



2010 Oklahoma Award for Outstanding Achievement in Alternative Education

General Information

The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence is a privately-funded statewide nonprofit organization that was created to recognize and encourage academic excellence in Oklahoma's public schools. The foundation has created the Oklahoma Award for Outstanding Achievement in Alternative Education, with the winner to be selected by an independent committee. The \$5,000 award will be given to a public school alternative education program in recognition of its effectiveness and impact on student learning. A representative of the winning program will accept the award before peers in the alternative education community at the State Superintendent's Alternative Education Summer Institute.

Basic Criteria:

1. Nominee must be a public school program in Oklahoma and in operation for *at least three full years* at the time of nomination.
2. Nominations may be made by any individual familiar with the program.
3. Award winners may apply again after five full award cycles.

General Directions:

1. ***ALL NOMINATION MATERIALS MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010.*** Please note that only information submitted *by this deadline* will be considered.
2. Submit only the materials requested. Nomination materials will not be returned.
3. Answers to all questions *must be typed, double spaced*, on 8 ½" x 11" sheets of paper. Recommendation letters *may be single-spaced*.
4. The first page of the nomination *must* be the "Program Information Form." *Staple* all pages together in the upper left-hand corner. Exhibits may be included or attached.
5. Retain one copy of the nomination for your records. *Mail a total of six sets* of the nomination materials, postmarked on or before *Monday, March 15, 2010*, to:

**Alternative Education Selection Committee
Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence
120 N. Robinson, Suite 1420-W
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-7434**

6. If you have questions regarding the nomination process or need additional copies of the nomination forms, please check our Web site at www.ofe.org or call the Foundation office at (405) 236-0006.



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Program Information Form

This page must be the first page of each set of the nomination materials. Please staple each set of materials in the upper left-hand corner.

Information about the Program (Please type):

Name of Program _____

Name of District _____

Program Director (Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr.) _____

Program Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime Phone (_____) _____ E-mail address _____

Information about the Nominator (If different from above):

Name (Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr.) _____

Position with or Relationship to Program _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime Phone (_____) _____ E-mail address _____

List two individuals familiar with the program who would be willing to be contacted by the Selection Committee.
(These may include, but are not limited to, those writing letters of recommendation.)

Name _____ Position or Relationship _____

Address _____ Daytime Phone (_____) _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Name _____ Position or Relationship _____

Address _____ Daytime Phone (_____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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Outline for Responses

Directions:

Respond to the following questions on *double-spaced typewritten pages*. Be sure to indicate the question number before each response.

1. Program description:
 - a. What year did the program begin?
 - b. What are the goals and expected results of the program?
 - c. Whom does the program involve (parents, teachers, community representatives) and how does it involve them?
 - d. Who serves as the site manager on a daily basis and how does he/she manage the program?
 - e. How are students identified for admittance to the alternative education program?
 - f. Who funds the program (federal or state government, school district, community contributions or foundations) and what is the current funding level? What were the funding levels for each of the previous three years?
 - g. What did this program cost last year per student enrolled in the program? How did you arrive at these figures?
2. Successful Strategies:
 - a. What innovative strategies are being used and what best practices are being modeled that are different from those used in the traditional classroom setting?
 - b. How does this program demonstrate excellence in alternative education?
 - c. Give three specific examples of your accomplishments, student projects or partnerships with the public. You may use narrative text, graphics, photos, etc., *not to exceed five pages*, or DVDs or other digital media, *not to exceed five minutes*.
3. Measurements of Success:
 - a. How is program success measured? Please provide (i) external evaluation data for each of the previous three years, or, if not available, other evaluation data that is pertinent to the program, including the most recent Oklahoma Technical Assistance Center evaluation results, and (ii) a summary explanation of this data.
 - b. What percentage of the students served in this program are recovered drop-outs?



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- d. What is the program attendance rate? What was the total student population for each of the previous three years, and what was the average length of stay for each student? How many students dropped out of the program each year over this same period?
 - e. What are program graduation numbers?
 - f. Provide evidence of successful transition of students in this program to post secondary education or to the workforce.
4. Reference Letters. Please address salutations to the Selection Committee.
- a. Student responses

Attach three letters from students, each of which must be limited to *one typewritten page in length* and may be single-spaced, addressing the following statement: "Why I was successful in this Alternative Education Program and the difference it has made in my life."

- b. Additional reference letters

Attach three letters of recommendation, each of which must be limited to *one typewritten page* in length and may be single-spaced. The recommendations *must include a parent, a teacher involved in the program and an individual from your community partnership* who would be willing to be contacted by the Selection Committee. In identifying the person writing the recommendation letter, please include his/her relationship to the program.

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