Four Oklahoma Campus Compact (OkCC) members leveraged grants of $1,000 each from the Corporation for National and Community Service through donations, in-kind services, and cash matches, to host service projects for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, January 20, 2014 and beyond. The funds are administered through the Wisconsin Campus Compact as the lead grant agency.

The program makes seed money available to mobilize college students, faculty, staff and community volunteers to complete service projects throughout college communities as a part of a national effort to honor the life of Dr. King by reminding all Americans of their civic duty to serve and by helping members of the community work together to solve common problems. Activities can stretch from one day through an entire semester.

**Cameron University**

Cameron University students and faculty joined with Lawton adult and youth volunteers to complete community service projects at nine different sites, receiving good local media coverage. In all a total of 390 people volunteered, with an additional 150 people donating to the supply drive. Cameron University made its biggest impact this year building relationships with the Lawton Public Schools through working together. The full partner list included the Lawton Food Bank, Boys and Girls Club, City of Lawton Parks and Recreation, Wilson Elementary School, Jackson Elementary School, Sheridan Road Elementary School, Sullivan Village Elementary School, and Pioneer Park Elementary School. CU’s MLK Day of Service program also incorporated a citywide supply drive the previous Saturday for 8 different United Way agencies.
Over the spring semester Political Science and Legal Studies professor Dr. Christine Pappas led 50 students in her Mass Media and U.S. Politics course in teaching 5th grade students from four local elementary schools about Martin Luther King, Jr.

The strategy focused on Dr. King’s legacy of standing up to wrongs and to bullying. The East Central University students prepared presentations and provided guidance to 5th grade students from the Ada, Allen, Byng and Latta Public Schools. The fifth-graders created etched tiles for commemoration. East Central University was partnered by the City of Ada and Boadie L. Anderson Quarrie. The activities also included a ceremony.

ECU students with tiles etched by 5th grade students
Northeastern State University

Over 500 Northeastern State University students, faculty, staff and alumni volunteered to help with cleaning, maintenance and light construction at seven schools in the Tahlequah community. The full of partners included Tahlequah High School and Middle School, Keys High School, Sequoyah Pre-K, Heritage Elementary, Cherokee Elementary, and Greenwood Elementary Schools, the Cherokee Nation, and Crescent Valley Church. NSU used this event as a soft introduction to its Big Event day of service for the Tahlequah community, which followed later in the spring.

NSU students signing up to perform service in the community
Rogers State University

Rogers State University hosted a week of activities celebrating the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. legacy with a total of 149 volunteers working with six partners. RSU began its activities on Monday with community service at the Claremore Habitat for Humanity, the Wild Heart Ranch, and Inola Elementary School. A remembrance ceremony took place on Tuesday featuring presentations from RSU students, faculty and administrators. Later that day a group volunteered at the Claremore Veterans Center. Wednesday the RSU Honors Program hosted a blood drive with the American Red Cross. Thursday saw a public viewing of “Freedom on My Mind”, followed by a faculty panel discussion on the civil rights movement. The week of community service closed on Friday with reading books about MLK to students at Claremont Elementary School. RSU built sustainability by using the events to also solicit volunteers for upcoming campuswide community service programs, which include monthly lunches and readings with elementary school students, and participation in events supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters.

RSU students volunteered in the community throughout the week of MLK’s birthday

For more information on the Campus Compact MLK Day of Service grant program, including toolkits and promotional materials, go to: http://www.wicampuscompact.org/mlkday2014/