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OKLAHOMA CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

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A Letter from Our President & CEO

It's hard to believe we are already three months into 2024! As many of you know, the OKCPS Foundation is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. That's 40 years of positive change and immeasurable impact on our city's public schools. As we recognize this incredible milestone, I can't help but reflect on how far we've come.

The Foundation was created in 1984. It was founded at a time when education

departments across the nation were seeing massive cuts in their budgets and funding, and it was no different in Oklahoma. Our community understood the importance of providing children with quality public education, and several city leaders came together to figure out how to best support our schools during this trying time. As a result, the Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation was born.

Forty years later, the Foundation and public education have both experienced significant changes and shifts. One thing hasn't changed - our students and teachers still need our support. The needs are great in our district, and our schools cannot do it alone. Just like the founders of our organization, it takes all of us coming together to provide the necessary support to our schools.

Public education has and always will be the place that creates real change in our society. As we celebrate four decades of incredible impact, we invite you to support our Foundation. Whether you become a [Foundation Partner](#), a [Friend of the Foundation](#) or provide a [one-time gift](#), you're creating a better and brighter future for our students. We hope you'll join us in our mission to advance excellence, advocate for equity, and build strong community support for Oklahoma City Public Schools.

For more information about our Foundation and our 40th anniversary, we encourage you to watch the video below.

-Mary Mélon-Tully,
OKCPS Foundation President & CEO



Innovative Teacher/Classroom/School Support

**Announcement of ReadOKC On the Go!
Book Bus Names**



ReadOKC - By the Numbers

44 Million+ Minutes Logged During Reading Challenges

67,000+ Students Completed Reading Challenges

57,000+ Books Distributed through the On the Go! Book Bus

100% of OKCPS Schools With a Little Library on Campus

Shortly after the launch of the second ReadOKC *On the Go!* Book Bus last September, students across the district were invited to submit name suggestions for the two buses based on their favorite book characters. The finalists were then voted on by the OKC community.

On Monday, January 29, the students at Classen SAS Middle School helped the Foundation celebrate the unveiling of the winning names: Percy and Stella, inspired by the characters from *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* and *Stella's Stellar Hair*.

"Our ReadOKC *On the Go!* Book Buses provide critical reading materials, help improve literacy rates and promote a life-long love of reading among students across our district," said Mary Mélon-Tully, President and CEO of the Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation. "Naming these book buses furthers the impact they have on and strengthens the connection they have to our schools and our city as a whole. We can't wait to see how Percy and Stella continue to positively impact students in the years to come."

Read Across OKCPS



ReadOKC partnered with OKCPS for the inaugural Read Across OKCPS event on Friday, March 8, to host a district-wide event centered around the celebration of literacy. Thanks to generous donors, all pre-K and Kindergarten students received a free book. Over 500 were copies of the Dr. Seuss classic *Green Eggs and Ham*, distributed by the Foundation. During the event, 185 community volunteers and OKCPS administrators visited elementary schools to share their love of reading through story time. Elementary, middle, and high Schools held a variety of literacy activities including Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) time, Book Tastings, Create-Your-Own Bookmarks, scavenger hunts and more! Volunteers agree that they got just as much out of the experience as the students did. We can't wait for next year!

To learn how you can get involved with ReadOKC, please contact rachel@okckids.com for volunteer opportunities.



Recruit and Retain Urban-Ready Teachers/Leaders

**High School to Teacher Pipeline Program
recruitment, underway!**



Our Teacher and Leader Pipeline programs are continuing to grow in big ways. One of these programs is the High School Student to Teacher Pipeline program, where graduating seniors can become employed by the district as paraprofessionals while simultaneously working toward their teaching degrees. Thanks to the help of loyal donors, the Foundation covers the full cost of participants' tuition, books and fees.

During recent recruitment efforts, our team visited over 40 high school seniors across the district, all of whom are interested in a teaching career at OKCPS.

Becoming a certified educator takes time, but the work is incredibly rewarding. We look forward to welcoming future participants to our pipeline program and seeing all that they accomplish.

[Click here to learn more about the Teacher Pipeline Program >](#)



Join us on May 9th!



We are looking forward to announcing the 2024 District Teacher of the Year as well as recognizing the amazing principals, teachers, volunteers, support staff and community partners who go above and beyond for OKCPS at our Stars of Education event on May 9. The ceremony will be held at The Yale Theater in the historic Capitol Hill district.

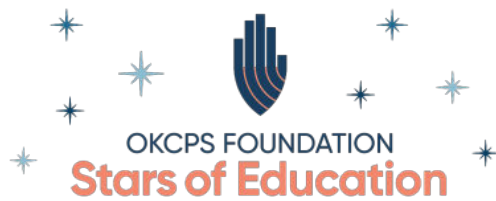
The 2024 Teacher of the Year finalists are:

Julianne Anthony, Wheeler Middle School
Sally Berry, Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School
Jacqueline Bufford, Northwest Classen High School
Lindsey Clinton, Adelaide Lee Elementary School
Brandi Kelley, Classen School of Advanced Studies Middle School
Eric Parker, Taft Middle School
Dominique Poncelet, Southeast Middle School
Jennifer Reyes-Garcia, Mark Twain Elementary School
Drew Rhodes, Emerson South Mid-High School

We will also be recognizing the winners of the following awards:

- Sam and Charolet Shirley Outstanding Principals
- Barbary Ann Norman Keith Excellence in Math Teaching Award
- Willie O. Reynolds Excellence in Science Teaching Award
- OKCPS Volunteer Spotlight Awards
- OKCPS Support Staff Spotlight Awards
- OKCPS Community Partner Spotlight Awards

Interested in becoming a sponsor for this incredible event? Reach out to us at kelli@okckids.com or learn more on our [website](#).



T-Up for OKCPS



In conjunction with our Stars of Education celebration, we are asking everyone to also *T-Up for OKCPS* on May 9th!

T-Up for OKCPS is a day for the community to show their support and stand in solidarity with our district. By simply purchasing this year's limited edition *T-Up for OKCPS* Champion shirt (available in English or Spanish), you are standing with us and our 34,000+ kids, teachers, staff and leaders.

Purchase your shirt by April 10 at okckids.com/t-up and wear it on May 9th. Post your photo on your social channels and be sure to tag us:

Facebook: [@okcpsfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/okcpsfoundation)

Instagram: [@okcpsfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/okcpsfoundation)

Twitter: [@FoundationOKCPS](https://twitter.com/FoundationOKCPS)

TEAM Campaign (Together Everyone Achieves More)

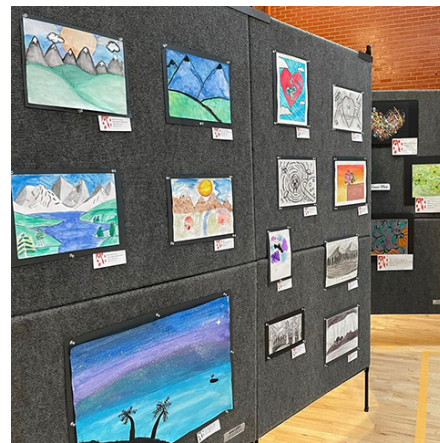
The TEAM Campaign is the district's only employee giving campaign that sends 100% of the funds raised right back into our schools through impactful Foundation programs like Coat-A-Kid, ReadOKC, DonorsChoose, Teacher Pipeline Programs and more.

This year, district teachers, administrators and central office staff gave more than ever! Together they exceeded the 2024 goal and raised a total of \$80,434. WOW! These dollars will make a lasting impact on our kids, and our teachers, staff and administrators will see first-hand how their investment can make a real difference.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and for believing in the work we do. We'd like to extend a special thanks to all the TEAM Captains, who rallied support at their schools. Way to go TEAM!



Donor Spotlight



All-City Visual Arts Show



Spencer Elementary Student Ambassador Program

On March 2nd and March 5th, The All City Visual Arts Show was held for our elementary schools and secondary schools, respectively. These exhibitions allow OKCPS art students to display their artwork for classmates, families and the community to come and view their work. In addition, patrons can support these young artists by purchasing their original pieces. Students in the show were also eligible to win prizes in a variety of categories. The celebratory events wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of **Midtown Rotary**, whose funding allowed OKCPS Fine Arts to purchase necessary items like art supplies, display panels and prizes for students. Thank you **Midtown Rotary** for your donation to support the All City Visual Arts Show!

Spencer Elementary has created a 4th Grade Student Ambassador program that will encourage high achieving / low discipline students to lead, have a voice and be empowered within the school. They will help with events, assisting with opening car doors, help with morning announcements, conduct safety walks around the playground to ensure the safety of other students and be recognized as a role model. In order to be recognized the school wanted to provide providing sport coats to these students and because of funding from **Weokie Credit Union** they had the resources to do so! The school leadership truly believes that by starting this program future 4th graders will strive to earn a jacket by also meeting expectations of high achievement and low discipline by being respectful, responsible and always being safe by having self-control and following rules.

It's donors and community partners like **Midtown Rotary** and **Weokie Credit Union** that continue to make amazing things happen for our kids. If you are interested in becoming a donor, visit okckids.com to learn more.

Thank you!

LOOKING AHEAD

40th Anniversary



**The OKCPS Foundation is Celebrating our
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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