

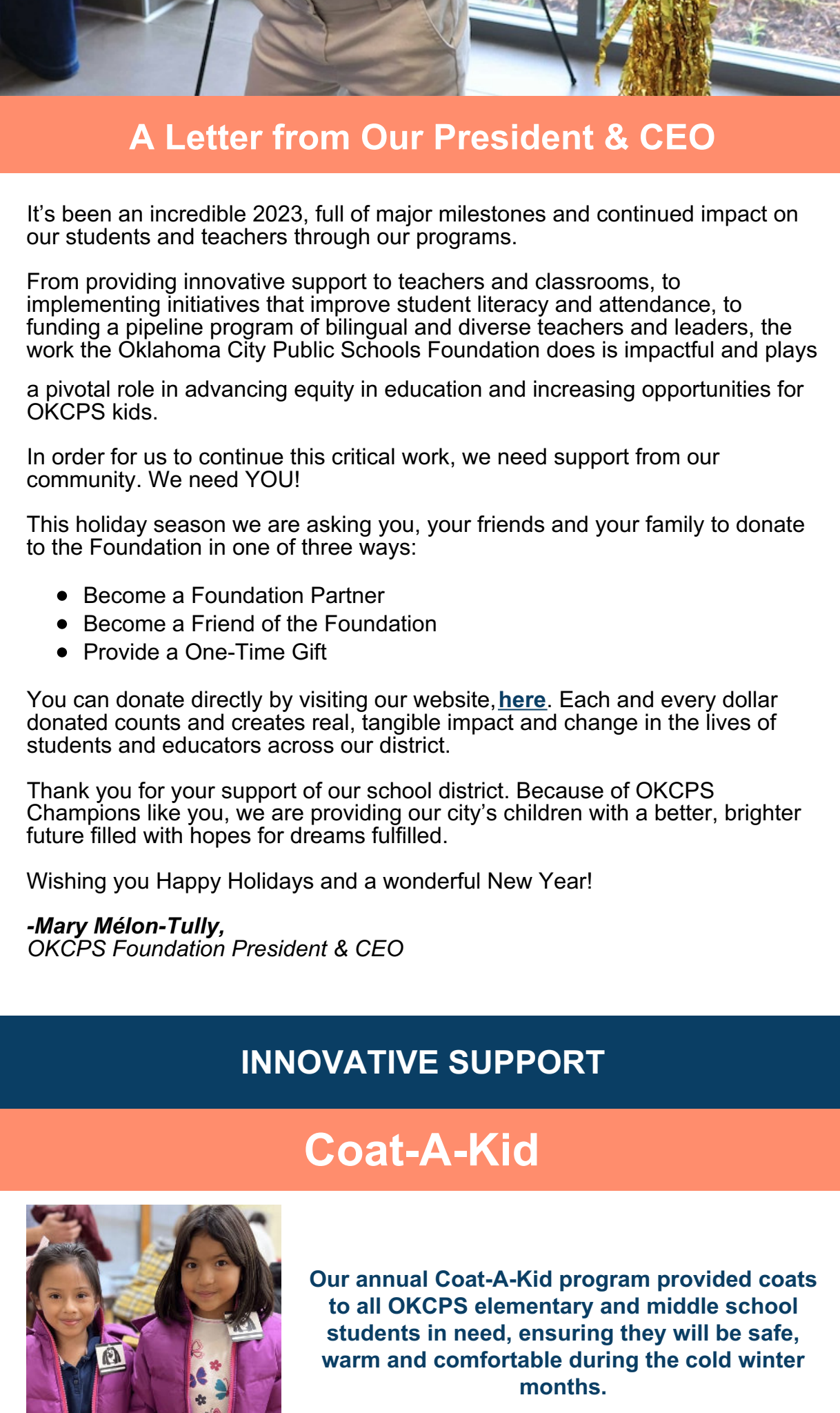


Oklahoma City Public Schools FOUNDATION

About Us

Ways to Help

DONATE



A Letter from Our President & CEO

It's been an incredible 2023, full of major milestones and continued impact on our students and teachers through our programs.

From providing innovative support to teachers and classrooms, to implementing initiatives that improve student literacy and attendance...

In order for us to continue this critical work, we need support from our community. We need YOU!

This holiday season we are asking you, your friends and your family to donate to the Foundation in one of three ways:

- Become a Foundation Partner
• Become a Friend of the Foundation
• Provide a One-Time Gift

You can donate directly by visiting our website, here. Each and every dollar donated counts and creates real, tangible impact...

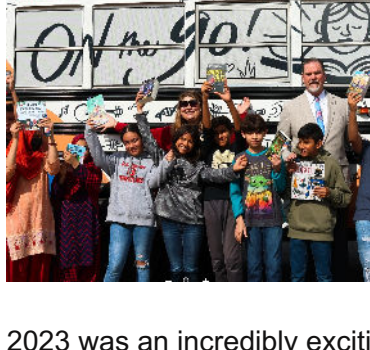
Thank you for your support of our school district. Because of OKCPS Champions like you, we are providing our city's children with a better, brighter future filled with hopes for dreams fulfilled.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year!

Mary Melon-Tully, OKCPS Foundation President & CEO

INNOVATIVE SUPPORT

Coat-A-Kid



Our annual Coat-A-Kid program provided coats to all OKCPS elementary and middle school students in need...

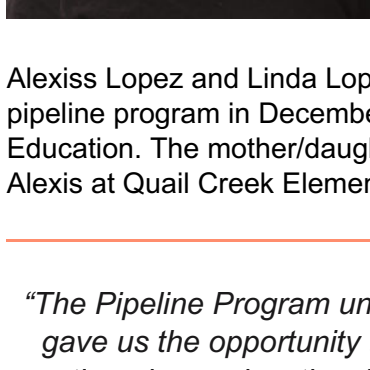
Every winter, we impact thousands of students' lives through Coat-A-Kid, a Foundation-led initiative that ensures every OKCPS student in need receives a new coat...

Thanks to generous community partners like Express Employment International, who donated nearly \$57,000 to this year's program...

Thank you to our supporters who made this year's Coat-A-Kid program such a success. Our schools can't do it alone, and it's incredible to see our community come together...

Click here to contribute to Coat-A-Kid >

DonorsChoose



This year, with the help of generous community donors, more than 1,700 OKCPS DonorsChoose projects were funded within our district - equal to a value of over \$1.1 million dollars.

The OKCPS Foundation is the largest education foundation partner of DonorsChoose, an online crowdfunding platform that provides direct support to local classrooms, in the country.

In August 2023, we also provided a welcome gift to all new OKCPS teachers. Every new educator in our district received a \$25 DonorsChoose gift card to help ensure their classrooms had all the materials needed for a successful school year.

Visit www.DonorsChoose.org/oklahomacity to support an OKCPS classroom today.

School Connect



School Connect, a new community partnership model that promotes long-lasting relationships between community partners and OKCPS students, teachers and schools, officially launched.

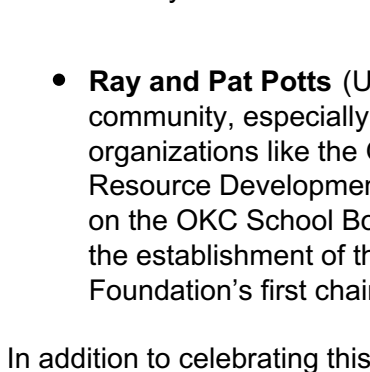
In November, the OKCPS Foundation and OKCPS co-launched a new community partnership model called School Connect. This model brings together a diverse network of community partners, businesses, nonprofits, families and community members...

School Connect will build partnerships that align with three main focus areas within our district: teacher retention, staff and student attendance, and learning environment.

The model is currently in its first phase and will eventually be rolled out to the entire district. To learn more about School Connect and how you or your organization can help build strategic relationships between our schools and our community, visit okckids.com/school-connect.

Click here to learn more about School Connect >

ReadOKC



From debuting our second On the Go! Book Bus to distributing more than 23,000 books to students across the district, 2023 was an incredibly exciting year for ReadOKC.

2023 was an incredibly exciting year for ReadOKC, a Foundation-led initiative that aims to instill the love of reading and improve literacy rates among OKCPS students. Let's take a look at some highlights:

Debut of the Second ReadOKC On the Go! Book Bus

On September 13, we unveiled our second ReadOKC On the Go! Book Bus. With two buses now in the ReadOKC fleet, each school will now receive a book bus visit each school year...

Newcomer Academy Impact

The supports students who also enhance our district's Newcomer Academy, a program that supports students who have recently moved to the United States, many of whom are English language learners (ELL). The new book bus is stocked with reading materials intentionally selected to meet the needs of these students...

By the Numbers

- In 2023...
• 23,401 books were distributed to students through the On the Go! Book Buses.
• Students logged 11.2 million minutes through ReadOKC reading challenges.
• 82 community members serve as Reading Buddies at 20 elementary schools across the district.
• 12 community members serve as Book Club Leaders at 10 middle and high schools across the district.

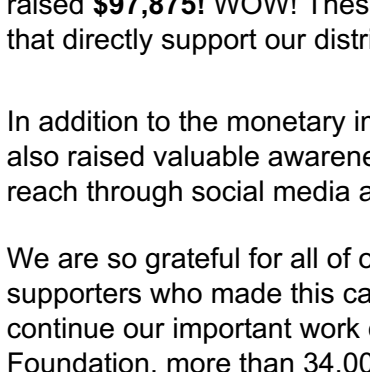
Since the launch of ReadOKC in 2021...

- 46,422 books have been distributed to OKCPS students through On the Go! Book Bus visits, community events, author visits and summer school programs.

Click here to learn more about ReadOKC >

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Teacher Pipeline Program

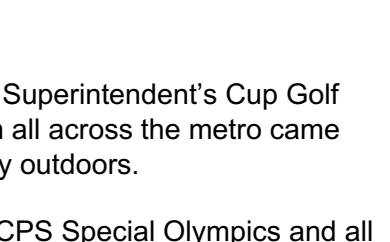


Growing Teachers and Leaders

Hear from Alexiss and Linda Lopez, graduates of our Teacher Pipeline Program and a mother-daughter duo, about what the Pipeline Program means to them.

Alexiss Lopez and Linda Lopez both were among the first graduates of our teacher pipeline program in December of 2019, with Bachelor's Degrees in Early Childhood Education. The mother-daughter duo both teach at elementary schools in the district, with Alexiss at Quail Creek Elementary and Linda at Ridgeview Elementary.

"The Pipeline Program understood our situation and gave us the opportunity to keep working while we continued our education. They were there to support us when we had difficulties and always encouraged us when we felt overwhelmed and also celebrated our accomplishments. Thank you, OKCPS Foundation, for this life-changing opportunity!"



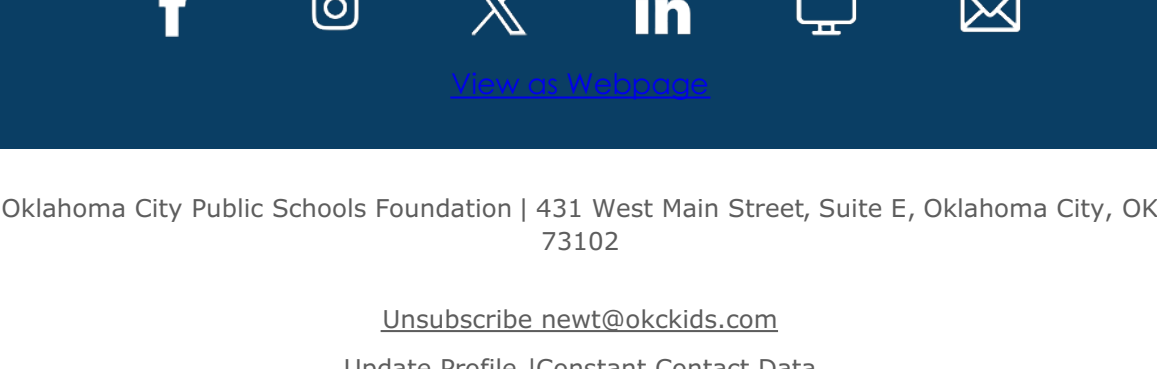
- Linda Lopez

Since graduation, Alexiss has bought her own house and even received the Inspiring Educator Award from her alma mater and our longtime partner, UCO.

We are so proud of Alexiss, Linda and all of our Pipeline Graduates, and we can't wait to see what other incredible achievements they accomplish as they continue on their education journey!

Click here to learn more about the Teacher Pipeline Program >

Aspiring Administrators



Congratulations Graduates!

Our first cohort of Aspiring Administrators graduated on December 5! Our Aspiring Administrators Pipeline Program is designed to provide funding and support for bilingual and BIPOC educators in OKCPS to become leaders in our district.

On December 5, 2023, we celebrated the graduation of our FIRST cohort of Aspiring Administrators!

These 10 hardworking, inspiring individuals spent 16 months studying and learning in order to earn their Masters in Educational Leadership. We are so proud of them and look forward to seeing the impact they have on our district going forward.

By the Numbers

- 20 total graduates of the Teacher Pipeline Programs.
• 10 total graduates of the Aspiring Administrators Program.
• 63 current Teacher Pipeline Participants
• 38 Bilingual Pipeline Program Participants
• 20 Diversity Pipeline Program Participants
• 7 High School Pipeline Program Participants

Click here to learn more about the Aspiring Administrators Program >

BUILDING ADVOCATES

Wall of Fame

Our 2023 Wall of Fame event honored four community leaders (one posthumously) and one couple as our Unsung Heroes: Cuong Do, Dr. J. Don Harris, Pam Henry, Florence Jones-Kemp and Ray and Pat Potts.

On Monday, October 30, 2023, the Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation hosted its 39th annual Wall of Fame Humanitarian Award. This event celebrates the rich history of Oklahoma City Public Schools by recognizing alumni and leaders who have contributed greatly to our community and beyond.

The 2023 Wall of Fame event honored four individuals (one posthumously) and one couple who was inducted as this year's Unsung Hero. These honorees and community leaders, all of whom embody public education at its finest, are:

- Cuong Do (Northwest Classen High School) is President and CEO of BioVia Inc., a clinical-stage company developing innovative therapies for Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's disease and refractory Asctes. Do is an active entrepreneur, volunteer, philanthropist and supporter of several causes, most notably autism and education. He's founded several organizations that support these causes such as Identifor, Inc. and its Foundation and the Profectum Foundation.
• J. Don Harris, D.D.S. (Capitol Hill High School) has dedicated over 45 years to the field of benevolent dentistry. Specializing in serving those with developmental or congenital disabilities and elderly Oklahomans who are in need of free comprehensive dental care due to lack of financial resources. Dr. Harris' passion for helping those less fortunate led to his establishment of D.DENT, Dentists for the Disabled and Elderly in Need of Treatment, which has provided over \$22.6 million in free dental care to vulnerable citizens across the state.
• Pam Henry (John Marshall High School), honored posthumously, contracted polio just 14 months after her birth and became an influential spokesperson for disabled individuals across the nation. She also became the first female news reporter for WKY television in OKC, fearlessly breaking through the glass ceiling and leading a successful 30-year career working with multiple television and radio stations. After retiring, Henry continued her advocacy for increased accessibility for people with disabilities until her death on September 25, 2018.
• Florence Jones-Kemp (Douglass High School) is the Founder of the critically acclaimed Florence's Restaurant, which has been a culinary staple in the community since 1969. Jones-Kemp's fresh, homemade Southern cuisine has received national media attention and several accolades, including winning the 2022 James Beard Foundation America's Classics Award (the first restaurant in Oklahoma to receive this prestigious award) and Florence's famed fried chicken is one of Guy Fieri's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives' top three fried chickens in the country.
• Ray and Pat Potts (Unsung Hero Honorees), have made a significant impact in our foundation, especially in the nonprofit and education sectors. They've founded organizations like the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits and the Community Resource Development Foundation (now the Potts Family Foundation), have served on the OKC School Board and State Board of Education, and were a critical part of the establishment of the OKCPS Foundation in 1984, with Ray serving as the Foundation's first chairman of the board.

In addition to celebrating this year's phenomenal honorees, the Wall of Fame event also resulted in 20 new people signing up to be Friends of the Foundation. Best of all, WOF honoree Cuong Do generously offered to match \$10K in funds for anyone who donated or became a Friend of the Foundation that evening!

Including this year's honorees, the OKCPS Foundation has inducted 105 alumni into its Wall of Fame since its creation in 1985.

Click here to learn more about the Wall of Fame >

Save the Date Wall of Fame 2024 October 28, 2024 National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

Stars of Education

Our Stars of Education celebration honored nine incredible educators throughout the district - including Felix Linden from F.D. Moon Middle School, who was named the Teacher of the Year!

Teacher of the Year

On May 4, at our annual Stars of Education celebration, Felix Linden from F.D. Moon Middle School was honored as the 2023 Oklahoma City Public Schools Teacher of the Year. Eight other Teacher of the Year finalists were also honored at this year's event.

2023 Teacher of the Year Finalists

- Felix Linden, ELA teacher at F.D. Moon Middle School (Teacher of the Year)
• Christopher Lance Cudjoe, World History teacher at Star Spencer High School
• Sherry Dew, US History teacher at Southeast High School
• Judith Huerta, Leadership teacher at Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School
• Judith Huerta, ELD Foundations teacher at Telft Middle School
• Felix Linden, English Language Arts teacher at FD Moon Middle School
• Faissal Madni, PE Teacher at Shidler Elementary
• Carsen Moon, Mathematics teacher at Classen SAS High School at Northeast
• Emily Riley, 1st Grade teacher at Kaiser Elementary
• Lisa Ummel-Ingram, English Language Arts teacher at Wheeler Middle School

All nine finalists received a cash award from the OKCPS Foundation and additional prizes donated by the Oklahoma City Thunder, Sonic, and the Oklahoma Educators Credit Union. The Teacher of the Year received a one-year car lease from Ford Automotiv and a brand new watch from BC Clark Jewelers.

We also honored several exceptional faculty and support staff members, volunteers and community partners:

Sam and Charolet Shirley Outstanding Principals of the Year

- John White Principal at Mark Twain Elementary School
• Chris Gardner Principal at John Marshall Enterprise Middle School

Save the Date Stars of Education May 9, 2024 The Yale Theater

T-Up for OKCPS

Our 2nd annual T-Up for OKCPS Campaign sold 1,456 t-shirts and raised \$97,875 to support the important work we do here at the Foundation.

Our 2nd annual T-Up for OKCPS campaign, a fundraising event that enables our community to give and show united support for our public schools by purchasing and wearing an OKCPS champion t-shirt, was a tremendous success!

On May 4th, individuals and organizations from around the community joined together to wear their OKCPS champion t-shirts, raising funds and awareness for our city's students. Community leaders and influencers that joined in on this public initiative were OKC Mayor David Holt and the entire KOCO team!

Thanks to the support of OKCPS champions near and far, we sold 1,456 t-shirts and raised \$97,875! WOW! These funds will go toward Foundation-led programs and initiatives that directly support our district's students, teachers and leaders.

In addition to the monetary impact of this fundraiser, the 2023 T-Up for OKCPS campaign also raised valuable awareness and attention for our district, with a 1.9 million estimated reach through social media and other media outlets.

We are so grateful for all of our 2023 T-Up for OKCPS sponsors, advocates and supporters who made this campaign such a success. Because of all of you, we are able to continue our important work of lifting up our city's district and its students. On behalf of the Foundation, more than 34,000 OKCPS students and more than 5,000 district employees, we want to thank you so much for your generous support!

Stay tuned for the reveal of the 2024 T-Up for OKCPS t-shirt and online store opening in March!

Click here to learn more about T-Up for OKCPS >

Save the Date T-Up for OKCPS May 9, 2024

Superintendent's Cup Golf Tournament

The annual Superintendent's Cup Golf Tournament, hosted by our Young Professionals Board, raised more than \$20,000 in support of our district.

YP4Kids, our Young Professionals Board, hosted its annual Superintendent's Cup Golf Tournament on Friday, June 16. Advocates for OKCPS from all across the metro came together to support our district while spending a fun-filled day outdoors.

In total, the tournament raised \$20,266 in support of the OKCPS Special Olympics and all programs and initiatives of the OKCPS Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who attended this impactful event, and thank you to YP4Kids for your dedication to investing in the lives of our city's students!

Click here to learn more about YP4Kids >

Save the Date Superintendent's Cup Golf Tournament June 7, 2024 Golf Club of Edmond

LOOKING AHEAD

40th Anniversary

The OKCPS Foundation is Celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2024! We are so excited to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the OKCPS Foundation in 2024! Over the next year, we'll be rolling out events, support opportunities and other exciting initiatives to celebrate this monumental anniversary and recognize the incredible impact our Foundation has had on OKC students and beyond!

Stay tuned!

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