“We’re hoping we can at least get 10 this first semester. One of the ways the instructor that’s teaching this class is approaching it is she’s going to ask that a lot of guest speakers come in from the oil and gas industry when she addresses certain topics that are going to be covered in the course.” Brooks said.

Dr. Holly McKee, Department Chair of Business, said the Bachelor of Business Administration program at SWOSU prepares its graduates for real world situations, no matter where they’re headed after college.

“This is something our Dean, Dr. (Chad) Kinder has been after for a long time to get this kicked-off because our advisory board has spoken to the need for our students to be prepared in that. Students can actually major in this; they can get a Bachelor of Business Administration with their major being Agricultural Business. We also have a minor available that business students can take.

“So if they want to major in accounting, but then minor in Ag Business or students from Parks and Rec or Communications or any other major can come and get this minor as well. It’s just preparing them for that industry because, again, so many of our students go back to work in some kind of agricultural field.

“A lot of them come from their family farm and come to get a degree and want to go right back and work on that family farm or something to do with that, so it’s a good option for those types of students out here in Western Oklahoma,” said McKee.

Agriculture in Western Oklahoma permeates almost every facet of the economic structure in the region and most of the state of Oklahoma. Parker said the Ag Business degree will benefit just about everybody.

“Even our Management, Marketing, Finance and Accounting students, who, if they’re going up there to be a CPA or be a financial adviser, those students will have clients and customers who are related to agriculture. So this Ag Business (education) will help those students as well. And, adding those courses to our curriculum, they will be available for any of our students to take as electives,” Parker said.

It’s anticipated that the new course will begin at SWOSU this summer, but the opportunity to enroll in Ag Business is open now. Several students are already enrolled.

**BELLMON’S LEGACY!**

*By: Mark A. Stansberry,*

**Award-Winning Author Energy Advocate and Chairman of The GTD Group**

[www.nationalenergytalk.com](http://www.nationalenergytalk.com)

FACEBOOK: National Energy Talk

On October 21, 2019, I had the honor of serving as a keynote speaker at the Oklahoma Academy’s Town Hall Meeting at the WinStar Convention Center. The theme of the conference was Oklahoma Energy: Optimizing Our Resources for the Future. My topic was “The Digital Transformation: From the Whiteboard to the Boardroom.”

The Oklahoma Academy is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership organization founded by Governor Henry Bellmon to bring public attention to policy issues, provide objective, thorough research and act as a catalyst for positive change.

After his first term as governor, Bellmon knew there was a need for open, nonpartisan dialogue in the young state. He sought to create a public policy organization that was independent, nonpartisan and inclusive. The purpose of which was to provide citizens the opportunity to participate in a truly democratic process designed to shape the future of Oklahoma. To this day, The Oklahoma Academy upholds Bellmon’s vision and the organization’s long-standing reputation as the state’s premier citizen-based organization for nonpartisan public policy development.

The Academy Process identifies areas of need and problems facing Oklahoma, conducts research on identified critical issues, and develops long range goals, consensus recommendations, and agendas for action.

Through the Town Hall Conference Process, citizens are given the opportunity to honestly and openly discuss the issues, determine the solutions, and collaborate to develop public policies that they believe will achieve the greatest good. Then, the attendees are empowered to lobby their legislators and other policy makers about the proposed policies.

The Academy has covered a wide range of topics, including education, small business development and government structure.

From its inception in 1967 to its revitalization in 1985 to its adoption of the Town Hall process in 2001, The Oklahoma Academy has maintained its relevance in raising awareness and shaping public policy in Oklahoma. Thanks to Henry Bellmon for initiating The Academy. I especially thank then Governor Henry Bellmon for inspiring me and appointing me as a university regent in 1988.

One major challenge that the energy industry is facing and will be facing for several years ahead is the digital transformation. What will the digital transformation look like? With the ever-changing landscape of digital (block chain, internet of things, robotics, artificial intelligence, supply chain, etc.), decisions will have to be made, which means having enough data, research and analysis will have to be achieved.

Other topics that were addressed at the conference included a short-term energy outlook, the case for LNG, wind farming, the state of the U.S. solar industry, and many other subjects.

Thanks to Craig Knutson for summarizing my book, America Needs America’s Energy, by stating “One of the annoying things about believing in free will and individual responsibility is the difficulty of finding someone to blame your problems on. And when you do find someone, it’s remarkable how often his picture turns up on your driver’s license! Thanks, Mark, for the challenge. All Town Hall attendees should consider Mark’s suggestion for striving for energy efficiency and environmental preservation.”

Join our effort by visiting Facebook: National Energy Talk. America needs America’s energy!

**SWOSU: Oil and Gas Class Curriculum**

(continued from previous page)

Mark A. Stansberry
Author & Energy Advocate

*“The time has come for all of us, the people, to take control of our energy future here in America.”* 

Mark A. Stansberry
Author & Energy Advocate

**AMERICA**

Needs America’s **ENERGY**

**It’s time for an energy revolution!**

“Thank you for the opportunity for being here today. Let me think of something that’s worth mentioning. We’re trying to look at the future of our energy supply and transportation. How do we get from here to there? Let’s think about the different options. One of them is that we can increase our reliance on renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. Another option is to develop new technologies that can improve the efficiency of existing systems. We also need to consider the role of government in shaping these transitions. How can we ensure that we have a stable and affordable energy future for all Americans? Let’s think about these questions and work together to find solutions.”

Mark A. Stansberry
Author & Energy Advocate

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