

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2024 - 2025



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Morrison



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Oklahoma City



Chancellor
Allison D. Garrett
Edmond



**REGENTS EDUCATION PROGRAM
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



**October 9, 2024
PHF CONFERENCE CENTER**



Chairman
Dennis Casey

Dennis Casey, from Morrison, Oklahoma, was appointed as a State Regent by Governor Kevin Stitt on April 1, 2020, to fill an unexpired term ending in 2025. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education is the constitutional coordinating board for Oklahoma's public colleges and universities, responsible for allocating state funds, setting admission standards and administering academic policies.

Casey is a retired public school educator, coach, principal, and superintendent. He also served four terms in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives, representing District 35. Casey owns and operates a cow/calf operation and custom hay-cutting business in Morrison.

As a first-generation high school and college graduate, Casey believes strongly that education is the great liberator and that everyone should have the opportunity to receive a high-quality education. Casey earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in education from Northeastern State University.

Casey spent 30 years in public education teaching, coaching, and as an administrator. As a coach of high school athletes, his teams achieved 10 state championships and three academic state championships. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010.

Outside of work, Casey enjoys coaching and volunteering to help former players.



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.

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 antitrust 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 the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations for the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Schneider earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Oklahoma State University in 2012. He is a 2015 juris doctor graduate of Oklahoma City University School of Law and 2017 LL.M. graduate of The George Washington University Law School.



Joseph R. Thai - Joseph Thai is the Watson Centennial Chair, Presidential Professor, and former Associate Dean for Research at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, where he teaches and writes about constitutional law, the First Amendment, and the Supreme Court. Thai graduated with honors from Harvard College, where he studied English literature, and from Harvard Law School. He served as law clerk to Justices John Paul Stevens and Byron White of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge David Ebel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Prof. Thai has frequently engaged in civil rights litigation. He served on the legal team that successfully challenged Oklahoma's same-sex marriage ban a year before the Supreme Court upheld marriage equality nationwide. For over a decade, Thai taught thousands of graduates from law schools nationwide as the constitutional law lecturer for BAR-BRI, the leading bar review course in the country.



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.

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.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dr. Ellen Chaffee - Dr. Ellen Chaffee serves as a Senior Fellow with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Chaffee has had a distinguished career spanning institutional, system, policy, and national professional leadership in both public and private higher education, as well as extensive research and publication. She is the past president of two universities and two national professional associations, as well as former interim president of the AGB. She has led executive, academic affairs, student affairs, research, and equal opportunity areas. As a senior fellow and senior consultant at AGB, Chaffee's primary role is to provide a broad range of consulting services to boards, presidents and other educational leaders of AGB-member institutions, with over 120 engagements completed. Dr. Chaffee earned a PhD in Administration and Policy Analysis from Stanford University.



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. He is a fourth-generation descendant of a pioneer family, settling in Perry, Oklahoma during the Cherokee Strip Land Run in 1893 and the third generation of a banking family legacy that spans over 160 years. Prior to the start of his community banking career, Senator 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 served the City of Perry as City Treasurer, City Councilman and two terms as Mayor of Perry. He 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.



The Honorable Anthony Moore - Anthony Moore was first elected in 2020 to the State House of Representative serving House District 57. He serves as the Chairman of Higher Education and Career Tech Committee. He also serves on the committees for Appropriations & Budget, Administrative Rules, A&B Judiciary, and Judiciary Civil. Moore is also a member of the Presiding Officer Team, National Energy Council, and Southern Regional Education Board. He graduated from Oklahoma Christian University in 2004 and Oklahoma City University School of Law in 2007. Moore received the designation of Super Lawyers Rising Star for his work in Oil and Gas Law in each of the past four years. Moore is involved in many charitable and civic activities. He served as Chairman of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, is a Trustee of the Clinton Public School Foundation, an Attorney-Coach for the Clinton High School Mock Trial team, and is a member of Weatherford Rotary, Clinton Noon Lions Club and the Oklahoma Bar Foundation.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Niki Batt - Niki Batt serves as the Deputy Attorney General and the Director of the Attorney General's Legal Counsel Division in Oklahoma. In her current role, she oversees legal matters and provides guidance within the Attorney General's office. Prior to joining the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General, Batt spent over six years practicing law with a focus on insurance defense and medical malpractice defense litigation. Batt is a respected member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, reflecting her strong standing within the legal community. Additionally, her legal credentials extend to several federal courts, as she is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Northern, and Western Districts of Oklahoma, as well as the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas. Batt holds a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and a Juris Doctor (JD) from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.



Lee Anne Bruce Boone - Lee Anne Bruce Boone serves as the Executive Director for the Oklahoma Ethics Commission, starting in January 2024. She began her career in state government over 20 years ago, working to ensure the most vulnerable received valuable state services. In her most recent position as Chief Accountability Officer with the Oklahoma State Department of Health, she coordinated audits and investigations, as well as performed risk management review. She has participated in executive leadership learning programs in both Oklahoma and Tennessee, leading to the development of an executive leadership learning platform during her time in Oklahoma. Boone also has extensive experience in fiscal management and oversight of legislative affairs while working in Oklahoma and as Deputy General Counsel in Tennessee. She received her juris doctor from the University of Tennessee and received the first executive scholarship to obtain her Masters in Civic Leadership from David Lipscomb University.



The Honorable Trey Caldwell - Trey Caldwell serves as the State Representative for House District 63, representing Southwest Oklahoma. A proud fourth-generation Oklahoman, Caldwell is deeply rooted in his community, working as a farmer, rancher, and insurance agent. In addition he currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the Appropriations and Budget Committee, a critical position where he helps shape the state's financial policies and priorities. Caldwell's educational background includes graduating from Lawton MacArthur High School and earning a degree in business with a concentration in finance from Cameron University. His commitment to agriculture and leadership has earned him several prestigious awards, including being named the 2020 Oklahoma Youth Expo (OYE) Top Agriculturist Under 40 in the state. He and his family reside in southwest Comanche County, where he continues to serve his community both as a public official and a devoted Oklahoman.

SESSIONS

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome**
The Honorable Dennis Casey, Chair, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Chancellor Allison D. Garrett, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
- 9:15 a.m. A Regent's Guide to Free Speech on Campus: Policies, Practices and Pitfalls**
1 credit
Joseph R. Thai, Glenn R. Watson Centennial Chair in Law and Presidential Professor of Law, University of Oklahoma College of Law
- 10:15 a.m. Consequential Board Governance: Fundamental Duties And Responsibilities**
1 credit
Dr. Ellen Chaffee, Senior Fellow, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
- 11:15 a.m. Financial Oversight and Accountability: Best Practices for Financial Stewardship**
.5 credits
Dr. Ellen Chaffee, Senior Fellow, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
- 11:45 a.m. Strategic Leadership in Higher Education: Navigating Challenges and Opportunities**
.5 credits
Dr. Ellen Chaffee, Senior Fellow, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
- 12:15 p.m. Break**

SESSIONS

- 12:30 p.m. Luncheon Keynote: 2025 Legislative Policy Priorities**
1 credit
Chancellor Allison D. Garrett (Moderator)
The Honorable Chuck Hall, Oklahoma Senate
The Honorable Trey Caldwell, Oklahoma House of Representatives
The Honorable Anthony Moore, Oklahoma House of Representatives
- 1:30 p.m. Regents as Advocates: Communicating Higher Education's Value**
.5 credit
Chancellor Allison D. Garrett, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
- 2:00 p.m. The Ins and Outs of Oklahoma Ethics Rules**
1 credit
Lee Anne Bruce Boone, Executive Director, Oklahoma Ethics Commission
- 3:00 p.m. Open Meetings Act and Open Records Act**
1 credit
Niki Batt, Deputy Attorney General Counsel, Oklahoma Office of Attorney General
Thomas Schneider, Deputy General Counsel, Oklahoma Office of Attorney General
- 4:00 p.m. Adjournment**

