ANNUAL REPORT
DEGREES OF PROGRESS: THE STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN OKLAHOMA
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ROLE OF THE STATE REGENTS

Oklahoma’s constitutional state system of higher education was created in 1941 by a vote of the people. The State Regents fulfill a variety of responsibilities, including prescribing academic standards for higher education, determining functions and courses of study at state colleges and universities, and granting degrees. The State Regents allocate funding for each public college and university, establish tuition and fees within limits set by the Oklahoma Legislature, and manage numerous scholarships and special programs.

Additionally, the State Regents operate OneNet, the state’s advanced data network for education and government. The State Regents also manage the Oklahoma College Assistance Program, which provides important college access, financial literacy and student loan default prevention programs and services that support students and the financial aid community.

Although the State Regents are the coordinating board of control for all institutions in the Oklahoma state system of higher education, governing boards of regents and boards of trustees are responsible for the operation of each state system institution and higher education program.

National higher education and business leader Allison D. Garrett became chancellor of the Oklahoma state system of higher education in September 2021. Selecting a Chancellor is a rare and important responsibility, and one the State Regents take very seriously. After completing a comprehensive national search, we are confident Chancellor Garrett is the right person to lead Oklahoma public higher education into the future. Her visionary leadership and commitment to strategic innovation will greatly benefit our state, our colleges and universities, and the students they serve.

As Oklahoma continues the economic recovery process in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, we remain focused on modernizing our system and meeting our state’s evolving workforce needs through expanded collaborations and additional operational efficiencies to ensure all Oklahoma students and families know the dream of a college degree can be a reality.

Jeffrey W. Hickman, 2021-22 Chair
Since becoming Chancellor of our state system of higher education in November 2021, I have focused on two overarching objectives: expanding workforce development efforts and creating paths to a better life for Oklahomans. I am working closely with our public colleges and universities across the state to advocate for investment in higher education and ensure we are developing an educated, engaged workforce to meet our state’s current and future needs, particularly in the areas of engineering and other STEM fields, nursing, and teacher education.

Looking back on initiatives, activities and accomplishments in 2021, there are several highlights for public higher education. In March 2021, Morrison resident Dennis Casey and Holdenville resident Jack Sherry were sworn in as State Regents. Casey is fulfilling the unexpired term of State Regent Emeritus Andy Lester and will serve through May 2025. Sherry, who replaced State Regent Emeritus Toney Stricklin, is serving a nine-year term that expires in May 2029. In May 2021, Edmond resident Courtney Warmington was sworn in as a State Regent. Warmington, who replaced State Regent Emeritus Ronald H. White, M.D., is serving a nine-year term expiring in May 2030. We also recently welcomed Lawton resident Dustin Hilliary, who replaced State Regent Emeritus Jay Helm. Regent Hilliary was appointed to serve a nine-year term expiring in May 2031.

In June 2021, the State Regents approved a collaboration of 11 community colleges to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Applied Technology via traditional and electronic delivery. This statewide pilot program will provide a degree completion mechanism for adult learners who have received an industry-recognized credential, earned previous college credit in a technical field, or require specialized interdisciplinary training.

The State Regents approved a statewide contract with Coursera, one of the largest online learning platforms in the world, in September 2021. Through the partnership, participating colleges and universities have access to Coursera’s comprehensive catalog of thousands of job-relevant courses across business, technology and data science, among other disciplines, to serve students, faculty and staff, and employers. The Coursera learning platform adds value not only for Oklahoma higher education students currently pursuing degrees, but also for degree-holders seeking to earn industry-recognized digital badges and micro-credentials in high-demand fields.

In November 2021, Gov. Kevin Stitt appointed me to serve a three-year term as an Oklahoma designee to the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). SREB is a nationally respected source of educational data and does vital work to provide quality, affordable education opportunities for the students we serve. As a member of SREB, I am engaging with governors, legislators and state education leaders from member states to improve public education and student achievement from pre-K through higher education.

Oklahoma Works recently released workforce projection data for Oklahoma’s “100 Critical Occupations,” jobs identified as vital for our state’s economic growth. By 2028, 66 of our state’s 100 critical occupations — and each of the 10 highest-paying critical occupations — will require a college degree. Clearly, public higher education plays a pivotal role in workforce and economic development.

Higher education is the engine that drives progress and prosperity in our state and profoundly changes the lives of individual Oklahomans. It is my privilege to work in partnership with the State Regents, the Governor and Legislature, our public institutions, and the business community to produce more graduates with the skills required to compete in our dynamic global economy.

Chancellor Allison D. Garrett
CAMPUS RANKINGS

#1  NORTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Ranked #1 on the “Top 35 Nurse Practitioner Programs” list by intelligent.com

#1  SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Ranked #1 on the “Top Ranking Master’s in Educational Counseling” list by collegechoice.net

#1  UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
Ranked #1 on the “Best Bachelor’s Degrees in Forensic Science” list by bestaccreditedcolleges.org

#1  LANGSTON UNIVERSITY
Ranked #1 on the “Top 38 Historically Black Colleges and Universities” list by bestvalueschools.org

#1  CARL ALBERT STATE COLLEGE
Ranked #1 on the “Best Online Business Administration Associate Degrees 2022: Top Picks” list by zdnet.com

#1  WESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE
Ranked #1 on the “Most Affordable Online Nursing Programs in 2022 (2-year schools)” list by edumed.org

#2  ROSE STATE COLLEGE
Ranked #2 on the “Best Online Cybersecurity Degree Programs in 2022 (2-year schools)” list by publicservicedegrees.org

#2  UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
Ranked #2 on the “2022 Top Winning Overall Programs” list for journalism and mass communication by beaweb.org

#5  OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Ranked #5 on the “America’s Best Online Learning Schools 2022” list by newsweek.com
Of the top 100 critical occupations in Oklahoma (2018-2028), **66** require an associate degree or higher.

For every $1 of state appropriations invested, the state system of higher education generates **$9.40** in economic return.

Associate and bachelor’s degree holders earn a median income **25% and 75% higher**, respectively, than those with only a high school diploma.

The number of STEM bachelor’s degrees conferred by state system institutions increased **47%** over the last decade and increased **29%** at all degree levels.

**U.S. News and World Report 2021 rankings place Oklahoma tuition and fees as 11th-lowest in the nation.**

Nearly **90%** of Oklahoma residents who earn an undergraduate degree remain and are employed in the state one year after graduation.
**KEY INITIATIVES**

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**OKLAHOMA’S PROMISE**
Oklahoma’s Promise is recognized by many as America’s best college access program and is considered a model that combines emphases on academic preparation and financial support for college. Nearly 15,000 students received Oklahoma’s Promise scholarships in the last academic year.

**CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT**
The concurrent enrollment program allows outstanding juniors and seniors to earn college credit while still in high school, which strengthens student preparation, reduces family college costs, and decreases the time required to complete a degree. Nearly 14,500 students enrolled in concurrent courses generating more than 141,000 credit hours in the last academic year.

**OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG**
The state’s web-based college planning portal has nearly 102,000 active student accounts across the state. In addition to offering extensive information and tools to help students, parents and adult learners prepare, plan and pay for college and serving as an ICAP administration platform for K-12 educators, OKcollegestart features robust career planning resources, including career profiles that outline higher education requirements and expected salaries.

**GEAR UP**
Oklahoma GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), the fourth consecutive federally funded grant program administered by the State Regents, is designed to prepare middle and high school students for college success through direct student support services, including college campus tours, ACT preparation and testing, college exploration courses, one-on-one guidance from school specialists, and Oklahoma’s Promise and FAFSA completion assistance.
ADULT LEARNERS

REACH HIGHER
Through Reach Higher’s FlexFinish and DirectComplete programs, 21 institutions offer specialized advising and support systems to help adult students return to college and complete degrees that lead to employment in Oklahoma’s critical occupations. More than 10,000 degrees have been awarded through Reach Higher since 2007.

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW
A dedicated website, ShowWhatYouKnowOK.org, empowers students to determine how previously earned college credit, licenses, certifications, military training, advanced standing scores, and knowledge gained through other learning experiences can be applied toward a college degree.

UPSKILLOK
The State Regents are building a statewide framework for the development of micro-credentials, alternative learning pathways directly aligned with high-demand skills requested by employers. Micro-credentials help individuals adapt and succeed, equipping both students pursuing a degree and current degree-holders with specific career skillsets, competencies, and knowledge that can be readily transferred to fill critical workforce needs.
**AFFORDABILITY**

**COMPARING UNDERGRADUATE TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES WITH PEER INSTITUTIONS, NATIONAL AVERAGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>FY21 Oklahoma Average</th>
<th>FY21 Peer Average</th>
<th>Oklahoma Percent Comparison to Peer Average</th>
<th>FY21 National Average</th>
<th>Oklahoma Percent Comparison to National Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Universities</td>
<td>$9,277</td>
<td>$12,546</td>
<td>-26.1%</td>
<td>$10,740</td>
<td>-13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Universities</td>
<td>$7,363</td>
<td>$8,488</td>
<td>-13.3%</td>
<td>$10,740</td>
<td>-31.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Colleges</td>
<td>$4,642</td>
<td>$6,376</td>
<td>-27.2%</td>
<td>$3,800</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**ENROLLMENT**

**2020-21 OKLAHOMA PUBLIC INSTITUTION DEMOGRAPHICS**

The national average is 57.4% female.*

**TOP 5 STUDENTS’ STATES OF ORIGIN**
(Other than Oklahoma)

1. Texas
2. California
3. Kansas
4. Arkansas
5. Missouri

Source: OSRHE UDS, 2020-21 Annual Headcount Enrollment

2020-21 POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

HEALTH PROFESSIONS
32,089 STUDENTS ENROLLED
+645 from 2019-20

BUSINESS
29,206 STUDENTS ENROLLED
+713 from 2019-20

ENGINEERING
13,744 STUDENTS ENROLLED
+4,212 from 2019-20

EDUCATION
13,210 STUDENTS ENROLLED
-285 from 2019-20

COMPUTER SCIENCE
6,137 STUDENTS ENROLLED
+312 from 2019-20

Source: OSRHE UDS, Degrees Conferred 2020-21
OUTCOMES

STUDENT RETENTION (PERSISTENCE) RATES
Over the last 10 years, student retention rates have remained relatively flat at research and regional universities and increased at community colleges.

GRADUATION RATES FOR NEW OKLAHOMA FRESHMEN
Over the last 10 years, graduation rates have increased at all institutional tiers.

Source: OSRHE UDS, Full-Time, Degree-Seeking Cohort
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

### 2020-21 DEGREES CONFERRED

- **10,398** associate degrees
- **17,942** bachelor’s degrees
- **6,239** master’s and doctoral degrees
- **2,570** certificate and first professional programs

Total **37,149** degrees

The number of STEM bachelor’s degrees conferred by state system institutions increased **47%** over the last decade and increased **29%** at all degree levels.

Source: OSRHE UDS,Degrees Conferred 2020-21

### OKLAHOMA’S 100 CRITICAL OCCUPATIONS (2018-28)

- **66** of the top 100 critical occupations require an associate degree or higher.
- **47** of the top 50 highest-paying jobs require an associate degree or higher.
- **9** of the top 10 fastest-growing jobs require postsecondary education beyond high school.
- **7** of the top 10 fastest-growing jobs require an associate degree or higher.

Source: Oklahoma Works
CAMERON UNIVERSITY
www.cameron.edu
President John M. McArthur

4,567 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Health Professions
• Business Management, Administration
• Education
• Psychology

Campus Distinctions
• #1 in regional institution endowed lectureships in OK
• Excellence in Assessment designation from the National Institution for Learning Outcomes Assessment
• OK Press Association named Cameron Collegian state’s best college newspaper

CARL ALBERT STATE COLLEGE
www.carlalbert.edu
President Jay Falkner

2,300 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Health Professions
• Business Management, Administration
• Family, Consumer Sciences
• Education

Campus Distinctions
• Ranked #7 in state for all colleges offering associate degrees by University Headquarters
• Ranked among top 30 online community colleges in U.S. by Online Schools Report
• Ranked #8 among online colleges in the state by Intelligent

CONNORS STATE COLLEGE
www.connorsstate.edu
President Ron Ramming

2,488 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Education
• Health Professions
• Business Management, Administration
• Agriculture
• Biological Sciences

Campus Distinctions
• Warner campus certified as “excellent” by Oklahoma Department of Health
• Named top associate degree producer by Diverse Issues in Higher Ed
• 386% increase in student scholarship honors

EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
www.ecok.edu
President Wendell L. Godwin

4,326 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Business Management, Administration
• Education
• Health Professions
• Parks/Recreation/Fitness

Campus Distinctions
• 75% of graduates accepted into medical school (41% accepted nationally)
• 97% pass rate on nursing licensure NCLEX exam
• 100% acceptance rate into law school

EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE
www.eosc.edu
President Janet Wansick

1,699 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Health Professions
• Business Management, Administration
• Agriculture
• Biological Sciences

Campus Distinctions
• RN nursing program ranked among top 5 in OK by registerednursing.org
• 1 of 24 institutions chosen to participate in the CCRC Guided Pathways Institute
LANGSTON UNIVERSITY
www.langston.edu
President Kent J. Smith Jr.
2,228 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
- Health Professions
- Liberal Arts/General Studies
- Education
- Business Management, Administration
- Psychology

Campus Distinctions
- Oklahoma’s only Historically Black College or University (HBCU)
- 1st Doctor of Physical Therapy program in the state
- Home to the internationally recognized American Institute for Goat Research

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE
www.mscok.edu
President Timothy Faltyn
2,745 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
- Liberal Arts/General Studies
- Health Professions
- Business Management, Administration
- Multi/Interdiscipline Study
- Agriculture

Campus Distinctions
- 1 of 4 NRA-approved affiliated gunsmithing schools in the U.S.
- Over $8 million in grants, scholarships awarded for FY22

NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M COLLEGE
www.neo.edu
President Kyle Stafford
2,148 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
- Liberal Arts/General Studies
- Health Professions
- Education
- Agriculture
- Parks/Recreation/Fitness

Campus Distinctions
- Only OK community college with a marching band, football team
- 11 competitive teams
- 10+ countries represented on campus

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
www.nsuok.edu
President Steve Turner
8,775 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
- Liberal Arts/General Studies
- Business Management, Administration
- Education
- Health Professions
- Psychology

Campus Distinctions
- Military Friendly® School - Silver Status
- Only College of Optometry in OK; 1 of 23 in the U.S.
- More Native American student graduates than any other university in the U.S.

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE
www.noc.edu
President Clark Harris
4,560 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
- Liberal Arts/General Studies
- Health Professions
- Business Management, Administration
- Education
- Social Sciences

Campus Distinctions
- Celebrating 120 years as the state’s 1st community college
- Recipient of a $2 million NASNTI grant
- Of 4K students served, 80% receive financial aid/scholarships, 75% complete degree with zero debt
NORTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
www.nwosu.edu
President Bo Hannaford
2,174 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
- Liberal Arts/General Studies
- Education
- Business Management, Administration
- Health Professions
- Parks/Recreation/Fitness

Campus Distinctions
- Online nurse practitioner program named best in the U.S. by Intelligent.com
- 3rd-largest number of endowed chairs in OK, reflecting over $18.5 million in private gifts
- One of the largest college rodeo teams in the U.S. with 110 student athletes

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
www.occc.edu
President Mautra Jones
17,029 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
- Health Professions
- Liberal Arts/General Studies
- Business Management, Administration
- Biological Sciences
- Computer, Information Sciences

Campus Distinctions
- Prairie Surf Media partnership to produce ready-to-work graduates for the booming film industry
- The state's only anesthesia technology program to receive full accreditation from ASATT
- OU and CU partnership for transfers to bachelor's degrees for select majors

OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY
www.opsu.edu
President Julie Dinger
1,617 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
- Health Professions
- Business Management, Administration
- Liberal Arts/General Studies
- Agriculture
- Parks/Recreation/Fitness

Campus Distinctions
- Only designated Public Hispanic Serving Institution in the state
- Fastest-growing university in the region 4 of the last 5 years
- Raised over $20 million in external funding since 2017

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
www.okstate.edu
President Kayse Shrum
38,033 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
- Business Management, Administration
- Health Professions
- Liberal Arts/General Studies
- Engineering
- Agriculture

Campus Distinctions
- Established the Hamm Institute for American Energy
- Launched the OK Aerospace Institute for Research and Education
- Broke ground for the Veterans Hospital in Tulsa

REDLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
www.redlandscc.edu
President Jack Bryant Jr.
2,396 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
- Liberal Arts/General Studies
- Health Professions
- Business Management, Administration
- Agriculture
- Family, Consumer Sciences

Campus Distinctions
- Awarded $2.06 million NASNTI grant
- Beneficiary of Austin Family Estate, the largest gift in school history
- Alpha Beta Upsilon, RCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, named Five Star Chapter
ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY
www.rsu.edu
President Larry Rice
４,１０７ enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Business Management, Administration
• Health Professions
• Biological Sciences
• Social Sciences

Campus Distinctions
• 150+ medical/molecular biology graduates since 2003, leading region
• 1st state university to offer Esports
• Home to the only fully powered public TV station licensed to a public university in the state

ROSE STATE COLLEGE
www.rose.edu
President Jeanie Webb
８,９０９ enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Health Professions
• Business Management, Administration
• Protective Services
• Psychology

Campus Distinctions
• 1st Aerospace, Cybersecurity Center of Workforce Excellence in the state
• Designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD)
• Home to newly constructed state-of-the-art facilities

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE
www.sscok.edu
President Lana Reynolds
１,８８６ enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Biological Sciences
• Health Professions
• Business Management, Administration
• Education

Campus Distinctions
• 14 fully online degree programs offered
• 43% of student population belong to a racial or ethnic minority
• 83% of students agree that professors put a lot of work into teaching their classes (Niche.com)

SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
www.se.edu
President Thomas W. Newsom
７,２０８ enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Business Management, Administration
• Education
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Parks/Recreation/Fitness
• Engineering Technologies

Campus Distinctions
• One of the top Aviation Science programs in the nation
• One of the nation’s leaders in graduating Native American students
• On-site nursing program partnership with Murray State College

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
www.swosu.edu
President Diana Lovell
５,６６２ enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Health Professions
• Multi/Interdisciplinary Study
• Business Management, Administration
• Education
• Liberal Arts/General Studies

Campus Distinctions
• 14 nationally accredited academic programs, most among state regional universities
• Home to the Astronaut Gen. Thomas P. Stafford Archives
• Nationally recognized Doctor of Pharmacy program
TULSA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
www.tulsacc.edu
President Leigh B. Goodson

21,612 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Health Professions
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Business Management, Administration
• Social Sciences
• Engineering Technologies

Campus Distinctions
• Most associate degrees, professional certificates granted in the state
• Home of the Tulsa Achieves scholarship, with 65% of graduates debt-free
• Credentials awarded increased by 22% since 2015

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
www.uco.edu
President Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar

16,622 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Business Management, Administration
• Education
• Health Professions
• Psychology

Campus Distinctions
• 1 of 2 institutions in the state to receive NASPAA accreditation for Master of Public Administration
• Offers 16 fully online programs and leads in development of micro-credentials
• Established transfer student partnership with Rose State College

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
www.ou.edu
President Joseph Harroz Jr.

34,665 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Business Management, Administration
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Engineering
• Health Professions
• Communications

Campus Distinctions
• Enrolled the largest, most diverse, most academically qualified freshman class in the university's history in 2021
• Research expenditures university-wide increased more than 24% since FY19
• Established the state’s first comprehensive academic health system, OU Health

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & ARTS OF OKLAHOMA
www.usao.edu
President John H. Feaver

861 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Visual, Performing Arts
• Business Management, Administration
• Education
• Biological Sciences
• Liberal Arts/General Studies

Campus Distinctions
• 100+ years as the state’s only public liberal arts college
• Neill-Wint Center for Neurodiversity assists students with autism spectrum disorder transition to college life
• State’s only university awarded an “A” grade for required core curriculum by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni

WESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE
www.wosc.edu
President Chad Wiginton

1,684 enrolled in 2020-21

Top Majors in 2020-21
• Liberal Arts/General Studies
• Health Professions
• Business Management, Administration
• Education
• Agriculture

Campus Distinctions
• 5th-lowest cost of attendance in the state
• Award-winning shooting sports team
• 8-time NJCAA College World Series qualifiers and 40 College National Finals Rodeo qualifiers