

# IMPACT REPORT

## 2021-2022



**Recognizing and Encouraging Academic Excellence  
in Oklahoma's Public Schools**





*From left, Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Executive Director Elizabeth Inbody joins former Executive Director Emily Stratton and Founding Trustee Linda Rodgers.*

## Greetings

This photo of me with my mother, Linda Rodgers, and long-time Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence director Emily Stratton warms my heart every time I look at it. It was taken at last year's annual trustee meeting. At the time, I did not know that I would soon have the opportunity to join the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence to continue moving forward the impactful mission they and others had thoughtfully laid out many years ago. Both Emily and my mother possess an unwavering passion for academic excellence in Oklahoma public schools. My mother, a founding trustee, has served as a motivating force for me and still greatly contributes to my desire to make a difference in Oklahoma public schools.

I have made many observations about the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence since beginning my work last January. The dominant characteristic that stands out is "success through longevity." The foundation's longevity is evident in our programming, our supporters, our volunteers and our staff. This year, we recognized students and teachers at the 36th annual Academic Awards Banquet, continuing our tradition of recognizing and encouraging academic excellence. We continue to benefit from the longevity of our outstanding donor base. The continual support we receive from so many individuals, businesses and foundations is extraordinary. The people who serve OFE – our trustees, volunteers and staff – are another example of longevity. Many individuals have provided service to the foundation for decades. This kind of dedication is rare and invaluable. I am so very grateful and appreciative to be part of such a successful organization with tremendous LONGEVITY!

As you read through the 2021-22 Impact Report, you will notice the impressive impact data on each program page. Impact data is important to track and ensures that we are meeting our goals and objectives. What I find equally impactful are the comments from the audiences we serve – students, teachers and foundation leaders. I hope you will focus on the words they share and feel the same sense of inspiration I do about the Oklahoma Foundation of Excellence and our work to elevate academic excellence in Oklahoma's public schools.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Anbody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director



**Recognized 100  
outstanding high  
school seniors and 5  
exceptional educators**



**Awarded \$125k in  
academic awards**



**Matched 100  
scholarship sponsors  
with Academic  
All-Staters**

## Academic Awards Program

The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence had a triumphant return to a full in-person Academic Awards Banquet in May at the Omni Oklahoma City Hotel. We honored 100 exceptional high school seniors for their academic achievement, leadership and community service. In addition, five extraordinary educators were feted for their innovative teaching techniques and lasting impact on student learning. The gala included an inspiring keynote address and performance by violinist Vijay Gupta, founder of the Street Symphony, a Los Angeles nonprofit providing musical engagement for homeless and incarcerated communities.

Our flagship program celebrates those who excel in our public schools and lifts them up as role models, encouraging others to aspire to excellence. Among this year's honorees was Fairview High School math teacher Elaine Hutchison, whose out-of-the-box classroom projects bring math concepts to life for her students. She says the Medal for Excellence Award is an honor she has long aspired to achieve.

"The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence shines the light on everything that is right in our public schools," Hutchison said. "This special program is a beacon of light for public school educators and our students and gives our schools an opportunity to recognize and curate their amazing accomplishments."

Photos of Fairview's 22 Academic All-Staters proudly line the walls of the school library, and Hutchison says they inspire fellow students to strive for this academic pinnacle, including her children Sydney (AAS '16) and Sawyer (AAS '22). "This award truly is the top 100 'podium' for scholars, and I want my students to realize how special it is to be chosen, because it is something they have to work toward by becoming well-rounded, developing their leadership skills, and becoming more aware of community."

Award-winning family members (from left) Sydney (AAS '16), Elaine (MFE '22) and Sawyer Hutchison (AAS '22)



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shines the light on everything  
that is right in our public schools.”***

*“Without the support of OSFN...our foundation would not have experienced the accelerated growth it has over the past three years.”*



*Oklahoma School Foundation Network leaders gather at the 2022 Education Leadership Conference.*

# Oklahoma School Foundations Network

Through its Oklahoma School Foundations Network, the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence has helped build one of the nation's largest networks of public school foundations, with 207 established to date. Together, these citizen-led nonprofits raise millions of dollars each year to promote academic excellence in their districts and encourage community involvement in their schools.

The Oklahoma School Foundations Network provides free training and resources for new and established public school foundations. Among its services, the program offers an ongoing webinar series, strategic planning facilitation, and other training and networking events.

"The Oklahoma School Foundations Network has been a critical resource for the Norman Public Schools Foundation as we work to enhance the educational experience for students," said Executive Director Alesha Leemaster. "For example, OSFN recently facilitated a strategic planning retreat for our board at no cost to us. The facilitator was extremely knowledgeable and helped us chart a clear path forward and expand our support for students and teachers."

Edmond Public Schools Foundation CEO Deanna Boston and her board also worked with OSFN to create a five-year strategic plan, which has already impacted students through \$550,000 in funding to support mental health support for students. Boston also praised OSFN for its monthly networking opportunities.

"Working at an education foundation has its own unique culture and structure," she said. "Connecting with my peers through monthly meetings provided resources that I could access as I learned the ropes, and three years later I'm still learning from these amazing leaders. Without the support of OSFN, from monthly meetings to access to policies that are relevant to our work, our foundation would not have experienced the accelerated growth it has over the past three years."



Provided nearly **1,000** hours of **free on-call support, training, networking and strategic planning**



Recognized **3** innovative **school foundation programs with \$1,000 Outstanding Program Awards**



Presented **7** **webinars, now available on-demand on the Network Learning Hub**



## 2021-22 Program Impact

-  85 Teacher Professional Development Grant Recipients
-  105 Academic Awards Honorees
-  150 Virtual Colonial Days Participating Districts
-  34 Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute Attendees
-  8 Boren Mentoring Initiative Grant Recipients
-  207 School Foundations Served

*“The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence has created a butterfly effect of excellence throughout our state and nation, and I am so proud that Oklahoma has this incredible organization that cherishes and elevates public education, teachers and students.”*

*-Elaine Hutchison,  
2022 Medal for Excellence recipient*



# Early American History Education

This summer, the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence partnered with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation to send 34 Oklahoma educators to the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute in the restored capital city of 18th-century Virginia.

While in Colonial Williamsburg – the world's largest living history museum – Oklahoma teachers met character interpreters portraying 18th century people and were immersed in early American history through hands-on activities and reenactments of historic events. This marked the 30th year that Oklahoma educators have attended the program, with the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence selecting 922 teachers to receive donor-supported fellowships since 1993.

“I can’t wait to revamp my social studies plans for this year!” said Clinton teacher Allison Resendiz. “I’m better equipped to teach our history from all points of view, a much more ‘whole picture,’ including enslaved people, American Indians, women, and the lower classes’ perspective on the events. I’m excited about all the diverse lesson plans and resources I’m bringing back with me!”



*Clinton teacher Allison Resendiz meets Founding Father James Madison in Colonial Williamsburg.*



Selected **34**  
elementary  
and secondary  
educators to  
attend the Colonial  
Williamsburg  
Teacher Institute

The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence presented a series of four Virtual Colonial Days interactive webinars in 2022, serving more than 11,000 fifth-graders from 150 school districts. “Agents of Change: Promoting Civil Discourse and Action” was the theme of the webinar series, which featured historical interpreters portraying Founding Fathers Benjamin Franklin and James Madison; George Washington’s friend and physician Dr. James Craik; and Agnes, an enslaved woman from Williamsburg, Va.

“My students absolutely loved it because it was a unique way to deliver content and get them excited about history,” said Amanda Meadows of Newkirk. Norman teacher Bryan Karinshak said his students enjoyed the Agents of Change theme, which tied to classroom lessons on how each student can make a difference.



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Tulsa Fund for Teachers Fellow Jason Cole is pictured next to the Sacagawea sculpture at Lewis and Clark National Park in Oregon.



***“My main goal in this fellowship is to create a sense of hope and purpose in students who otherwise have very little of either.”***

# Teacher Professional Development

With support from generous donors and educational partners, the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence seeks to support teachers through quality professional development opportunities. This summer, 70 educators from 44 school districts participated in “Foundations of Fractions,” a six-week professional development course taught by world-renowned math expert Graham Fletcher. Participants in the program expanded their breadth of foundational math concepts and gained techniques to improve their ability to help students succeed.

Through a partnership with Fund for Teachers and the Tulsa Community Foundation, 15 educators were selected to experience self-designed professional development experiences this summer. These Fund for Teachers Fellowships empower teachers to explore academic passions, deepen their scholarship and enhance their craft.

“I have taught all four core subject areas, but this fellowship reminded me why I enjoy teaching social studies so much,” said Jason Cole, a Sand Springs Public Schools teacher at Tulsa Boys’ Home.

Cole’s fellowship led him to the Pacific Northwest, where he participated in symposia that focused on teaching diversity and the role of civil rights in the classroom. He also visited six museums that explored the experiences of the broad range of cultural groups that played a major role in the American Civil Rights Movement.

Cole plans to use his newfound knowledge to bridge the events of historic social movements to the challenging experiences of his current students, most of whom are in state or tribal custody and have severe learning gaps.

“In addition to providing tools that will allow me to reach and connect through various learning styles, my main goal in this fellowship is to create a sense of hope and purpose in students who otherwise have very little of either... I will be showing them that this movement was composed of people not terribly different from them, instilling a sense that they too can change the world.”



**Provided  
summertime  
professional  
development  
training to 70  
educators from 29  
counties**



**Partnered with  
Fund for Teachers  
to award nearly  
\$70,000 in  
self-designed  
professional  
development grants  
to 15 Oklahoma  
educators**



**Awarded 2  
Start-up Grants of  
\$3,000 each  
and  
6 Opportunity  
Grants of \$1,500  
each**

## Boren Mentoring Initiative

To help support the growth and development of K-12 mentoring programs, the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence launched a new funding opportunity in 2021-22 by awarding \$15,000 in Boren Mentoring Initiative Grants. Two start-up grants of \$3,000 each were awarded to organizations in their first three years of development and were designed to encourage establishment of quality mentoring programs. Six opportunity grants of \$1,500 each were awarded to existing mentoring programs to help fund programming, training, materials and other needs that advance student mentoring.

Among the recipients of the start-up grants was BEST! (Building Extraordinary Success Today), a community-based mentoring program sponsored by the Cache Schools Education Foundation. The program matches positive role models with fifth through eighth-grade students in need.

“The grant was instrumental in BEST! gaining momentum after being limited in our mentoring during the past year or two of COVID-19 restrictions,” said Program Coordinator Rhonda Clemmer. The grant enabled BEST! to host Lunch-and-Learn events where speakers presented information on career opportunities and basic life skills. Funds also helped support a Leadership and Community Service Day, in which mentees participated in first aid lessons, team building and leadership training. The highlight of the event was a community service gardening project in which mentees took great pride in creating mixed pots to deliver to senior citizens and downtown merchants.

“We consistently receive feedback from school administrators that behavioral issues among mentees improve or become nonexistent once a mentor is assigned,” Clemmer said. “As a rural mentoring program, exposing mentees to many career possibilities is so important. We love hearing their excitement after a speaker or during one-on-one mentoring sessions. Sometimes it is just hearing the words ‘Yes, you can,’ that makes a difference.”



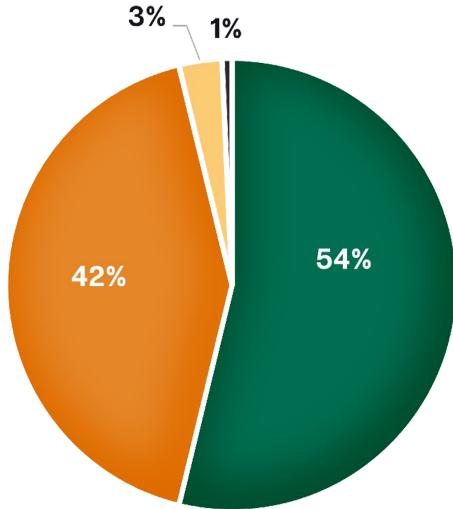
*“Sometimes it is just hearing the words, ‘Yes, you can,’ that makes a difference.”*

*Students created planters for local businesses and senior citizens as part of BEST! Mentoring Program Community Service Day.*

# 2021-22 Financials

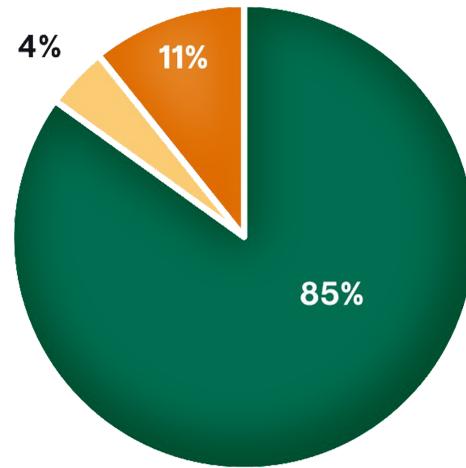
The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through private contributions. Depicted are unaudited financial results for the 2022 fiscal year. A summary of audit findings will be posted upon completion on our website at [www.ofe.org](http://www.ofe.org). For more information about our financials, visit the About section of our website.

**FY22 Operating Revenue**  
**\$958,409**



Contributions	\$515,390
Endowment	\$406,712
In-kind	\$29,573
Other	\$6,734

**FY22 Operating Expenses**  
**\$945,315**



Programs & Related	\$802,735
Staff Support	\$802,735
Fundraising	\$41,094
G&A	\$101,486



[www.ofe.org](http://www.ofe.org)

Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence  
101 Park Ave., Ste. 420  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-7201

**Donate**

