

REGENTS, TRUSTEES: STATE SYSTEM TALKING POINTS

STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ▶ According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Oklahoma ranks 43rd in the nation for adults with a bachelor's degree or higher (27.9%) and 45th for adults with an associate's degree or higher (36.0%). Of the surrounding states, only Arkansas has lower educational attainment.
- ▶ For every dollar of state appropriations invested in higher education, the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education generates \$9.40 in economic output.
- ▶ Data from the National Center for Education Statistics show Oklahoma universities have the 7th-lowest cost of attendance in the nation.
- ▶ By 2030, over half of the top 100 occupations identified by Oklahoma Works as critical to economic growth and wealth generation in the state will require an associate's degree or higher, including the top 29 highest paying jobs.
- ▶ Degree and certificate production across the state system increased more than 11% over the last 10 years.
- ▶ Bachelor's degree production in critical STEM disciplines increased 47% over the last 10 years, and production increased 29% at all degree levels.
- ▶ Degree production in health professions increased more than 26% over the last 10 years.
- ▶ The Georgetown Center for Education and the Workforce reports bachelor's and associate degree holders earn 75% more and 25% more, respectively, than those with only a high school diploma.

PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

- ▶ According to SHEEO's latest State Higher Education Finance Report, Oklahoma ranks 3rd-lowest in the nation in public higher education appropriations per FTE student and 7th-lowest in the nation in total education revenue per FTE student.
- ▶ State fiscal support per FTE student in Oklahoma is just 63% of the national average.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

- ▶ Almost 15,000 students participated in concurrent enrollment during the 2020-21 academic year.
- ▶ Approximately 25% of students earning an associate or bachelor's degree from state system colleges and universities participated in concurrent enrollment.
- ▶ The number of completed concurrent enrollment credit hours increased 158% in the last decade.

OKLAHOMA'S PROMISE

- ▶ The Oklahoma's Promise scholarship program has been named by the Southern Regional Education Board as one of the top college access scholarship programs in the nation.
- ▶ Oklahoma's Promise isn't a free ride; the scholarship covers tuition costs only.
- ▶ More than 92% of Oklahoma's Promise graduates remain and work in the state one year after graduation, and over 90% are still employed in the state five years later.

STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

- ▶ Nearly 90% of Oklahomans — and almost two-thirds of non-resident students — who graduate from a state system college or university remain and work in the state one year after graduation.
- ▶ Of STEM graduates from our state system colleges and universities, 88% of Oklahomans — and almost two-thirds of non-resident students — remain and work in the state one year after graduation.

