



Guyton DAILY HERALD

Aggie Peers set out to make OPSU tobacco-free

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GOODWELL—Oklahoma Panhandle State University Aggie Peers teamed up with the Texas County Coalition this week, to advocate tobacco prevention, education and provide resources.

The startling fact is, on average, 16 Oklahomans die every day due to tobacco related illnesses. April 18-20, the Aggie Peers set out 16 homemade tombstones each day to represent the Oklahomans who died that day.

“I think it’s great that a college level group such as the Aggie Peers are teaming up with the Texas County Coalition to help promote tobacco prevention and the harm it brings to Texas County,” said Kayla McCarter, Texas County Tobacco Coordinator. “I believe this is a great opportunity to bring awareness to the students at OPSU.”

On Wednesday, the group was available on campus to raise awareness of their peers and provide them with tobacco educational material on tobacco use, health risks and resources to quit, including 1-800-QUITNOW. And, a major goal the group hopes to implement for OPSU’s campus in the next few years is to become completely tobacco-free. The Peers offered students and faculty a survey on tobacco use and their thoughts on possibility of a tobacco free campus.

“Educational institutions play a special role in shaping a young person’s perceptions, beliefs, values and behaviors,” said Barry Smith, president of the State Board of Health. “Tobacco-free policies discourage the onset of tobacco use while supporting the efforts of hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans trying to quit.”

Many campuses statewide have adopted the 24/7 tobacco-free policy, including Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, Tulsa and Oklahoma City campuses), University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Francis-Tuttle Technology Center in Oklahoma City, Meridian Technology Center in Stillwater and Autry Technology Center in Enid, OSU.

“I would love to see the campus adopt a Tobacco Free Policy and look forward to working with the student body again,” McCarter said. “The Aggie Peers did a phenomenal job with this event.”