

# State Regents for Higher Education

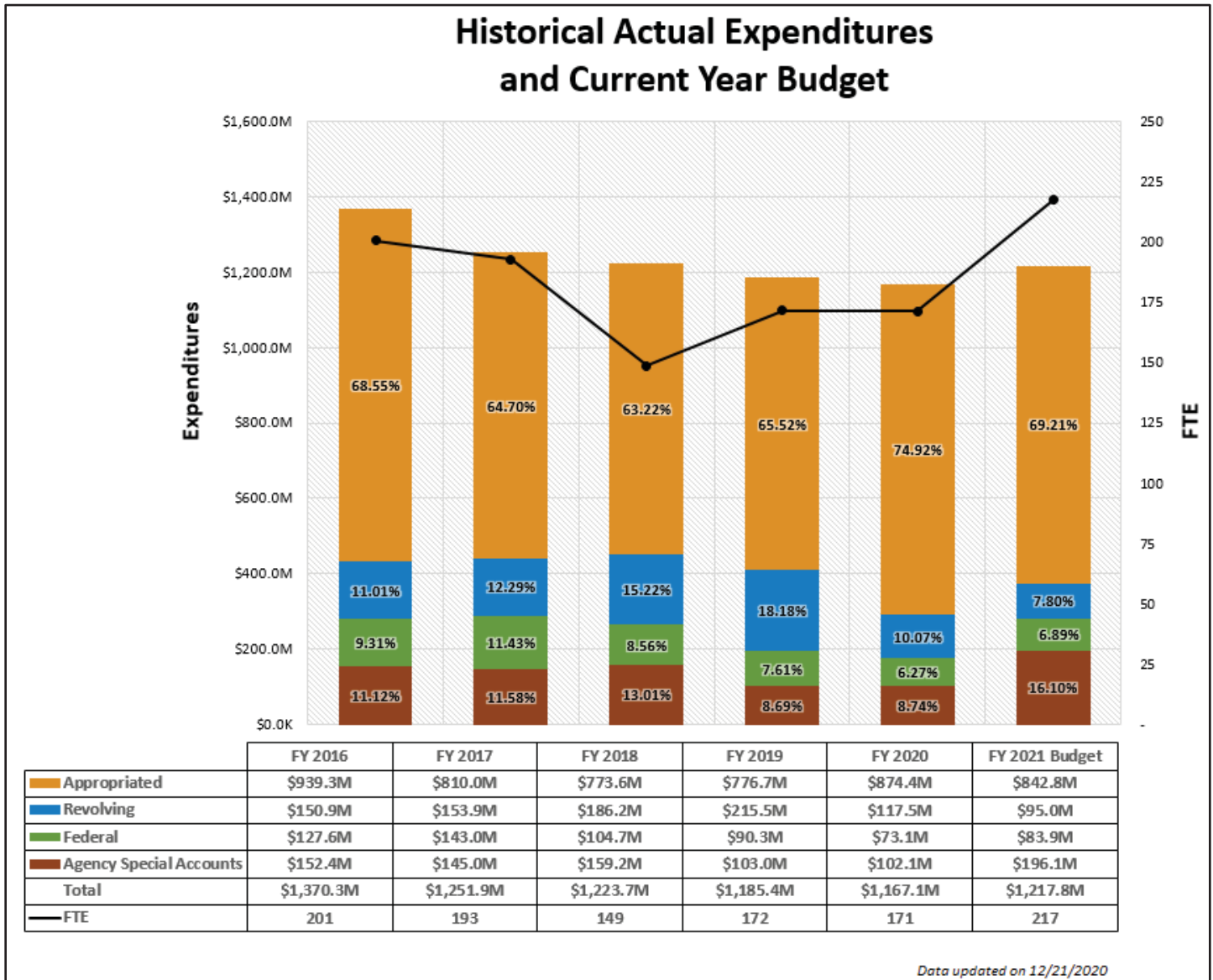


**OKLAHOMA**  
Higher Education



# Agency Information

## Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education



**Notes:** The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education facilitates the state support for all public institutions of higher education, which are separate entities in the state’s accounting software. As such, institutional funding is not reflected in prior year actual expenditures in the state system of record. Data for the graph above has been provided by the OSRHE financial office and cannot be independently verified by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services. Appropriated amounts may include carryover.

### Mission

The mission of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) is to build a nationally competitive system of higher education that will provide educational programs and services universally recognized for excellence, expand frontiers of knowledge, and enhance quality of life.

## Governance

The OSRHE consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, who serve staggered, rotating nine-year terms, removable only for cause as provided by state law for the removal of officers not subject to impeachment. Any appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the balance of the term only.

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education		
Name	Appointment Date	Term Ending Date
Ronald H. White	May, 2012	May, 2021
Jay Helm	May, 2013	May, 2022
Joseph L. Parker, Jr.	May, 2014	May, 2023
Ann Holloway*	May, 2015	May, 2024
Dennis Casey	May, 2020	May, 2025
Jeffrey W. Hickman**	May, 2017	May, 2026
Michael C. Turpen	May, 2018	May, 2027
Steven W. Taylor	May, 2019	May, 2028
Jack Sherry	May, 2020	May, 2029

\*Chair \*\*Vice chair

## OSRHE – Coordinating Board

The state regents' role is to prescribe academic standards of higher education for the Oklahoma state system; to determine functions and courses of study at state colleges and universities; to grant degrees; and to approve each public college's and university's allocations, as well as tuition and fees, within the limits set by the Oklahoma Legislature.

While the state regents are the coordinating board of control for all institutions in the State System of Higher education, governing boards of regents and boards of trustees are responsible for the day-to-day operation and management of each institution or higher education center.

## Institutional – Governance Board

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 Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents, and the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents.

## The Oklahoma State Regents for Oklahoma Higher Education

The work of OSRHE is defined by constitutional provisions, state statutes, and state regents' policy. The state regents prescribe academic standards of higher education, determine functions and courses of study at state colleges and universities, grant degrees, and approve each public college's and university's allocations, as well as tuition and fees within the limits set by the Oklahoma Legislature.

## The Chancellor

Chancellor Glen D. Johnson currently serves as the chief executive officer for the OSRHE. In this role, he leads efforts in coordinating Oklahoma's state system comprised of 25 state colleges and universities, 11 constituent agencies, two university centers, and independent colleges and universities. He reports to a constitutional board whose nine members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Chancellor Johnson provides leadership on matters relating to standards for Oklahoma higher education, courses and programs of study, budget allocations for institutions, fees and tuition, and strategic planning. He is responsible for an annual higher education budget in excess of \$2.7 billion, as well as the state endowment

fund, with a market value over \$752 million. He is responsible for OneNet, which is Oklahoma’s most advanced technology network designed to provide the infrastructure to support high-speed broadband services, as well as the Oklahoma College Assistance Program, which has guaranteed more than one million student loans exceeding \$2.5 billion in insured debt. Johnson directs 20 statewide scholarship programs including the Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship program and statewide GEAR UP efforts. Chancellor Johnson became the 8<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education in January 2007, following a national search. In his role, Chancellor Johnson earns an annual salary of \$316,032.

## Administration

The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education is the state’s legal structure for providing public education at the collegiate level. With a current headcount enrollment of approximately 206,000 students, the state system is comprised of 25 state colleges and universities, 11 constituent agencies, and two university centers. The state system is coordinated by OSRHE, and each institution is governed by a board of regents, with responsibility for the actual operation of the institution.

### RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

- University of Oklahoma
- Oklahoma State University

### CONSTITUENT AGENCIES

- OU Health Sciences Center
- OU Law Center
- OU-Tulsa
- OSU Agricultural Experiment
- OSU Center for Health Sciences
- OSU College of Veterinary Medicine
- OSU Cooperative Extension Service
- OSU Institute of Technology-Okmulgee
- OSU Tulsa
- OSU-Oklahoma City

### HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- University Center of Southern Oklahoma – Ardmore
- University Center at Ponca City

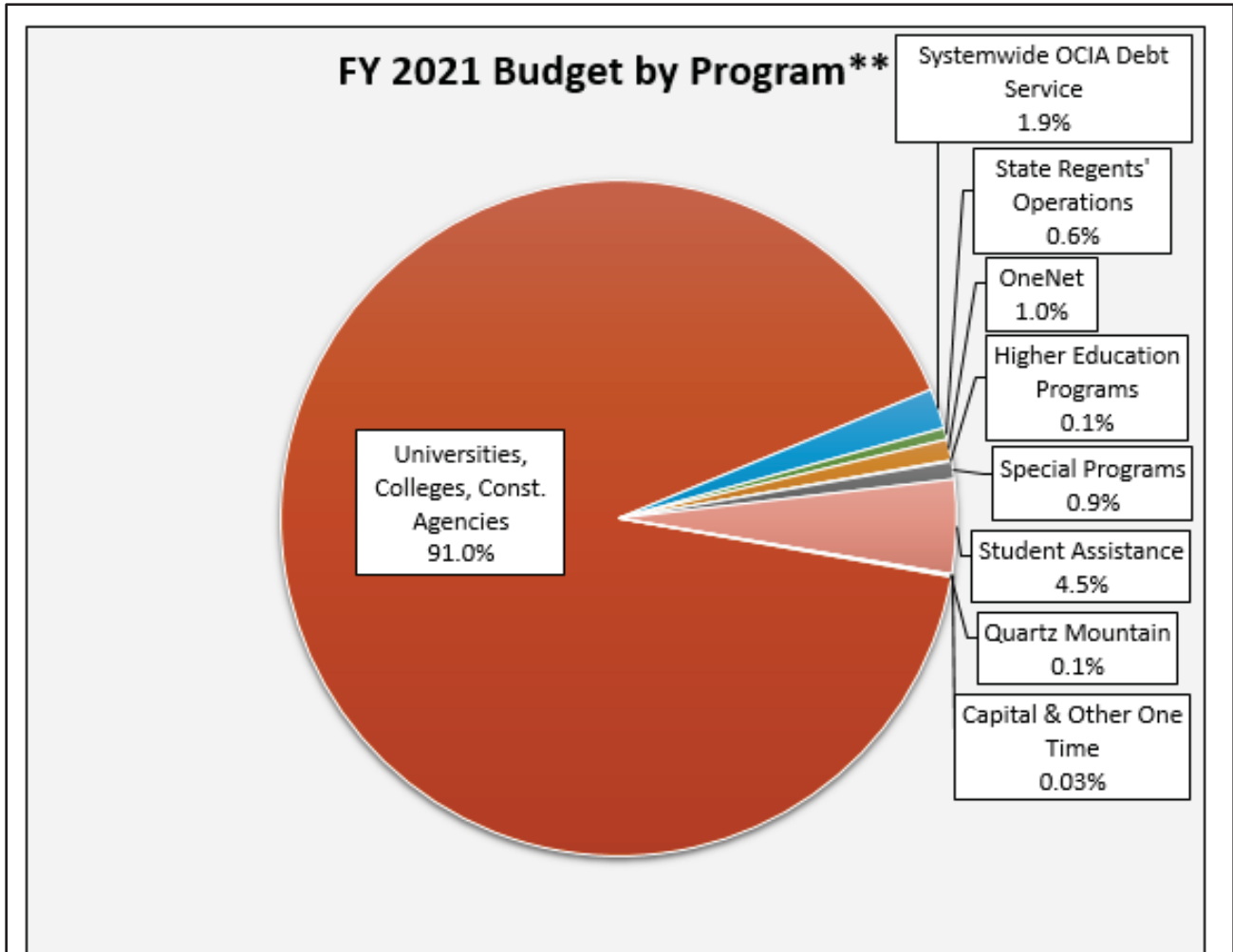
### REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES

- Cameron University
- East Central University
- Langston University
- Northeastern State University
- Northwestern Oklahoma State University
- Oklahoma Panhandle State University
- Rogers State University
- Southeastern Oklahoma State University
- Southwestern Oklahoma State University
- University of Central Oklahoma
- University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

### COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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

# Programs



Program	FY 2021 Budget
Universities, Colleges, Const. Agencies	\$2,458.6M
Systemwide OCIA Debt Service	\$51.9M
State Regents' Operations	\$14.9M
OneNet	\$27.1M
Higher Education Programs	\$1.5M
Special Programs	\$23.0M
Student Assistance	\$121.4M
Capital & Other One Time	\$700.0K
Quartz Mountain	\$2.8M

*Data provided by agency on 1/5/2021.*

*\*\*The FY 2021 budget by program graph reflects the educational and general budget (E&G). It includes all universities, constituent agencies, special programs, OneNet, capital and one-time allocations, Quartz Mountain, and student assistance programs. This data has been provided to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services by the administrative office of the state regents and cannot be independently verified by OMES.*

## Capital and One-Time

Comprises the annual allotment for the administration of the Master Lease Program, capital projects and any one-time emergency capital projects, as needed.

## Special Programs

Comprises the annual budget allotments for programs administered through the administrative offices of the Oklahoma state regents and includes such programs as these:

### Oklahoma Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

Oklahoma GEAR UP is a federally funded program administered by the state regents. It provides college preparation services and information to seventh through 12th grade students, including campus tours, ACT preparation and testing, college exploration and preparation courses, leadership/Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) summer academies, one-on-one guidance from education specialists, as well as college access and financial aid information and assistance. Phase III of the GEAR UP grant is in the seventh year of the seven-year grant cycle and partners with 24 school districts and six community colleges. The OSRHE was recently awarded its fourth consecutive GEAR UP grant and will work with 10 school districts and five regional universities for the next seven years. GEAR UP III and IV combined serve approximately 30,000 middle and high school students and first-year college freshmen across the state.

### Section 13 Offset Program

Capital funding program developed by OSRHE primarily to provide funding to those institutions who do not receive Section 13 funds.

### Student Preparation Program

Coordination of statewide Pre-ACT for K-12 schools in an effort to increase student readiness for college.

### Summer Academies Program

Each summer, the STEM Summer Academies Program explores the latest trends in math, science, and technology by using fun, hands-on activities and innovative software as students experiment both in the classroom and outdoors. These academies are held on college campuses throughout the state and are offered to students eighth through 12th grades.

### Grant Administration and Economic Development

Economic and workforce initiatives are designed to bridge the skills gap between Oklahoma's current workforce and projected workforce needs. According to the Georgetown Center on Education and the workforce, by 2020, 67% of jobs in Oklahoma will require a college degree or some additional postsecondary education and training; and 37% will require an associate degree, bachelor's degree or higher. Oklahoma higher education links our academic programs directly to employment needs in the state's wealth-generating ecosystems. Degree and certificate production in critical STEM disciplines has increased 54% over the last nine years.

### Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

EPSCoR, originally developed by the National Science Foundation, is designed to expand research opportunities in states that have traditionally received less funding from federal support for university research. Oklahoma EPSCoR is a partnership among colleges and universities, industry and research institutions.

### Oklahoma Teacher Connection

The Oklahoma Teacher Connection's mission is to recruit, retain and place teachers throughout Oklahoma's K-12 schools.



## **Adult Degree Completion Program**

- **Reach Higher – FlexFinish**

Seven of Oklahoma’s public regional universities and 14 public community colleges and technical branches offer flexible class options and enrollment periods through Reach Higher, the state system adult degree completion program, to meet the needs of working adults. With a Reach Higher associate or bachelor’s degree, students receive the leadership training, communications skills, and business knowledge they need to get ahead.

- **Reach Higher – DirectComplete**

This program, implemented with funds from a grant from the Lumina Foundation, offers comprehensive services and support to adult students returning to pursue degree programs at 14 participating institutions. Through this program, comprehensive services and support are offered to adult students returning to pursue degree programs that lead to employment in Oklahoma’s critical occupations, as determined by Oklahoma Works, Oklahoma’s workforce development agency.

## **Higher Education Programs**

Represents the annual budget allotment for the two university centers in the state system. These centers provide localized, educational opportunities in Ardmore and Ponca City.

## **State Regents’ Operations**

Represents the annual budget allotment for administrative functions, scholarship program administration, and IT operations of the OSRHE.

## **OneNet and OCAN**

Comprises the annual allotment for OneNet, which operates Oklahoma’s most advanced technology network providing infrastructure to support high-speed broadband services. OneNet provides the technology and connectivity necessary to meet the mission-critical needs of Oklahoma’s colleges and universities; K-12 and career technology schools; public libraries; local, tribal, state, and federal governments; health care providers; nonprofit organizations; and programs engaged in research. OneNet also operates the Oklahoma Community Anchor Network, which provides vital connectivity to rural communities in 35 Oklahoma counties. Through this high-speed network, OneNet provides the capacity needed to support research, online course delivery, distance learning, and telemedicine.

## **Student Assistance Programs**

Represents the annual allotment for 13 scholarship programs administered through OSRHE and the Oklahoma College Assistance Program.

## **System-wide Oklahoma Capital Improvement Authority Debt Service**

Represents the annual allotment for annual debt service requirements for bond issuances funded through OCIA, on behalf of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, for the 2005 Capital Bond Program and the Endowed Chairs Program.

## **Quartz Mountain**

Represents the annual budget allotment for the Quartz Mountain Arts and Conference Center that was transferred to the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education in 2001, through 70 O.S., Section 4452. Quartz Mountain was transferred to the Oklahoma Department of Tourism, as of October 1, 2020, through House Bill No. 2753.

## KEY PROGRAM INITIATIVES

### Complete College America

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have identified degree completion as their top priority. Oklahoma has been named the national model for Complete College America (CCA), with a plan focused on promoting college readiness, transforming remediation, strengthening pathways to certificates and degrees, expanding adult degree completion efforts, and rewarding performance and completion. Despite budget cuts to public higher education exceeding 26% since inception of the state's CCA initiative, degree and certificate completion has increased by more than 98% of the target benchmark to date. Since joining the CCA initiative, the State Regents and public colleges and universities have collaborated to transform developmental education. As a result, the direct-from-high school remediation rate has decreased from 40.1% to 24.6% since 2014.

### 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. In FY 2020, 15,315 students received Oklahoma's Promise scholarships totaling \$66.4 million.

### Concurrent Enrollment

The concurrent enrollment program allows outstanding juniors and seniors to earn college credit while still in high school, which strengthens student preparation, reduces family college costs, and decreases the time required to complete a degree. In the 2019-2020 academic year, there were over 14,000 students enrolled in concurrent courses, generating more than 132,000 credit hours.

### OKcollegestart.org

The state's web-based college planning portal for students, parents, adult learners, and educators empowers students to create individual portfolios, explore career options and campuses, prepare for the ACT and SAT exams, and apply online for Oklahoma's Promise, among other features. Site content is available in multiple languages, and a companion site allows educators to develop system-defined Individual Career Academic Plans and send and receive electronic transcripts.

### Mathematics Success Initiative

Oklahoma's CCA agenda includes increasing freshman-to-sophomore retention and graduation and enhancing the efficacy and efficiency of remediation and freshman gateway courses. Lack of success in mathematics was identified as a significant barrier. The Mathematics Success Group has developed a strategic plan to improve mathematics preparation of students entering college, reform mathematics remediation to be more effective, and strengthen mathematics preparation for all majors. The initiative involves all public institutions and has received recognition and support from national organizations.

### Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

In October 2017, Oklahoma was one of only six states to be awarded a fourth consecutive federally funded GEAR UP grant. The GEAR UP grant program administered by the state regents is designed to prepare middle and high school students for college success through direct student support services, including college campus tours, ACT preparation and testing, college exploration courses, and one-on-one guidance from school specialists. GEAR UP offers college access and financial aid information and assistance to students and families, and provides school faculty and staff collaboration and leadership opportunities.

### Adult Degree Completion

Two distinct programs are available through Reach Higher, the state system adult degree completion initiative. Through Reach Higher's FlexFinish program, seven of Oklahoma's public regional universities and 14 public community colleges and technical branches offer flexible class options and enrollment to meet the needs of working adults pursuing a Reach Higher associate or bachelor's degree. Reach Higher DirectComplete, funded by a grant from Lumina Foundation, offers comprehensive services and support to adult students returning to pursue degree programs that lead to employment in Oklahoma's critical occupations, as determined by



Oklahoma Works, Oklahoma's workforce development agency. Partners from business, tribal education, workforce agencies and nonprofits will provide scholarships and other resources to assist these returning adult students.

### **OneNet**

OneNet operates Oklahoma's most advanced technology network to provide the infrastructure to support high-speed broadband services. OneNet provides the technology and connectivity necessary to meet the mission-critical needs of Oklahoma's colleges and universities in support of advanced academic research programs. In addition, OneNet serves K-12 and career technology schools; public libraries; local, tribal, state, and federal governments; health care providers; and nonprofit organizations. OneNet also provides vital network linkages for key economic and research facilities such as the National Weather Center in Norman, the OSU Multispectral Sensor Lab in Stillwater, and Oklahoma Mesonet, which is located throughout both urban and rural Oklahoma.

### **Online Education Task Force**

The state regents convened the Online Education Task Force in 2012 to develop a coordinated, systemwide approach to online learning as a component of Oklahoma higher education. The primary areas of focus are to eliminate barriers to online education and encourage educational innovation while maintaining academic rigor across multiple learning platforms. Areas of discussion include professional development for faculty teaching online to enhance quality instruction, and open educational resources to reduce costs for students.

### **Campus Safety and Security Task Force**

The state regents established the Campus Safety and Security Task Force in 2013 to support best practices for the ongoing safety of students, faculty, administrators, and visitors at higher education and technology center campuses. Task force members represent public and private colleges and universities, career technology centers, and key state agencies, including the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security, and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The Oklahoma state regents sponsor a biannual summit to provide professional development training on best practices for campus safety and security.

### **Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)**

Oklahoma EPSCoR was initiated by the National Science Foundation in 1985 to strengthen Oklahoma's exploration and growth in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. EPSCoR's central goal is to increase the state's research competitiveness through strategic support of research instruments and facilities, research collaborations, and integrated education and research programs.

## **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

### **New College and Career Math Readiness Course**

The OSRHE and the State Department of Education have partnered to develop a new fourth-year, college and career math readiness course to help students avoid the cost and course delays of remedial math. Results of the pilot program are showing that 76% of the students enrolled in this math course in their senior year of high school, are completing their first-year college math courses with a passing grade of C or higher, surpassing students that have completed just algebra II, algebra III and/or pre-calculus.

### **Employment Outcomes**

OSRHE's partnership with the Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission provides accountability of Oklahoma college graduates by campus, field of study, compensation, industry of employment, and county location. Currently, 87.2% of Oklahoma higher education graduates are employed in the state one year after graduation. The Oklahoma state regents' Employment Outcomes program is a national best-practice according to the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association's "Strong Foundations."

## Cooperative Agreements Program

OSRHE and Oklahoma Career Technology have an innovative partnership program involving 29 Career Technology Centers and 18 college and university campuses where students may utilize credits earned through the Career Technology Center toward college credit hours to complete an Associate of Applied Science degree.

## Individual Career Academic Plan

OSRHE has partnered with the State Department of Education in the JP Morgan Chase New Skills for Youth Grant providing data, research and manpower to assist in developing ICAP. ICAP will provide enhanced academic and career preparation and fold into existing OSRHE resources such as OK College Start.

# Performance and Projects

## Key Performance Measures by Program

Educated Citizens and Exemplary Schools					
Goal					
Increase the number of college graduates.					
Key Performance Measure					
Workforce readiness.					
Key Performance Measure Description					
Increase the number of degrees and certificates obtained to support the state economy and workforce.					
Unit of Measure					
Number of degrees and certificates.					
Actuals		Targets			
FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
55,558	54,993	57,000	58,000	59,000	60,000
Goal					
Enhance initiatives to support student success and academic quality to meet the challenges of a global economy.					
Key Performance Measure					
College preparedness.					
Key Performance Measure Description					
Decrease the percentage of students enrolled in remedial coursework in college.					
Unit of Measure					
Percentage of students enrolled in remedial coursework.					
Actuals		Targets			
FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
37.40%	34.60%	35.00%	34.50%	32.00%	20.00%
Key Performance Measure					
College preparedness.					
Key Performance Measure Description					
Increase the number of concurrent enrollment hours that have been completed by incoming college freshman annually.					
Unit of Measure					
Hours of concurrent enrollment.					
Actuals		Targets			
FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
122,597	132,780	133,000	133,500	134,000	134,500

<b>Educated Citizens and Exemplary Schools</b>					
<b>Goal</b>					
Increase the number of college graduates.					
<b>Key Performance Measure</b>					
Research tier institution graduation rates.					
<b>Key Performance Measure Description</b>					
Increase the average graduation rate at the research tier institutions.					
<b>Unit of Measure</b>					
Average graduation rate at research tier institutions.					
<b>Actuals</b>		<b>Targets</b>			
<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
71.30%	64.10%	74%	75%	76%	77%
<b>Key Performance Measure</b>					
Regional tier graduation rate.					
<b>Key Performance Measure Description</b>					
Increase the average graduation rate at the regional tier institutions.					
<b>Unit of Measure</b>					
Average graduation rate at regional tier institutions.					
<b>Actuals</b>		<b>Targets</b>			
<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
39.20%	33.50%	40.50%	41%	42%	45%
<b>Key Performance Measure</b>					
Two-year tier graduation rates.					
<b>Key Performance Measure Description</b>					
Increase the average graduation rate at two-year tier institutions.					
<b>Unit of Measure</b>					
Average graduation rate at two-year tier institutions.					
<b>Actuals</b>		<b>Targets</b>			
<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
22.00%	24.10%	24.40%	25%	26%	27.00%

## Regional Benchmarks and Comparisons

- Oklahoma tuition and fees rank as 12th lowest in the nation (*U.S. News & World Report's* “Best States 2019: Ranking Performance Throughout All 50 States”).
- Student debt level at graduation ranks as 13th lowest in the nation (*U.S. News & World Report's* “Best States 2019: Ranking Performance Throughout All 50 States”).
- University of Oklahoma ranks 6th best in petroleum engineering (*U.S. News & World Report's* “2019 Education Rankings”).
- OSU Spears School of Business ranks in the top 20% of business schools in the nation (*U.S. News & World Report's* “Best States 2019: Ranking Performance Throughout All 50 States”).
- OU ranks 3rd best in the nation (*College Factual's* “2020 Best Atmospheric Sciences & Meteorology Colleges in the U.S.”).
- AASCB Accreditation (Top 5% of Business Schools) – Oklahoma State University Spears School of Business; University of Oklahoma Price College of Business; Southeastern Oklahoma State University Massey School of Business; and the University of Central Oklahoma College of Business.

## Accomplishments

- Higher Education’s Response to COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, public colleges, and universities have prioritized the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors while continuing to offer a top quality, affordable learning environment.
  - In March 2020, state system institutions transitioned over 173,000 students from face-to-face class formats to alternative or online delivery formats, with limited exceptions made for certain courses that require in-person interaction, such as labs and practicums.
  - Colleges and universities continued with alternative or online course delivery formats over the summer, and all state system institutions returned to some form of in-person classroom learning for the fall 2020 semester, with the exception of Oklahoma City Community College, which chose to provide all classes online while keeping the campus open to provide much-needed student and academic support services, such as advising, tutoring, and library access.
  - State system institutions partnered with county health departments and donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies to local hospitals and healthcare providers.
  - OU Medicine, the OU Health Sciences Center, and OSU Medicine all played critical roles in research, testing and vaccine development, and both OU Medicine and OSU Medicine served as designated COVID-19 hospitals.
  - OU Health Sciences Center engaged in early studies focused on utilizing convalescent plasma as a COVID-19 treatment protocol, and OSU Medicine collaborated with OSU Veterinary Medicine to convert a veterinary medicine laboratory to a dedicated COVID-19 testing lab and expanded healthcare access to underserved communities through increased use of telemedicine.
- Increased College Degree Completion.
  - Oklahoma’s public and private institutions and career technology centers continue working to reach the state’s goal of increasing the number of degrees and certificates earned through the Complete College America (CCA) initiative. Despite budget cuts to public higher education exceeding 26% since the inception of the state’s CCA initiative, degree and certificate completion has increased by more than 98% of the target benchmark to date.
- Increased Production of College Graduates in Critical STEM and Healthcare Fields.
  - Workforce initiatives focus on continued growth in nursing, medicine, allied health, science, technology, engineering, teacher education, and business.
  - The number of degrees and certificates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) conferred at state system colleges and universities reached a record high during the last academic year, with 7,370 students receiving degrees and certificates in STEM fields. This increase represents a 54% increase in STEM degrees and certificates over the last 9 years.

- More than 4,800 students earned degrees or certificates in the healthcare fields from Oklahoma’s college and universities in spring 2020. These graduates immediately joined the state’s healthcare workforce during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Employment Outcomes.
  - Resident retention is excellent in the state of Oklahoma, with 87% of 2017-18 bachelor’s degree recipients, 94% of Associate in Applied Science graduates, and 88% of Associate in Arts/Science graduates employed in-state one year after graduation.
- Remediation.
  - Assessment and course placement reforms in Oklahoma public higher education are moving the needle to decrease remediation rates. Of the fall 2018 first-time freshmen, 34.6% enrolled in one or more developmental courses, a 2.5 percentage point decrease from the previous year and a 7.9 percentage point decrease from 2011-12.
- “Show What You Know” Website Launch.
  - The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education recently launched a new website, [ShowWhatYouKnowOK.org](http://ShowWhatYouKnowOK.org), targeting students who would like to earn college credit for knowledge gained through work and life experiences, non-degree-granting institutions, military training, or other learning environments.
  - The site outlines options for adults who have earned previous college credits and are interested in completing a degree program, those who have attended a career technology center or hold industry-recognized credentials, members or veterans of the armed services who have completed military study and training, and high school graduates looking to use advanced standing scores for college credit.
  - The site also connects users to comprehensive information about financial aid and the state regents’ degree completion initiative for adult learners, Reach Higher.
- Affordability.
  - 53% of Oklahoma university graduates leave college with zero student loan debt.
  - The average debt for graduates of Oklahoma’s state system public universities is 26% below the national average (\$21,523).
  - The Institute for College Access & Success Project on Student Debt ranks Oklahoma 11<sup>th</sup> among the states with the lowest student debt.
  - *U.S. News and World Report* ranks Oklahoma tuition and fees as 12<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation and student debt at graduation as 13<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation.
- Oklahoma’s Promise.
  - Recognized by the Southern Regional Education Board as one of the top promise scholarship programs in the nation.
  - More than 94,000 students have earned college tuition scholarships through Oklahoma’s Promise since the program’s inception in 1992.
- Online Education.
  - Implemented the Online Consortium of Oklahoma (OCO), which is a collaborative organization of higher education institutions across the state that works to develop policy in the areas of academic integrity and digital accessibility; provide quality-focused professional development for faculty and staff serving online students; acquire platforms to support open educational resource development across institutions; and create peer-to-peer online education assistance networks for faculty, staff, and administrators.



## Savings and Efficiencies

- Achieved \$6.3 million in annual savings in fiscal year 2020 for state agencies through the Statewide-OneNet Partnership which brings together the OSHRE, the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in a cohesive approach to achieve cost savings and create a cooperative framework to address information technology projects.
- State system institutions have reported fiscal year 2020 collective savings of \$69.5 million from cost reductions and/or cost avoidance within their institutions. These savings have been reallocated in a variety of ways to support operations, personnel, mandatory cost increases, programs, information technology, facilities, scholarships, and building reserves.
- Additionally, the state regents have formed an Online Education Task Force to review online capabilities within the system, share best practices, and develop a comprehensive online education platform to maximize instructional opportunities for Oklahoma students. In the 2019-2020 academic year approximately 63% of all students took at least one online course from Oklahoma colleges and universities (the national average is 40%). In 2019-2020, 50 academic degree programs were approved for online delivery, for a total of 404 or 25% of all degree programs offered.

## Agency Goals

- Reduce the percentage of students enrolled in 0-level remedial coursework by 3% through the promotion of co-requisite courses, which replace traditional remedial course sequences and allow students to earn college credit while receiving additional academic support.
- Increase the number of concurrent enrollment hours that have been completed by incoming freshman by 5%, which saves students and parents money and shortens the time to earn a college degree.
- Increase the number of degrees and certificates conferred by 1,700 to support the state economy and workforce readiness.
- Increase the percentage of eligible students (family income is \$55,000 or less) that enroll in the Oklahoma's Promise (OHLAP) program in the 8th, 9th, or 10th grade by 5%.
- Increase the percentage of eligible students who receive the need-based Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG) by 2%.
- Increase the number of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) summer academies offered to K-12 students on college and university campuses from 25 to 27 academies.
- Increase the number of students enrolled in college degree programs for high-demand occupational fields (e.g., engineering, health care, teaching, etc.).

## Projects for Implementation

- COVID-19 Response.
  - OSRHE coordinated efforts among state system institutions to address the higher education challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Ongoing activities include regular communication and meetings with college and university presidents to discuss strategies for addressing challenges; providing institutions with best-practice guidance developed by national organizations, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and monitoring campus responses to COVID-19 and providing current information to Oklahoma stakeholders through the OSRHE website.
- Optimize Operational Efficiencies.
  - OSRHE completed fiscal viability assessments in September 2020 for all 25 public colleges and universities as well as the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences. To analyze the data produced by the fiscal viability assessments and provide recommendations to strengthen the financial positions of institutions, the OSRHE is establishing the System Innovations Committee as a new standing committee, which will focus on the following initiatives: institutional partnerships/collaborations;



reduction/alignment of academic programs; reorientation of academic programs toward workforce demands; mission right-sizing; and administrative cost reduction strategies.

- Research and Innovation.
  - A new \$20 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, administered by the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), will support interdisciplinary research to benefit Oklahoma. During the five-year award, a team of 34 researchers from Oklahoma State University, University of Oklahoma, University of Tulsa, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Langston University, East Central University, and Noble Research Institute will develop and test science-based solutions for complex problems at the intersection of land use, water availability, and infrastructure.
- OneNet Advanced Research Network.
  - The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and OneNet a \$232,275 Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC\*) grant to connect five more institutions to the OneOklahoma Friction Free Network (OFFN). Administered by NSF's Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure, the CC\* grant program invests in campus-level cyberinfrastructure improvements for science applications and research projects.
- Micro-credentials.
  - The OSRHE is working with state system institutions to develop micro-credentials to serve students, workers, and business/industry. A micro-credential is a competency-based, digital form of certification recognizing a coherent set of courses, professional development accomplishments, military training, internships, or other similar learning experiences. Micro-credentials provide alternative learning pathways that are directly aligned with employer-defined skills within a job role, area of expertise, or academic credential. Micro-credentials may also be bundled or stacked as students progress toward completing degree programs or to enhance and diversify an individual's areas of specific expertise following completion of a degree.