

# 2011



## public agenda

### improving our future by degrees

#### THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC AGENDA

The purpose of the public agenda is to provide a better understanding of the critical policy issues, goals and objectives that shape the direction of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. It is based on the needs of the state as identified through the ongoing strategic planning process, and it describes the major initiatives that are in place to achieve the policy objectives.

#### KEY POLICY GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have adopted key goals and objectives that will allow Oklahoma to increase its educated workforce, increase the number of college graduates and better compete globally.

##### Goals

- Enhance access and improve the quality of public higher education for all Oklahomans.
- Increase the number of college graduates.
- Better prepare students to meet the challenges of a global economy.

##### Objectives

- Enhance capacity to successfully enroll, retain and graduate students.
- Increase systemwide efficiencies and cost savings.
- Strengthen financial support for Oklahoma college students.
- Improve instructional quality.
- Utilize Brain Gain performance funding to enhance student success and academic quality.
- Broaden economic development activities.
- Advance access to and quality of technologies to support systemwide programs and services.

#### QUICK FACTS

- In each of the last three semesters, **historic numbers of Oklahomans have enrolled** in our public colleges and universities. Fall enrollment has increased by 16,077 students since 2008.
- The state system of higher education has developed **cost-saving initiatives** that will save **\$112.3 million** from 2009-12.
- During 2008-09, public institutions granted **an all-time high** 24,211 associate and bachelor's degrees, up 27.4 percent since 2000-01.
- For every **\$1** spent on higher education, an additional **\$5.15** is pumped into the state's economy.
- Higher education has an impact on Oklahoma's economy of more than **\$3.2 billion** each year.



## OKLAHOMA STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

*Improving our future by degrees*

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## KEY INITIATIVES

### Oklahoma's Promise

Oklahoma's Promise is recognized by many as America's best college access program and is considered a model that combines emphases on academic preparation and financial support for college. Since 2001, OK Promise has grown from just over 2,000 qualifying students to more than 20,000 students receiving scholarships in FY 2011.

### Reach Higher

Nine of Oklahoma's public regional universities and 14 public community colleges and technical branches offer on-campus and online class options and multiple enrollment periods. Depending on their career goals and the number of hours they have already earned, students can choose between an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science in enterprise development or a Bachelor of Science in organizational leadership. With a Reach Higher degree, students receive the leadership training, communications skills and business knowledge they need to get ahead.

### OKcollegestart.org

The state's student information portal provides college planning and preparation information to students, parents and high school counselors. Through the portal, students can create individual portfolios, access campus information, apply for federal and state financial aid, and apply to many of the state's colleges and universities. Approximately 145,000 student accounts have been created, and about 30,000 students have applied online for Oklahoma's Promise.

### Complete College America

Oklahoma, along with a select group of leading states, is part of Complete College America's Alliance of States, which is working to dramatically increase the number of young adults with a college degree or credential by setting degree goals and developing and implementing aggressive state- and campus-level action plans to meet those goals. Established in 2009, Complete College America provides Oklahoma with tangible and practical support to help implement a range of strategies that will bring needed changes in the culture and practices of its public postsecondary institutions.

### College Access Challenge Grant Program

The College Access Challenge Grant Program is a federal program focused on projects increasing the number of students from underrepresented groups who are enrolled and retained and complete degrees in higher education. Funds are used to expand existing projects, including scholarships, development of degree completion curriculum, promotion of the EPAS program and OKcollegestart.org to school counselors, and providing support for a new statewide college access network in Oklahoma.

### OK EPAS

The Oklahoma Educational Planning and Assessment System provides assessments of college readiness and helps teachers, students and families identify the need for academic improvements. EPAS serves more than 450 public school districts, including 63 nonpublic schools. Approximately 80,000 students in the eighth and 10th grades took EPAS assessments during 2009-10.

### Cooperative Alliances

Twenty-nine technology centers across the state have partnered with 18 higher education institutions and branch campuses in cooperative alliance agreements. These partnerships have helped Oklahoma students earn more than 70,000 credit hours annually toward their Associate in Applied Science degrees.

### Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent enrollment allows outstanding junior and senior high school students the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. During 2009-10, more than 56,000 hours were earned through concurrent enrollment.

### OneNet

OneNet is Oklahoma's telecommunications network for education, government and research and provides high-speed communications to approximately 70 percent of public K-12 schools as well as career technology centers; public colleges and universities; public libraries; local, tribal, state and federal governments; rural health care delivery systems; and programs engaged in research.