



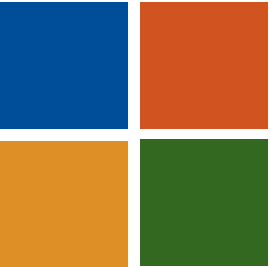
OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Improving our future by degrees

INSPIRED TO TEACH

Scholarship & Incentive Program Information

Grant Zehrung



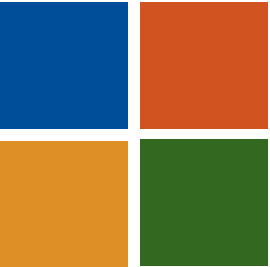
I2T PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- ▶ Created during 2022 legislative session (HB3564 – Rep. McBride / Sen. Pemberton) and amended during 2023 legislative session (HB 2559 – Rep. McBride / Sen. Pemberton).
- ▶ **Purpose:** To address the teacher shortage in the state of Oklahoma and provide a pipeline of quality and effective teachers for the public schools of this state.
- ▶ **Objective:** Provide a scholarship and incentive program to encourage the preparation of public school teachers (Pre-K through 12th grade) at all accredited state public and private higher education institutions, as well as facilitating their transition into the workforce.



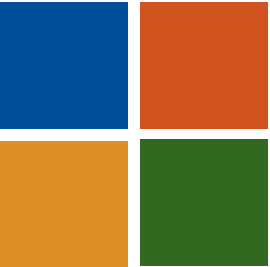
HISTORIC AWARD DATA

- ▶ Over 8000 total program participants.
 - ▶ Public regional institutions hold largest enrollment numbers.
- ▶ Over \$15M disbursed in scholarship awards.
- ▶ 37 institutions with active participants.
 - ▶ Top five institutions (by I2T enrollment):
 - ▶ The University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, The University of Oklahoma, Northeastern State University, and Southwestern Oklahoma State University.



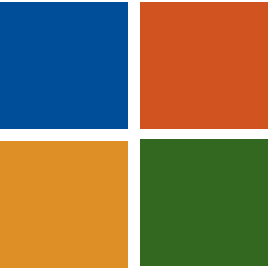
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA-SCHOLARSHIP

- ▶ Graduate from high school, home school, or recognized equivalent (such as GED).
- ▶ Meet regular admission standards at institution.
- ▶ Declare a teacher education major at an accredited Oklahoma public or private institution
OR
- ▶ Declare a major at an Oklahoma two-year college with an approved articulation agreement with an accredited Oklahoma university teacher education program.
- ▶ Attend full-time, maintain a minimum 2.50 GPA, and remain in good standing with the institution.



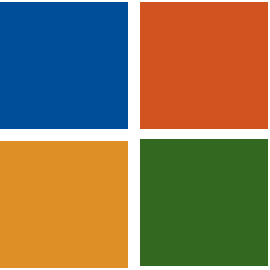
APPLICATIONS-SCHOLARTREK

- ▶ Students will submit only one application to the program, this application will carry through their undergraduate career.
- ▶ Applications must be submitted through the okscholartrek.org website
- ▶ Applications can be submitted at any time, but for guaranteed awards, they must be submitted early in the semester.



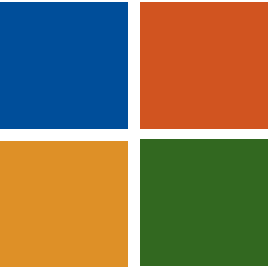
AWARD TIERS

- ▶ Students can qualify for up to \$5,500 in scholarship funds through the following tiered system:
 - ▶ Tier 1 (A minimum of 12 hours enrolled): \$1,000
 - ▶ Tier 2 (24-47 hours earned): \$1,000
 - ▶ Tier 3 (48-89 hours earned): \$1,000
 - ▶ Tier 4 (90 hours+): \$2,500
- ▶ Students must be in their **final** academic (and aid) year to receive the Tier 4 payment.
- ▶ Students cannot receive an award from more than one tier in an academic year.



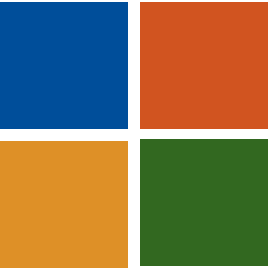
AWARD SCHEDULE & EXCEPTIONS

- ▶ Generally disbursed by semester (fall/spring) with the following exceptions:
 - ▶ Fall graduates.
 - ▶ Spring applicants.
 - ▶ Students who will no longer meet tier requirements in spring semester.
 - ▶ Students eligible for Tier 3 award in fall and Tier 4 award in spring.
- ▶ No summer awards.



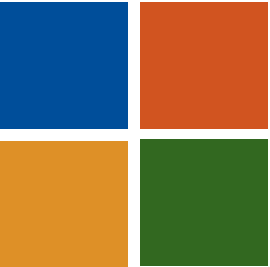
I2T AWARD PROCESSES

- ▶ Institution Coordinators will have access to Scholartrek, where eligibility checks are required from the institutions. This process is similar to the previous Credit Hour reports, however it is through the website with no spreadsheet required.
- ▶ After institutions complete eligibility checks, OSRHE will determine award amount based on information provided.



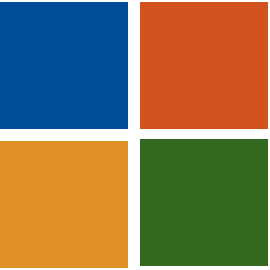
DISBURSEMENT ROSTERS

- ▶ Disbursement rosters will be provided via O-Safe for your records, as well as the I2T program coordinator's records.
- ▶ Rosters will include awarded students on the first tab and ineligible and/or non-awarded students on the second tab (along with rationale for their non-award status).
- ▶ You do not need to return the disbursement roster back to our office.



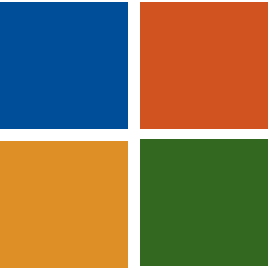
SCHOLARSHIP RETURNS

- ▶ If an ineligible student is erroneously awarded, please contact our office.
- ▶ Disbursed monies may be applied to another eligible participant if possible.



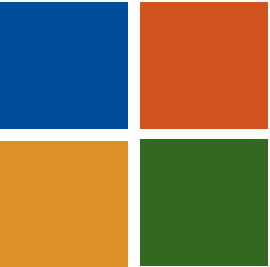
REGAINING ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Participants ineligible for the award for one of the following reasons have one semester to regain compliance:
 - ▶ Not enrolled full-time
 - ▶ Not meeting 2.50 GPA
 - ▶ Not in good standing at the institution (unable to enroll in courses)
 - ▶ Not enrolled in eligible program of study



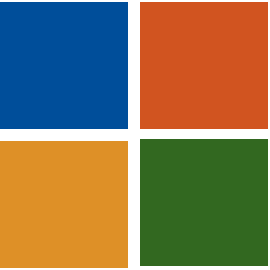
LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY

- ▶ Participants may take a leave of absence or withdrawal under the following circumstances:
 - ▶ A serious illness
 - ▶ Pregnancy
 - ▶ Other natural cause that prevents the participant from continuing coursework requirements or fulfilling the eligibility provisions
- ▶ The withdrawal or leave of absence cannot exceed more than one academic year.
- ▶ Participants must present official college/university documentation to OSRHE at the time the withdrawal/leave of absence is granted.



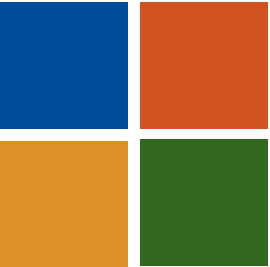
EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Participants must meet all degree and traditional teacher certification requirements.
- ▶ Participants must teach in an public Oklahoma school district (PK-12).
- ▶ Participants will receive up to \$4,000 after completing each year of eligible service for up to five consecutive years (totaling up to \$20,000).
- ▶ There is currently no payback provision for the program.



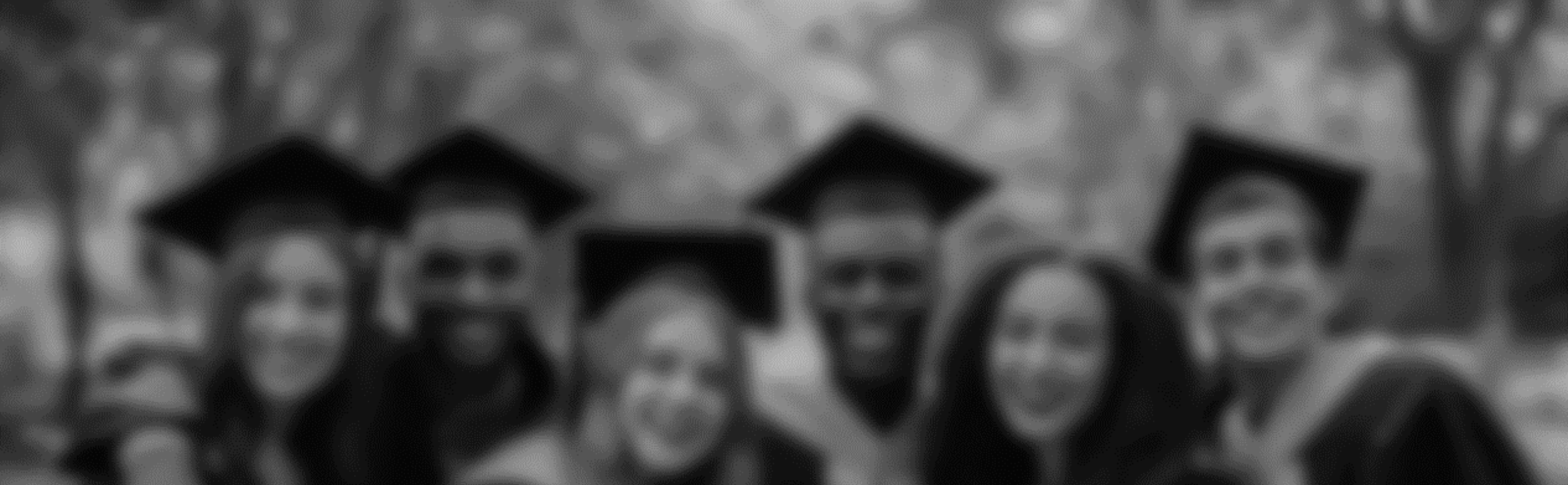
IMPORTANT NOTES

- ▶ Students must participate in the scholarship program and receive at least one scholarship payment to qualify for the employment incentive portion.
- ▶ Awards can be adjusted to meet COA if needed. There is no required minimum award amount in the statute or administrative rules.



DATES TO KNOW-FALL 2026

- ▶ Institution Eligibility Checks- September 21st
- ▶ Apply by September 21st for guaranteed award.
- ▶ Any applications after September 21st will be processed as we receive them.



MORE QUESTIONS?

Ask me today! Or contact me at gzehrung@osrhe.edu