



Oklahoma | Campus Compact

## 2015 State Award Recipients

### Community Engagement Professional of the Year Award

This award recognizes one professional who has worked toward the institutionalization of academic service-learning and/or service, created and strived toward a vision of service for his/her campus, promoted higher education as a public good, provided exceptional support to faculty and students, and has been instrumental in forming innovative campus-community partnerships. In a first ever tie, the Community Engagement Professional of the Year Award went to two people:

**Dr. Jorge Atilas, Professor and Associate Dean, Extension and Engagement, Oklahoma State University, and Ms. Lindsay White, Director of Student and Community Engagement, Tulsa Community College.**

Dr. Jorge Atilas is the founder and chairperson of Oklahoma State University's 'University Network for Community Engagement', an organizational group which meets regularly to create awareness about the community engagement in progress, provides connections and resources to internal engagement partners, and develops infrastructure to support community engagement. Dr. Atilas was an instrumental partner in the successful effort to gain the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification for Oklahoma State University. He regularly encourages faculty to present at the Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference, and is an unquestioned champion of community engagement at his institution.



Dr. Atilas received the award from Dr. Debbie Blanke, Executive Director of Oklahoma Campus Compact, at the Heartland Regional Conference on October 29, 2015 in Kansas City.





Dr. Atilas was honored by Chancellor Glen D. Johnson and Chairman Gen. Toney Stricklin, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, at the State Regents December 3, 2015 meeting in Oklahoma City.



Ms. Lindsay White’s leadership, enthusiasm and commitment have helped to create and support a variety of new and innovative methods to expand and promote service-learning and civic engagement at Tulsa Community College. She spearheaded the institution’s application for the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, an undertaking which necessitated immense organizational effort, and although the effort was not successful, she continues to actively analyze capabilities and effort, and to work toward the depth and breadth of engagement for her institution which the Classification signifies. Through her co-leadership of its Completing the Dream Service-Learning initiative, Tulsa Community College will build a greater infrastructure for community engagement which in turn will improve student retention and persistence. Ms. White was awarded by Dr. Debbie Blanke, Executive Director of Oklahoma Campus Compact, at the Heartland Regional Conference on October 29, 2015 in Kansas City.



Ms. White is also shown with Tulsa Community College President Leigh Goodson, Chancellor Glen D. Johnson and Chairman Gen. Toney Stricklin, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, at the State Regents December 3, 2015 meeting in Oklahoma City where they honored her for her work.



### **Excellence in Community-Based Teaching & Scholarship Award**

This award recognizes one faculty member or administrator who has successfully promoted the incorporation of service-learning into at least one course with demonstrable outcomes, and has conducted outstanding research in the field of service-learning and engaged scholarship.

#### **Dr. Jennifer Jones, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Science, Oklahoma State University**

Dr. Jones formed a service-learning partnership with the Oklahoma Advocates Involved in Monitoring (OK AIM) program of the Tulsa Advocates for the Rights of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (TARC). Over the past six semesters 431 students from Dr. Jones' course on *Developmental*



*Disabilities: Issues Across the Lifespan* served as volunteers to assess the quality of life of adults with developmental disabilities living in Oklahoma. The experiential nature of this project required the students to move beyond the classroom and assimilate course content through field observations and engagement with individuals with developmental disabilities. This partnership enabled Dr. Jones to offer research experiences to students who will go onto have careers working for agencies that serve similar populations. Using data gathered from students participating in the service-learning project Dr. Jones has presented twice at the American Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities along with her students and staff from TARC, providing a national platform to increase researchers and practitioners understanding of the benefits and scholarship of service-learning within the field of developmental disabilities. Dr. Jones and the TARC staff have also given workshop presentations for Oklahoma State University faculty on collaboration with community agencies to infuse service-learning in undergraduate and graduate coursework.

Dr. Jones is pictured with Dr. Debbie Blanke, Executive Director of Oklahoma Campus Compact, receiving her award at the Heartland Regional Conference on October 29, 2015 in Kansas City.

