



Draft Agenda

Oka Con'26 10 Year Anniversary

Wednesday, October 14

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Community Training, Chickasaw Business and Conference Center - ECU

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – The Oka' Exchange, Foundation Hall

6:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. – Dr. Pappas, Water Resource Policy & Management Program Presentation

A curated evening of connection, collaboration, and celebration – featuring networking, live painting, Hors d'oeuvres, and a shared vision.

- *Invite Only – RSVP by October 1*

Thursday, October 15

8:00 a.m. – Registration, Halle Brown Ford Fine Arts Center

9:00 a.m. – Opening Remarks

- *Wendell Godwin, President at East Central University*
- *Tommy Eaton, City Manager, City of Ada*

9:15 a.m. – Oka' Through the Decade

- *Video Presentation – ECU Communications*

9:30 a.m. – Title TBD

- *Governor Chris Anoatubby, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation*

10:00 a.m. – A Decade of Impact: Building Partnerships for Oklahoma's Future

- *Kristopher Patton, Executive Officer, Natural Resources Department of Commerce Chickasaw Nation*
- *Duane Smith, Executive Director of Oka' Institute*

10:20 a.m. – EPA Tribal Affairs (*Tentative Title*)

- *Usha-Maria Turner, Assistant Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency for International and Tribal Affairs*

10:40 a.m. – Conservation in Action (*Tentative Title*)

- *Jimmy Emmons, Assistant Chief for the Central Region, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

11:00 a.m. – Oklahoma Water Policy Landscape (*Tentative Title*)

- *Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee), District 58, Oklahoma House of Representatives*

11:20 a.m. – The More You Know, the Stranger it Goes: The Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer

- *Dr. Todd Halihan, Oklahoma State University*
- *Dr. Lauren Haygood, Oka' Institute*

12:00 p.m. – Networking Luncheon, Chickasaw Business Center, Foundation Hall –

- *John Hargrave, 10th Anniversary Celebration*
- *Award Presentations - Kristopher Patton & Duane Smith*

1:00 p.m. – From Policy to Progress: Supporting Sustainable Communities (*Tentative Title*)

- *Congressmen Tom Cole, Oklahoma 4th Congressional District*

1:30 p.m. – Technical Talks, Chickasaw Business Center, Foundation Hall

1. Caleb Biles (1:30 - 1:45pm) – *Seeing the Forest and the Trees: Taking the Juniper Evaluation Tool Statewide.*
2. Dr. Leah Dudley (1:45pm - 2:00pm) – Title TBD
3. Dr. Hayden Hays (2:00pm - 2:15pm) – Title TBD
4. Dr. Gilson Sanchez (2:15pm - 2:30pm) – Title TBD
5. Dr. Sabrina Beckmann (2:30pm - 2:45pm) – *Hidden Oxygen Sources in Aquifers? - Microbial Dark Oxygen Production in the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer and Solvent-Impacted Aquifers.*
6. Mr. Jose Montalva (2:45-3:00pm) *Tales from the Prairie: The Fable of the Mockingbird and the Bumblebee.*

3:30 p.m. – Poster Contest, Chickasaw Business Center, Foundation Hall

5:00 p.m. - Poster Contest Awards – *Dr. Lauren Haygood*

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Oka' Fest: 10 Year Celebration, Centennial Plaza

Celebrating 10 years with food, fun, and community at Centennial Plaza.

Cornhole, Inflatables, Food Trucks, Educational Booths

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Entertainment – The Revollusionists, Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center

Friday, October 16

Join us for a new field experience walking through best land management practices.

8:45a.m. – Meet at Halle Brown Ford Fine Arts Center

9:00a.m. – President Godwin Sendoff/Load Buses

9:30 a.m. - Arrive at Phil Reeds – Blue River Program

10:30 a.m. - Fire Plots at City of Ada Property

11:30 a.m. - Byrds Mill Spring

Dr. Halihan, Dr. Beckmann, Dr. Haygood

12:00 p.m. - Lunch

1:00 p.m. - Back To ECU