



Perry Bronn (second from left), a volunteer with the Encouraging and Leading Kids to Succeed (E.L.K.S.) in Elk City, receives an Outstanding Mentor Award from keynote speaker Dr. Kayse Shrum (left), president of the OSU Center for Health Sciences, and OFE President Cathryn Render. Joining in the presentation at Oklahoma Mentor Day is Bronn's mentee, David.

people and mentor-mentee activities hosted by OSU academic departments. "Mentor Day celebrates the important role that mentors play in helping mentees achieve better academic, social and economic futures," Woodrome said. In addition to recognizing Oklahoma's top mentors, the Mentoring Initiative led one of the state's largest print and social media campaigns promoting the need for volunteer mentors.

Boren Mentoring Initiative

Supporting student success through the growth and development of quality youth mentoring programs

OUR BOREN MENTORING INITIATIVE is working with school districts, mentoring organizations, businesses and community groups to promote mentoring as a positive step toward academic success. Program Director Beverly Woodrome is the Pied Piper of Oklahoma mentoring, traveling the state to speak about the impact of mentoring and to help groups start or strengthen mentoring programs. As a result of her visits this year, new mentoring programs are being launched in Wetumka, Cherokee and Clinton. In January, we honored 86 outstanding mentors at the seventh annual Oklahoma Mentor Day, presented at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. "Mentors See the Brightest Futures" was the theme of the celebration, which included a recognition ceremony attended by nearly 400



Champions for Public Education

2018-19 Report on Programs

Recognizing and Encouraging Academic Excellence in Oklahoma's public schools

Since 1985, the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence has led a movement to strengthen public education in Oklahoma and shine a spotlight on exceptional students and teachers who are excelling in the classroom. We are pleased to share with you exciting achievements and new developments from our 2018-19 program year, made possible by generous donors like you. Thank you for being a Champion for public education!

Academic Awards Program

Honoring the achievements of outstanding public school students and innovative educators

"SHOOT FOR THE STARS" was the theme of the 2019 Academic Awards Banquet, which honored 100 stellar public high school seniors as Academic All-Staters and five innovative educators as Medal for Excellence winners. In a Tulsa banquet hall with nearly 900 guests, former NFL football player and NASA astronaut Leland Melvin mesmerized the audience with his keynote address, recounting how he overcame life challenges and a devastating ear injury to eventually fly two Space Shuttle missions and help install the Columbia Laboratory on the International Space Station. (Check out the banquet broadcast and Melvin's speech on our YouTube Channel.) Students surrounded Melvin for selfies and autographs following the banquet and many commented on his impactful message. "He proved to us that you can achieve greatness despite all the difficulties," said Enid All-Stater Kwanyoung Kim. In addition, this marked the third year that successful All-State Alumni played a leading role in the banquet, serving as award presenters and sharing valuable academic and career advice with incoming student honorees.



Academic All-Staters line up to speak to astronaut Leland Melvin following his banquet keynote address.

OUR IMPACT

Since 1987, the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and its partners have invested more than **\$12.1 million** in grants, scholarships and awards directly benefitting public school teachers and students.



3,300

Students Honored as Academic All-Staters



168

Medal for Excellence - Winning Educators and Programs



433

Outstanding Mentors Recognized



889

Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute Fellows



209

Oklahoma School Foundations Supported



1,534

Teacher Professional Development Grant Recipients



Oklahoma School Foundations Network

Building grassroots support for local schools through training, networking and resources for public school foundations

IN 2018, THE FOUNDATION changed the name of its Local Education Foundation Outreach Program to reflect its role as a catalyst for networking and collaboration among the state's 209 local school foundations. The Oklahoma School Foundations Network partnered with school foundation leaders to host regional training and networking events in Sulphur and Claremore.

The gatherings featured keynote presentations on board development, presentations on innovative school foundation programs, and panel discussions on effective collaboration between foundation leaders and school administrators. We also launched Oklahoma School Foundations Network PLUS Memberships, an opportunity for school foundations to receive half-price

Oklahoma School Foundations Network Director Katy Leffel presents an Outstanding Program Award to Chuck Thomas, president of the Putnam City Schools Foundation, in recognition of the foundation's English Language Literacy Program for Parents.

access to National School Foundation Association membership and services. This spring, we welcomed a new program director, Katy Leffel, who brings a wealth of experience in school foundation and nonprofit leadership. Under Katy's direction, the Oklahoma School Foundations Network has launched a monthly e-newsletter, quarterly foundation executive director meetings and expanded free services to assist foundations with strategic planning. Plans are under way for 2019-20 events, including regional meetings in Lawton and Enid.

Early American History Education

Enhancing early American history education through Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute fellowships and online teaching resources

THIRTY-SIX OKLAHOMA teachers are returning to their classrooms this fall with a renewed passion for early American history and a variety of new interactive



lessons plans after attending the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute, held in the restored capital of 18th-century Virginia. More than 1,000 Oklahoma teachers have attended the renowned institute, including 889 receiving donor-supported grants administered through our foundation. Brooke Lee of Noble said her favorite part of the experience was interacting with historical interpreters and examining original historical documents in the Colonial Williamsburg archives. Lee said she feels better prepared to help students "connect their lives today with historical moments that shaped our nation." Our foundation also partnered with Teacher Institute Alumni in February to host the 17th Colonial Day at the Capitol, a hands-on history education event for 450 fifth-graders featuring such historical figures as Martha Washington and Benjamin Franklin.

(Pictured on bottom of previous page) Oklahoma fifth-grade teachers meet James Madison during the 2019 Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute. The program was founded and supported through the fundraising efforts of the late OFE trustee Edward C. Joullian III and continues with support from the Joullian family and loyal donors.

Teacher Professional Development

Improving student learning through quality teacher professional development opportunities

TWENTY-SEVEN OKLAHOMA educators embarked on career-changing professional development experiences this summer, thanks in part to a new Tribal Alliance comprised of Chickasaw, Cherokee, Citizen Potawatomi, Ponca and Muscogee (Creek) supporters. The Tribal Alliance is helping support Oklahoma Fund for Teachers Fellowships – self-designed summer learning opportunities in the U.S. and abroad that help teachers explore their academic passions, deepen their scholarship and enhance their craft. Members of the Tribal Alliance were honored this spring at a reception co-hosted by the National Fund for Teachers and the Tulsa Community Foundation, which partner with us to award Fund for Teachers grants. We are grateful to the many donors who also supported Teacher Grants for Professional Development, sending Oklahoma teachers to national conferences and institutes in their respective fields. This year, we are excited to launch the Teachers of English Learners Pilot Project, which will utilize an online learning platform to provide professional development, networking and support for classroom teachers in 20 elementary schools with high enrollment of English Learners. The program seeks to help classroom teachers effectively integrate English Learners into their classroom activities.



Fund for Teachers Fellow Chelsea Archie of Owasso snorkels in the Coral Sea to observe the condition of the Great Barrier Reef. Archie's fellowship will help engage students in conservation efforts locally and globally.