

# 2019 OKLAHOMA NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOWS

## Eleven Oklahoma College Students Are Honored As Newman Civic Fellows by Campus Compact

Eleven Oklahoma college students were named 2019 Newman Civic Fellows by Campus Compact as part of a group of 262 students honored, representing Campus Compact member institutions from 39 states, Washington, D.C., Mexico, and Greece. The Newman Civic Fellowship is a one-year fellowship for community-committed college students from Campus Compact member institutions. The fellowship honors the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders, who was a tireless advocate for civic engagement in higher education. In the spirit of Dr. Newman's leadership, Campus Compact member presidents and chancellors may nominate one student who has demonstrated a capacity for leadership and an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country and abroad.

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides a variety of learning and networking opportunities emphasizing personal, professional, and civic growth. Each year, Fellows are invited to a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. Each Oklahoma Newman Civic Fellow will receive a \$500 monetary scholarship award from Oklahoma Campus Compact and be invited to be recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education at a monthly meeting. The Newman Civic Fellowship is supported by the KPMG Foundation and Newman's Own Foundation.

Campus Compact is a national coalition of 1000+ colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education. Campus Compact supports institutions in fulfilling their public purposes by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. Visit [www.compact.org](http://www.compact.org).



Campus Compact  
Oklahoma

## Ms. Brooklyn Herriman, Connors State College



Brooklyn Herriman, a sophomore at Connors State College, is an important and effective leader on campus. She is president of the Student Government Association (SGA), serves as an Agriculture Ambassador, and is a member of the President's Leadership Class. She is passionate about helping others and giving back to her community. Under her leadership, the SGA started an initiative to connect students with the local community. During her time at Connors, she helped implement a Thanksgiving meal for the less fortunate in the small rural town of Warner, feeding over 150

people. She also led a group of students to serve meals at a local homeless shelter. During the holidays, she helped the Agriculture Ambassadors with a food drive to replenish the shelves of local food pantries. While serving as student government president, she led the SGA to host a community movie night for families to come on campus and enjoy a free movie and refreshments. She continues to lead and encourage her fellow students to look for more ways to connect with the community and leave a legacy of service and goodwill.

## Ms. Autumn Fourkiller, Rogers State University

Autumn Fourkiller is a senior at Rogers State University majoring in Public Affairs/Political Science. She was raised by a mother that considered voting not only a duty, but a privilege, one that was not to be taken lightly. She passed this respect of the institution on to Autumn, who spent the bulk of her undergraduate volunteer hours committed to helping others register to vote, serving on Rock the Vote committees, and pestering friends and strangers alike about sample ballots. Autumn served as the President of the Student Government Association, this

year's Election Commission Chairperson, and as a member of the Oklahoma Campus Compact Campus Vote Advisory Committee. This summer she held an internship at the Cherokee County Election Board, an experience that helped combine her two passions: voting and serving Indian Country. She has been active on campus all four years, and will continue changing the world as a graduate student next year. Autumn hopes that the work she has done will continue on long after she graduates, and that one day the majority of students on her campus will be politically active and regular voters.



## Mr. Grant Dick, Northern Oklahoma College, Enid



Grant Dick is a sophomore Biological Sciences major at Northern Oklahoma College in Enid. Serving as president of the President's Leadership Council, he works to see every campus event and project come to completion all while promoting scholarship and service in the community. Grant is the first child in his family to enter college, and last spring, he gave a presentation to a packed auditorium at a local Title 1 school about the importance of education, the paths available to

students, and the success that education yields. Grant works to help local high school students and nontraditional students attend and excel in higher education as much as possible. Grant started a club on his campus that gives students an opportunity to experience the outdoors and learn the values of conservation while maintaining high ethical standards.

## Ms. Jacqueline K. Ruhl, Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Jacqueline Ruhl, a senior at Northwestern Oklahoma State University majoring in political science, is a student who has overcome extreme odds to complete her baccalaureate degree. Jacqueline is a nontraditional student with thirteen children from her blended family, with nine of them still living in her home. As an underprepared student, she was required to take several remedial courses at the start of her university career, earning only three hours of credit during her first semester. She dropped out for several years, but eventually re-enrolled and has

become an outstanding student with the ultimate goal of attending law school and becoming a family law attorney. She engages in many volunteer activities connected with her church and her children. She serves meals at the church and has prepared food bags for the Stamp Out Hunger organization. She will serve as a wonderful role model for young people as her story speaks to dedication and perseverance. Jacqueline believes that the value of public service is beyond measure.



## Mr. Hadley LaMascus, Oklahoma Christian University



Hadley LaMascus, a third year student at Oklahoma Christian University, is a student leader committed to research connecting pollution with human health. Hadley first became interested in the complicated web of connections between pollution, ethics, and human health during his introductory biology coursework and involvement with an ethics debate team, saying that while science can illustrate mechanisms or solutions for poor health, a sense of ethics is required for why

health claims priority when creating public policy or health solutions. His research not only illuminates how airborne particles affect health, but it also indicts communities that fail to seriously consider the ways in which community health is fostered or hampered by their actions. Hadley has served as president of the honors student governance organization, and has influenced several of his pre-med and health care peers to volunteer with him at a local free clinic, Manos Unidas.

## Ms. Alisha Fletcher, Northeastern State University

Alisha Fletcher graduated from Northeastern State University in May of 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and is currently working on a Master's degree in American Studies. Alisha is passionate about creating positive change through collaboration and community building. Growing up in poverty, she was driven to work towards bettering both her own life and the lives of others. Alisha held many leadership roles while an undergraduate student, both on-campus and off. In her work as an intern for the City of Tahlequah, she brought those worlds together through her work on the city's Comprehensive Plan to build community in Tahlequah by leading a concentrated effort to include

the voices of students in the planning for the city's future. She also worked on various political campaigns to ensure that representatives are accurately representing their constituents, and continues to work with local campaigns to ensure that her community is making progressive steps forward while including the voices of college students, who are valuable members of the community. The experience she has gained working to improve community outreach, increasing community awareness of local issues, and implementing social change provides her with a great deal of practical knowledge.



# educating citizens · building communities

## Ms. Amanda Pierce, Rose State College

Amanda Pierce emerged as an active member of the Rose State College community through her engagement with campus events, service learning activities and personal achievement. She steps willingly into any situation and is kind, inclusive and genuine to everyone she meets. Amanda often takes a leadership role while participating in campus service learning and volunteer activities by including other students, volunteering for more difficult, but necessary, tasks and setting the example for her peers when at

partner agencies. One will find a common theme behind her actions and involvement: Ms. Pierce is a passionate advocate for children and community, leading by quiet example and using her intelligence, ambition and passion to support and advocate for issues that are close to her heart and tied closely to the communities in which she is involved. Amanda feels that being involved in one's community gives one the opportunity to connect with people and spread joy. It is not charity, an obligation, or duty. It's just love.



## Mr. Kamuela Ahuna, Southwestern Oklahoma State University



Kamuela Ahuna has been active at SWOSU in many campus and community-based projects. Coming from a small Oklahoma high school, Kam is committed to providing a pathway to STEM fields for other rural students. To that end, he is actively involved in the SWOSU Computer Club and a computer science camp for area high school students. As a mentor and role model to fellow students, Mr. Ahuna provides information on accessibility to higher education and to STEM fields of study. He is a volunteer at the First Tech Challenge Robotics

competition, and represents the university as a member of the SWOSU Marching Band. As a member of the President's Leadership Class, Kam is active in many civic engagement events, including fighting childhood hunger through the Backpack for Kids program at a local elementary school. Kamuela says that reaching out to high schools that are lacking the necessities to facilitate a career in technology is something he hopes to continue to do in the future.

## Mr. Ke’Juan Morris, Tulsa Community College

Ke’Juan understands that systemic change can happen only when those who are passionate about civic engagement collaborate with others to find real solutions to social issues. He has been working with city councilors, city planners, local residents, and colleagues to collaborate on strategies for change in North Tulsa to help bridge the gap of health and income disparities as compared to the rest of the city. Focusing specifically on green urban planning, Ke’Juan’s long-term goals include planning for more environmentally friendly parks, implementing a Zero Waste Initiative, developing greener and more extensive

public transportation, and establishing incentives to attract socially responsible developers. Additionally, Ke’Juan has been instrumental both on and off campus in raising awareness of inequalities through photojournalism. He recently used visual media to document the Tulsa Pride Parade, Tulsa’s March for Our Lives, and several recent elections in the Tulsa area. TCC’s president says they need leaders in their city like Ke’Juan who can accurately identify injustices and respond with innovative solutions, and that it is students like Ke’Juan that give them great hope in the future of their college and their city.



## Ms. Hunter Caudillo, University of Central Oklahoma



Hunter Caudillo is a very active student in the community engagement activities hosted through UCO’s Volunteer and Service Learning Center. She first became involved in serving the community through a mission trip to Africa as a teenager. For the last three years, Hunter has taken leadership roles in her sorority and in UCO’s Big Event student organization. She says this work has given her the chance to bring awareness to

different issues around her that are close to her heart. She has used these roles to challenge her peers to get involved with their community and elsewhere. Hunter is known campus-wide as a champion for service and advocate for community involvement. Further, she is a constant champion for student engagement in her surrounding community, around the country and around the world.

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## Mr. Carson Ball, University of Oklahoma



Carson is a University of Oklahoma sophomore majoring in Political Science and Native American Studies with a concentration in Tribal Governance and Policy. Last summer Carson served as the Indian Affairs Intern for United States Senator James Lankford. He is also a Carl Albert Center Civic Engagement Fellow where he helped coordinate an unprecedented voter registration drive on OU's campus, registering 685 students. The Fellows also partnered with RISE to Vote in a nonpartisan effort to register professional and college athletes to vote, and the Oklahoma City Thunder to register the players, staff, and fans. Based on their work, OU was recognized as one of "the best colleges for student voting," by Washington Monthly. On campus, Carson became a democracy coach for

Generation Citizen and began educating high school students on how to participate and engage in democracy. Carson advocates for education equity and is the co-founder and chair of the Miracle Mindset Empowerment and Leadership Summit that serves high school freshmen with the purpose of eliminating the achievement gap and persistent disparity of educational resources, information, and opportunities among at-risk youth from low-income backgrounds by providing students with the essential tools and encouragement needed to be successful in high school and beyond. Carson believes that through continued involvement on and off campus, he can help improve the education equity in Oklahoma one step at a time.