

## Western Staff Spotlight

Meet Western's new NASNTI Outreach Specialist, Lakisa Igiele.

Lakisa was born and raised in Germany and later moved to Lawton, OK, where she spent the majority of her life before recently relocating to Altus, OK. Her career has been centered around early childhood education, and she had the pleasure of working in this field for many years. Along the way, she founded two successful businesses dedicated to helping and educating people. Her passions extend beyond education to include self-development and homemaking, and she is committed to nurturing growth and fostering a love for learning in every aspect of her life and others.

Why did you choose to work at Western?

"I chose to work for Western Oklahoma State College because I am deeply committed to the transformative power of education. I firmly believe that quality education can profoundly impact an individual's life, opening doors to countless opportunities. The advantage of receiving an outstanding, affordable education that supports personal and professional aspirations is truly invaluable. Western is renowned for serving as an exceptional springboard for both educational and career paths, and I am thrilled to be part of a team that facilitates such impactful experiences."

What is your favorite aspect about Western?

"I have a deep appreciation for Western Oklahoma State College due to its evident commitment to the quality of its educational programs and its genuine dedication to student and community success. The institution consistently goes above and beyond to prepare students effectively for the



Lakisa Igiele, NASNTI Outreach Specialist

workforce, demonstrating a profound investment in their future achievements."

What advice would you give students to help them succeed?

"My advice for students to succeed is to immerse themselves fully in college life by engaging actively in the classroom and participating in clubs and activities. Research shows that having a supportive community during your college years can significantly reduce stress and help you stay focused on your goals. Don't hesitate to take the initiative by asking questions and seeking out resources—your educational experience is largely shaped by the effort and engagement you put into it."

What are you looking forward to most in your position?

"In my role as NASNTI Outreach Specialist, I am most excited about the opportunity to connect with the community and support individuals in achieving their career goals. It is both a privilege and an honor to positively impact the lives of current and future students, and I deeply value this responsibility."

Tell us about your program:

"My grant targets rural areas experiencing a shortage of nurses, with a particular focus on Native American communities. By collaborating closely with the Nursing Department, I am able to connect with both current and prospective nursing students, providing them with the resources and support needed to become compassionate and successful nurses who make a meaningful impact."

## UPCOMING AT WESTERN

Nov. 13 | Enrollment Event | 10 AM - 6 PM | Pioneer Central

Nov. 13 | Blood Drive | 9 AM - 1:30 PM | Larry Duffy Hall

Nov. 13 | Alzheimer's Awareness | 11 AM - 12 PM | PHC

Nov. 15 | WINDS Grant Aid Due

Nov. 21 | Trivia Night | 6 PM | PHC

Nov. 25-29 | Thanksgiving Break | Campus Closed

Dec. 2 | WINDS Roaming Mental Health Workshop

Dec. 4 | WINDS Pancake Breakfast | 5:30- 7 PM

Dec. 5 | Christmas Movie Night | 6 PM | Auditorium

Dec. 6 -12 | Finals Week

Dec. 10 | Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest | 12 PM

Aloha  
**SPRING SEMESTER**  
 NOVEMBER 13 | 10 A.M.-6 P.M

- Enroll for the spring semester
- Surf Bar Food Truck will be on campus
- Visit with advisors, faculty, staff, and current students
- All who enroll will receive a **FREE** t-shirt, a Surf Bar smoothie bowl, and have a chance to win gift cards and a tablet!

# Western's Trio Program Gives Back to the Community



Students participating in the drive from left to right: Isabelle Gloria, Rosie Martinez, Ramona Gloria, Adrian Rapp, Zoie Rogers, Tanzania Willis, Serinity Werdehoff

The students of Western Oklahoma State College's TRIO programs WINDS (Student Support Services) and Upward Bound had an October filled with purpose and community spirit. With a shared goal to make a difference, they organized a donation drive to gather supplies for the Altus Animal Shelter.

As the drive unfolded, donations poured in: an impressive 120 pounds of dry dog and puppy food, along with large cans of wet dog food, dog treats, toys, leashes, collars, and cozy beds. The students' efforts ensured the shelter's dogs would be well-fed, entertained, and comfortable. The cats received just as much attention, with 24 packs of wet cat food, 8 additional cans, a bag of treats, and 5 fun

toys to play with, along with a variety of cleaning items vital for the shelter's day-to-day operations, including rolls of paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags, laundry detergent, and Clorox wipes. With these essentials, the shelter could continue caring for its animals with ease and cleanliness.

The students didn't stop there. They pooled together \$80 to help cover the adoption fees, making it easier for a shelter animal to find a forever home.

Through this drive, Western's students made a real impact, not only by providing for the shelter's needs but also by embodying the spirit of community service. The Altus Animal Shelter staff expressed heartfelt gratitude for the students' generosity, and the students themselves felt a sense of accomplishment. They learned firsthand how a collaborative effort can bring warmth and hope to both people and pets in their community.



## OSU Sporting Clay Shoot



1st place team from L to R: Tanner Moles, Jaeden Saavedra, Baylee Pence, Alexander Palmer, and Tagun Fittje

The Western Shooting Team excelled at the OSU Sporting Clay Shoot in Guthrie, OK the weekend of October 26th. The Pioneers took the 1st and 2nd place team position!

The 1st Place Team—consisting of Tanner Moles, Jaeden Saavedra, Baylee Pence, Alex Palmer, and Tagun Fittje—demonstrated exceptional focus and teamwork, earning them the top team honor.



Rustin Fraser receiving HOA title

Not far behind, the 2nd Place Team—composed of Rustin Fraser, Tanner Newton, Hunter Martinez, Dillon Lopez, and Mickial Hudgens—secured their position with consistent accuracy and skill.

In addition to the team victories, Rustin Fraser captured the HOA (High Overall) title, and Dillon Lopez added to the excitement by winning the Doc Holiday aide game.

Western is proud of the continuous success of the shooting team and can not wait to continue to watch them shine this season.



2nd place team from L to R: Rustin Fraser, Tanner Newton, Hunter Martinez, Dillon Lopez, and Mickial Hudgens



# Trick or Treat with the Pioneers Debut on Halloween



Western Oklahoma State College celebrated Halloween in style by hosting the first-ever "Trick-or-Treat with the Pioneers" on campus Thursday, October 31st. Organized by Western's Staff Senate, the event combined Meet the Pioneers and Boo Bash into an unforgettable evening of free fun and games. More than 700 community members attended, enjoying carnival games hosted by students from various campus organizations and meeting members of the Pioneer athletic teams, who offered autographs and photo opportunities. The event was made possible thanks to the generous support of our Pioneer family, who donated candy and sweet treats and volunteered their time!

The Pioneer athletes, representing local communities and countries around the world, embraced the chance to interact with fans of all ages. Western looks forward to making this new tradition a favorite for the campus and community alike. With basketball season in full swing, we hope to see the community come out and support the Pioneers.



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