

Eight Oklahoma High Schools Named Scholarship Champions

Eight Oklahoma high schools have been named “Oklahoma’s Promise 2018 State Champions,” leading the state in the number of graduates who met the requirements to receive an Oklahoma’s Promise scholarship. Oklahoma’s Promise is a state program that allows students from families whose annual income is \$55,000 or less to earn a tuition scholarship for college or certain programs at public career technology centers.

“More than 85,000 Oklahoma students have been afforded the opportunity to pursue a college education through the Oklahoma’s Promise scholarship program since its inception more than 25 years ago,” said Chancellor Glen

D. Johnson. “These eight Oklahoma high schools are truly champions. The State Regents commend these schools for their outstanding work encouraging and supporting their students’ participation in Oklahoma’s Promise.”

Both Indianola and Tipton were named state champions. Indianola, the runner-up in the Class B division, had 10 Oklahoma’s Promise graduates.

Tipton Public Schools was the runner-up in the Class A division, with nine Oklahoma’s Promise graduates.

Recognized by many as America’s best college access program, Oklahoma’s Promise was created in 1992 by the Legislature to help more Oklahoma

families send their children to college. The scholarship pays tuition at any Oklahoma public college or university until the student receives a bachelor’s degree or for five years, whichever comes first. It will also cover a portion of tuition at an accredited Oklahoma private institution or public career technology center. The scholarship does not cover the cost of fees, books, or room and board.

To be eligible for Oklahoma’s Promise, students must apply during the eighth, ninth or 10th grade, and their family’s annual income must not exceed \$55,000 when they apply. A student’s family income also must not exceed \$100,000 each year the student is enrolled college.

To receive the scholarship at graduation, students must achieve a minimum 2.50 GPA in 17 core courses that prepare them for college and an overall GPA of 2.50 or better for all courses in grades nine through 12. Oklahoma’s Promise graduates also must attend class regularly and refrain from drug and alcohol abuse and delinquent acts.

Students completing the Oklahoma’s Promise program continue to be successful academically, with high school GPAs (3.45 average GPA) that exceed the state average, ACT scores that exceed those of their comparable middle- and lower-income peers, and higher-than-average freshman college GPAs.

The college-going rate

of Oklahoma’s Promise students exceeds the state average for high school graduates. They also have above-average full-time college enrollment, persistence and degree-completion rates. In addition, Oklahoma’s Promise college graduates get jobs and stay in Oklahoma after college at a higher rate than non-Oklahoma’s Promise graduates.

In order to receive the scholarship in college, students must be U.S. citizens or lawfully present in the United States by the time they begin college.

For the high school graduating class of 2018, approximately 6,000 students met the program requirements to be eligible for the scholarship. During

the current 2018-19 year, about 17,000 students are expected to receive the scholarship in college.

Since 1996, when the first students in the program entered college, more than 85,000 students have received the Oklahoma’s Promise scholarship. By law, the program has a dedicated funding source that helps ensure that the program is fully funded each year.

For more information about Oklahoma’s Promise or to apply online, visit www.okpromise.org. Information is also available by emailing okpromise@osrhe.edu or by calling 800-858-1840.

PIONEER BASKETBALL

January 31
vs. Redlands College
5:30 | Women’s Game
7:30 | Men’s Game

PIONEER SOFTBALL

January 31
vs. Pratt Junior College
2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

UPCOMING AT WESTERN

February 7: Pioneer Preview

February 12: Higher Ed Day at the Capitol

February 18: College Closed for President’s Day

February 21: Valentine’s Day

Western Alumni Association Makes Donation to Air Force Scholarship Fund

Western Oklahoma State College has a unique opportunity to help serve the individuals at Altus Air Force Base. Western has helped countless enlisted men and women obtain college credits and degrees. In an effort to assist students with the costs not covered by the Department of Defense, the WOSC Foundation, Inc. has established the AAFB Mighty 97th Scholarship.

The WOSC Alumni Association has pledged a \$5,000 donation to the AAFB Mighty 97th Scholarship fund.

“Our responsibility as the Alumni board is to help support Western and its students however we can,” said Dustin Balderas, WOSC Alumni Board president.

“We are glad to help and be a part of the Mighty 97th Scholarship Fund.”

With this donation, the Foundation is able to provide continued funding, which covers the costs of fees and a book for classes

at Western.

The AAFB Mighty 97th scholarship benefits students like AIC William Brown. He was born into a military family, and his father currently serves in the United States Air Force in Japan. William joined the Air Force in 2017 and works at Altus Air Force Base as a dental assistant. While working full time, Brown is also taking three classes at Western.

“I wanted to continue my education, and Western is easily available to AAFB students,” Brown said.

He said he appreciates the friendly teachers and staff and their willingness to work with hectic schedules. The AAFB Mighty 97th Scholarship has been a great help to Brown and has encouraged him to continue his education.

Brown first learned about the scholarship through the education office on base, who put him in contact with Altus Air Force Base Liaison, Sherry



From left: Dustin Balderas, Whitney Graham, William Brown, Sherry Willey, and Dr. Chad Wiginton.

Wiley. Sherry has a personal connection to AAFB where her father once served.

“I am so proud to be affiliated with Altus Air Force Base and Western Oklahoma State College. It is exciting to give back to those who give so much,” Willey said.

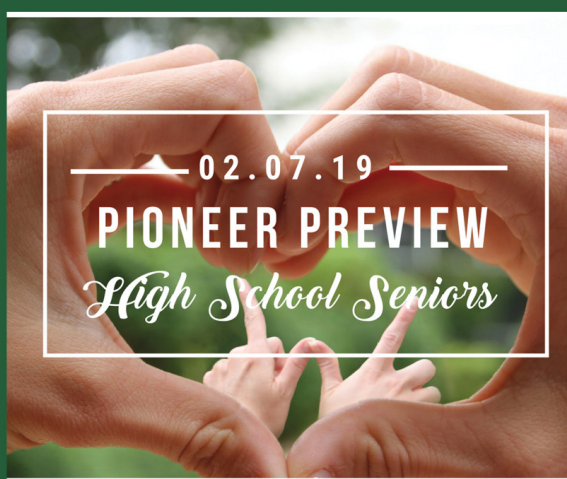
If you are interested in receiving The AAFB Mighty 97th Scholarship, contact Sherry Willey at 580-481-6106.

If you are interested in supporting students like William Brown and

giving to the Mighty 97th Scholarship, please contact the Foundation office at 580-477-7706.

The Western Oklahoma State College Foundation provides the opportunity to invest in the future by offering many ways to give. The WOSC Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 organization and exists to generate support for the students and programs of Western Oklahoma State College. For more information on the WOSC Foundation and ways to give, visit wosc.edu/give.

JOIN US FOR A DAY ON CAMPUS!



February 7 | 9a – 2p

Spend a day on campus to learn why you should join the Pioneer family.

Enjoy an information session, campus tour, and network with current Pioneers, faculty and staff.

All attendees will receive lunch & a \$100 tuition waiver!

Register online by February 1 to receive a free T-shirt!

wosc.edu/pioneerpreview | 580.477.2000

MARCH 7 @ 7 P.M.

Herschel H. Crow Fine Arts Center

Sign up with Maegan Martin by March 1

580.477.7875 | maegan.martin@wosc.edu



LIP SYNC BATTLE

WESTERN EDITION