Degrees of Progress

News from the State Regents for Higher Education



Improving our future by degrees

Volume 6, Issue 3 | Summer 2021

HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWED CHAIRS PROGRAM AN INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

By Chancellor Glen D. Johnson

We thank Gov. Stitt and our legislative leaders for providing a 5.5% budget increase for the state system of higher education in this year's state budget. The additional funding will support several crucial initiatives, including the Endowed Chairs program.

Created by the legislature in 1988, the Endowed Chairs program at our public colleges and universities provides state funds to match private donations that support faculty chairs, professorships, and lectureships. The program provides critical support for top research initiatives, distinguished faculty recruitment, and quality lectureship opportunities, which enhances academic quality. Endowed chairs empower institutions to recruit outstanding

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faculty, elevate research and strengthen economic and workforce development.

This program has attracted private gifts and developed meaningful public/private partnerships. Donors and chairs include the T. Boone Pickens Chair of Geoscience Fund, George Kaiser Family Foundation, The Harold Hamm Chair in Adult Diabetes Clinical Care, The Gene Rainbolt Chair in Agricultural Finance II, Children's Hospital Foundation, and Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, among many others. Every private donor has played an essential role in supporting higher education and advancing economic development in Oklahoma.

Research clusters are one of the strongest indicators of the program's success. At the OU Health Sciences Center, research clusters focus on cancer, diabetes, medical genetics, mental health and neonatology. At OSU, disciplines include fire protection science, animal science and engineering. The endowment program at our regional universities and two-year colleges supports faculty salaries, lecture series, and innovative initiatives, such as The Wisdom Family **Endowed Doctor in Nursing Practice Chairs at** Northwestern Oklahoma State University, The John Massey Endowed Chairs at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Mosaic Project at Oklahoma City Community College, and The Gregg Wadley Endowed Chair in Science at Northeastern State University.

Campus accounts awaiting state match represent 17 institutions statewide and reflect a variety of STEM, business and other fields, including engineering, animal science, computer science, education, geophysics,



Chancellor Glen D. Johnson

law, chemistry, meteorology, fire protection science, arts and music. To date, the state has matched approximately \$510.2 million through direct allocation and bond proceeds.

Our Endowed Chairs program is one of the premier public/private partnerships in the nation. Private individuals and companies are making a significant statement when they contribute their own funds to the Endowed Chairs program, because they realize our higher education institutions are making a positive impact worthy of that investment. The FY22 funding provided by House and Senate budget leaders for endowed chair state matching funds bond authorization and debt service will allow us to honor those commitments made by private citizens and businesses, whose pledges clearly demonstrate the importance and value of higher education. Our students are the ultimate beneficiaries of the program, which deeply enriches their educational opportunities at our colleges and universities.



REDLANDS' PARTNERSHIP LEADS TO NASA ON CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

By Jack Bryant, President, Redlands Community College

A career with NASA may seem like a distant dream for some, but thanks to NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS), Redlands Community College students are learning that it takes a variety of skill sets to result in a successful mission.

The NCAS experience consists of a fiveweek online course that can lead to an invitation to an on-site event at select sites across the country. During the on-site event, students form teams and establish fictional companies interested in Mars exploration. Each team is responsible for developing and testing a prototype rover, forming a company infrastructure, managing a budget, and developing communications and outreach.

In 2018, Redlands nursing student Alyssa Wheeler completed the online course and was selected to participate in a four-day event at NASA Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral. There, students toured NASA facilities, learned about careers in science and engineering, met with NASA scientists and competed in NASA projects.

With funding from the Minority University Research and Education Program (MUREP), NASA has been able to expand this handson learning opportunity through the NASA on Campus experience. In 2019, Redlands was selected along with five other community colleges across the U.S. to pilot the oncampus event. Redlands hosted two-year college students from Oklahoma, Alabama, lowa, Louisiana and Texas.

Kimberly Eldridge participated in NASA on Campus while a student in the Redlands nursing program. She currently works at the University of Oklahoma in the phase one clinical trials inside the cancer center. Both of these experiences fueled her interest in the cancer research NASA was conducting in space, and this past spring, she participated in a virtual internship at the NASA Ames research center on the WetLab-2 gene expression project.

Redlands Community College's partnership with NASA has opened many doors for our students, but it has also given us the opportunity to share the experience with our two-year college colleagues across the state. The NASA on Campus experience is open to eligible community college students interested in STEM areas. For more information, please contact Dr. Kathleen Coughlan at 405.422.6225 or Kathleen.Coughlan@redlandscc.edu.



President Jack Bryant, Redlands Community College





Redlands' NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars



DR. RONALD H. WHITE NAMED STATE REGENT EMERITUS

State Regent Ronald H. White, M.D., was recognized as a state regent emeritus during the State Regents' May meeting. White was appointed by Gov. Brad Henry in May 2003 to serve a nine-year term and was reappointed by Gov. Mary Fallin for a second nine-year term in May 2012, which he completed in May.

White previously served as president of Oklahoma Cardiovascular Associates. He served as a member of the board of managers for Oklahoma Heart Hospital and as a clinical assistant professor at the OU College of Medicine. He has also served as medical director for the Oklahoma Heart Center and medical staff president for INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center.

He received his bachelor's and medical degrees from the University of Oklahoma and interned at St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City. He completed a residency in internal medicine at St. Anthony's, followed by a fellowship in cardiology at OU.

Previously, White served as a member of the board of directors for Oklahoma Gas and Electric. He served as a member of the OU Board of Regents for 14 years and has also been a member of the board of commissioners for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations. He served in the U.S. Navy, MC Internal Medicine, First Marine Division Field Hospital and internal medicine, U.S. Naval Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.



State Regent Emeritus Dr. Ronald H. White

WARMINGTON SWORN IN AS NEW STATE REGENT

Edmond resident Courtney Warmington was sworn in during the May State Regents' meeting by Oklahoma County District Court Special Judge Kathryn Savage. Her appointment by Gov. Kevin Stitt was confirmed by both the Senate Education Committee and the full Senate. Warmington will serve a nine-year term that expires in May 2029 and will replace State Regent Emeritus Dr. Ronald H. White.

Warmington earned her bachelor's degree at Oklahoma State University before attending Oklahoma City University School of Law. After graduating magna cum laude, she started working in the Labor and Employment Practice Group at the law firm of Crowe & Dunlevy, where she practiced for 17 years.

In 2016, Warmington joined what is now the Fuller Tubb Bickford Warmington

& Panach law firm. She has extensive experience assisting employers in state and federal litigation and administrative proceedings involving wrongful termination, workplace discrimination, and harassment and retaliation. Warmington also handles wage and hour matters, on both the state and federal levels, using the experience she gained during a four-year term as an administrative law judge for the Oklahoma Department of Labor.

In addition to a litigation practice, she also advises employers on everything from recruiting and retention to discipline and termination issues by conducting audits, investigations, management and employee training, and by drafting policies and procedures. Warmington has been listed in the Top 25 Women Oklahoma Super Lawyers since 2014.



Regent Courtney Warmington



HIGHER EDUCATION CHANCELLOR TO RETIRE SEPT. 30

Higher education Chancellor Glen D. Johnson is retiring Sept. 30. In April 2020, Johnson announced that he would extend his planned retirement date of Dec. 31, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021, after the State Regents asked him to consider extending his retirement date due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Johnson was named chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education in January 2007 following a national search. Before assuming the role of chancellor, he served as the 16th president of Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant for 10 years. He was also director of public policy

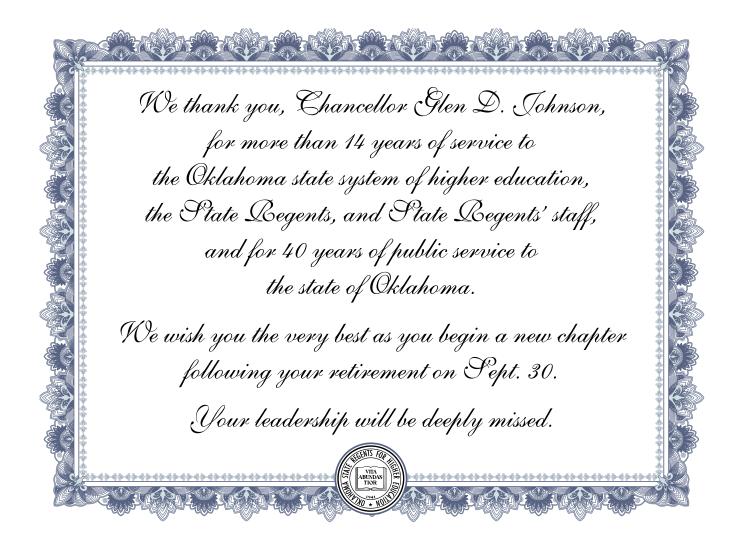
and adjunct professor of law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Prior to his work at OU, he served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 1982 to 1996 and was speaker of the House from 1990 to 1996. At the time of his election as speaker, he was the youngest sitting speaker in the United States.

Johnson is an honors graduate of OU with an undergraduate degree in political science and a juris doctorate from the OU College of Law and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2016. Johnson

received the State Higher Education Executive Officers' (SHEEO) Exceptional Leader Award honoring the outstanding Chancellor/system head in the nation in July 2019. In September 2020, he received Leadership Oklahoma's 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award.

The State Regents are currently conducting a national search to replace Chancellor Johnson, who has led the state system of higher education for 14.5 years, making him currently the longest-serving chancellor of a state public higher education system in the country.





CHANCELLOR JOHNSON RECOGNIZED IN CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Chancellor Glen D. Johnson was recognized recently on the Senate floor and House floor with a concurrent resolution honoring his four decades of service to public higher education and the state of Oklahoma.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 was presented by Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Roger Thompson, House Majority Floor Leader Jon Echols, and House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education Chair Mark McBride.

"Dr. Johnson's family is from my hometown of Okemah, and they have a long tradition of public service in Oklahoma. His father was a U.S. congressman, and Glen began his own career on the Okemah Board of Education. He quickly rose through the ranks of Oklahoma's

House of Representatives and became the youngest House speaker in the nation," Thompson said. "His accomplishments have moved our state and our higher education system forward, and in every position, he has served with integrity, sincerity, dedication and distinction. Our state is better for Chancellor Johnson's service."

"Glen Johnson has served Oklahomans and especially Oklahoma students — with great distinction during his remarkable run of state service as a House member and within our higher education system," said Echols. "All education decisions we make should be about what is best for our students, and Glen Johnson has shown Oklahomans for decades the type of success we can achieve when we do that. I wish the Chancellor all the best in retirement and look forward to helping honor his legacy next year and into the future by reaffirming our commitment to building a world-class higher education system in Oklahoma."

"Chancellor Johnson has done an outstanding job for the students and educators in our higher education system since taking the helm of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education more than 14 years ago," McBride said. "We all should be incredibly grateful for his leadership and his dedication to seeing students in our state equipped for the next phases of their life after college."

2020 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

The State Regents and Council of College and University Presidents recently honored four legislators with Distinguished Service Awards for Higher Education, which recognize individuals who demonstrate distinguished leadership and support of higher education in Oklahoma during the legislative session.

Speaker of the House Charles McCall was recognized with a 2020 Distinguished Service Award for his support of higher education in his role as Speaker of the House of Representatives and as an ex-officio member of all House committees. McCall has been a strong voice for investing in public higher education, including the concurrent enrollment program.

House Minority Floor Leader Emily Virgin was recognized with a 2020 Distinguished Service Award for her support of higher education in her role as House Minority Floor Leader and as a member of the State and Federal Redistricting, Appropriations and Budget, Higher Education and Career Tech, Judiciary-Civil, and Rules committees. Virgin has been an effective leader in maintaining the current

law regarding weapons on campus and an avid proponent of concurrent enrollment.

Rep. Mike Osburn was recognized with a 2020 Distinguished Service Award for his support of higher education in his role as chair of the Rules Committee and as a member of the Appropriations and Budget Committee. He also serves on the Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Finance - Revenue and Taxation, Government Modernization and Efficiency Committee, Joint Committee on Appropriations and Budget, State and Federal Redistricting Committee, and State and Federal Redistricting Oklahoma County Subcommittee. Osburn has been a steadfast supporter of

funding our state system of higher education's budget priorities.

Rep. Kevin Wallace was recognized with a 2020 Distinguished Service Award for his support of higher education in his role as chair of the House Appropriations and Budget Committee and as a member of the Insurance Committee and the State and Federal Redistricting North Central Oklahoma Subcommittee. Wallace has been a consistent advocate for our state system colleges and universities and the value of a higher education.



Speaker of the House Charles McCall



House Minority Floor Leader Emily Virgin



Rep. Mike Osburn



Rep. Kevin Wallace



11 PUBLIC COLLEGES COLLABORATE TO OFFER STATEWIDE APPLIED TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The State Regents recently approved a request to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Applied Technology as a statewide pilot collaborative program to provide a degree completion mechanism for adult learners who have received an industryrecognized credential, earned previous college credit in a technical field, or require specialized interdisciplinary training.

Carl Albert State College, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Murray State College, Northern Oklahoma College, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, Redlands Community College, Rogers State University, Rose State College, Seminole State College, and

Western Oklahoma State College will join Tulsa Community College to offer the new program.

The chief academic officers from each of the 11 colleges worked to develop pathways to complete an applied associate degree for students who have earned an industryrecognized credential through the completion of a program at an Oklahoma technology center or other entity, to award a block of technical credit for industry-recognized credentials earned, and to combine general education coursework with specific technical knowledge and skills in preparation for employment or career advancement.

Institutions participating in this pilot program will leverage partnerships with local employers to address area workforce needs.

All general education courses required for the program are listed on the state system Course Equivalency Project Matrix to quarantee transferability among institutions, along with a listing of industry credentials found on the Statewide Technical Assessment Inventory. Information about these course and industry credential listings can be found at ShowWhatYouKnowOK.org. Existing courses, faculty, and resources will support the program at each participating campus.

2020 CHANCELLOR HANS BRISCH SCHOLARS

Two Oklahoma high school seniors have been named Chancellor Hans Brisch Scholars for outstanding leadership, civic involvement and academic talent. Emily Sanders, Epic Charter School, Kingfisher, and Madison Walters, Muldrow High School, will each receive a \$2,000 award through the Chancellor Hans Brisch Scholarship program.

The Chancellor's Scholars Program was created in 1990 with private funds. The program was renamed in 2006 to honor Brisch, who served as chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of

Higher Education for 15 years. Brisch retired in 2003 and passed away in February 2006.

The 2020 Chancellor Hans Brisch Scholars were selected from nominations made by high school principals statewide.

Both students have distinguished themselves academically and through their active involvement in their local communities. Sanders ranked first in her class, graduated with a 4.0 GPA and plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in the fall. Walters also ranked first in her class. She will graduate with a 4.43 GPA and plans to attend Northeastern State University in the fall.

Brisch Scholars are academically talented high school seniors with outstanding leadership ability and a commitment to the enhancement of their communities as demonstrated through their involvement in high school and/or community programs or projects that have resulted in an improvement of the learning environment of the school or the social betterment of the community.

In the 30 years since its inception, the Chancellor's Scholars program has provided scholarships for more than 100 deserving students. Private gifts, including professional honoraria from the current and past chancellors, support the program, which honors not only Brisch but the office of the chancellor and all individuals who serve Oklahoma in that position.







TODAY'S RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORKS: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE POWERING OUR NATION'S MOST IMPORTANT WORK



OneNet serves as Oklahoma's Research and Education Network (REN). The nation's RENs and OneNet provide users with:

The Fastest, Most Advanced Network Services and Applications — Powering big data sharing across states, the country and the globe.

- Offer secure, resilient, high-capacity, highperformance networks that spark innovative collaboration and opportunities.
- Create resilient connections for enhanced end-user continuity through geographic and provider-diverse networks.
- Optimize advanced cloud services for demanding applications, network security and research.
- Strategically manage network traffic with peering and caching partners resulting in the most cost-effective and optimized network performance path for end-users.
- Interconnect with the U.S. National REN, Internet2, to link end-users to the national and global REN fabric.

Powerful Partnerships — Driving innovation amongst academic, research, governmental and private partners.

- Leverage our unique position in state broadband landscapes to forge strategic relationships with a variety of partners.
- Promote a "to-and-through" community anchor institution strategy with strategic partners to deliver economical internet connectivity to unserved and underserved areas.
- Offer operational transparency for end-users.
- Minimize costs and maximize benefits across end-users through economies of scale and shared cost recovery models.

Highly Secure Network Infrastructure -Protecting our users' most valuable data assets and discoveries.

- Bolster individual end-user cybersecurity operational protections as well as response and mitigation strategies.
- Augment user institution security resources to identify network threats and vulnerabilities by monitoring active threats from information sharing and analysis centers.
- Provide next-generation firewall services and robust disaster recovery solutions.
- Offer incident response assistance and incident escalation services.

OneNet and R&E Networks are the ultimate facilitators of innovation, including:

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- Earthquake Sensing
- Genomic Research

- High-Energy Physics
- Supercomputing
- Telemedicine
- Weather Forecasting



To learn more about RENs, visit www.thequilt.net or www.onenet.net.



2021 STATE REGENTS BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Twenty-seven business and higher education partnerships throughout the state were recently recognized virtually for innovative collaboration that furthers the education of Oklahoma's workforce.

The State Regents' Business Partnership Excellence Award is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher

education institutions and businesses and to cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic **Development Grants.**

Institutions involved in these partnerships provide \$500 for tuition waivers to employees of the partnering businesses; internships that enable current students to work at the

partnering businesses; faculty externships with the partnering businesses; and/ or enhancement of the partnerships with additional equipment, materials or supplies. The State Regents provide a \$500 match to the waivers. To date, the State Regents have awarded \$184,000 to 368 business and education partnerships.

2021 RECOGNIZED PARTNERSHIPS:

- Cameron University, City National Bank
- Carl Albert State College, **Armstrong Bank**
- Connors State College, American Farmers and Ranchers Mutual Insurance and Cooperative
- East Central University, Pontotoc County Health Department
- Eastern Oklahoma State College, Great Western Dining Service Inc.
- Langston University, Dell Inc.
- Murray State College, Michelin
- Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, The First National Bank & Trust Company of Miami
- Northeastern State University, Broken Arrow Public Schools
- Northern Oklahoma College, Enel Green Power North America Inc.
- Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Aurora Learning Community Association
- Oklahoma City Community College, Federal Aviation Administration-**Enterprise Services Center**

- Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Oklahoma State University, Kratos Defense & Security Solutions Inc.
- Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, Toyota Motor North America
- Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, Supreme Court of Oklahoma
- Redlands Community College, Canadian Valley Technology Center
- Rogers State University, Pryor Public Schools
- Rose State College, **United Dynamics**
- Seminole State College, SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital-Shawnee
- Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Region 9-Oklahoma State Department of Health
- Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Yukon Public Schools
- Tulsa Community College, Tulsa Tech
- University of Central Oklahoma, **Edmond Mobile Meals**

- University of Oklahoma, USAF, Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex
- University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, RCE General Contractors LLC
- Western Oklahoma State College, City of Altus





2021 COLE AWARDS

The Council for Online Learning Excellence (COLE), an initiative of the State Regents' Online Education Task Force, recognized the following faculty member, administrator and two university teams for their outstanding work:

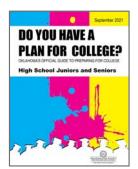
Kalianne Neumann, assistant professor of educational technology at Oklahoma State University, was honored with the Oklahoma Online Excellence Award for Teaching. The Oklahoma Online Excellence Award for Innovation was presented to the K20

Center for Education and Community Renewal at the University of Oklahoma. Marla Lobley, public services librarian at East Central University, was presented with the Oklahoma Online Excellence Award for Individual Leadership. The Oklahoma Online Excellence Award for Team Leadership was presented to the First Year Mathematics Program at OU.

The State Regents created the Online Education Task Force in 2012 to review the delivery of online education throughout the state system and to determine the extent to which the delivery of online education was accessible, efficient and effective. COLE, formed by the task force in 2016, is comprised of faculty, staff and administrators representing each tier of Oklahoma's public and private colleges and universities, as well as other entities connected to online learning technologies.

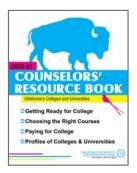
2020-21 COLLEGE PLANNING PUBLICATIONS

This fall, the State Regents will offer free online college planning publications for Oklahoma counselors and students.



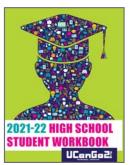
DO YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR COLLEGE?

These digital brochures for eighth- through 10th-grade and 11th- through 12th-grade students outline the courses they must take in high school to be admitted to an Oklahoma public college or university, as well as financial aid information, estimated college costs, salary expectations for various jobs and information about campus comparison and selection.



COUNSELORS' RESOURCE BOOK: OKLAHOMA'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

This online publication for high school counselors provides a profile of each college and university in Oklahoma and includes information about preparing for college, college costs and financial aid.



HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR TOOLKIT

UCanGo2, a college access initiative of the Oklahoma College Assistance Program, is producing an electronic kit to support educator outreach to students and parents. Each e-kit includes an Instructor's Guide, a Plan of Action to help counselors make the most of UCanGo2 materials throughout the year, student tools and FAFSA education resources.



STATE REGENTS LAUNCH REDESIGNED COLLEGE PLANNING WEBSITE

The State Regents recently launched the updated OKcollegestart.org, Oklahoma's student information portal that provides students, parents, high school counselors and adult learners with comprehensive college planning and preparation information.

OKcollegestart.org, the state's official college planning website, has been redesigned with a wider content display, simpler navigation, updated tools, and new resources specifically aligned with the user's selected path and profile information. Additionally, the new Energy career cluster, developed in partnership with the Oklahoma Energy Workforce Consortium, has been fully integrated within the interactive features for students, parents and educators across the site.

Through the site, students can explore detailed information about the state's campuses, build personal portfolios with their grades and applications, prepare for the ACT and SAT, learn about career opportunities and complete career assessments, access extensive information about federal and state financial aid, search for scholarships, and apply online for the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship. OKcollegestart.org includes information about both public and independent Oklahoma colleges and universities and is offered in more than 100 languages.

Counselors and parents can use the website to help students prepare for postsecondary education. Students can choose to give counselors access to their portfolios so they

can review grades and applications together. A companion site for educators allows K-12 and higher education counselors and instructors to access and assign a system-defined Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP) to specific grades, track students' progress, and send and receive electronic transcripts from school to school, school to campus, and campus to campus.

More than 600,000 user accounts have been created on OKcollegestart.org since its launch in 2007. Page views exceed 28.4 million, and more than 102,000 students have applied online for the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship through OKcollegestart.org.

UCANGO2 RELEASES ELEMENTARY MATERIALS

UCanGo2, the Oklahoma College Assistance Program's college access initiative, has often been asked about college planning materials for elementary students. To meet that need, UCanGo2 recently launched a new set of tools and resources specifically designed to introduce students from kindergarten through fifth grade to planning, preparing and paying for college.

These materials, which add to an already robust set of resources for middle and high school students, parents and educators, take a light-hearted approach to introducing higher education to young students. Through engaging activities and worksheets, students will have fun while learning about what college will be like, endless career options and how to be successful through middle school, high school and college.

The new elementary activities can be found at https://ucango2.org/publications/ES.html. K-5 tools include worksheets for career discovery, school spirit and school success, as well as checklists to help parents navigate through elementary, secondary education and college.

KINDERGARTEN - FIRST GRADE

- Connect careers with the corresponding tools, uniforms
- Make posters for your school
- Design a school t-shirt
- Choose items that are appropriate in the classroom
- Tips for being a good student

SECOND GRADE - THIRD GRADE

- Match skills with the appropriate careers
- Connect careers with workplaces
- Create a school motto
- Match posters with school clubs and events
- Optimize your study area
- Distinguish items belonging in the classroom, lunchroom, at recess or at home

FOURTH GRADE - FIFTH GRADE

- Identify the duties, education and skills required for careers
- Answer sample job interview questions
- Draw your perfect dorm room
- Learn about school types and characteristics
- Learn about positive habits for school success
- Add school assignments to your calendar

Learn more and find 2021-22 elementary, middle school and high school resources at <u>UCanGo2.org</u>.



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