



Newsletter

Spring 2022

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

**Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program (OSPSP)** is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 2016 on the principle of providing scholarship funding and support services to high potential, low-income single parents. With a bit of financial support and encouragement, eligible single parents - many of them working full-time, raising children alone, struggling to make ends meet and on the brink of dropping out of college - can earn life-changing degrees and escape poverty. Scholarships are offered twice a year for the Fall and Spring semesters. Potential recipients must complete an application demonstrating their need for assistance, potential for success, and proof of full-time enrollment. After the student is awarded, they are matched with a mentor to set goals and receive support.



## President's Perspective

*Jill Trauschke, Board President*

Hello and welcome to our spring edition of the OSPSP newsletter.

At OSPSP, we have much to celebrate this spring! We had 4 students graduate in December, and they are well on their way to successful careers and financial independence. In February, we awarded 25 student scholarships and expect nine to graduate at the end of this semester.

We are grateful to our donors, mentors, and volunteers who have contributed so much to our success since our program began in 2016. Due to your generosity, we have awarded almost \$150,000 in scholarships over the last six years!

We have two fundraising events planned for 2022, our Mothers' Day newspaper tributes and our fall Reach for the Stars event on September 15th. Your continued support will allow us to accomplish our mission of helping high potential, low-income single parents become successful, financially independent college graduates.

I want to welcome our five new OSPSP board members for 2022: Morgan Brammer, Laura Burdette, Kelly Mirabile, Donna Mullins, and Monica Ybarra. We are thrilled to have you serve on the OSPSP board!

Finally, I'd like to thank our board member, Marcy Price, and our Program Administrator, Jennifer Winfrey, for their outstanding work and creativity in making this newsletter possible.

We're looking forward to another successful year for OSPSP. Stay tuned for exciting details of our upcoming events!

Happy spring!

*Jill Trauschke*

**"I truly appreciate having this scholarship because it will help to take away financial stress, making me better able to focus on the joys of parenting and school."**  
*Brooklyn Learned, Journalism, University of Oklahoma*

**Mother's Day Tributes**

Go the extra mile this Mother's Day with a public tribute in honor or memory of a deserving mother in your life!

Your tax-deductible donation will support single parents and honor the special women in your life. The public tribute will be published in the Oklahoman newspaper on Sunday, May 8th.

Visit [www.okspsp.org/mothersday](http://www.okspsp.org/mothersday) for more information

**DEADLINE APRIL 30**



# Congratulations, Spring Semester Recipients!

**Melanie Armstrong**  
**Lisa Ballard**  
**Kassil Bell**  
**Evie Bird**  
**Yaneida Caraballo**  
**Mandy Copen**  
**Brittani Dixon**  
**Mizarette Dobganga**  
**Jarrah East**

**Adrine Fouateng-  
Wanchie**  
**Tara Gray**  
**Hope Gross**  
**Timber Hendrex**  
**Kathrine Hughes**  
**Maegan James**  
**Mary Anne Jones**  
**Darrian Kidder**

**Brooklyn Learned**  
**Keila Martinez**  
**Sarah Metcalf**  
**Sherrene Rhodes**  
**Heavenly Shirley**  
**Deanna Taylor**  
**Shuntae Wallace**  
**DeAvian Wright**



My name is Darrian and I am a single mother to two beautiful girls. I'm also a pre-pharm student and excited to further my education and teach my kids that anything is possible if you put your mind to it.



My name is Maegan T. I am a veteran working on my associate's then bachelor's degree in nursing. My hope is to one day be a flight nurse then a CRNA. I have a 3-year-old son named Royce, who is the life of the party and brings such joy to my heart. This scholarship will help with living expenses and help me to attend school for lectures. Thank you so much for this opportunity! I hope to make this organization proud!



## 2016 - 2022 IMPACT

**73** Students Served  
**146** Scholarships  
**31** Student Graduates  
**Schools include:** OCCC,  
OSU-OKC, OU, Langston,  
Rose State, UCO, and OCU

## New Grad Note

*"My family and I want to thank you for not only believing in me but for all of your encouragement to pursue my higher education goals. There was a time when I wanted to give up, but when I heard all of your words of encouragement to keep believing in myself and reminding me that anything is possible, it helped me to continue my studies. Then graduation day came and there I was walking across that stage in May 2021. In all of that, you all became my other family and I would not have been able to do this without you all. Thank you."*

**April Severs, Oklahoma City University**



**Fall 2022 Scholarship  
Applications Open May 2022**

[www.okspsp.org/apply](http://www.okspsp.org/apply)



**Thank you so much. This scholarship means that I can take a Spanish class so I can better serve our amazing state and help more communities. I am so excited to get a mentor to help me walk this path that I have chosen. I want to tell all of you thank you. God Bless you.**

**Maegan James**  
**Community & Public Health**  
**Oklahoma City Community College**



# 2022 OSPSP Board of Directors

Jill C Trauschke, President  
Lisa Edmonds, President-Elect  
Molly McBride, Treasurer  
Jane Nelson, Secretary  
Morgan Brammer\*  
Laura Burdette\*  
Steven Charles  
Lindsey Cummins

Nikki Edwards, Past President  
Anthony Foster  
Andrea Horsch  
Aleisha Karjala  
Regina Lane  
Amber Martin  
Kelly Mirabile\*  
Donna Mullins\*

Marcy Price  
Nadine Rayan Davis  
Halley Reeves  
Katie Resneder  
Monica Ybarra\*  
Ellen Ingram, Founder

*\*Denotes new member*

## Meet Our Newest Board Members



### Morgan Brammer

Morgan explained that she was rolling off another board when she heard about OSPSP. Morgan is the Director of Recruitment at the University of Oklahoma. She elaborated on her decision to join the board, "The Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program can change the trajectory of student lives... I'm here to support that."

I first heard about OSPSP last year through former board member Ellen Ingram as well as Lisa Edmonds. I could see that OSPSP has a quick and direct impact on the scholarship recipients. Luckily, Lisa reached out about joining the Board and serving as a mentor. I was excited to have the opportunity to give back to our community both by mentoring and by serving this non-profit organization.

### Laura Burdette



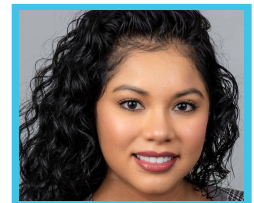
### Donna Mullins

I heard about OSPSP through my employer, Arvest Bank, as well as a previous Board Member Teresa Moore. I am the mother of a single Mom and have watched the struggles she has faced by trying to juggle work, school, and a child. I felt this was a good opportunity to help those single moms who are going through the same thing and give them the guidance they need to succeed, making a difference one day at a time.



### Monica Ybarra

I'm acquainted with Several OSPSP Board Members and have always enjoyed attending fundraising events and meeting these scholarship recipients. I decided to accept the invitation to join the Board because I believe this organization is truly filling a gap that could mean the difference between a student reaching his or her educational goals or not. I'm excited to contribute as a mentor, fundraiser, and Board member.



## Thank you, outgoing board members!

### Ellen Ingram

"While I already miss being with fellow board members on a regular basis, OSPSP is in wonderful, caring hands and I can't wait to see where this organization is going! I am especially excited that the amount of each scholarship has increased as well as the number of scholarships awarded. Amazing progress by an amazing group of dedicated board members over the past six years!"

### Barbara Bachelor

"It has been such a privilege to serve on the OSPSP Board for the past six years. I enjoyed the students we serve most of all as I got to know many through the student mentoring program. I am excited to see the Board grow with many new energetic members. See you at the Fall fundraiser!"

*"Thank you very much for helping out Izaiah and me this past semester! I completed the OCCC RN nursing program. The best part about my graduation was hearing my 3-year-old say "Good job. I'm proud of you!"*

*Rachell Fletcher, Nursing, Oklahoma City Community College*

# Mentoring Matters



Mentors provide a friendly, supportive and caring presence for students who are juggling both school, work, and parenting responsibilities. Mentors generally reach out once a month to touch base with their students. Students often appreciate the emotional boost that a friendly call or text provides.

During finals week last semester, each student also received a Care Package. Several new volunteer mentors will be reaching out to their students this semester. One of our mentors, Nadine, described her mentoring experience as a real success story! She served as a mentor for the same returning student until she graduated. During COVID, they stayed in touch by text.

## Thank you, Spring 2022 Mentors!

**Laura Burdette  
Nadine Davis  
Jennifer Davis  
Adele Edmonds  
Nikki Edwards  
Tony Foster  
Ellen Ingram  
Annette Jacobi**

**Lindsay Katzir  
Monica Kraft  
LuAnne Kuelzer  
Candace Lagere  
Amber Martin  
Lisa McConnell  
Kelly Mirabile  
Marcy Price**

**Halley Reeves  
Katie Resneder  
Lexi Richardson  
Maggie Schifferdecker  
Charese Taylor  
Jill Trauschke  
Dorothy Weaver  
Monica Ybarra**

**Interested in being a mentor?  
Email [admin@okspsp.org](mailto:admin@okspsp.org)**

*"As a professor, I have the chance to work with many students each semester, but I wanted the opportunity to connect with a student one-on-one. As a parent of young children myself, I am especially invested in parent success, and I look forward to meeting with her after Spring break."  
Lindsay Katzir, New Mentor*



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