

# Degrees of Progress

News from the State Regents for Higher Education



OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

*Improving our future by degrees*

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## Invest in Higher Education Today

*Chancellor Glen D. Johnson, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education*

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education recently announced formation of a task force to consider ways to improve degree completion and increase productivity through enhanced modernization, efficiencies and innovation in higher education. The task force will examine academic models, online education, structure, fiscal services, operational efficiencies, workforce development, and information technology to ensure each facet of the system is designed to best serve Oklahoma students and meet workforce needs. The fiscal viability of each institution will be reviewed in the context of the budget cuts over the last several years. We believe this will be the most important initiative in Oklahoma higher education in the last three decades.

While task force work is underway to shape higher education tomorrow, our colleges and universities are struggling to serve students today in the wake of historic budget cuts. For FY17, cuts to public higher education exceeded \$157 million, a 16.4 percent decrease from the FY16 appropriation. With current appropriations below 2001 levels, funding for public higher education has been set back a full generation. Following these cuts, the State Higher Education Executive Officers association has ranked Oklahoma last of the 50 states in the percentage change in state support for higher education from FY16 to FY17. Oklahoma also ranks last among the 33 participating Complete College America (CCA) states in state funding support from FY12 to FY17.



*Chancellor Glen D. Johnson*

Oklahoma's future economic growth greatly depends on a well-educated workforce. By 2020, 67 percent of job vacancies in Oklahoma – or 418,000 jobs – will require an associate degree or additional postsecondary education and training, and 37 percent will require an associate degree, bachelor's degree, or higher. To bridge the skills gap, the State Regents are working with Governor Fallin through CCA and the Oklahoma Works and Launch Oklahoma initiatives to increase the number of degrees and certificates awarded in Oklahoma.

meeting Oklahoma's critical degree completion goals and produce the graduates demanded by business and industry to meet their job needs. Sufficient state support for higher education must be a top priority in the budget currently being negotiated by the Governor and Legislature.

Facing this budget challenge with reduced appropriations, our state system of higher education has continued to keep tuition affordable, and was recently recognized by U.S. News & World Report for having the sixth-lowest tuition and fees and seventh-lowest debt level at graduation in the nation. These distinctions follow recognition by both the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the National Center for Education Statistics, which rank our Oklahoma higher education system among the top five most affordable in the nation.

The state system's FY18 budget request is specifically designed to boost degree completion with adequate funding to meet academic program requirements, fund institutional scholarships and concurrent enrollment, and restore student support and advisement programs. Investment by the Legislature in higher education is vital to both the prosperity of individual Oklahomans and our state's economic future.

We must acknowledge the negative impact additional budget cuts will have on our ability to continue

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## Task Force on the Future of Oklahoma Higher Education

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education recently announced the membership of the Task Force on the Future of Higher Education. The task force, which was formed at the State Regents' March meeting, will conduct a systematic review of higher education in Oklahoma; examine existing initiatives and best practices; and report findings and recommendations on strategies that best support improving quality, access, affordability, and efficiency. Task force members include:

### State Regents

(ex-officio, non-voting members)

- State Regent John Massey
- State Regent Ron White
- State Regent Jimmy Harrel
- State Regent Jay Helm
- State Regent Ann Holloway
- State Regent Andy Lester
- State Regent Jody Parker
- State Regent Toney Stricklin
- State Regent Mike Turpen
- Chancellor Glen D. Johnson

### Citizens

- Dr. Ann Ackerman, Oklahoma City
- Phil B. Albert, Claremore
- Governor Bill Anoatubby, Ada
- Calvin J. Anthony, Stillwater
- Chief Bill John Baker, Tahlequah
- Chief Gary Batton, Durant
- Bruce T. Benbrook, Woodward
- Bill W. Burgess, Lawton
- John Carey, Durant
- Lake Carpenter, Leedey

- Michael A. Cawley, Ardmore
- Sam Combs, Tulsa
- Leonard Court, Oklahoma City
- Rick Davis, Guthrie
- Lee R. Denney, Cushing
- Jeffrey T. Dunn, Tulsa
- John Ford, Bartlesville
- Robert Gardner, Tulsa
- Steve Jordan, Ardmore
- Karen Keith, Tulsa
- Edward F. Keller, Tulsa
- Dan Little, Madill
- Bert H. Mackie, Enid
- Dr. Thomas K. McKeon, Tulsa
- Catherine O'Connor, Oklahoma City
- Fred Morgan, Oklahoma City
- Dr. Terry Mosley, Lone Wolf
- Dennis Neill, Tulsa
- Michael S. Neal, Tulsa
- Tyler Norvell, Oklahoma City
- Dr. Marion Paden, Oklahoma City
- Gary Parker, Muskogee
- Ken Parker, Norman

- Carl R. Renfro, Ponca City
- Dee Replogle, Oklahoma City
- Robert J. Ross, Oklahoma City
- Richard Ruhl, Kingfisher
- Claudia San Pedro, Oklahoma City
- Dr. Dennis Shockley, Oklahoma City
- Steven W. Taylor, McAlester
- Sean Trauschke, Oklahoma City
- Avilla Williams, Edmond
- Roy H. Williams, Oklahoma City

### Colleges/Universities

- President Don Betz, University of Central Oklahoma
- President Randy Beutler, Southwestern Oklahoma State University
- President David L. Boren, University of Oklahoma
- President Sean Burrage, Southeastern Oklahoma State University
- President Cheryl Evans, Northern Oklahoma College

- President Tim Faltyn, Oklahoma Panhandle State University
- President Leigh B. Goodson, Tulsa Community College
- President V. Burns Hargis, Oklahoma State University
- President John M. McArthur, Cameron University
- Dr. Jason Sanders, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- Dr. Kayse Shrum, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences
- President Jerry L. Steward, Oklahoma City Community College

### Designees

- Designee for Governor Mary Fallin
- Designee for Speaker Charles McCall
- Designee for Senate President Pro Tempore Mike Schulz

The task force is charged to examine every aspect of system operations, including academic models, such as program and faculty sharing and targeted degree completion initiatives; online education models; structure; fiscal services and operational efficiencies; workforce development; and information technology to ensure they are properly aligned and defined to best serve the students and state. Dr. William "Brit" Kirwan, Chancellor Emeritus of the University System of Maryland, past president of The Ohio State University and Senior Fellow with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, will serve as lead advisor to the task force.

## Oklahoma's Promise Day at the Capitol

Tuesday, April 18, students, faculty, representatives from Oklahoma colleges and universities and other supporters gathered at the Oklahoma State Capitol to celebrate 25 years of state support of the Oklahoma's Promise program and encourage elected officials to continue keeping the promise to our students.

Featured speakers during the event were Administrator Scott Pruitt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb; Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter;

Sen. Jason Smalley; Rep. Katie Henke; and former Sen. Maxine Horner, author of the original bill that created the scholarship program.

The purpose of the annual Oklahoma's Promise rally is to show appreciation for Governor Fallin and the Legislature's ongoing support of the Oklahoma's Promise program and encourage elected officials to continue to protect the program's dedicated funding source.



## Keeping Oklahoma's Promise

Chairman John Massey, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education



Chairman John Massey

The Oklahoma's Promise program – formerly known as the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program - was created by the Legislature in 1992 to encourage more students to aspire for college, prepare themselves academically in high school and ultimately, earn college degrees. Since inception, the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship has helped more than 75,000 Oklahoma students achieve the dream of a college education.

Recognized by many as the nation's best college access program, Oklahoma's Promise pays tuition at any Oklahoma public college or university until the student receives a bachelor's degree or for five years, whichever comes first. It also covers a portion of tuition at an accredited Oklahoma private institution. The scholarship does not cover the cost of fees, books, or room and board.

## Oklahoma's Promise Champions

Nine Oklahoma high schools were named "Oklahoma's Promise 2016 State Champions" by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for leading the state in the number of graduates who met the requirements to receive a scholarship through Oklahoma's Promise, a state program that allows students from families whose annual income is \$50,000 or less to earn a scholarship for college tuition.

Oklahoma's Promise continues to help thousands of students achieve the dream of a college education by encouraging them to aspire to attend college and

To be eligible for Oklahoma's Promise, students must apply during the eighth, ninth or 10th grade, and their family's annual income must not exceed \$50,000 when they apply. A student's family income also must not exceed \$100,000 at the time the student goes to college. To receive the scholarship at graduation, students must achieve a minimum 2.50 GPA in 17 core courses that prepare them for college and an overall GPA of 2.50 or better for all courses in grades nine through 12. Oklahoma's Promise graduates must also be U.S. citizens or lawfully present in the United States by the time they begin college, attend class regularly, and refrain from drug and alcohol abuse and delinquent acts.

Students completing the Oklahoma's Promise program continue to succeed academically, with high school GPAs, college-going rates and freshman college GPAs that exceed the state average and ACT scores that exceed those of comparable middle- and lower-income peers. They also demonstrate above-average full-time college enrollment, persistence rates and degree-completion rates. Additionally, Oklahoma's Promise college graduates get jobs and stay in Oklahoma at a higher rate than comparable peers.

National data show that states with more college degree-holders have higher levels of per capita income. In fact, an individual with a bachelor's degree may earn as much as \$1.1 million more in a lifetime than a person with just a high school diploma. Approximately 18,000 students are expected to receive the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship in college this year. Oklahoma's Promise is critical to the future economic prosperity of our state.

prepare themselves for academic success, and by providing them with financial assistance. High schools named Oklahoma's Promise 2016 State Champions are:

- Class B, Kinta, Red Oak and Timberlake with eight Oklahoma's Promise graduates each.
- Class A, Hollis with 11 Oklahoma's Promise graduates.
- Class 2A, Preston with 24 Oklahoma's Promise graduates.
- Class 3A, Dove Science Academy (Oklahoma City) with 28 Oklahoma's Promise graduates. This is Dove Science Academy's fifth consecutive year as an Oklahoma's Promise state champion.

By law, Oklahoma's Promise has a dedicated funding source to ensure that the program is fully funded each year. In the past 25 years – even during severe state funding shortfalls - every earned Oklahoma's Promise scholarship has been fully paid. No Oklahoma's Promise student has ever been denied the scholarship they've earned due to lack of funding.

As celebrated during the 25th anniversary rally at Oklahoma's Promise Day at the State Capitol on April 18, Oklahoma's Promise college graduates are now honoring the state's investment as engineers, teachers, legislators, nurses, information technology specialists, law enforcement officers, and countless other valuable professionals. Oklahoma's Promise has a positive impact on our workforce and economy that will continue for generations. We must continue keeping the promise.

## Social Media Spotlight



"Like" us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/okpromise](https://facebook.com/okpromise)

- Class 4A, Santa Fe South (Oklahoma City) with 68 Oklahoma's Promise graduates. Santa Fe South has been the Class 4A champion for eight consecutive years.
- Class 5A, Southeast (Oklahoma City) with 78 Oklahoma's Promise graduates. This is Southeast's fourth consecutive year as the Class 5A champion
- Class 6A, Union (Tulsa) with 129 Oklahoma's Promise graduates. Union has been the Class 6A champion for five consecutive years.





## OCAP Partnership With Student Connections

The Oklahoma College Assistance Program (OCAP) recognizes the impact default prevention has on the mutual success of institutions and borrowers. Helping schools excel in this area is what led Mary Heid, OCAP's executive director, to work with Student Connections, an affiliate of USA Funds. Student Connections is a nonprofit focused on enhancing student success in college and career. Under Heid's leadership, OCAP forged an arrangement with Student Connections to provide default rate management support to 26 Oklahoma campuses with cohort default rates (CDRs) above 10 percent. The agreement provides the schools with the ability to offer comprehensive grace period and default prevention counseling to their borrowers.

Since OCAP began working with Student Connections, it has seen marked improvements in beneficiary school CDRs, including the decline in Oklahoma's CDR rate at a greater pace than the national rate.

Student Connections' grace counseling informs borrowers of all options, which may include a return to school. In all cases, the objective is to determine the course of action that is best for the borrower's individual circumstances. Since the OCAP partnership with Student Connections began, students who underwent grace counseling were more than 40 percent less likely to enter delinquency on their student loans.

Whether it's measured in reduced default and delinquency rates or in the hundreds of millions of cured federal loan dollars, it's clear the OCAP-Student Connections partnership has helped preserve the value proposition of higher education in Oklahoma. As Heid says, "I think this investment in our students and institutions is rather unique, and we are very pleased that we've been able to do that with an industry partner who shares our vision of student success."

Read more about the Student Connections-OCAP partnership at [StudentConnections.org](http://StudentConnections.org).

## 2017 Regents Business Partnership Excellence Awards

Twenty-eight business and higher education partnerships throughout the state were recognized recently as innovative collaborations that further the education of Oklahoma's workforce. The luncheon was held on the University of Central Oklahoma campus. Speaking at the presentation were Chancellor Glen D. Johnson and Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, who highlighted the importance of higher education in the state's economic development and ultimate prosperity.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic Development Grants.

Institutions involved in these partnerships provide \$500 for tuition waivers to employees of the partnering

businesses; internships that enable current students to work at the partnering businesses; faculty externships with the partnering businesses; and/or enhancement of the partnerships with additional equipment, materials or supplies. The State Regents provide a \$500 match to the waivers. To date, the State Regents have awarded \$143,500 to 287 businesses and education partnerships, which has been matched by partnering colleges and universities.

### 2017 Partnerships

- Cameron University and Southwestern Medical Center
- Carl Albert State College and Central National Bank
- Connors State College and the Health and Wellness Center
- East Central University and the Stonecipher Family
- Eastern Oklahoma State College and Texas Instruments Inc.
- Langston University and ONE Gas
- Murray State College and the Johnston County Chamber of Commerce
- Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and the NEOAMC Foundation
- Northeastern State University and the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation
- Northern Oklahoma College and Evans and Associates Enterprises, Inc.
- Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Iofina PLC
- Oklahoma City Community College and the Chickasaw Nation
- Oklahoma Panhandle State University and Texas County Commissioner Jack Strain
- Oklahoma State University and Central Electric Cooperative
- Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology and Mabrey Bank
- Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City and Bank of America
- Redlands Community College and Savannah Station Therapeutic Riding Program
- Rogers State University and the Cherokee Nation
- Rose State College and Tinker Federal Credit Union
- Seminole State College and the Chickasaw Nation
- Southeastern Oklahoma State University and Envoy
- Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the Thomas Economic Development Authority
- Tulsa Community College and Christiansen Aviation
- University Center of Southern Oklahoma and the City of Ardmore
- University of Central Oklahoma and Chartwells Higher Education Dining Services
- University of Oklahoma and The Harris Foundation
- University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and the Chickasha Economic Development Council
- Western Oklahoma State College and Southwest Technology Center's Biomedical Science Program

## OKcollegestart.org Workshops

OKcollegestart.org, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's student portal for college planning, hosted three training workshops this spring to instruct educators on ways to use the student portal and electronic transcript exchange system. High school counselors, whether new or experienced, were encouraged to attend. These workshops were held on the campuses of Northeastern State University (Tahlequah), Southwestern Oklahoma State University (Weatherford) and Seminole State College (Seminole). Site features explored included:

- Middle school component
- User friendly navigation
- Dynamic student planner

- Career choice assessments and exploration tools
  - College planning tools for students and parents
  - Personalized, robust student portfolio
- "Counselors work hard to ensure their students are college and career ready," said Chelsea Hunt, Student Portal Coordinator for OKcollegestart.org. "The OKcollegestart Workshops provide valuable resources that empower educators to instruct students on career, high school, college and financial aid planning."

OKcollegestart.org provides free resources to help students and parents plan, apply and pay for education and training beyond high school. All user registrations come with a free email address that can be used to communicate with counselors and colleges.

The dynamic Professional Center, a new website for Oklahoma schools to use in conjunction with OKcollegestart.org, allows counselors to send transcripts from high school to high school and from high school to college, follow student activities on OKcollegestart.org and customize academic plans for individual students.

### Quick Fact

U.S. News & World Report ranked Oklahoma sixth-lowest in tuition and fees and seventh-lowest in debt level at graduation in the nation.

## Research Day at the Capitol: Spotlighting the State's Top Undergraduate Researchers

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Research Day at the Capitol was held March 27-28, 2017. Research Day at the Capitol, an annual event sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (OK EPSCoR) and the National Science Foundation, is a showcase of the outstanding research conducted by undergraduate students enrolled at Oklahoma's colleges and universities. This year, participants included 25 students representing 19 colleges and universities, who were nominated by the state's university presidents.

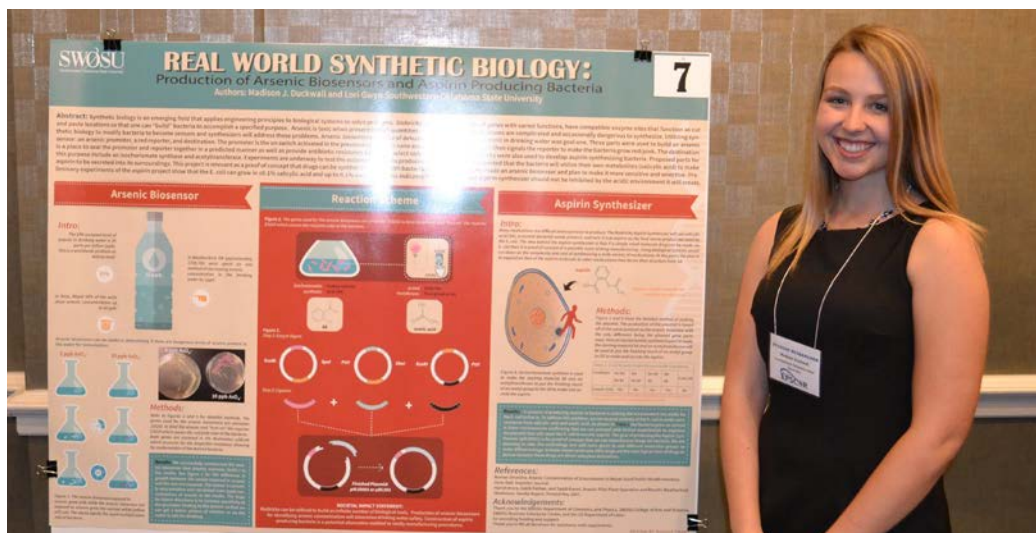
Students presented scientific research posters during a poster session at the Waterford Hotel March 27. Research posters and oral presentations were competitively judged by an independent panel that selected the top seven researchers in three categories—one overall winner, three regional university winners, and three research-intensive institution winners. Awards were announced during a ceremony at the State Capitol the following day.

Prior to the awards ceremony, students visited one-on-one with members of the State Legislature to discuss

the high-quality research they are performing. This year's research topics addressed important issues such as disease, water quality and alternative energy.

2017 award winners:

- **Grand Prize**  
Madison Duckwall, Southwestern Oklahoma State University
- **First Place, Regional University and Community College Category**  
Lucille Redmond, Rogers State University
- **First Place, Research-Intensive Institution Category**  
Ryan Jones, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- **Second Place, Regional University and Community College Category**  
Parker LaMascus, Oklahoma Christian University
- **Second Place, Research-Intensive Institution Category**  
Taner Davis, University of Oklahoma
- **Third Place, Regional University and Community College Category**  
Austin Doughty, University of Central Oklahoma
- **Third Place, Research-Intensive Institution Category**  
Nicholas Nelsen, Oklahoma State University



Research Day at the Capitol participant, Madison Duckwall



## Project ECHO Connects Rural Physicians Through OneNet

A strong support community is essential to success in any profession. This is particularly true for physicians in Oklahoma who are meeting the health care needs of rural patients. Rural physicians are often the only health care worker for an entire city or region, which makes their job critical.

When a primary care physician encounters a unique situation, he or she will often recommend that patient visit a specialist. However, rural patients often lack the resources to meet with a specialist quickly, or a specialist might have a long waiting list. The longer an Oklahoman waits to see the specialist, the longer their health needs go unmet.

As Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU-CHS) president and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Kayse Shrum continually seeks innovative ways to improve Oklahoma's health status, and by leveraging OneNet's robust connectivity, leaders at OSU-CHS realized they could meet the needs of rural health care providers.

To best help rural doctors, Dr. Shrum and other leaders at OSU-CHS adopted the project "Extension for Community Health care Outcomes." Known as Project ECHO, these

sessions utilize video conferencing to connect rural health care workers with a multidisciplinary specialist panel at OSU-CHS.

A Project ECHO session is held during a two-hour lunch. A team of doctors, pharmacists, nurses and social service experts at OSU-CHS initiate a video teleconference session with health care workers across the state. The OSU-CHS specialist team conducts a short educational lecture. Afterward, participants in the session present specific patient cases and seek assistance and recommendations on ways to treat a particular condition without ever leaving their office or home. This video teleconference session is especially effective because it involves little time and travel costs for the participants but still allows rural health care workers across the state to gain specialty knowledge needed to treat complex medical conditions.

As Oklahoma's only statewide educational internet network, OneNet is uniquely positioned to support the Project ECHO sessions. OneNet provides OSU-CHS, as well as many other health care facilities across the state, with reliable, secure connections that allow these professionals to change the face of modern care.

Because of OneNet's secure, reliable connectivity, Project ECHO sessions have proven effective in developing a health care community for rural doctors and health care workers, which improves the livelihood of Oklahomans.

"There are so many health care areas where we can save dollars and lives using this model," said Dr. Joseph Johnson, OSU-CHS assistant dean for clinical education and simulation medicine and chief medical officer of OSU-CHS Project ECHO. "We are starting with mental health disorders, which will increase access to care and decrease the burden of the disease process, suicide rates and hospitalizations."

As Project ECHO sessions become integrated into the rural health care system, Dr. Shrum, Dr. Johnson and other leaders at OSU-CHS are continuing to identify new ways to best serve our state through technology. This stems from OneNet and OSU-CHS's shared belief that technology is a powerful tool for empowering and serving Oklahomans.



## Applications Now Accepted for Free Summer Academies on College Campuses

This summer, middle and high school students can experience life on a college campus while exploring exciting and varied fields of study at the free 2017 Summer Academies in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

STEM Summer Academies, sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, are open to upcoming eighth- through 12th-graders. Each academy explores the latest trends in science, technology, engineering and math through fun, hands-on activities and innovative software as students experiment both in the classroom and outdoors. Many academies also include field trips to some of the state's top companies, science facilities and museums.

The academies will be offered on 18 of Oklahoma's college and university campuses in May, June and July. Twenty-six different academies will be offered statewide and last from five days to two weeks. Some academies

require students to live in the campus residence halls, while others require that students travel to and from campus each day.

"Since 1990, Summer Academies have provided Oklahoma middle and high school students the opportunity to experience the college campus environment while exploring new and exciting career options in STEM," said Chancellor Glen D. Johnson. "This program offers students the opportunity to study with top professors and explore hands-on learning in STEM fields that exceeds anything they've encountered in a traditional classroom. Participants in our STEM Summer Academies are more likely to attend college, require less remediation and earn a college degree."

Applications are now being accepted for the academies, and many have deadlines. Because the academies are free and enrollment is limited, students are encouraged to apply early. To qualify, students must be entering

eighth through 12th grade this fall. Officials emphasize the academies are not exclusive to top students, but instead are designed to give all students an opportunity to increase their interest and confidence in science, technology, engineering and math and, ultimately, expand their career and educational aspirations.

Academy descriptions and contact information are available at [www.okhighered.org/summer-academies](http://www.okhighered.org/summer-academies). Students can also get information from their school counselors or by calling (800) 858-1840.



**SUMMER ACADEMIES**  
science • technology • engineering • math

## State Regents, CCA Host 15 to Finish Summit

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, along with leaders from the Complete College America (CCA) initiative, partnered to host a 15 to Finish Summit for college and university campuses Feb. 23, 2017 at the Nigh Center on the University of Central Oklahoma campus.

The summit, sponsored in part by the Schusterman Family Foundation, brought together higher education professionals from 26 public and private institutions representing academics, student affairs, financial aid and academic advising to discuss policies and practices that promote on-time degree completion. Strategies discussed include communication campaigns to redefine full-time status and outline the benefits of completing degrees on time, implementing banded tuition with a flat rate for students taking at least 15 credit hours per semester, and integrating other incentives to boost on-time completion.

"The State Regents and our state system institutions encourage Oklahoma students to reach the next level of academic success by helping them stay the course

and complete their college degrees on time," said Chancellor Glen D. Johnson. "Our state's degree and certificate completion efforts have led Complete College America to name Oklahoma as a national model for degree completion."

CCA calls the 15 to Finish initiative, which aims to redefine 'full-time' college attendance as 15 hours per semester or 30 credit hours per year, a "game changer." This approach is proven to help students stay on track, borrow less in student loans and enter the workforce faster than students who routinely take 12 credit hours per semester. For a student taking 12 hours each semester, a two-year associate degree would take 2 1/2 years to finish, and it would take five years to earn a bachelor's degree.

Oklahoma's CCA goal is to increase the number of degrees and certificates earned in the state by 67 percent by 2023 to meet our state's workforce needs and keep Oklahoma competitive in a global economy. Oklahoma's five-point plan to increase degree and certificate completion focuses on promoting college

readiness, transforming remediation, strengthening pathways to certificates and degrees, expanding adult degree completion efforts and rewarding performance and completion.

Significant progress is being made toward these goals. In the first four years of the CCA initiative, the number of degrees and certificates earned in Oklahoma has increased by 8,462, surpassing the state benchmark of 6,800.

CCA is supported by five foundations at the national level: the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Lumina Foundation for Education.



# Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education



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John Massey  
Durant



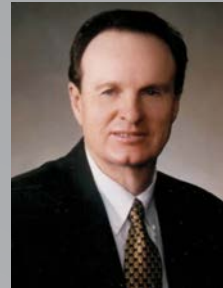
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Joseph L. Parker Jr.  
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James D. "Jimmy" Harrell  
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