

Women *for* OSU

2020 NEWSLETTER



HELEN HODGES

PHILANTHROPIST
of the YEAR

Photo courtesy of Bruce Waterfield



WOMEN *for* OSU COUNCIL

For Women for OSU, the collective focus and attention is on unity — how together the Council can benefit Oklahoma State and inspire leadership and philanthropy in countless other communities. Today, women view philanthropy not so much as “giving” but as “investing” — investing in change, investing in the future and investing in causes that are personally meaningful. Those who serve on the Women for OSU Council volunteer their time and treasure to propel the impact of the organization forward.

CURRENT MEMBERS

Courtney Baugher	Lori Maine
Robin Byford	Pam Martin
Donna Clack	Michelle Martin
Amy Cline	Amy Mitchell
Pat Cobb	Ann Oglesby
Suzie Crowder	Leslie Paris
Kirsten Daniel	Jennifer Poole
Suzanne Day	Jenelle Schatz
Kayleen Ferguson+	Gwen Shaw
Leah Gungoll	Terry Slagle+
Brenda Hawkins	Karen Stewart
Rhonda Hooper	Melinda Stinnett
Vicki Howard	Marnie Taylor
Jeanene Jenkins Hulsey	Lucina Thompson
Claudia Humphreys	Sharon Trojan
Beth Jackson	Diane Tuttle
Susan Jacques	Julie Valentine
Traci Jensen+	Leslie Woolley+
Sharon Keating	
Julia Lambert	
Jami Longacre	

+New member

PAST MEMBERS

Alison Anthony	Caroline Linehan
Judi Baker	Peggy McCormick
Sheryl Benbrook	Retta Miller
Kathy Brown	Connie Mitchell
Jane Butts	Carol Morsani
Cheryl Clerico	Sara Myers
Jan Cloyde	Ramona Paul*
Diane Dross	Roxanne Pollard
Cindy Eimen	Trish Houston Prawl
Nancy Payne Ellis	Grace Provence
Fran Evans	Sara Bradshaw Ray
Malinda Berry Fischer	Helen Newman Roche
Marybeth Glass	Fran Sorenson*
Anne Greenwood	Becky Steen
Jennifer Grigsby	Raina Rose Tagle
Beverly Groom	Julie Teubner
Ann Halligan	Marilynn Thoma
Phyllis Hudecki	Cindy Waits
Cathey Humphreys	Peggy Welch
Amy Jameson	Connie Wiese
Cathy Jameson	Suzanne Wiese*
Judy Johnson	Esther Winterfeldt
Martha Johnston	
Dr. Patricia Knaub	

***Deceased**

HONORARY MEMBERS

Blaire Atkinson
Dr. Pamela Fry
First Cowgirl Ann Hargis
Dr. Kayse Shrum

Jami Longacre

WOMEN *for* OSU CHAIR

The Cowboy family is known for coming together

when times are tough to support one another, and the tumultuous year of 2020 has tested that resolve. I have found that challenging times bring out the tremendous good in all of us, and I am so proud to be part of such an amazing group of women that exemplify this strength. As I begin my term as the new Chair of Women for OSU, I am immensely proud of our accomplishments and so excited for what the future holds.

The remarkable women in our organization continue to inspire me with their generosity, their passion for higher education, and ultimately, their love of our university and its students. Engaging young people in philanthropy and utilizing technology to do so are two areas I am passionate about and will be a focus during my time as your Chair. If we can ignite that passion for giving early, it will grow through the years, benefiting not just the recipients of that generosity, but will also be deeply rewarding for the giver and all of us as individuals.

Our 12th annual Women for OSU Symposium may not have looked like our usual in-person, spectacular spring event, but it was one of the most powerful and inspiring Symposiums to date. With the virtual aspect this year, we were able to engage a much larger audience than ever before and expose hundreds more to Women for OSU. We are grateful for the generosity of our sponsors as we were able to provide the event at no cost to the public.

Highlights from the Symposium included a powerful panel of women in leadership roles, and our outstanding keynote speaker and fellow OSU alumna Dr. Tererai Trent, who was truly an inspiration. We celebrated the tremendous generosity and philanthropic leadership of Helen Hodges and awarded 12 outstanding students with scholarships. We introduced the new Partnering to Impact program, which will award grants to OSU faculty and staff, and I cannot wait to see the amazing impact this program will have on our campus.



It is truly astounding to report we have awarded nearly \$350,000 in scholarships to 83 students since Women for OSU began. Your generosity enriches our programs and scholarship funds, all while fostering the next generation of change-makers. This is especially evident by the fact that 55 of those 83 Women for OSU scholarship recipients have already given back nearly \$37,000 in gifts to OSU. We are truly inspiring younger generations to find ways to support our great university and its students.

I am so honored and humbled to serve as your Chair for Women for OSU. I am in awe of the huge impact the group has had in just 12 short years, but that is thanks to the hard work and dedication each of you have shown for our organization. Thank you so much for your support and for being a leader in women's philanthropy! Go Pokes!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "Jami M. Longacre". The signature is fluid and matches the color of her blazer in the portrait above.

Jami Longacre

Women for OSU Chairwoman, 2020-2022

Michal Shaw

WOMEN *for* OSU DIRECTOR

What a year! A global pandemic, social movement, presidential election, and Women for OSU's FIRST virtual (and largest attended) Symposium. With so much uncertainty in the world right now, one thing remains constant — the dreams and tireless pursuit of the Women for OSU Council to positively impact Oklahoma State, connect passionate leaders and encourage the next generation of philanthropists.

This year's Symposium was initially delayed and moved from April to September 2019, then shifted to an entirely virtual event. Dr. Tererai Trent, Julia Benbrook, Helen Hodges, panelists and scholars were all tremendous, and more than 2,000 tuned in to watch the event live! Thanks to our generous sponsors, the event was free to the entire OSU family and its impact reached farther than ever before. Students, alumni and friends were touched by Dr. Trent's heart felt message of determination, purpose and the importance of dreams.

After the success of the 2020 virtual Symposium, Women for OSU refuses to look backward and instead plans to host a hybrid event in April 2021. Attending in person, with appropriate physical distancing per CDC and University guidelines, as well as attending virtually will both be possible. For those interested in hearing Leigh Anne Tuohy share her heart for philanthropy and passion for community, I encourage you to mark your calendar now — you won't want to miss it!

In addition to the upcoming 2021 Symposium, Women for OSU has been hard at work launching Partnering to Impact — a new engagement opportunity for Women



for OSU Partners. While still ever passionate about scholarships, it was the desire of the Women for OSU Council to further engage OSU faculty and staff, as well as Partners, while also furthering their impact across campus. Women for OSU is overjoyed to have received 23 grant applications in October and looks forward to sharing finalists with Partners for voting in early 2021. We look forward to seeing how our Partners will direct their collective generosity and the relationships that are built as a result of this new initiative.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank Robin Byford for her leadership as Chair of the Women for OSU Council for the past two years. Robin's experience and dedication took Women for OSU to new heights and we are all grateful for her service to the organization.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "Michal Shaw".

Michal Shaw
Director, Women for OSU

2020 Symposium Recap

The 2020 Women for OSU Symposium looked different this year after COVID-19 forced the event to a virtual format. **With generous sponsorship support, a powerful keynote address, lively panel discussion and an exponentially larger reach than in years past, the event still lived up to its inspirational reputation.**

More than 40 sponsors agreed to continue their support when the Symposium transitioned to an online format and funded the event free of charge to viewers. As a result, more than 2,000 viewers watched the event live and hundreds more logged on to watch the recording in the month that followed.

"I hated that we couldn't be together, but it is exciting to know that so many members of the Cowboy family were able to participate in this year's Symposium," Michal Shaw, director of Women for OSU, said. "We had people watching from all over the country."

Dana Bessinger, who earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from Oklahoma State, was determined to make watching the virtual Symposium a fun event.

"While we were sad we couldn't be together in person, a few of us got together in Stillwater to watch with our orange gear on," she explained. "After the event, we enjoyed lunch at the Ranchers Club to add a little more OSU celebration to the day."

Several viewers connected with each other on social media, sharing photos and encouraging moments from the featured speakers and honorees — Bessinger included.

Keynote speaker Dr. Tererai Trent gave a moving speech about her pursuit of higher education and celebrated Women for OSU for investing in young people.

She had a full-circle moment, realizing just hours before she spoke that she once received a scholarship from Women in Philanthropy, which is the predecessor of Women for OSU.

"I stand on the shoulders of giants. I stand on the shoulders of OSU," said Trent, a highly decorated two-time graduate of OSU's Ferguson College of Agriculture and a 2014 recipient of an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. "It takes great leadership like we see now with Women for OSU that we build platforms for students to thrive. **That's the essence of our humanity.**"





Trent is an international speaker, humanitarian and best-selling author and holds the title of Oprah Winfrey's "all-time favorite guest." She is recognized as one of the world's most acclaimed voices for women's empowerment and education, and her story is one of tenacious resolve and unwavering conviction.

She battled poverty, illiteracy and gender inequality growing up in war-torn Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), when girls were not allowed to attend school and were forced into marriages at young ages. Trent married an older and abusive man when she was 11 and had four surviving children by age 18.

In 1991, a chance meeting with Jo Luck from Heifer International changed Trent's life when she was asked about her aspirations. With dreams of achieving her undergraduate, master's and doctorate degrees, Trent spent the next eight years earning her GED before being admitted to Oklahoma State University. Her family, which by then included five kids, moved to Stillwater in 1998.

"Oklahoma State University became a family. I had champions who stood for me," she said during the Sept. 2 virtual event. She recalled how OSU and the Stillwater community gave her money to buy a gown for graduation ceremonies, helped provide food and shelter for her family and even a bike for one of her five children.

Trent said she and her family still consider OSU and Stillwater home.

SPONSOR Q&A VIP EVENT



Sponsors participated in a socially distant gathering the night before the Symposium and were able to hear from Dr. Tererai Trent and student scholar recipient Emily Alexander.

If you are interested in sponsoring the 2021 Women for OSU Symposium, which includes an invitation to the VIP Event, please contact:

Michal Shaw

mshaw@OSUgiving.com | 405.385.5147



Dr. Tererai Trent, Robin Byford, Dr. Kayse Shrum and Blaire Atkinson

Highlights from THE SYMPOSIUM Q&A PANEL

Another highlight of this year's Symposium was our first ever panel discussion with women in leadership roles at Oklahoma State University. The panel included **Robin Byford**, immediate past chair of the Women for OSU Council, **Dr. Kayse Shrum**, president of OSU Center for Health Sciences, **Blaire Atkinson**, president of the OSU Foundation, and keynote speaker **Dr. Tererai Trent**. The discussion was led by host and 2015 Women for OSU scholarship recipient, Julia Benbrook. Each member of the panel helped leave viewers inspired and renewed in their sense of purpose. They offered advice on giving back as well as serving the greater good. Following are some highlights from the panel.

Julia Benbrook: Your passions and philanthropy can combine. As the president of the Foundation, you have also led here at the Alumni Association in numerous roles. How did those two things collide for you?

Blaire Atkinson: I grew up in a small town here in Oklahoma. We didn't talk about philanthropy, but what you saw was a community of people who were committed to one another — committed to making the community better. **We really leaned on each other.** You really saw the community come together to renew the park or to build the playground at the school. I didn't know at the time that that was philanthropy. I didn't know that **it started with time and talent.** I learned that over time, and I think when I got to the Alumni Association, I certainly felt that pride of seeing alumni from across the globe come together with their time and talent and pour into our great university. And then to the Foundation, the same. You see people who have evolved over time and they're at a place now that they can support with their generous gifts making dreams come to fruition. I think that it's been an evolution from the time I grew up in northwest Oklahoma to today that has been very fulfilling.

Julia: What would be your advice for young women, women of all ages for that matter, that are in a challenging circumstance?

Dr. Tererai Trent: I always say to women, **don't give up.** Try to surround yourself with positive people who help you. I think it's important that we are social animals as human beings. We need one another, and if I can, I find another adult who can help me with ideas. Sometimes it's just ideas that we need to get back on our feet and sometimes there are opportunities for resources and others can tell you where you can find these resources. **Exposing our own vulnerability is a strength,** but many women, including men, they see it as a weakness. They think "no, I can't share what I'm going through," but when you look at all the successful people in our lives, they went through some challenges, and they had to go to others to tell them what's going on and to find help.

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Julia: Setting dreams is obviously a big part of your message — that you have to set that dream and work toward it. Dr. Shrum, becoming president of Oklahoma Center for Health Sciences, there had to be a moment that you thought “I can do this. I am going to set this goal,” so walk us through what that looked like for you.

Dr. Kayse Shrum: I was evolving, growing up and moving off to college and not really knowing what I wanted to do with my life. The process of having a professor stop me after class and ask me if I was going to medical school set me on a journey for medicine. At that time, I had only envisioned myself in various ways, but never practicing medicine. As I achieved that career, it was very fulfilling to me. I couldn’t imagine doing anything else, but as I got into my practice, I realized that there was an opportunity to do more and to step outside. That’s a moment that is sometimes a little bit scary to believe in yourself — **knowing where you come from and where you’re going**. I always go back to a moment in time that was an obstacle in my life. My dream was to become a successful practicing physician and mother. I really set my mind to the academics, and I had that going for me. I was going through school, and I had decided to start a family and

that culminated in three miscarriages. That was really devastating for me. At that point in time I really lost a little bit of confidence in myself that — “Could I achieve that total dream? Was I fooling myself that I could have both a career and be a mother?” I was told early on that you should really decide on one or the other. Don’t pursue a career in medicine if you want to have a family. I spent a lot of time in prayer and reflecting during that period of time. Through that I became very grateful for everything that I had, and I started looking at the blessings that I had in my life. I had a renewed sense of courage and belief in myself, but also in a new idea that I didn’t have to give up my dreams. Sometimes in life you may have to give up the plan that you had for achieving your dreams. Those plans can change, but the dream can remain. **You can achieve that dream if you’re willing to open your mind** up to that and be persistent and grateful for all that you have. I think through that early experience and loss for me, I developed this sense of confidence, faith and belief in my dreams and a willingness to again change my plans. I think that’s what allows us to be successful. We have to have that determination, belief in ourselves, and willingness to alter our plans to achieve our goals.

Behind the Scenes

THE SYMPOSIUM GOES VIRTUAL

Thanks to the wonders of technology and our talented team members, we were able to host the Symposium virtually this year. Here are a few fun behind-the-scenes photos from the day.



Julia Benbrook

Julia: Women for OSU does such a good job of passing down all these things that we're talking about to all of these college-aged students, but what is something that you've learned during your time helping lead the organization? And then also, what do you hope that the students took away from today?

Robin Byford: One thing that I have learned is how many wonderful kids there are here. There are a lot of deserving students that just need a little help, or they need a little mentoring. I've also learned that they really are hungry for someone to look up to and someone to kind of show them a different attitude or a different way. They don't have a lot of experience facing a lot of different problems, and they just need a fresh outlook. Sometimes they don't just need money, they need a little mentoring, but I would say that one thing that Dr. Trent said that is definitely a takeaway is that education is the equalizer. If you grew up on a farm — definitely not knocking farmers — but you could become the president of the United States. It doesn't matter; with your education you can be whatever you want to be.



Philanthropist of the Year

HELEN HODGES

Helen Hodges has been involved in several transformational projects at OSU, including The McKnight Center for the Performing Arts, the new building for Spears Business and also the New Frontiers campaign, which will create a new home for OSU Agriculture. She's also an avid supporter of OSU athletics and has contributed to several scholarships.

"There are few people who love Oklahoma State like Helen does," said OSU President Burns Hargis. "She proves it not just with her financial support but also with her presence and the various areas on campus she loves. She may have physically moved to California, but she's never left Oklahoma State."

Both her parents were Oklahoma A&M graduates, and when Helen headed off to Oklahoma State, it was her pragmatic father who encouraged her to major in accounting rather than political science. As a student, she learned to fly. She was a member of the 1980 Flying Aggies team that took top honors at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association SAFECON. She was also active in Mortar Board, Beta Gamma Sigma and Beta Alpha Psi.

Hodges said her 1979 OSU accounting degree made her career. After graduating from OSU, she earned a law degree in 1983 at the University of Oklahoma and was the managing editor of the Oklahoma Law Review. A shortage of jobs in the legal sector led her to take a position as a staff accountant with Arthur Andersen after law school. Hodges went on to serve as the law clerk for the Penn Square Bank cases. Beginning in 2001, she helped prosecute the securities fraud case on behalf of Enron investors, which received a record recovery of \$7.2 billion.

Decades after graduating, she honored her parents by establishing the Dillon and Lois Hodges Professorship in Plant and Soil Sciences in 2008 at OSU. This position



TO WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT HELEN, VISIT:
OSUgiving.com/women/philanthropist

strengthens the Oklahoma Wheat Improvement Team through cutting-edge technologies and next generation sequencing and follows the university's land-grant mission.

"Even though Helen isn't a graduate of the Ferguson College of Agriculture, she was born of and raised on a farm, and she wanted to find a way to honor her parents," said Thomas Coon, dean of the Ferguson College of Agriculture. "She ended up making an investment that is having a fundamental impact on the wheat industry in Oklahoma. I think of her having a broad impact not just at OSU but also on society with her generous philanthropy."

That impact was on full display during the October 2019 opening of The McKnight Center for the Performing Arts where Helen and other Patron donors celebrated the audacious vision to bring world-class artistic performances to Stillwater with a concert by the New York Philharmonic.

The McKnights' idea to host the famous philharmonic in Stillwater, and thus the inspiration to create the programming endowment that made it possible, was born from an invitation from Helen to attend a concert at BravoVail! in 2015.

"I'm just happy to be able to come here and see how much joy it brings to others," she said, adding that it's hard to quantify the impact of The McKnight Center's inclusion on OSU's campus. Some students have told her it's been life changing.

"Helen Hodges' impact, in particular on The McKnight Center, goes well beyond her financial support and generosity," said Mark Blakeman, Marilynn and Carl Thoma Executive Director of The McKnight Center for the Performing Arts at Oklahoma State University. "She operated, very quietly, in the background as an important connector for us with BravoVail! and with



Anne-Marie McDermott, who is now the artistic director for our Chamber Music Festival."

"So not only has she supported us with a generous contribution, but she has also really invested herself in helping us be successful."

Hodges said there have been three main role models who have inspired her to give: her mother Lois Hodges, Ann Phillips — who established scholarships and donated her entire estate to OSU — and Ross and Billie McKnight.

Hodges made it a habit to send roses to her mother monthly when she lived in a retirement community in Yukon, Oklahoma. She said her mother would keep some for herself and share the rest with residents who couldn't leave home due to their health.

"That was a powerful example," Hodges said.

Ann Phillips was her mother's neighbor, and Hodges didn't realize she was a fellow OSU alumna until she read about Phillips' gift to establish an endowed scholarship fund.

Everyone wants to have a legacy and make a difference, Phillips told her. "She left her entire estate to OSU and set up scholarships for education," Hodges said.

Hodges said she hopes people remember her as someone who loved OSU. Her actions are ensuring that will be so.

Mark Your Calendar
2021 SYMPOSIUM

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4.22.21
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Women for OSU is excited to welcome Leigh Anne Tuohy, inspiration for The Blind Side book and movie, as our keynote speaker for the 2021 Symposium.

Dubbed a “warrior princess,” Leigh Anne inspires people to recognize the full potential of individuals in their community — and to find value in those who society has deemed valueless. In her keynote address she will share her personal “Blind Side” observations, from seeing Michael Oher for the first time to how the experience changed her family.

Leigh Anne is also the author of the *New York Times* best-seller, *In a Heartbeat: Sharing the Power of Cheerful Giving*, and *Turn Around*, a five-day-per-week devotional that uses scripture as a springboard to reconsider what it means to give sacrificially, generously and immediately within one’s own community.

She and her husband, Sean, also established their charity, The Making it Happen Foundation, which promotes awareness, provides hope, and improves standards of living for all the children fighting to survive in the invisible cracks in society. Through all of their projects, the Tuohy family continues their mission to inspire hope and ignite generosity.



Why is philanthropy so important to you?

Giving back is something that was instilled in me from a very young age. My parents were both givers and difference makers. It is in my DNA. I was taught it was about giving someone a hand up, not a handout. I once watched my dad give his coat to a gentleman in need and witnessing the response made such an impact on me. I think from that moment on I realized to whom much is given, much is required. I truly try to be a good steward of that message.

How has philanthropy changed your life and the lives of those around you?

When we give, time and time again we find that we are far more blessed than the person on the receiving end. I often remind myself that we may not be able to change the world, but we can change the world for one person. We never know the impact of what one simple random act of kindness will have on someone and on us as individuals — just like my father giving the man his coat. And giving of our time is just as valuable as giving of our money — never forget that.

Featuring Keynote Speaker

Leigh Anne Tucky

Why is it important, for women especially, to be involved in philanthropy?

As women we wear many, many hats. We are looked to for guidance and direction. We are supposed to be the nurturer, the partner, the cook, the teacher, the doctor, the coach and on and on and on...philanthropy should ALWAYS be one of the hats we wear. We are leaders and I believe actions speak louder than words. Lead by example. Women have the ability to break down barriers to trail blaze their own path to greatness. One of the greatest things we can do is show others how to make a difference in someone's life. How to be the reason to make someone smile. Our intuition and our strength has the ability to mold and shape others to be those difference makers! There's very little that I don't think a group of women can achieve...especially when we do it together. I work on meeting and getting to know the women on my social media. I enjoy sharing and bouncing ideas off these women. I'm challenged and encouraged and uplifted by them. We need to lift each other up and stop tearing each other down, and philanthropy is a common ground that should allow us to do that.

What words of encouragement would you give to those who are wanting to be involved in bettering their communities but are unsure of where to start?

I encourage you to start where you are, with what you have. Live where your feet are! Often, we feel we need a grandiose plan, but actually the smallest act can create a domino effect. Start on your street ... with a neighbor. Branch out into the community by reading in a classroom (if you can, at a safe distance with a mask!) or mentor a young person. Be a big brother

or sister. Drop off a meal for a foster family or an elderly person. Volunteer at the local library or animal shelter. The opportunities are endless. There are many ways to give and participate in making our communities better. Find a spot that resonates with you and plug-in! Once you get started you will wish you had done it a long time ago. I travel all over the country and I am always amazed at the work people are doing in their communities, it's about getting out of your comfort zone and getting in the game to make a difference. The needs are great, and the resources are few for most... now more than ever it's so important to get involved. You have the ability to be a game changer.

The mission statement of your charity includes helping "all the children fighting to survive in the invisible cracks of our society." How would you encourage others to shine a light on those invisible cracks in their own communities?

I would encourage others to get involved with children/youth on a one-on-one level. You read about kids in need. You watch it on TV. You hear about kids from friends and acquaintances that cause you to pause and think... how does that happen in this country...well... it does...everyday! Kids are falling through the cracks every day and you just might be the person that could prevent the next one from falling. Think about it. Pray about it. Pray for God to plug you in where you are needed. Writing a check is a wonderful thing, and dropping off supplies is helpful too, but that personal relationship makes those invisible cracks smaller and smaller.



#WomenforOSU

If you are interested in sponsoring the 2021 Women for OSU Symposium, please contact:

Michal Shaw
mshaw@OSUgiving.com
405.385.5147

Highlights from SOCIAL MEDIA





PARTNERING *to* IMPACT

Over the past few years, Women for OSU has contemplated its next major fundraising milestone.

So much had been accomplished over the program's first dozen years, including reaching its \$1 million goal to endow the Women for OSU Scholarship Fund in 2018.

Becky Steen, who previously served on the Women for OSU Council, said she had long been inspired by the scholarship fund's impact both on student recipients and the many donors who have contributed to the endowment. "I've seen the life-altering changes that it's brought people," Steen said.

She and other fellow Council members, including Leslie Paris, dreamt about how else they might be able to positively benefit OSU. Through brainstorming and conversations, they came up with an idea to create a new Women for OSU grant program that would operate like other community foundations throughout the state. Last spring, Steen provided the seed gift to make Partnering to Impact a reality, and others have joined her.

The donor-funded program will award grants to faculty and staff for projects that fall under one of four categories:

- **Health and Wellness**
- **Education**
- **Campus Beautification**
- **Arts and Culture**

Grants will be limited to a maximum of \$10,000 and must fully fund or complete funding necessary for the project. Women for OSU Partners, who contribute a minimum of \$1,000 or \$500 for those 35 and younger, will choose the grant winners based upon applications that include three-minute videos summarizing the projects.

"We wanted to reach out and have more connection to campus and create more ways for our Partners to be more engaged," Steen said. "I think it will be a different world to get campus involved and to have something fresh and new to invest in."

The inaugural grant cycle began this fall, and Partners will have the opportunity to choose the winner. The first grant will be announced at the 2021 Symposium. Partners will be notified of the voting process via email this winter.

You can secure your vote by making a Partner-level gift by Dec. 31. To learn more, contact Michal Shaw at mshaw@OSUgiving.com or 405-385-5147.

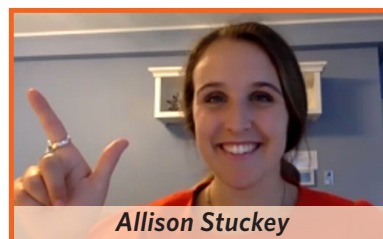
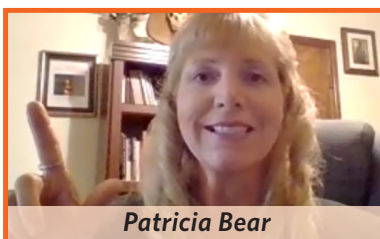
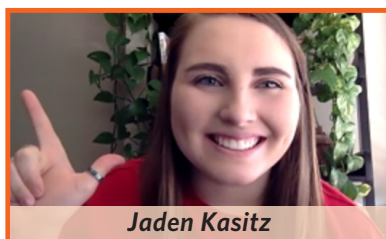
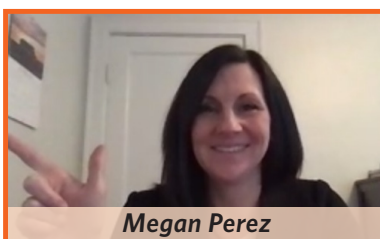


Congratulations

2020 WOMEN for OSU SCHOLARS

This year we had the pleasure of honoring 12 outstanding students for their contributions to their communities and Oklahoma State University. **Their commitment to helping others is unmatched.** They have each shown the ability to impact others with their compassion, work ethic and dedication to their philanthropic passions. We are extremely excited to see what our scholars will do next. Each one of them has a very bright future.

Since we weren't able to gather in person for the Symposium this year, we got creative with the traditional group student photo. Since the Cowboy family does a fantastic job of adapting to the circumstances, we took the photo via Zoom this year.



Not Pictured: Rachel Millea



Emily Alexander

STORIES of GRATITUDE

Growing up in the metropolitan of Canadian, Texas (population 3,000), I have witnessed the value of community firsthand. Oklahoma State University has been my home for many years, dating back to when I was born, and I proudly bleed the World's Brightest Orange. I will be the 22nd person in my family to graduate from OSU, which, like mentioned above, makes me no stranger to the community and culture of giving that exists within this Cowboy family.

This culture is not a one-time decision to give, but instead a cultivated attitude of generosity over time. It is the dedication of your life to bettering the place that has donated to the shaping of yourself. Through the Women for OSU scholarship I have experienced this culture of generosity firsthand and cannot accurately express my gratitude for each of you.

Through this investment you have enabled me to continue this legacy, and I promise to honor your investment by living a lifestyle worthy of the potential you see in me. Thank you.

Thank you for giving your time and resources to ensure a better, brighter OSU. Thank you for preparing a space that advocates and encourages. The Cowboy Spirit blazes bright and boldly wherever it goes, and I am proud to wear the World's Brightest Orange!

Go Pokes!

Emily Alexander

Women for OSU Scholar, 2020



STUDENT SCHOLARS

Giving Back

Meet

JANA DUFFY



Jana Duffy has been with the OSU Foundation since 2004. She serves as the Senior Director of Regional Development, based out of the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Welcome to the Women for OSU team, Jana!

If you are interested in supporting and getting involved with Women for OSU, please contact:

Jana Duffy

jduffy@osugiving.com
405.905.5073

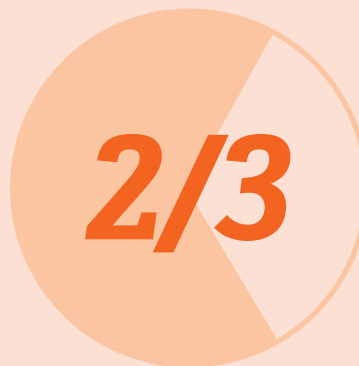
So far over the last 12 years, two out of three of the previous Women for OSU Scholars have continued the cycle of impact by investing in future scholars.

Each year, Women for OSU awards scholarships to a group of deserving students. That gift leaves a lasting impact on the grateful scholars and inspires them to return the investment to the next generation of deserving scholars at Oklahoma State University.

.....

83 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

.....



of scholarship recipients have given back to future scholars

\$344,768

worth of scholarships have impacted 83 scholars

\$36,957

in donations given from 55 of the scholarship recipients



WOMEN *for* OSU SCHOLAR UPDATE

Emma Murray

2016 WOMEN *for* OSU SCHOLAR

The Sheryl Benbrook Women for OSU Scholarship helped Emma Murray invest more time and effort in her literacy-related philanthropic efforts while she was a student at OSU.

"I was very involved in grad school with the Writing Center at Oklahoma State, and we did a lot of literacy events," said Emma, who received the scholarship in 2016. "I ended up running a kids' writing workshop every other week at the Stillwater Public Library. I was also part of the English Graduate Student Association and the Creative Writers Association where we did a lot of really cool events for scheduling different writers to come in."

Emma graduated with her master's in creative writing and poetry in 2017. She now teaches English and communications at Iowa State University, where she specifically enjoys teaching a course on science communications.

"Before I went back to grad school, I was actually a reporter. I had a journalism degree and did some science reporting and environmental investigative reporting," she said. "Having that background made me excited to go on to Iowa State to teach science communication in the classroom and show how people in STEM or the biological sciences can translate their work for the public, so it makes their science more human and relatable."

As a professor she is getting students out of the classroom for a real-world application of what they're learning. Emma requires her science communication undergraduate students to present topics at their local public library. Audiences range from kindergartners to people in their 70s.

Most recently, Emma has opened an art and community collective to bring poets, writers and artists to speak and share their work with others. She hosted the collective's first event, a backyard reading, at the end of October, and Emma is excited to see how it will continue to grow and affect the community.

Emma uses the values that are important to Women for OSU and continues to find ways to positively impact her community.



2016 Women for OSU Scholars



Women for OSU

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FOR MAKING THE 2020 SYMPOSIUM SUCH A HUGE SUCCESS!**

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