans will be on the Democratic ballot and vice versa. In addition to the race for State Superintendent, you will vote for candidates from your party running for U.S. Senate and, for some, state representative and/or senator.

An official ballot will not be available until May, but here are the candidates for State Superintendent you can expect to see on your respective party's ballot:

Republican Ballot

- ☐ Janet Costello Barresi
- ☐ Joy Hofmeister
- ☐ Brian Kelly

Democrat Ballot

- ☐ John Cox
- ☐ Freda Deskin
- ☐ Jack Herron
- ☐ Ivan Holmes



2014's hottest political contest

What the State Supt. candidates say about testing

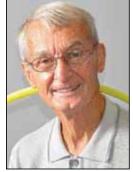


John Cox (Democrat) –

School superintendent; former Coach, middle school teacher.

I believe our public schools are doing a great job. Scores our students earn on the high stakes tests do not necessarily reflect the quality of a teacher. It is a snapshot that contains various extraneous variables which are out of the control of a teacher. We test too much and this takes time from actual instruction. We need to

empower teachers to teach again. Tests/assessments should only be used to enhance instruction. Tests should not be used to rank schools or evaluate teachers.



Ivan Holmes (Democrat) -

Substitute high school teacher, extensive higher ed experience.

We have way too many tests. One standardized test should be sufficient. We need more teaching and less testing, not more testing and less teaching. Teachers should not be evaluated based on how well their students do on a battery of exams. And, those tests aren't necessarily a very credible or reliable

indicator of how good a school is. Educators, working with parents, should be who makes the decision whether a student should move on to the next grade level or not.



Freda Deskin (Democrat) -

Charter school founder, former Elementary school teacher.

While I believe an effective teacher can make a big difference to a child, I know there are many other factors that affect the outcome of student tests. Test scores should not be the determining factor on whether a teacher or school is successful. I see and hear teachers who are overworked, discouraged and

at odds with what their training tells them they should be doing for students.



Joy Hofmeister (Republican)

 Owner of an educational service provider (Kumon), former elementary school teacher.

It is essential that we have an understanding of what our students are learning... and whether or not they are performing on grade level. However, the current educational climate has become toxic. High stakes standardized testing has replaced meaningful time

spent teaching. Oklahoma needs to make prudent decisions about which tests are actually necessary, so that teachers, students, and parents have good information in order to make the best decisions and adjust instruction to better serve our school children.



Jack Herron (Democrat)

- POE Lobbyist; former high school teacher, principal and superintendent.

TOO MANY TESTS! Oklahoma is doing fine, but needs better collaboration to design proper models. Results of tests should be used to help teachers to evaluate themselves to enable each teacher to better meet the individual needs of each student.

You can find more candidate responses to OEA survey questions on the Decision 2014 web page on okea.org. You can also find a link to the video, "Why June Matters," on the Campaign 2014 page in the Members Only section of the website, okea.org.



Janet Costello Barresi (Re-

publican) – State Superintendent, dentist, charter school founder, former speech pathologist.

Test results are a guide. They can and should be used to identify students who need more help in specific areas – and give educators tools to tailor that help specifically for each struggling student. They can also be used to identify teachers who need some assistance in

developing and presenting their lesson plans. It is disingenuous to imply that teachers are being evaluated based solely on a test score. It's a value-added component that is only one of the factors in teacher evaluations.

Republican candidate Brian Kelly, who filed for office on the last day of filing, has not responded to the OEA's request to complete a candidate survey.

Contract reminder: renewal/nonrenewal dates now fall in June

By Richard Wilkinson OEA General Counsel

ost OEA members are familiar with the continuing contract law and the requirement that a local board of education must notify a regular contract teacher that there exists a recommendation for the nonrenewal of his or her contract before a date certain or a continuing contract is binding upon the teacher and school district for the succeeding school year.

Regardless of the reason(s) for recommended nonrenewal, the notice requirements are applicable and required for probationary and career teachers.

Beginning November 1, 2009, the date for notifying a regular contract teacher of a recommendation for nonrenewal was changed from April 10 to the "first Monday in June." The time period for a teacher to submit a resignation to a local board of education was also changed from April 25 to "fifteen (15) days after the first Monday in June," in order to avoid a binding contract between the affected teacher and the school district for the ensuing school year. These are important dates and both teachers and school districts can enforce contracts that are created because of the continuing contract law.

These changes also impact the timing of due process hearings before local boards of education to consider any recommendations for non-renewal. Due process hearings before a local board of education are required to be scheduled "not sooner than twenty (20) days or later than sixty (60) days after receipt of notice by the teacher." As a result, due process hearings before local boards of education to consider recommendations for nonrenewal are now held later in the summer months than before, sometimes

making it difficult for a local school district and the affected teacher to secure alternate staff or employment depending upon the outcome of any hearing.

While the later resignation deadline may give out-of-state school districts an advantage in teacher recruitment, it will also provide a larger "window of opportunity" for teachers to consider employment opportunities with other school districts in Oklahoma. This helps avoid

If you do not submit a

resignation prior to the

board of education has

the ensuing year. 7/7/

statutory deadline, the local

the discretion to deny your

resignation and require you to

teach at the school district for

the dilemma of whether to submit a resignation from employment past the deadline in order to accept an offer of employment with another school district, which can happen only if the current board of education ap-

proves the resignation from employment.

Remember, if you do not submit a resignation prior to the statutory deadline, the local board of education has the discretion to deny any resignation submitted after the deadline and require you to teach at the school district for the ensuing year. We receive countless calls each year asking the same question about this issue — "Can they refuse to accept my resignation after the deadline



Richard Wilkinson

and force me to teach in that district the following year?" The answer is yes, and this scenario becomes more frequent each year, particularly where the positions involved are becoming harder and harder for a local school district to fill. So, pay attention to the continuing contract deadlines – they are important.

In summary, the date for "automatic renewal" of a contract is the first Monday in June and the date for "automatic

resignation" for the ensuing school year is 15 days after the first Monday in June. The purpose of the continuing contract statute is to create a fixed point in time that a local school district has to consider

employment decisions; but also create a fixed period where a teacher can consider other employment opportunities without having to invoke the discretion of a local board of education to accept such employment.

If you have further questions about the continuing contact deadlines, contact your OEA Regional Advocacy UniServ Specialist.

New board members ready to take office

Following are the results from OEA's spring elections.

NEA Director

Rhonda Harlow, Enid EA (This position will be contingent on membership numbers as of May 31, 2014.)

OEA Board of Directors

(Winning candidates take office on July 7, 2014. They will each serve as delegates to the NEA RA in 2015 and 2016.)

Zone OKC Metro B

Eric Winkle, Putnam City ACT

Zone OKC Metro D

Teri Gray, Choctaw-Nicoma Park ACT

Zone Northwest B

Anna Scott, Ponca City ACT

Zone Southeast B

Amanda Ramey, Muldrow CTA

Zone Southeast C

J. Paul Lane, McAlester ACT

Zone Southwest B

Cari Manzer, Professional Educators of Norman

Zone Tulsa Metro B

Shawna Mott-Wright, Tulsa CTA

Zone Tulsa Metro D

Linda English, Union CTA

2014 OEA Delegate Assembly

(These winners served at April's Delegate Assembly.)

Administrator Delegate-At-Large Todd Crabtree, Byng

Retired Delegate-at-Large

Shirley A. Neal Theo L. Crawley

Ethnic Minority Delegate-at-Large

(No Ethnic Minority Delegates-at-Large were seated because local delegates filled the required Ethnic Minority goal.)

2014 NEA Representative Assembly Races

NEA Retired Delegate-at-Large

Theo L. Crawley, Retired (Successor delegate only)

NEA Category I Delegate-at-Large Southwest Region

Susan Boyd, Professional Educators of Norman

Southeast Region

Nancy Kunsman, Gore TA

Tulsa Metro Region

Ginger Mendenhall, Tulsa CTA

OKC Metro Region

Katherine Bishop, Putnam City ACT

Northwest Region

Joanne Minor, Ponca City ACT

Summer Regional Leadership Trainings

June 25 – Northwest Region 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Indian Creek Winery More info: kholley@okea.org

July 17 – Northeast/Tulsa Metro Regions

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wilson Teaching and Learning Academy, Tulsa More info: ttownsend@okea.org

July 17-18 – Southeast Region
Lucy Smith Center, McAlester HS

July 17, New Leaders Day 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.,

July 18, SE Leadership Day

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More info: kholley@okea.org

July 19 – OKC Metro Region

9 a.m. Bus tour of learning sites around Oklahoma City and OEA Night with the OKC RedHawks. More info: mkoskie@okea.org

July 25 – Southwest Region

9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center, Sulphur More info: mrobison@okea.org

OU student wins **SOEA** presidency

The following Student OEA members won their respective positions during April's election. They will take office on July 7, 2014.

President – Elaina Gibson, University of Oklahoma

Vice President – Madison Morgan, Oklahoma State University

Secretary - Karolyn Thompson, Northwestern Oklahoma State University

OEA Delegate – Micah Keith, Northwestern Oklahoma State University

NEA Delegate - Erin Lucas, University of Oklahoma



OU's Elaina Gibson



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