Meet Our Scholarship Staff

Jessica Schwager  
j.schwager@occf.org  
405/606-2917

Rick Fernandez  
r.fernandez@occf.org  
405/606-2919

Wanda Minter  
w.minter@occf.org  
405/606-2907

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation is truly making a difference in our community by providing endless support to high school students and current college students. I was fortunate enough to receive the Frierson Scholarship for my sophomore year at Oklahoma State University. This scholarship made a huge difference in my life and was the reason I was able to continue my studies at OSU.”

Maria Esparza  
New Opportunities Scholar and Frierson Educational Trust Scholarship Recipient  
2016 Putnam City High School Graduate attending Oklahoma State University
Whew! You’ve spent four long years hitting the books, and it’s finally paying off! Thanks to your hard work, you’ve been chosen to receive a scholarship to help fund your education!

As you await graduation day, we’re thrilled you could spend this day with us and allow us to help you glow!

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation scholarship you are being recognized for today is part of our Trustee Scholarship Initiative that was established in 1998 to encourage more students in central Oklahoma to go to college. As you’ll discover in this book, the initiative doesn’t stop with this award. We encourage you to apply to receive additional scholarships this year and throughout your college career.

The generous gifts of donors who were once students just like you made these awards possible. These donors recognize the educational and financial challenges students may encounter, and they want to help you achieve your goals. As you set out to do great things, we hope you will remember that these donors and everyone at the Community Foundation are some of your biggest fans. We’re cheering you on every step of the way!

We hope you’ll keep this scholarship yearbook as a reminder of the long hours of hard work you put in to get this far. We wish you the best of luck with your future endeavors and hope you will stay in touch!

And most importantly, don’t forget to go to class!

Steven C. Agee  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Nancy B. Anthony  
President
Established in 1998 by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Trustees, the Trustee Scholarship Initiative is a series of award programs, including the Community Foundation Scholars program, designed to encourage more students in central Oklahoma to attend college.

College Freshmen

Community Foundation Scholars
Awarded to good students who are active in their community and might not otherwise qualify for awards based solely on academic standards. For the 2020-21 academic year, 97 Community Foundation Scholars will receive a $2,000 award.

New Opportunities Scholars
Awarded to students who will be the first in their family to attend college. Students apply as high school juniors and follow a program to prepare them for college. For the 2020-21 academic year, 72 New Opportunities Scholars will receive a $2,000 award.

College Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors

Frierson Scholarship
Your scholarship opportunities don’t end here! Each spring, former Community Foundation Scholars in their second, third and fourth years following high school graduation who are attending a college, university or vocational school in Oklahoma, in good academic standing and have financial need are invited to apply for the Irene P. and Samuel E. Frierson Educational Trust Scholarship.

Application Deadline: June 1
Award Amount: Varies

Steps to apply:
1. Receive email invitation to apply for the Frierson Educational Trust Scholarship.
2. Log on to occf.academicworks.com, update your online application and complete the reflection statement.
3. Complete the Community Foundation survey form.
4. Submit an official transcript including your collegiate spring semester grades.
5. Upload a copy of your FAFSA Student Aid Report.

Questions? Contact Rick Fernandez at r.fernandez@occf.org or 405/606-2919.

Additional Trustee Scholarship Initiative Opportunities

Oklahoma Youth With Promise
Awarded to students who graduate high school while in Oklahoma’s foster care system.

Nurse Education Program
Awarded to third and fourth year college nursing students and registered nurses pursuing a nursing-related bachelor’s degree.
We also offer scholarships for:

*Students enrolled in the following colleges or career techs:*

- Francis Tuttle Technology Center (Oklahoma City)
- Great Plains Technology Center (Lawton Campus)
- Langston University
- Metro Technology Center (Oklahoma City)
- Oklahoma City University
- Oklahoma Panhandle State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (Okmulgee)
- Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City
- University of Central Oklahoma
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

*Students pursuing the following degree programs:*

- Agriculture
- Architecture, landscape architecture or interior design
- Arts
- Business, finance, accounting, management or economics
- Early childhood education
- Education
- English
- Heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) engineering fields
- Hospitality, tourism or culinary fields
- Law
- Math, science and engineering
- Mental health services
- Music
- Nursing
- Physician Assistants programs
- Sales and marketing

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Growing up in foster care, I never really dreamed I would go to college, but my high school counselor helped introduce me to opportunities and I became a scholarship recipient with the OCCF. Rick and Wanda became my mentors and made sure I stayed on track and reapplied for the Frierson Scholarship each year. Thanks to them and the OCCF, I will graduate from the University of Central Oklahoma with a bachelor’s in sociology in May!

Qualyn Wilson

New Opportunities Scholar
Oklahoma Youth With Promise Scholarship recipient
Frierson Scholarship Recipient

Visit occf.academicworks.com and search by keyword to learn more!
Guidance counselors from 53 central Oklahoma high schools participate in our Central Oklahoma Guidance Counselor Network to learn more about helping students prepare for college. Through the network, we provide free training and resources including continuing education workshops and campus visits for counselors to learn about college admissions and financial aid opportunities. In addition, we provide at least one Community Foundation Scholars award to each participating high school.

ASTEC Charter School – Laura Sessions
Bethany High School – Jackie Melton
Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School – Veleecia Hearne
Capitol Hill High School – Kimberly Ross
Carl Albert High School – Lora Souza
Casady High School – Amanda Kisselle
Choctaw High School – Kelly Collins
Christian Heritage Academy – Troop Bullard
Clasen School of Advanced Studies at Northeast – Rhonda McGuire
Community Christian School – Diana Stephens
Crooked Oak High School – Ting-Lan Lu
Crossings Christian School – Keri Shields
Deer Creek High School – Cindy McCachern
Del City High School – Leigh Neely
Douglass High School – Lisa Arsenault
Dove Science Academy-OKC – Zeliha Sezer
Edmond Memorial High School – Kelley Rampey
Edmond North High School – Jennifer Williams Molock
Edmond Santa Fe High School – Deanna Fleck
El Reno High School – Sheila Seewald
Emerson North High School – Jane Taylor
Emerson South High School – Debbie Brown
Guthrie High School – Annie Chadd
Harding Charter Preparatory School – Katherine Ferguson
Harding Fine Arts Academy – Jessica Wetherington
Harrah High School – Amber Parsons
Heritage Hall – Julie Bramble

John Marshall High School – Ashley Westerman
Jones High School – Curtis Moses
Luther High School – Angie Cox
Midwest City High School – Jamie Butler
Millwood High School – Angelia Wilson
Moore High School – Nasia McCarrell
Mount St. Mary Catholic High School – Malory Tecmire
Mustang High School – Ericka VanCleave
Norman High School – Melanie Hayes
Norman North High School – Phyllis Michaud
Northwest Classen High School – Donna Hill
Oklahoma Christian Academy – Brooke Scott
Oklahoma Christian School – Sherry Sage
Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics – Cynthia Parish
Piedmont High School – Cathy Earnest
Putnam City High School – Brenda Stinnett
Putnam City North High School – Kelly McGrath-Malahy
Putnam City West High School – Angela Miller
Santa Fe South High School – Brenda Grant
Southeast High School – Nayibe Hoffman
Southmoore High School – Risa Demeter
Star Spencer High School – Adrienne Gab
U. S. Grant High School – Prisma Espinoza
Western Heights High School – Laura Castrop
Westmoore High School – Carole Carter
Yukon High School – Jamie Kale

“The COGCN has given me great perspective and a wonderful network to help us build a better program for our students, and the OCCF has been a really great resource to help our students prepare for college.”

Veleecia Hearne
Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Counselor
Donors

Your scholarship award would not be possible without the support of many donors who are eager to help students like you achieve your higher education goals. We are pleased to acknowledge the following donors whose gifts provide substantial support for the Trustee Scholarship Initiative.

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Honoring Past Trustees

Additional scholarships in honor of the following past Trustees are awarded through our Trustee Scholarship Initiative or to support specific educational purposes designated by the Trustee.

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Briza Interiano always had drive and ambition, but when she suddenly found herself in a group home at 14, the future seemed less certain.

“Throughout my middle school years and the beginning of my high school career, I began to doubt that I would even graduate high school,” Briza said.

After a few long weeks, Briza found a home with her aunt and uncle who offered her stability and encouragement. As she settled into her new home and began to find normalcy, her confidence grew. Her aunt and uncle encouraged her to not only complete high school, but to dream beyond.

Entering her junior year at Choctaw High School, her dream of college had grown from just a seedling to a robust vision. With the help of her high school counselor, Briza found an opportunity at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation that would help her dream of becoming the first in her family to attend college a reality.

In 1997, the Community Foundation launched the Trustee Scholarship Initiative to encourage more students in central Oklahoma to attend college. A veteran of social services, Anna-Faye Rose was brought on board to build the program. With her help, the Community Foundation’s scholarship program has grown from 20 annual awards to more than 800.

Following Anna Faye’s retirement in 2013, the trustees established a Community Foundation Scholars award in her name, a $2,000 scholarship that supports a first-generation student.

As both a first-generation college student and a student living in foster care, Briza was a perfect match. Now in her freshman year at Oklahoma State University, Briza says she is determined to pursue her education.

“I want to graduate with a degree in political science and go to law school, and the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has given me the opportunity to pursue that dream,” said Briza.
In fall 2019, Choctaw High School senior Briza Interiano became the first in her family to attend college. She stands left of Anna-Faye Rose, who has played a huge role in helping Briza and thousands of other Oklahoma students follow their dreams.
How to Claim Your Scholarship

You’ve worked hard to earn this scholarship, and you’re well on your way to a great and successful future. But a few things are still missing to help your light shine bright.

So, how do you complete the picture? CLAIM your scholarship! Inside your award packet, you will find instructions on how you can make sure your scholarship money is sent to your school.

The packet includes:

**Thank You Postcard:** A brief thank-you note is a great opportunity to express your gratitude to the donor who has funded your award. To help you out, we’ve included an addressed postcard for you and a sample thank-you letter in this packet. Simply fill it out, put a stamp on it and return it to us and we will make sure it gets to your donor.

**Award Letter:** This contains information about the specific requirements of your scholarship, how and when your scholarship award check will be issued and if your scholarship is eligible for renewal.

**Verification of Enrollment Form:** These are also available to download at OCCF.org/ScholarshipRecipients. Please have your school’s registrar complete this form and mail them to us. You must submit a verification of enrollment for each semester you are receiving an OCCF scholarship.

**Mailing Address:**
Oklahoma City Community Foundation
P.O. Box 1146
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1146

**NOTE:** Your scholarship award check will NOT be issued to your school until YOU email the following information to w.minter@occf.org:
- Name of college or university you are attending
- A valid email address we can use to contact you in the future (most students use their college email address)
- Your student ID number

Just saying thank you will never repay your kindness.

And there you have it! All that’s left to do is flip the switch and light up the path ahead! Please keep in touch, and let us know about all the great things you have yet to accomplish.
Congratulations, 2020 Scholars!

Alexandra Ablah  
Harding Charter Preparatory School  
University of Oklahoma

Issabel Agbogbo  
Edmond North High School  
Xavier University

Aleyda Ibarra Alonso  
Santa Fe South High School  
Rose State College

Ty’Tiauna Alsup  
Douglass High School  
Mid-America Christian University

Ivy Archer  
Harding Fine Arts Academy  
University of Oklahoma

Keturah Armbrister  
Northwest Classen High School  
University of Central Oklahoma

Vandad Asadi  
Deer Creek High School  
University of Central Oklahoma

Coleman Bardell  
Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School  
University of Oklahoma

Jesus Barragan  
Southeast High School  
University of Oklahoma

Arlette Barrios  
Northwest Classen High School  
University of Central Oklahoma

Jandi Barrios  
ASTEC Charter School  
Oklahoma City Community College

Silvia Barrios  
Putnam City West High School  
Southern Nazarene University
Myth:
First-generation college students are less likely to complete their collegiate education.

Fact:
Among our Community Foundation and New Opportunities scholars like yourself, we boast a 72% graduation rate, which blows the 56% national average graduation rate for first-generation college students out of the water and comes dangerously close to the 74% national average of students whose parents earned a bachelor’s degree!

(According to the National Center for Education Statistics and OCCF records)
Seth David  
Harrah High School  
University of New Mexico

Keigan Davidson  
Yukon High School  
Oklahoma City Community College

Meloni Dean  
Western Heights High School  
University of Central Oklahoma

Mackenzie Dodson  
Norman North High School  
University of Oklahoma

Adrienne Doffney  
Putnam City West High School  
University of Central Oklahoma

Desiree Dominguez  
Santa Fe South High School  
University of Central Oklahoma

Clare Dooling  
Southmoore High School  
University of Oklahoma

Daja Dyas  
John Marshall High School  
Oklahoma Christian University

Cittaly Espinoza  
Crooked Oak High School  
Oklahoma City Community College

Kaylee-Nicole Eyabi  
Norman High School  
Rose State College

Kathryn Frank  
Norman North High School  
University of Oklahoma

Akaari Gallagher  
Douglass High School  
University of North Texas

Kaylee Garrett  
Luther High School  
University of Oklahoma

Kelvinson Giron-Gramajo  
Putnam City West High School  
University of Oklahoma

Julie Glisson  
Del City High School  
University of Oklahoma

Nory Gonzalez  
Northwest Classen High School  
Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City
Nyia Graham-Dunn  
Emerson South High School  
Rose State College

Claudia Gramajo  
Putnam City West High School  
University of Oklahoma

Gladys Green  
Edmond North High School  
Oklahoma City University

Hailey Grimmett  
Edmond Santa Fe High School  
Oklahoma State University

Leta Rae Gunner  
Western Heights High School  
Oklahoma City Community College

Linda-Ann Gunner  
Western Heights High School  
Oklahoma City Community College

Diana Roldan Guzman  
Norman High School  
University of Oklahoma

Brooke Halbert  
Moore High School  
Oklahoma City Community College

Beyonce Hammond  
Moore High School  
University of Oklahoma

Lauren Harman  
Westmoore High School  
University of Central Oklahoma

Brice Hembree  
Southmoore High School  
Oklahoma City Community College

Annett Tineo Henriquez  
Southeast High School  
Oklahoma City University

Jesus Hernandez  
Harding Charter Preparatory School  
Oklahoma City University

Sergio Hernandez  
Classen School of Advanced Studies at Northeast  
Oklahoma City University

Gwendolyn Herrada  
Harding Charter Preparatory School  
University of Central Oklahoma

Talayla Hillmon  
John Marshall High School  
Oklahoma City Community College
Myth:
There aren’t that many first-generation college students these days.

Fact:
Actually, the number of first-generation college students is growing! Today, one-third of higher education students are the first in their family to attend college.

(According to the National Center for Education Statistics)
Lily Mikes
Putnam City North High School
Embry-Riddle University

Joshua Miles
Moore High School
University of Oklahoma

Strong Moore
Jones High School
University of Oklahoma

Karina Morales
Mount St. Mary Catholic High School
University of Dallas

Joana Moraz
Putnam City High School
University of Central Oklahoma

Brittany Motes
Northwest Classen High School
Oklahoma State University

Hunter Mullins
Bethany High School
Rose State College

Ruby Munoz
Santa Fe South High School
Oklahoma City Community College

Megan Neaves
Deer Creek High School
Oklahoma City University

Madeline Nelson
Mustang High School
University of Oklahoma

Danny Nguyen
Mustang High School
University of Tulsa

Sheila Nguyen
Classen School of Advanced Studies
at Northeast
University of Central Oklahoma

Thuan Nguyen
Edmond Santa Fe High School
University of Central Oklahoma

Tina Nguyen
Harding Charter Preparatory School
University of Oklahoma

Keyse Nieto
Edmond Memorial High School
Oklahoma City University

Gael Noriega
ASTECC Charter School
Oklahoma City Community College
Gitonga Nyaga
Piedmont High School
Oklahoma State University

Nallely Lopez Ojeda
U.S. Grant High School
University of Central Oklahoma

Keren Turcios Ortega
Classen School of Advanced Studies at Northeast
Oklahoma City Community College

Nia Osita
Southeast High School
University of Oklahoma

Jesse Palmer
Piedmont High School
University of Central Oklahoma

Robert Parker
Southmoore High School
University of Oklahoma

Anika Patel
Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics
University of Oklahoma

Khushie Patel
Edmond Memorial High School
University of Oklahoma

George Patterson-Tellez
ASTEC Charter School
Oklahoma State University

Micah Pennington
Bethany High School
University of Central Oklahoma

Adrian Perez
Emerson North High School
Oklahoma City University

Galilea Perez
U.S. Grant High School
University of Central Oklahoma

Madelyn Puckett
Deer Creek High School
University of Central Oklahoma

Kyleigh Rankin
Edmond Santa Fe High School
Oklahoma State University

Jessica Reyes
Putnam City West High School
Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City

Isela Rios
ASTEC Charter School
Oklahoma Christian University
Myth:
Most students can fall back on their families to pay for school.

Fact:
Only 24% of students expect their family to contribute $15,000 or more to their first year of college. More students actually receive financial aid that does not have to be repaid than rely on family resources.

(According to the UCLA Higher Education Research Institutes Freshmen Survey)
Myth:
You have to take out student loans to pay for college.

Fact:
More than half of students expect not to take out any loans that need to be repaid. Instead, they rely on aid that does not need to be repaid like scholarships and grants.

(According to the UCLA Higher Education Research Institutes Freshmen Survey)
Established in 1969 by John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has connected donors with charitable organizations and causes for the past 50 years. As a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization and one of more than 750 community foundations in the United States, we help donors establish permanent endowment funds to provide long-term support to nonprofits in this community. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation is currently among the 20 largest community foundations in the country, serving both urban and rural communities in central Oklahoma.

What is a community foundation?
Community foundations are public charities dedicated to bettering the lives of people in a defined geographic area through grant-giving. They bring together the financial resources of local individuals, families and businesses to support nonprofits and activities in their area.

What is an endowment?
An endowment is a permanent fund established through a charitable gift or donation. While only a portion of the fund is available each year to support charitable efforts, like your scholarship award, the power behind endowment is its permanence. Each year the fund grows as a portion is invested, ensuring it will forever be able to fund charitable causes.

What other programs do we support in the community?
Thanks to donors who care to see students succeed in their academic journeys, we are able to provide the largest selection of scholarships in the state. We also work with donors to support hundreds of charitable organizations and projects in central Oklahoma, including public art and beautification projects, health care for those in need and community wellness programs for everyone.

Learn more about us at occf.org.