

Story by Selena Williams

Dr. Jeanie Webb has been the president of Rose State since 2013. Webb was the vice president of Student Affairs for 12 years and was also the Dean of Northeastern State University campuses at Tulsa, Muskogee and Claremore before she took on her role as Rose State President.

Female presidents are rare, which makes having Webb as president of Rose State notable.

She is one out of seven female college presidents in Oklahoma. The other six are: Patti Neuhold-University of Central Oklahoma, Janet Cunningham-Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Cheryl Evans-Northern Oklahoma College, Leigh Goodson-Tulsa Community College, Martha Burger-Oklahoma City University, and Lana Reynolds-Seminole State College.

Webb said that her mother was her greatest mentor and inspiration.

“She was a leader in every way,” Webb said. “She never had the opportunity to go to college; she pushed me to succeed. My mother taught me to be strong.”

Webb named her husband as next in line on her mentor list.

“My husband Roger Webb, who was president at the University of Central Oklahoma, is a great inspiration to me,” she said. “He is a mentor every single day. I truly have the best of both worlds, a great mother who was a major influence and a strong husband who has been a leader for a lifetime.”

While every college Webb has worked for has been amazing and provided her with different experiences that helped her grow professionally; she said Rose State is an amazing place to work.

“I would really like Rose State students to know that I truly care about them and their success,” Webb said. “I was just like them, and my experience at a community college started me on the right path and changed my life forever. It is my sincerest hope that Rose State College starts them on the path to achieving their dreams.”

She thinks everyone is equal and each person should be looked at as an individual.

“Everyone has a story and as individuals who make up the larger, greater whole, we each provide differences which are based on our background and experiences in life,” Webb said.

In her experience, a good team is made of people with different strengths.

“Everyone has different strengths, and as a leader, you have to know when to capitalize on those strengths for the betterment of the mission,” Webb said.

Now, a glimpse into Webb’s life. A typical day starts at 5 a.m. with her morning workout—she uses the time during her workout to reflect. Her days are filled with nonstop meetings and her nights are filled with evening events such as receptions and dinners. Her desire every day is to see her family—even though most days that is not until 8 p.m.

She is incredibly competitive and enjoys a game of tennis with her daughter and a round of golf with her husband. Webb has played tennis and golf for most of her life and has no plans of stopping. She is a dog lover. She has two dogs at home: Cubby (who was purchased at the Midwest City Auction) and Tucker.

More fun facts about Webb include her music taste. Some of her favorite songs are “Hello” by Adele, “Home” by Michael Bublé and “Meant to Be” by Bebe Rexha and Florida Georgia Line. One of her favorite movies is “Marley and Me,” and she enjoys watching television shows like “Criminal Minds” and “Chicago Fire.”

Webb is dedicated to her students, faculty and staff. “The most important thing is that the faculty and staff at Rose State allow students the opportunity to better their lives,” Webb said. “We truly care about them as people and wish to support them in their goals.”

Last year’s Student Senate President Brianna Sanders said Webb is a powerful and graceful woman.

“She knows how to brighten a room with her smile and laughter,” Sanders said. “She has a keen ear for the voice of the student body. She allows us, as students, to be an important aspect to making Rose State College an influential place for everyone.”

Michelle Nutter, who has been Webb’s secretary for 15 years, said that the president loves being around the students, faculty, staff and community members, but she is also a private person. She explained that [we] all have to remember that Webb has a life with family and friends outside of Rose State.

“She gives so much of herself daily, I often wonder how she possibly has anything left for herself,” Nutter said.

She added that Webb brings such a positive energy when she walks into the room. “We all sit up and get ready because we all know that we are in for a ride,” she said.

However, Webb’s position requires her to be serious because it is demanding.

“It is a lot of responsibility to be a president, but I think she does it with grace and confidence,” Nutter said. “Dr. Webb is almost a study of contradictions when it comes to her style. She is confident but humble; she is serious but fun loving. These are just a few of her styles.”

Nutter also said that Webb has an excellent sense of humor. "There are so many times when we have to be serious, but at those moments when we can relax for half of a second, we can all share in laughter."
If she could describe Dr. Webb in three words they would be, "real, honest and kind."