

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2023 - 2024



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Chancellor
Allison D. Garrett
Edmond

REGENTS EDUCATION PROGRAM ANNUAL CONFERENCE



October 11, 2023
Rose State College Student Union



**Chancellor
Allison D. Garrett**

Chancellor Allison D. Garrett is the chief executive officer for the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. Garrett leads a state system comprised of 25 state colleges and universities, 11 constituent agencies, one university center, and independent colleges and universities coordinated with the state system. Chancellor Allison D. Garrett took office as chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education on Nov. 8, 2021. She is the first woman to hold the position of Chancellor.

Chancellor Garrett has a wealth of experience in both higher education and the corporate sector. Prior to her role as Chancellor, she served in senior leadership roles at universities in three states, including as president, executive vice president and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Garrett also worked for more than a decade at the Walmart Inc. corporate offices, holding the positions of vice president and general counsel for the corporate division and vice president of benefits compliance and planning. Upon graduation from law school, she went into private practice before taking a position with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

A native of Neosho, Missouri, Garrett holds a bachelor's degree in English from Oklahoma Christian University, a juris doctorate from The University of Tulsa College of Law and a Master of Laws in securities regulation from Georgetown University.



**Chairman
Jack Sherry**

Regent Jack Sherry, from Holdenville, Oklahoma, was appointed as a State Regent by Governor Kevin Stitt in May, 2020 for a nine-year term.

Regent Sherry has served on a number of local boards within his community, and across the state. He was also appointed by former Governor Mary Fallin to serve on the Oklahoma Lottery Commission.

On the local level, Regent Sherry has served on the Holdenville Public School Board of Education, the Holdenville Chamber of Commerce, Holdenville Lions Club, Oklahoma Southeast and Young Farmers of America, Hughes County Cattleman's Association, and the Hughes County Fair Board. He currently serves as an advisory director to the First National Bank in Holdenville and President of the Hughes County Farm Bureau. He was also recognized as Holdenville's 2015 Citizen of the Year.

Regent Sherry served as a Trustee to the Seminole State College Educational Foundation prior to his appointment as a State Regent.

Regent Sherry attended Oklahoma State University, Seminole State College, and obtained his bachelor's degree from Southern Nazarene University. He currently owns Jack Sherry Real Estate & Investments in Holdenville, and operates a cattle ranch in Hughes and Seminole Counties.

Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan



Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan is chancellor emeritus of the University System of Maryland. He is a nationally recognized authority on critical issues facing higher education. He served as chancellor of the University System of Maryland, president of the Ohio State University and president of the University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to his presidency, he was a member of the University of Maryland mathematics faculty for 24 years.

Dr. Kirwan is past chair of the American Council for Higher Education, the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, the American Association of Colleges & Universities, the Business Higher Education Forum and the National Research Council Board on Higher Education and Workforce. Presently, he chairs a Statewide Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, which has been asked to make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly that would enable Maryland schools to perform at the level of the world's best school systems.

Dr. Kirwan received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Kentucky and his master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, in 1962 and 1964 respectively.

ABOUT THE REP

American higher education has thrived under the unique concept of lay governance. If that tradition is to continue, qualified men and women must be selected to serve as regents, and they must also be educated to govern in situations of increased complexity and accelerating change.

A series of legislation was passed in Oklahoma during the late 1980s to improve Oklahoma higher education and increase its accountability. That activity was capped by the passage of bills in 1990 calling for a Regents' Education Program. The purpose of the program is to educate Oklahoma regents and trustees about the nature of their responsibilities and the seriousness with which they should be undertaken.

Under the laws enacted in Oklahoma (70 O.S. Supp. 1990, Sections 3228 and 3228.1), all regents and trustees appointed to Oklahoma's higher education boards after January 1, 1991, must take 15 clock hours of continuing education, two hours of which must be ethics, within the first two years of their term. Program costs are borne primarily by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and supplemented by residual grant funds from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation approved for this purpose and registration fees. The budgets of governing boards cover the travel costs of board members, and institutions cover travel costs for their staff.





Niki Batt - Niki Batt is a Deputy Attorney General and director of the Attorney General's Legal Counsel Division. Prior to working for the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General, Batt spent more than six years practicing law in all phases of insurance defense and medical malpractice defense litigation. Batt is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association. She is also admitted to the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Northern, and Western Districts of Oklahoma, the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. She holds a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University. She earned her juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

The Honorable Chuck Hall - Senator Chuck Hall was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 2018. He represents Pawnee, Noble, Logan, Payne and Kingfisher counties. Prior to the start of his community banking career, Sen. Hall served as Director of Government Relations for the Oklahoma Bankers Association. He has been with the Exchange Bank full-time for 33 years and currently serves as CEO and Chairman of the Board. Beyond his banking duties, the Senator has served the City of Perry as City Treasurer, City Councilman and two terms as Mayor of Perry. Sen. Hall has served as a director of the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank Branch Board and was a member of Leadership Oklahoma Class XIII. In 2013 he was elected Speaker of the House for the Oklahoma Congress of Mayors and was named 2018 Perry Citizen of the Year.

Dr. Jarrett Jobe - Dr. Jarrett Jobe currently serves as the Vice Chancellor for Government Relations for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. He received his doctoral degree in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma and his Bachelor's degree in Forensic Science from the University of Central Oklahoma. Over the past 20 years in Higher Education he has worked as an administrator, adjunct faculty at both OU and UCO in leadership and international relations, and an advisor to numerous leadership scholarship programs. He is also a certified SCUBA divemaster and served as an FBI Honors intern during his undergraduate program.

The Honorable Mark McBride - Representative Mark McBride, a respected businessman and community leader. He was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2012, representing District 53, which includes much of Moore, the state's seventh-largest city. He chairs the Appropriations and Budget on Education Committee and co-founded Shelter Oklahoma Schools, raising over \$2.2 million for school safety shelters. He attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University before going into farming and ranching operations that he managed for several years. He is deeply involved in mission ministry and humanitarian work. Mark is also the Founder and President of Thousand Hills Mission, a nonprofit providing agricultural and veterinary aid to developing countries.

Stephanie N. McCord - Stephanie N. McCord has served as the General Counsel for the Oklahoma Ethics Commission since November 2019. She also served as the Director of Compliance for the Commission from July 2015 to November 2019. Stephanie received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma and continued her education at Oklahoma City University School of Law, where she received her Juris Doctor. She also served as the Articles Editor for the Law Review at Oklahoma City University School of Law.

Thomas R. Schneider - Thomas Schneider joined the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General in August 2017 and is currently Deputy General Counsel. In that role he assists in the management of the office's Open Records review and production process; co-manages the Attorney General opinion process; provides guidance on employment matters; conducts the review process of qualifying board actions for anti-trust implications, and serves as counsel to the State's public bodies for opioid response. Prior to joining OAG, Schneider worked in Washington, D.C. for Representative Tom Cole and interned with Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations for the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Schneider earned his undergraduate degree political science from Oklahoma State University in 2012. A 2015 juris doctor graduate of Oklahoma City University School of Law and 2017 LL.M. graduate of The George Washington University Law School,

The Honorable Roger Thompson - The Honorable Roger Thompson represents Senate District 8, which is comprised of Okmulgee and McIntosh counties as well as portions of Okfuskee and Muskogee counties. Senator Thompson is the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and co-chair of the Joint Committee on Pandemic Relief Funding. In addition, Senator Thompson serves as co-chair of the Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency (LOFT) oversight committee. Senator Thompson graduated from the Preston Road School of Preaching in Texas, then attended Southwestern Bible College and Seminary where he received his master's and a doctorate in theology. Senator Thompson is president of the News Leader Company, Inc., which owns and publishes the Okemah News Leader

Regent Courtney Warmington - Courtney K. Warmington, from Edmond, Oklahoma, was appointed as an Oklahoma State Regent by Governor Kevin Stitt in 2021, serving a nine-year term ending in May 2030. Regent Warmington joined the law firm of Fuller Tubb Bickford Warmington & Panach, PLLC in 2016 after practicing for more than seventeen years in the Labor and Employment Practice Group at the law firm of Crowe & Dunlevy. Regent Warmington has been listed in the Top 25 Women Oklahoma Super Lawyers from 2014 to the present. She is listed in the Chambers USA Directory (2011-present) and Best Lawyers (2012-present). Regent Warmington has a Bachelor's Degree from Oklahoma State University and a Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University School of Law where she graduated magna cum laude.

SESSIONS

- 8:30 a.m.** **Registration/Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m.** **Welcome**
Regent Jack Sherry, Chair, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Chancellor Allison D. Garrett, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
- 9:15 a.m.** **Consequential Board Governance: Fundamental Duties and Board Responsibilities**
1 credit
Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan, Chancellor Emeritus, University System of Maryland, and Senior Fellow, Association of Governing Boards
- 10:15 a.m.** **Mastering Strategic Inquiry for Effective Decision-Making**
1 credit
Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan, Chancellor Emeritus, University System of Maryland, and Senior Fellow, Association of Governing Boards
- 11:00 a.m.** **Navigating Institutional Risk**
1 credit
Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan, Chancellor Emeritus, University System of Maryland, and Senior Fellow, Association of Governing Boards
- 11:45 a.m.** **Break**
- 12:00 p.m.** **Luncheon Keynote: 2024 Legislative Policy Priorities**
1 credit
Chancellor Allison D. Garrett (Moderator)
The Honorable Roger Thompson, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair
The Honorable Chuck Hall, Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chair
The Honorable Mark McBride, House A&B Education Subcommittee Chair

SESSIONS

- 1:00 p.m.** **2024 State System Legislative Agenda**
.5 credit
Chancellor Allison D. Garrett, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Dr. Jarret Jobe, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
- 1:30 p.m.** **State System Strategic Plan - Blueprint 2030**
.5 credit
Regent Courtney Warmington, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Chancellor Allison D. Garrett, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
- 2:00 p.m.** **The Ins and Outs of Oklahoma Ethics Rules**
1 credit
Stephanie McCord, General Counsel, Oklahoma Ethics Commission
- 3:00 p.m.** **Open Meetings Act and Open Records Act**
1 credit
Ms. Niki Batt, Deputy Attorney General
Thomas R. Schneider, Deputy General Counsel, Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General
- 4:00 p.m.** **Adjournment**

