

Jennifer Oswald, Ed.D.

Dr. Jennifer Oswald is an academic leader with over 14 years of progressive leadership experience in higher education. As the Chair of the Division of Education at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, a role functioning as a Dean, she serves as the chief administrative officer for the division. Dr. Oswald is recognized for her ability to align academic programming with workforce demands while fostering a culture of transparency, shared governance, and student-centered success.

Executive Academic Leadership

Dr. Oswald provides leadership for an academia unit, mirroring the executive responsibilities of a Dean:

- Faculty & Personnel Management. Directly recruits, hires, supervises, and evaluates both full-time and adjunct faculty, ensuring a high standard of instructional quality and professional development.
- Fiscal Management. Strategically manages multiple division and grant budgets. She has a proven record of securing external funding, including over \$550,000 in GEER grants to support educational initiatives. Track record of working with community and donors to ensure student-centered endowment funding.
- Operational Oversight. Directs all divisional operations, including course scheduling, curriculum development, and federal compliance reporting.
- Leadership Development. Refined executive skills through a Dean of Faculty Administrative Internship, gaining Institutional-wide perspective on academic operations, and completed prestigious Institute of Emerging Leaders.

Strategic Innovation & Accreditation

An expert in continuous improvement and quality assurance, Dr. Oswald ensures Integrity through her leadership:

- Accreditation Authority. Serves as an HLC Peer Reviewer and CAEP Site Reviewer, leading the division's accreditation visits and ensuring continuous compliance with program and accreditation standards.
- Program Development. Established high-demand credentials, including a Superintendent Certificate and cross-disciplinary programs in Mental Health, to meet regional workforce needs.
- Workforce Partnerships. Developed the "Para to Degree" program in partnership with local community college, creating articulation pathways for working professionals.

Collaborative Leadership & Student Success

Dr. Oswald is a passionate advocate for a "student-first" culture and Inclusive governance:

- Shared Governance. Actively participates in Institutional-wide committees, bridging administrative and faculty perspectives to drive organizational change.
- Student-Centered Support. Founded the "Teachers' Closet" and the NWOSU Literacy Center, providing essential resources and wraparound services for students and the community.
- Enrollment & Retention Strategy. Spearheads recruitment events that drive enrollment and strengthen the Institutional brand.
- State-Level Advocacy. Serves as President-Elect of the Oklahoma Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, advocating for policy and resources at the state and national levels.

Education

- Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Reading and Literacy, Capella University
- Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Reading Specialist, Northwestern Oklahoma State University
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Early Childhood Education, Northwestern Oklahoma State University
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in History and Social Studies, Oklahoma Panhandle State University