



Newsletter

Spring 2024

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

Halley Reeves, Board President



Spring has sprung for the Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program (OSPSP) newsletter! As we embark on a fruitful 2024, we have much to celebrate and anticipate.

Firstly, we are overjoyed to welcome Sommer Brown to the board and welcome back Nadine Davis and Barbara Bachelor. Their dedication and insight will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and success of OSPSP.

We are also immensely grateful for the unwavering support we have received from all corners. This spring, we are proud to announce that we have 29 scholarship recipients. To date, we have served 113 single parents with a total of 251 scholarships and in turn have served 210 of their children through our program. Your generosity has made this possible, and for that, we extend our deepest gratitude.

Our research indicates that for every \$1,000 received from OSPSP, recipients' median post-graduation annual income increased by \$12,400. This is a testament to the transformative power of education and the impact of your support. The OSPSP team including our fearless Executive Director, Julie Leclercq, Ellen Ingram and Kristi Healy, OSPSP's new Administrative Assistant, has been working tirelessly to write grants extending donated dollars. At the time of this writing, we have received grants totaling more than \$35,000 from the Cresap Foundation, the Harris Foundation, Impact Assets and Walmart community grants in 2024 and hope to surpass our goals with grant funding this year.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce that this September's Reach for the Stars event will be focused entirely on the journey of single parents. We invite you to meet the New York Times best-selling author Stephanie Land, whose book *Maid* was the basis for a Netflix series sharing the same name. It will be a wonderful eye-opening discussion and presentation and we encourage you to attend and invite others.

In closing, I would like to reiterate our mission: to help high-potential, low-income single parents become successful, financially independent college graduates. Your continued support allows us to fulfill this mission and transform lives. Thank you for being part of this journey, and please share our story with others. Here's to a successful and impactful 2024!

Sending lots of excitement your way for a prosperous 2024!

-Halley Reeves

**2024- 2025 Scholarship
Application Open
May 15th- June 15, 2024**



Spring 2024 Recipients!

Maya Abdul-Aziz - OCCC
Nikki Anderson - OSU
Kianna Antwine - Langston
Melanie Armstrong - UCO
Maggie Barnett - USAO
Jessica Blackwell - OU
Kelsey Bowen - OSU
Tyanne Brewer - OU
Jaylyn Burke - Langston
Crystal Fry - Rose State
Tyler Gentry - Rose State
Valerie Gore - Rose State
Cleosondra Hamlet - Langston
Hannah Harris - OSU-OKC
Breionna Hayes - UCO
Chantell Lanum - USAO
Mercedes Marie Lopez - UCO
Bree Mercer - OSU
Lisha Prince - UCO
Vanessa Rios - OSU-OKC
Karla Santos-Perez - UCO
Heavenly Shirley - OU
Samantha Smith - UCO
Roger Stickler - OSU- OKC
Kelli Swaim - OCCC



2016 - 2024 IMPACT

113 Single Parent Students Served
251 Scholarships Extended
67 Student Graduates
210 Children Served
\$270,000 Awarded
Schools include: OCCC, OSU,
OSU-OKC, OU, Langston, OCU,
Rose State, SNU, UCO, and USAO

Mentor Encouragement

Lori Richardson graduated from Rose State in December 2023 and is working with the OK Heart Hospital's South campus. Lori shared this great text with her mentor, Marcy Price, "I passed my licensing exam! I'm an RN!!!"

Marcy responded to Lori's happy text, "You are such a good role model for all your girls and grandkids. Maybe their road will be a little easier and will lead to completing their college degree and finding a career path too. Breathe easy and enjoy your accomplishments!"



**Interested in
being a mentor?**

**Email
studentservices@okspsp.org**



Congrats to Lori and thanks to Marcy for her encouragement!

Endowment

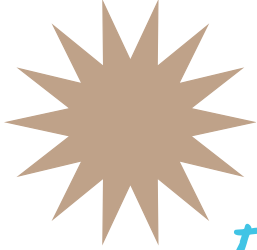
GROWING LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

In 2023 OSPSP announced the creation of a charitable organization endowment fund with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. This is a crucial step to ensure long-term sustainability for OSPSP and will allow us to carry out our mission to help single parents complete their higher education goals for years to come. In just one year we have grown the endowment to over \$100,000!

We are thankful again this year to the Kirkpatrick Family Fund who has committed to matching a percentage of donations made to the OSPSP endowment. You may give directly to our endowment through Oklahoma City Community Foundation at www.occf.org/matches or access through the QR code. We invite you to contact us for any questions at admin@okspsp.org

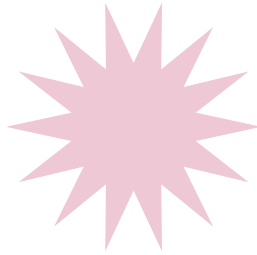


Congratulations OSPSP Graduates !



Fall 2023

Lori Richardson Nursing *Rose State*
Roger Stickler IT *OSU-OKC*
Rosaura Teus Psychology *UCO*



Expected Graduates

Spring 2024

Nikki Anderson Education *OSU*
Kianna Antwine Nursing *Langston*
Melanie Armstrong Public Administration *UCO*
Maggie Barnett Education *USAO*
Jaylyn Burke Agricultural Business *Langston*
Crystal Fry Respiratory Therapy *Rose State*
Tyler Gentry Business *Rose State*
Cleasondra Hamlet Corrections *Langston*
Hannah Harris Nursing *OSU-OKC*
Chantelle Lanum Education *USAO*
Trelishiea Prince Criminal Justice *UCO*
Vanessa Rios Public Service *OSU*
Karla Santos-Perez Psychology *UCO*
Samantha Smith Speech-Language Pathology *UCO*
Kelly Swaim Occupational Therapy *OCCC*

Finals Survival Box

As scholarship recipients were approaching the end of the Fall semester, OSPSP provided a Finals Survival Box made possible through our generous donors. Included in the box were study supplies and snacks, a bath bomb, candle, and a Starbucks gift card to aid the student's long study hours. Our recipients were grateful for the encouragement and acknowledgement of their hard work during a busy time of year!



OSPSP Website Upgrade

Check out the new OSPSP website with user friendly design and increased resources to help our applicants and recipients find what they need all in one place.



<https://www.ospsp.org>



Local Giving

The Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma partnered with the First Fidelity Bank's Integrated Business Core program to combine their academic programs with an experiential learning portion, where students develop and create a company based around an original OU product within the semester.

This year, OU business student, Natalie

Edmonds, together with her group has graciously given \$8,200 of their profits to OSPSP to support individuals pursuing their dreams and goals. Edmonds shared, *"Students alike, we all gained a new appreciation for the opportunity of higher education and hope that our contribution can have a lasting impact on the program. The entire Sooner Paddles team wants to thank First Fidelity Bank, our professors at OU, and the OSPSP team for your unwavering support and trust with a "company" of college students trying something new. I truly feel that OU and OSPSP share so many important values including innovation and collaboration, that encourage students of all backgrounds to strive for success, and I am so grateful to be a part of both incredible communities!"* OSPSP and its recipients appreciate the collaboration with OUIBC are so thankful to share in the learning and success of the program.



"I am now a third grade teacher. My own children attend the school I teach at, and without the help given to me by the scholarship I would have been paying off my education. Instead I get to invest in my children and our future.

We have come so far in the last year. I was able to buy our first home and are currently making it our own. I love what I do, I love being with my kids everyday at work, and I love that I was pushed to further my education and go back to graduate school!

I am thankful for the opportunity to have finished my degree, and the help made it possible to further my career path and now go back for my graduate degree."

- Sarah Clifford, Fall 2022 Recipient

Graduate Perspective



2024 OSPSP Board of Directors

Halley Reeves, President
Jane Nelson, President Elect
Molly McBride, Treasurer
Marcy Price, Secretary
Lisa Edmonds, Past President

*Denotes new member

**Denotes returning member

Barbara Batchelor**
Taylor Boyd
Sommer Brown*
Laura Burdette
Evelyn Cardona
Susan Carns Curtiss

Sarah Core
Nadine Davis**
Ellen Ingram
Randal Lewis
LuAnne Kuelzer
Donna Mullins
Jessica Schwager

Outgoing Board Member

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a board member for OSPSP. Getting to know our students through my work on the Student Services Committee has been my favorite! Seeing firsthand how our scholarship makes a difference in these families is truly rewarding. I'm grateful for our volunteers and donors who have helped build OSPSP so we can continue to help more families become financially independent. I plan to always stay involved with OSPSP in some capacity!" -**Jill Trauschke**

Holiday Match Campaign

In November of 2023, generous donor, **Toby Tindell** agreed to help OSPSP match up to \$5,000 in a Holiday Match Campaign. His offer inspired our donors through emails, Instagram and our newsletter to raise over \$13,000. This funding will continue to support OSPSP in providing scholarships to our deserving recipients this semester and beyond and was a much appreciated boost toward our 2024 budget.



Student Perspective

"As single parents navigating college, we face many obstacles in our pursuit of a better life. Often the center of those obstacles is financial hardship. When enrolling for the Fall 2023 semester, I received news that no student wants to hear: I did not have enough financial aid to pay for school. It was completely unexpected, and I had no other financial support to lean on. At first, I felt hopeless, thinking this was the end of the education I had worked so hard for. But despite the bad news, I decided to remain hopeful. I enrolled in my classes and trusted that a door would open for me.

A few days later, I found the Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program. I turned in my application, barely making the deadline for the fall semester, keeping my fingers crossed that this opportunity was meant for me. When I received the scholarship, it covered the exact amount I needed for my classes and books. I cried tears of relief and joy. A door had opened for me, and my dreams could continue. Receiving this scholarship has changed my life.

I am so thankful to OSPSP and all the amazing people who support the program. Because of this scholarship, I get to pursue a better life for my daughter and myself. I am forever grateful." - **Bree Mercer, Current Recipient**

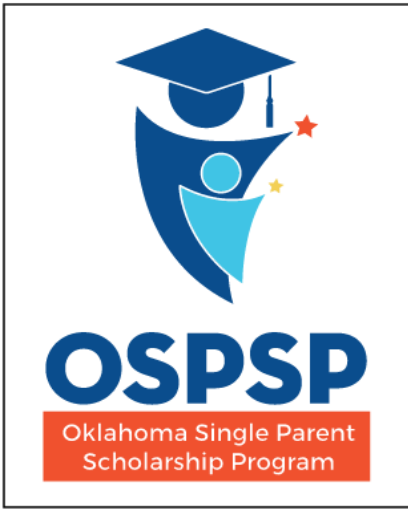
Meet Our New Board Member



"I am enthusiastic about contributing my expertise to the OSPSP Board, fostering impactful partnerships, and advancing our shared vision."

Sommer Brown

Director Utility Customer
Operations at OG&E



Learn More at
www.ospsp.org



**Help us offer more
scholarships to deserving,
low-income single parents
Donate Now!**



Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program
6608 N Western Ave #322
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

