

As economic conditions in the state start to improve, enrollment growth begins to weaken. The growth experienced in 2009 and 2010 by the University has slowed. The Fall 2011 full time equivalency enrollment numbers reflect a decline in enrollment when compared to Fall 2010 of 3.1%, or 233 FTE. However, implementation of new programs designed to attract non-traditional, international, and degree completion students added to initiatives to increase retention rates are expected to increase enrollment quickly.

Like other universities in the region, the University has attempted to keep tuition rates as low as possible. There was no increase in tuition during fiscal year 2010. Tuition rates increased 4% for fiscal year 2011, and 4.7% for fiscal year 2012. The University will continue to work to keep tuition rates low, however without additional revenue from state appropriations, increases may be required to offset inflation and other expense requirements.

Despite the economic climate, the University is soundly committed to learning, leading and serving. The University continues to develop collaborative, non-traditional opportunities to provide access to higher education. Creation of the College of Extended Learning was approved for the Broken Arrow campus for implementation during the Fall 2011 semester. The College of Extended Learning provides full time working adults the opportunity to complete their degrees through accelerated, hybrid course offerings. The number of courses and programs available to students through this program is small, but is expected to grow rapidly.

Work continues to extend access to University courses beyond the reaches of northeastern Oklahoma through expansion of the University's international programs and through efforts to develop other collaborative opportunities. New agreements with international entities to locate language immersion programs on the University's campuses are in place.

The University's financial position is still strong. Conservative financial decisions which increased cash reserves in anticipation of the immediate pressures of reduced state appropriations and a slow economic recovery have provided the resources to weather the current storm. The University will continue efforts to reduce costs and increase operating revenues to protect and grow critical academic programming. Through leadership and vision, University leaders will continue to encourage the University team to internally and externally collaborate to change lives, improve communities, and empower students to be socially responsible, global citizens. The University is dedicated to meeting the challenge of change by leading.

