

Par. 1

The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education is the state's legal structure for providing public education at the collegiate level. It is a coordinated system of colleges and universities located throughout the state.

Par. 2\*

There are currently twenty-five institutions in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, including two comprehensive graduate universities, eight regional universities, three special-purpose universities and twelve two-year colleges.

**Comprehensive Graduate Universities**

Oklahoma State University  
University of Oklahoma

**Regional Universities**

Cameron University  
East Central University  
Northeastern State University  
Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
Rogers State University  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University  
Southwestern Oklahoma State University  
University of Central Oklahoma

**Special Purpose Universities**

Langston University  
Oklahoma Panhandle State University  
University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

**Two-Year Colleges**

Carl Albert State College  
Connors State College  
Eastern Oklahoma State College  
Murray State College  
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College  
Northern Oklahoma College  
Oklahoma City Community College  
Redlands Community College  
Rose State College  
Seminole State College  
Tulsa Community College  
Western Oklahoma State College

### **Constituent Agencies**

OSU Agricultural Experiment Station  
OSU Center for Health Sciences  
OSU College of Veterinary Medicine  
OSU Cooperative Extension Service  
OSU-Oklahoma City  
OSU Technical Branch-Okmulgee  
OU Geological Survey  
OU Health Sciences Center  
OU Law Center

### **Higher Education Centers**

There are two higher education centers drawing upon resources of colleges and universities to meet higher education needs of communities without reasonable access to state postsecondary services.

Ardmore Higher Education Center  
McCurtain County Higher Education Center

\*See further information at <http://www.okhighered.org/gold-book/part1.shtml>

#### Par. 3

The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education was established on March 11, 1941, when the people of the State adopted an amendment to the constitution, Article XIII-A, creating the State System. The amendment provides, "All institutions of higher education supported wholly or in part by direct legislative appropriations shall be integral parts of a unified system to be known as The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education."

#### Par. 4

The Chancellor is the chief executive officer for the State Regents and provides leadership for the State System. The work of the office is organized in four functional areas: Academic Affairs, Administration and Board Relations, Budget and Fiscal, and Research and Development.

#### Par. 5\*

There are currently three constitutional governing boards and 12 statutory boards. The constitutional boards are the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma.

\*See further information at <http://www.okhighered.org/gold-book/part1.shtml>

Par. 6\*

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education offers 12 different student financial assistance programs:

Academic Scholars Program  
Chancellor's Scholars Program  
Future Teachers Scholarship Program  
Heartland Scholarship Program  
Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program  
Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP)  
Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program  
Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program  
Regional University Baccalaureate Scholarships  
Renee Neuwald Memorial Scholarship Program  
Tulsa Reconciliation Scholarship Program  
William P. Willis Scholarship Program

\*See further information at <http://www.okhighered.org/gold-book/part3.shtml>

Par. 7\*

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education administer four teacher development programs:

Minority Teacher Recruitment Center  
Oklahoma Teacher Enhancement Program  
Oklahoma Teacher Shortage Employment Incentive Program  
Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Program

\* See further information at <http://www.okhighered.org/gold-book/part3.shtml>

Par. 8\*

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education administer student programs:

Cash for College  
College Goal Sunday  
GEAR UP  
Oklahoma Campus Compact  
Oklahoma Educational Planning and Assessment System (OK EPAS)  
Smart Start for Brain Gain 2010  
Summer Academies in Math and Science  
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs

\* See further information at <http://www.okhighered.org/gold-book/part3.shtml>

Par. 9\*

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education administers two higher education centers:

Ardmore Higher Education Center  
Kerr Conference Center  
McCurtain County Higher Education Center  
Quartz Mountain Arts and Conference Center and Nature Park

\* See further information at <http://www.okhighered.org/gold-book/part3.shtml>

Par. 10

The Oklahoma State Regents provides the following program initiatives for improvement of Oklahoma higher education:

### **Brain Gain Funding**

The State Regents have adopted Brain Gain 2010 as a major initiative. This initiative calls for 28 percent of Oklahoma's adult population to hold a bachelor's degree or higher by 2010 (up from 20.1 percent in 1996) and for 10 percent of the population to hold an associate degree (double the 1996 rate). This translates into an additional

203,000 bachelor degree holders and 140,000 associate degree holders. Accomplishing these ambitious objectives will require implementation of multiple strategies, including retaining more Oklahoma college graduates in the state and attracting college degree holders from outside the state – both strategies that require substantial attention to economic development and job creation activities.

### **EPSCoR Matching Fund Program**

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is a federal initiative encompassing six state agencies that is designed to develop advanced research capabilities. The State Regents is the fiscal agent for this program that is targeted to states that have historically received a low amount of federal research funds.

### **Economic Development Grant Program**

The State Regents established the Economic Development Grant Program in January 1988. It is keyed to support the efforts of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to develop Oklahoma's workforce, establish centers of intellectual excellence and commercialize research outcomes. The grant program encourages institutions to promote an entrepreneurial vision on their campuses that advances workforce and enterprise development and the commercialization of research.

### **Endowment Fund Program**

The Endowment Fund Program was started in 1988 for the purpose of establishing an endowment program to support establishment of faculty chairs and

professorships and to carry out other related activities to improve the quality of instruction and research at state colleges and universities.

### **Master Lease Purchase Program**

The purpose of the State System Master Lease Purchase Program is to offer a method of financing the acquisition of major personal property that will provide cost efficiencies in both financing and administrative costs. Authorized institutions must enter into lease agreements for values from a minimum of \$50,000 up to values of \$10 million. The lease terms will vary by the useful life of the equipment purchased, but the useful life must not exceed 20 years.

### **Office of Accountability**

Assigned to the State Regents by the Legislature in 2003, the office provides reports regarding the performance of public schools to the people of Oklahoma. The office implements the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program, monitors compliance progress made by districts, and makes reports and recommendations where appropriate to the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the governor.

### **Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan**

This plan allows anyone – parents, grandparents, friends, etc. – to open a tax-advantaged account for a child through payroll deduction or direct contribution. Funds can be used for college expenses at nearly all colleges and universities in the United States. The earnings on the investments are free from federal and Oklahoma taxes. Annual contributions of up to \$2,500 per beneficiary are deductible from Oklahoma taxable income.

### **OneNet**

OneNet began in 1992, building upon and succeeding the televised instruction system operated by the State Regents, with the approval of a statewide capital bond issue that provided \$14 million for the implementation of a statewide telecommunications network. OneNet operates hub sites throughout Oklahoma to provide the infrastructure to support a high-speed telecommunications network with an equitable rate structure.

OneNet's state-of-the-art technology and dedicated staff currently provide high-speed communications to a variety of Oklahoma entities, such as public and vocational-technical schools; colleges and universities; public libraries; local, tribal, state and federal governments; court systems; rural health care delivery systems; and programs engaged in research.

### **Online College of Oklahoma (OCO)**

In response to increased demand for anytime, anywhere learning, OCO was established as a pilot project in spring 2000. OCO builds on existing distance education resources (the Oklahoma Electronic Campus) to provide Oklahomans with convenient access to high-quality educational courses, programs and resources offered by state colleges and universities.

**Quality Initiative Grant Program**

The State Regents established the Quality Initiative Grant Program to support quality initiatives contained in proposals to be submitted by institutions in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

**Regents Education Program**

The purpose of the Regents Education Program is to educate Oklahoma regents and trustees about the nature of their responsibilities and the seriousness with which they should be undertaken. More specifically, the program is to provide information and understandings that will allow regents and trustees to perform their public responsibilities and to govern successfully in the face of greater calls for wider programs and services, mandates for greater accountability, changing clientele and demands, and resource scarcity.

**Research Matching Program**

Through this program, incentives are provided for institutions to compete for research grants by providing the match for the federal contributions.