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## OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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*Improving our future by degrees*

### State Regents Scholarships and Grants Workshop

#### Agenda

PHF Conference Center  
655 Research Parkway, OKC, OK 73104  
July 16, 2026

**8:30-9:00**     **Registration and Networking (Coffee and Snacks)**

**9:00-9:30**     **Scholarship and Grant Programs Update- *Colloquium Room***

This session will provide an informative overview of the scholarship and grant programs. A funding and legislative update will be included.

*Presenter: Dr. Colbi Beam, Associate Vice Chancellor for State Grants and Scholarships*

**9:30-10:30**     **Oklahoma's Promise- *Colloquium Room***

This session will cover the basics of processing OKPromise claims as well as refunds and adjusted awards. The 129 credit hour limit, eligibility reports, and students in verification will also be discussed. This is an ideal session for the person in your office who may be fairly new to working with this program or for anyone who might like a refresher. There will be an opportunity for Q&A as well.

*Presenters: Kanika Brown, Scholarship & Grant Administration Director and Alan Hernandez, Scholarship Specialist III*

**10:30-11:30**     **Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG) & Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant (OTEG)-  
*Colloquium Room***

This session provides an overview of two need-based grant programs. We will cover the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG) process, including award claim, disbursement report, and reconciliation report, along with real-world scenarios. The session will close with a nuts-and-bolts overview of the Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant (OTEG), including current funding and disbursement issues. Time will be reserved for Q&A.

*Presenters: Linette McMurtrey, Scholarship & Grant Administration Director, Neenu Varughese, Scholarship Specialist II and Calvin Ong, Scholarship Specialist II*

**11:30-1:00 Lunch (On your own)**

**1:00-1:45 Break Out Sessions**

**Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Program- *Symposium Room***

This session is specifically designed for those that want a comprehensive overview of the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Program (EAP). This session will cover the basics of processing semester certifications, adjusting awards, and returning funding. Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity for Q&A.

*Presenters: Linette McMurtrey, Scholarship & Grant Administration Director and Calvin Ong, Scholarship Specialist II*

**Reach Higher: Oklahoma's Adult Degree Completion Program- *Colloquium Room***

This session will address Oklahoma's initiative to bring students with some college but no degree back to school. The statewide initiative is offered at universities, community colleges, and technical branch campuses. Participants will be provided materials and information to assist students to "Reach Higher" and finish what they started back in college.

*Presenter: Tisha Bradford, Reach Higher Manager*

**1:45-2:30 Break Out Sessions**

**Oklahoma Rising Scholars Program/Other Scholarships- *Symposium Room***

This session will cover the basics of processing certification forms, rules for leave of absence, transfer and summer awarding policies. Also, this session will include information on other scholarship programs administered by our office. Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity for Q&A.

*Presenter: Wei-Ju Gange, Scholarship Programs Coordinator*

**Inspired to Teach Program- *Colloquium Room***

This session will cover the basics of processing awards for the Oklahoma Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program ("Inspired to Teach"), including applications, claims, and returns. The session will also provide the most recent program data from our annual report, any legislative changes to the program, and time for Q&A.

*Presenter: Grant Zehrung, Coordinator for Teacher Education Scholarships & Incentive Programs*

**2:30-3:00 State Tuition Waivers Review and Update- Colloquium Room**

This session will provide an update on our state tuition waiver programs.

*Presenter: James Vaughn, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance*

**3:00-3:30 Financial Aid Data Submissions: Validation and Warehousing- Colloquium Room**

Your school has been sending financial aid data to the State Regents for over a decade, but the process has suddenly become (choose all that apply):

- Prescriptive
- Time-consuming
- Labor-intensive
- Re-submission prone

This session will delve into the validation rules the data must pass before it is warehoused and will discuss the current and potential uses of the data.

*Presenters: Chris Grillo, Assistant Director of Data Warehousing and Renae Brill, Data Engineer II*