Dr. Jerry Bread, retired professor emeritus from the University of Oklahoma, has been a true path finder and trail blazer for Indian Education in the state of Oklahoma as well as nationally. He has devoted his lifetime to helping our Indian people through his work and his community efforts. Throughout his career he has mentored and guided many Native American educators and tribal leaders. Many of the people he impacted have become leaders in their fields in many areas including academia, federal Indian education policy and tribal governments.

He is fully aware of the critical need for balance from the mainstream education and the continuous evolving cultures of Indian tribes. He has been able to relate and address the significant issues from an academic field and who truly believes in the sovereignty of tribal nations. Dr. Bread developed an educational leadership program for Native school administrators which provided a Masters degree to participants in order to increase the number of Native school administrators in the state of Oklahoma. One of his most effective initiatives was to hold an annual Native American studies symposium at the University of Oklahoma. One of his keynote speakers was attorney Robert Lyttle, Cheyenne & Arapaho citizen, who presented a session on tribal nations constitutions. As a result, one attendee was motivated to work with this attorney to undertake the study of tribal constitutions which resulted in change of tribal governance. A couple of staff members in tribal governments went on to work with this attorney and were able to change their constitutions which produced a more effective type of tribal government for their tribe.

Since his retirement and due to the pandemic, he has stayed connected by writing, reading, and participating in some virtual sessions regarding Kiowa tribal government/governance and politics. He continually stays in contact with his colleagues and is always willing to offer advice to his former students. Dr. Bread continues to provide insight and guidance on research, grant writing, cultural development, and education to our past and current Kiowa Tribe District 7 tribal legislators as well as serving on a local Norman committee addressing inclusiveness through community engagement and community development activities. He has been involved in many activities throughout his career and is still able to contribute to Indian Education when he can even though the pandemic and family obligations have limited his participation.