



SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

OSPSP

Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program

Helping low-income single parents fulfill their dreams of self-sufficiency through post-secondary education.

Celebrating **10 Years** of Opening Doors for Families.

For a decade, the Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program has supported determined parents working toward higher education and brighter futures for their families. Because of our community of donors, mentors, and partners, scholars across Central Oklahoma are transforming their lives through education.

Since 2016, OKSPSP has granted \$456,800 in Direct Assistance to Oklahoma Single Parents!

REACH FOR THE STARS

10

*Celebrating 10 Bright Years
Of Lighting the Way for Oklahoma's Single Parents*

Thursday, October 1, 2026
St. Luke's Methodist Church | Life Center
222 NW 15th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103
11:30 AM- 1:00 PM

The Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program

We are excited to announce this year's keynote speaker: Best-Selling Novelist and Essayist, *Anne Lamott.*

Anne Lamott is the author of seven novels and several best selling books of nonfiction including *Operating Instructions*, *A Journal of My Son's First Year*, a candid, humorous memoir about her experience as a 35-year-old single mother raising her son in Northern California; *Some Assembly Required: A Journal of my Son's First Son*; and the classic book on writing; *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. Anne's latest book co-authored with her husband Neal Allen is *Good Writing: 36 Ways to Improve Your Sentences*. Lamott has also authored several autobiographical essays on faith. She lifts, comforts, and inspires all the while keeping us laughing.



Photo: Sam Lamott

Sponsor Reach for the Stars 2026 here!





Our Decade-Long Journey

Celebrating 10 Years of Helping Single Parents reach brighter futures

320 Children Served

In 2014, the Women's Foundation of Oklahoma commissioned Dr. Jean Warner to research the challenges facing single parent families and identify possible solutions.

403 Scholarships Extended

In 2016, with the help of Ellen Ingram, who had experience with a nonprofit in Arkansas, the two women researched, networked, and launched OKSPSP with a small grant less than \$6,000. Four parents enrolled at OCCC and each received a \$500 scholarship.

Dr. Warner found low-income single parents who managed to enroll in college struggled to earn degrees. Even a two-year degree could have a significance positive effect on a parent's earning capacity.

110 Graduates

172 Single Parent Students Served

Board volunteers began growing the dollar-value of scholarships and improved support services. Scholarships were increased to \$1000 and then to \$1200 in order to better assist recipients.

OSPSP hired its first Executive Director (part-time) in 2022, which later grew into a full-time role. Today OSPSP also has a part time programs manager and additional help with accounting, marketing, and fundraising.

Today, each scholarship is \$1,200 and OSPSP is providing 85 scholarships this year. More than 80% of students have either graduated or are still pursuing their degrees. For every scholarship received by the student, grads see an average post-grad salary increase of over \$20,000!

COMING SOON

What If Your Gift Worked All Year Long?

We are excited to introduce a new initiative that will help sustain scholarships and resources for families toward brighter futures.

We can't wait to share more at the 2026 Reach for the Stars luncheon!

Celebrate our Fall 2025 Graduates



Ashley Hersberger
OCCC
Associates in Nursing

Mari Belle
UCO,
Psychology & Mass Communications

Ashley Blankenship
OCCC,
Diversified Studies/Nursing

Ebone Collins
OCCC, Business Administration

Amanda Hampton
SNU,
Family Studies and Gerontology

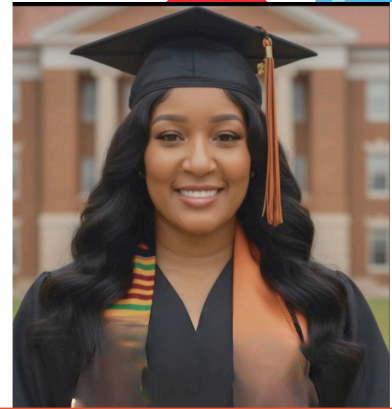
Ashley Hersberger
OCCC, Nursing

Kayse Hoffman
OCCC, Diversified Studies

Bianca Hollins
SNU,
Family Studies and Gerontology

Courtenie Jackson
OSU, Organizational Leadership

Moneisha Johnson
Francis Tuttle, Nursing



Courtenie Jackson
OSU Stillwater
Bachelors in
Organizational Leadership



Ashley Blankenship
OCCC
Associates in Nursing &
Diversified Studies

Spring 2026 Recipients

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Arikna Artencio* | Kristin Jackson* |
| Carle Brocksmith* | Destiney Jacobson* |
| Ebony Bullard | Brooke Johanson |
| Spring Byington* | Karri Kennedy* |
| Shanice Cargle | Jasmine Kornegay |
| Maria Cervantes | Portia-Rae Larson |
| Iley Chadwick | Stacey Lohlein |
| Ebone Collins | Mercedes Lopez |
| Asiyah Crowe* | Chas Nay Mason |
| Lavern Crump | Kaylee Miller |
| Hope Davis | Ronnieka Potts |
| Tashina Deer* | Cassidy Rourke |
| Chelsea Deshazo | Randa Smith* |
| Tashenia Dickerson | Caroline Smith* |
| Regan Flournoy | Roger Stickler* |
| Sierra Grunewald* | Kiasi Thomas |
| K'Lynn Hallford | Heather Thompson* |
| Breionna Hayes | Ashley Williams |
| | Lateara Wooley |

Thunder Up!!



OSPSP families attended the Thunder vs. Timberwolves game in March. Thank you OKC Thunder for the donated seats!!

*Plan to graduate this Spring or Summer

We Want You!

OSPSP MENTORS

HELP SUPPORT SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY PROVIDING MONTHLY ENCOURAGEMENT

APPLY TO BECOME A MENTOR

Staff Update: Welcome Lauri



Join us in welcoming the newest member of the OKSPSP team! Lauri Johnston will serve as the liason between OKSPSP and our applicants, recipients, mentors, and schools as the Student Services Coordinator. She is excited to support single parents in their post-secondary education journey in central Oklahoma.

2026 OSPSP Board of Directors

Susan Carns Curtiss, President	Brandy Burgess*
LuAnne Kuelzer, President Elect	Beth Condley
Jessica Schwager, Secretary	Marsha Herron
Jeb Cook, Treasurer	Bianca Hollins*
Melanie Armstrong*	Destiny Hulsey
Barbara Batchelor	Ellen Ingram
Kelli Bowie	Aizhan Karabakayeva
Taylor Boyd	Amber Martin
Morgan Brammer*	Carolyn Messick
Sommer Brown	Jill Trauschke

*New Board Members- Welcome!

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Learn more
at www.ospssp.org