

**Oklahoma City Community College
Community Partnerships and Awards
March 2010 through February 2008**

**OCCC Receives National Recognition for Community Service, Named to President's Honor Roll
March 2, 2010**

Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) has been named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual honor roll award, recognized more than 700 colleges and universities for their impact on issues from poverty and homelessness to environmental justice. On campuses across the country, thousands of students joined their faculty to develop innovative programs and projects to meet local needs using the skills gained in their classrooms. Business students served as consultants to budget-strapped nonprofits and businesses, law students volunteered at legal clinics, and dozens of others organized anti-hunger campaigns.

"Congratulations to Oklahoma City Community College and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities," said Patrick Corvington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "Our nation's students are a critical part of the equation and vital to our efforts to tackle the most persistent challenges we face. They have achieved impactful results and demonstrated the value of putting knowledge into practice to help renew America through service."

The honor roll includes six colleges and universities that are recognized as presidential awardees, with an additional 115 named to the distinction list and 621 schools named as honor roll members. Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses. [Click here](#) for a full list of honor roll recipients.

"It is a privilege to be recognized on this honor roll," OCCC President, Dr. Paul Sechrist, said. "I fully credit our Student Life organization, working with faculty and students, for leading in the area of community service. It is vital that our students experience the tremendous value that volunteer service brings to an organization and to a community."

Organized by the Office of Student Life on the OCCC campus, over 200 OCCC students participated in a number of service days, accumulating 930 service day hours. The financial value of service day hours exceeded \$18,500. Students volunteered throughout the Oklahoma City community in programs such as Adopt-a-Street, the City Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, the OKC Memorial Marathon, the Regional Food Bank and the Salvation Army.

College students make a significant contribution to the volunteer sector; in 2009, 3.16 million students performed more than 300 million hours of service, according to the Volunteering in America study released by the Corporation. Each year, the Corporation invests more than \$150 million in fostering a culture of service on college campuses through grants awarded by its programs; the education awards that AmeriCorps members receive at the conclusion of their term of service to pay for college; and through support of training, research, recognition, and other initiatives to spur college service.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, *United We Serve*. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.

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OCCC Educator Honored as Professor of the Year Nov. 20, 2009

An Oklahoma City Community College professor has been honored as the 2009 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Oklahoma Professor of the Year. Myra Decker, OCCC Professor of Accounting, received the award at a ceremony and reception at Folger Shakespeare Library Exhibition Hall in Washington D.C. on Nov. 19.

"It is truly an honor to even be nominated as professor of the year in Oklahoma," Decker said. "I was surprised to hear I received the award."

Decker has been a professor at OCCC for 28 years. She was selected from more than 300 top professors nationwide to receive one of 38 awards, and is the only recipient from Oklahoma. The Advancement of Teaching Professor of the Year award is designed to recognize the most outstanding

undergraduate instructors in the country – those who excel as teachers and influence the lives and careers of their students. Decker is also the 2008 recipient of the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award at OCCC.

“Professor Decker truly exemplifies the quality of instruction and fostering student success all of our faculty strive for each and every day,” said Dr. Felix Aquino, OCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs. “This award is proof that OCCC offers an education that is second to none. We are fortunate to have Ms. Decker at OCCC and offer congratulations on this amazing accomplishment.”

CASE and the Carnegie Foundation have been partners in offering the Professors of the Year Award since 1981. Award recipients were nominated by their peers and accepted based on their dedication to undergraduate teaching, which is demonstrated by excellence in the following areas: impact on and involvement with undergraduate students; scholarly approach to teaching and learning; contribution to undergraduate education in the institution, community and profession; and support from colleagues and current and former undergraduate students.

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OCCC Gains Military Friendly School Status Aug. 24, 2009

Recently selected by *G.I. Jobs* magazine, Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) has been named as a Military Friendly School for the year 2010.

This honor ranks OCCC in the top 15% of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide for doing the most to embrace America’s veterans as students. As well, this honor awards the college additional resources designed to maximize the school’s recruiting efforts to prospective military and veteran students.

The list was compiled through extensive research starting last May during which *G.I. Jobs* polled more than 7,000 schools nationwide. Methodology, criteria and weighting for the list were developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Committee.

“We are proud to be listed among the 2010 Military Friendly Schools by *GI Jobs*,” Dr. Paul Sechrist, OCCC President, said. “We want to extend our services to men and women everywhere, and are honored to see those who have protected our country step into the classroom.”

Schools on the Military Friendly Schools list also offer additional benefits to student veterans such as on-campus veterans programs, credit for service, military spouse programs and more.

Currently, an estimated eight million military troops and veterans are eligible for the GI Bill. Most of these troops seek their formal education either while in the service or shortly after separation from the military. As well, 1.1 million military spouses have qualified for GI Bill benefits. Offering undergraduate degrees, distance learning opportunities, career and trade-specific courses, among many other options, OCCC is a sure fit for students serving, and those who have served, in the armed forces.

Military and veteran students are described as classroom leaders, more likely to graduate. As well, these men and women improve a school's overall student body by increasing the pool of quality applicants, a win-win situation for the learning institution and those attending. And last but not least, military and veteran students have earned the money to spend on their education and tuition benefits.

With "cost" cited as the main reason why students drop out of college, this should not be a deterrent for students looking to enroll at OCCC, especially those graduating from military service. In fact, the new Post 9/11 GI Bill, which covers almost all education costs, virtually ensures that if military students are determined, attend class and strive for the best in the classroom, then college success is in their future.

OCCC will be listed in the GI Jobs Guide to Military Friendly Schools later this fall, and a plaque was presented to college officials earlier this summer.

For more information on Military Friendly Schools, please call (421) 269-1663, or visit www.militaryfriendlyschools.com. For more information on OCCC and the courses offered now, please call (405) 682-1611, or visit www.occc.edu.

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OCCC Expands and Saves July 15, 2009

In recognition of recent upgrades and Oklahoma City Community College's (OCCC) commitment to energy efficiency, the school recently received the Trane Energy Efficiency Leader in Education Award. Education leaders at OCCC recently completed infrastructure upgrades that have significantly decreased energy use and improved the school's learning environment while making the school more environmentally responsible.

In 1995, the school undertook an extensive expansion to upgrade aging infrastructure and to increase total square footage by 30 percent. The school also needed to address rapidly growing enrollment which today is nearly 22,000 students.

Between September 2003 and September 2008 alone, the new high efficiency infrastructure systems chosen by the administrators have decreased the school's energy use per square foot by nearly 35 percent.

"We've been very pleased with the energy savings on the infrastructure improvements," said Dr. Paul Sechrist, president, OCCC. "Additionally, as one of the nation's largest community colleges, we believe it's important that, in addition to teaching young people about environmental responsibility in our classrooms, we demonstrate it with our actions."

Trane, a business of Ingersoll Rand, improves the performance of homes and buildings around the world. Trane solutions optimize indoor environments with a broad portfolio of energy-efficient heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, building and contracting services, parts support and advanced controls for homes and commercial buildings.

For more information, visit www.trane.com. For more information about OCCC and the recently announced Trane award, please call (405) 682-1611 or visit the website at www.occc.edu. Reporters may also contact Trane Representative Joan Schimml at (651) 407-3897, or by email at joan.schimml@trane.com.

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**Office of Human Resources Cited for Excellence
June 15, 2009**

Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) was recently recognized with the 2009 Excellence in Human Resources Practice Award by the Southern Region of the College and University Professionals Association—Human Resources (CUPA-HR). Only one college or university in the region is selected for this annual award.

The award was presented to the college in May during CUPA's annual conference in Louisville, Kent. Oklahoma is one of 13 states that make up the Southern Region, of which OCCC is a member. Being named to this honor automatically makes OCCC the Southern Region's nominee for the CUPA-HR national award that will be granted at the national convention in Las Vegas later this year.

The award was given to OCCC for the work of the newly formed Investment Committee. The committee was created to work with Gallagher & Associates to meet new 403(b) retirement plan requirements and eventually in selecting ING as the college's new sole vendor for the OCCC 403(b) plan. The committee remains in place to continue to monitor employee investments, as required by the new Federal regulations.

"The members of the college Investment Committee are to be congratulated for their efforts on behalf of the full-time employees at our institution," OCCC Executive Vice President, Dr. Jerry Steward, said. "This prestigious award is richly deserved."

Gallagher representative, Eric Dyson, referred to the committee's response to the change in the regulations and the work of the Investment Committee as exemplary and said that he wished he had videotaped the committee meetings to use in training demonstrating a best practice.

For more information about the award or the OCCC Human Resources Investment Committee, please call the Office of Human Resources at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7810.

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State Regents Recognize OCCC April 2009

Oklahoma City Community College was among 21 institutions throughout the state recently recognized for their innovative partnership with community businesses through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Economic Development Grant for the Partnership Recognition Program.

This program is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic Development Grants.

Institutions involved in these partnerships provide \$500 for tuition waivers to employees of the partnering businesses, internships for current students of the institutions to work at the partnering businesses, faculty externships with the partnering businesses, and/or enhancement of the partnership with additional equipment, materials or supplies. The State Regents provide a \$500 match to the waivers.

"These partnerships are important for higher education in allowing colleges and universities to work hand-in-hand with businesses to provide highly qualified graduates to meet the needs of the

workforce,” said Chancellor Glen D. Johnson. “For businesses, the partnerships are equally important in providing the ability to stay on the leading edge of education and training for their employees.”

OCCC and Western Oklahoma Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee – OCCC and Western Oklahoma Electrical JATC partnered in developing a training-to-credit degree program and in offering a non-credit wind turbine technician program. An Associate in Science Technology and an Associate in Applied Science Technology, each with an electrical construction emphasis, were developed incorporating technology credit hours from the apprenticeship program. As OCCC was developing a non-credit wind turbine technician program, it turned to JATC instructors who are now training wind turbine technician students at their training facility.

More details about the partnerships will be available soon on the State Regents’ Web site at www.okhighered.org/eco-devo.

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**OCCC to Celebrate Week of the Young Child
Special Activities to Focus on Needs of Children, April 19-25
March 31, 2009**

Celebrated annually, the *Week of the Young Child* proclaims one week each spring to spend special time with children and raise awareness of youngsters needs. Studies have shown that the formative years, birth to eight years of age, are the foundation for children’s successes in school and later in life.

Set for April 19 – 25, the *Week of the Young Child* is also a time to plan how we as a community, state and nation will better meet the needs of children through early childhood programs and services. As each community across the United States tailors their events to meet their specific needs, Oklahoma City Community College has planned the following to commemorate the week:

- **April 20-24 – Children’s Art Show** – View student artwork on display in the commons area in the main building and see artistic designs made of clay, wood, paintings and collages created by babies to children age five.
- **April 22 - First Responder’s Day Participation** – Get to know the First Responders in your area from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. including members from the Oklahoma City Police and Fire Departments, EMSA and more. Let your child see first-hand the resources these crews use to provide safety services to the Oklahoma City community.

- **April 23 – Caring Van** – Get free immunizations for your children from 2 to 4 p.m. Parents must bring each child’s current shot record, and a parent or guardian must be present to complete required paperwork.
- **April 25 – Oral Health Fair** – Learn important information about your children’s oral health and get answers to commonly asked questions from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free dental and orthodontic screenings will be available as well as additional health consultations. The kids will also enjoy games, prizes and visits from Captain Super Tooth and the Tooth Fairy. As well, please remember to bring your child’s current shot records with you.

The *Week of the Young Child* is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world’s largest early childhood education association. For more information on NAEYC, visit www.naeyc.org.

For more information on the week of events at OCCC, please call the OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School at (405) 682-7561, or log on to www.occc.edu/ChildDev/ .

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**OCCC Journalism Instructor
Named to Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame
March 2, 2009**

Oklahoma City Community College’s Sue Hinton will be among nine journalists to be inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame at the University of Central Oklahoma. The 39th annual ceremony is set for 11:30 a.m. on April 3 in the Ballroom of UCO’s Nigh University Center.

Teaching students on the campus of OCCC since 1977, Hinton has also served as faculty advisor of the award-winning student newspaper, *The Pioneer*, since 1978. Hinton was the first to receive the OCCC President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1991, and in 1994 was recognized by the Association for Women in Communications as a Byliner honoree for Outstanding Journalism Educator. During her career, Hinton has worked for *The Oklahoman*, the *Norman Transcript* and the *Lawton Morning Press*.

Honored alongside Hinton will be Sharon Dowell, retired food editor for *The Oklahoman*; Lewis Ferguson, retired Associated Press Political correspondent; Debbie Jackson, *Tulsa World* Sunday editor; Russell M. Perry, Publisher of the *Black Chronicle*; Dick Pryor, OETA broadcast journalist; Ray Soldan, retired sportswriter for *The Oklahoman*; and Gloria and Wayne Trotter, co-publishers of the *Countywide* and *Shawnee Sun* of Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame was founded in 1971. Honorees are selected by a panel of members of the working press, and the Society of Professional Journalists and Hall of Fame. Hall of Fame event tickets can be purchased before March 30 by calling (405) 974-5121.

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**Military Career Fair Set for Feb. 24 at OCCC
Jan. 15, 2009**

You've seen them in the movies, you hear of them daily in the news, you've cheered for them in homecoming parades and on significant patriotic holidays. Now is your chance to really know what the military is all about, and if joining is a journey you'd be interested in taking.

Oklahoma City Community College invites both students and community members to attend the **OCCC Military Career Fair, Tuesday, February 24, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** in the student union.

Military recruiters will be on hand to provide enlistment service and educational benefits information to all guests. The Oklahoma Veterans Regional Office will also be available to share updates on the new GI Bill, and the Oklahoma Veterans Center will make a presentation from 10 a.m. until Noon in the College Union rooms, II & III.

Who Makes up the Military?

In simple terms, the military is the U.S. Armed Forces are made up of the five armed service branches: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. There are three general categories of military people: active duty (full-time soldiers and sailors), reserve and guard forces (usually work a civilian job, but can be called to full-time military duty), and veterans and retirees (past members of the military). Each branch of the military has a unique mission within the overall mission of U.S. security and peace.

What is the New GI Bill?

The new GI Bill (Chapter 33) or so-called "Post 9/11 GI Bill," boasts the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944. This new benefit does not go into effect until August 1, 2009.

The new bill goes well beyond helping to pay for tuition; many veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, will get full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend, and a \$1,000 a year stipend for

books and supplies. The new bill also gives Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 access to the same GI Bill benefits.

For additional information regarding the Military Career Fair at OCCC, please contact OCCC Student Employment and Career Services at (405) 682-7519 or OCCC Veterans Services at (405) 682-7695 /7694.

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OCCC CAD Achieves Accreditation

Nov. 10, 2008

Leading the state as the first two-year college to receive national recognition for Computer Aided Design (CAD), Oklahoma City Community College joins the likes of several, prestigious four-year universities. The CAD program at OCCC was recently honored by the Accreditation Bureau for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for exhibiting leadership and quality assurance in applied science and computing, among other areas.

One of the key elements of ABET accreditation is the requirement that programs continuously improve the quality of education provided. As part of this continuous improvement requirement, programs set specific, measurable goals for their students and graduates, assess their success at reaching those goals, and improve their programs based on the results of their assessment.

OCCC's CAD Program is designed to teach students to use computer technology to aid in the design and drafting of a part or product. CAD is even used to sketch entire buildings. It is both a visual and symbol-based method of communication which focuses on specific technical fields.

"Achieving accreditation will now help recognize OCCC graduates as having been a part of a distinguished program," said OCCC CAD Professor Doug Gregory. "Our program ranks among the best in the country, and will attract more students because of the level of opportunities that will be available to them after graduation."

After completing the OCCC CAD Program, many students achieve a bachelor's degree in engineering technology and technology education. As well, many have been granted leadership positions in the industry.

Similar programs are studied at Oklahoma University, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

For more information about the CAD program at OCCC, please call (405) 682-1611, or visit the website at www.occc.edu/IT/CAD.html.

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**OCCC a Charter Member of CollegeKeys Compact
Sept. 8, 2008**

Oklahoma City Community College has become a charter member of the College Board's CollegeKeys Compact. The Compact seeks to support students from low-income families as they work toward preparing for, getting into and succeeding in college. OCCC is one of the first 500 institutions to join this call to action issued by the College Board earlier this year.

As part of the initiative, OCCC entered into a contract with the College Board to actively pursue ways and dedicate resources to help students get into and excel in college. The initiative proposes a number of possible activities, including creating partnerships to provide more mentors for young people; helping administrators, counselors, and teachers or faculty understand the challenges faced by students who are the first in their families to go to college or who come from low-income families; and providing additional tutoring and supplemental instruction as well as culturally relevant programs to students. Higher education partners are encouraged to support these students by helping with fees and other financial needs, by improving course alignments between two and four-year campuses.

In signing the Compact, OCCC commits to the compact inventory and action plan. It also affirms its belief that all students must have the support they need to succeed in college and graduate. That is why we have instituted plans to serve our students during the next five years.

"Adding OCCC to the CollegeKeys Compact roster is very significant for this important initiative, which works to improve competence and confidence among low-income students," said Ronald Williams, the College Board vice president. "When asked, 90 percent of high school students express the desire to attend college. Yet, for many low-income students, that dream is not achievable because they lack the means to attend college. We must do all we can to ensure these students are provided the access they desire and deserve."

The CollegeKeys Compact is the result of a report by the College Board Trustees task force which found that nearly one-half of all college-qualified low and moderate income high school graduates do not enroll in a four-year college program because of a combination of poor preparation, low-

expectations and financial barriers. The report makes clear the need for a focused effort to ensure more opportunities for low-income students to attend and then succeed in college. Citing evidence that high achieving students from low-income families have about the same chance of attending college as low-achievers from wealthier families, the report points to an array of obstacles blocking low-income students from access to campus and then from success once they are enrolled.

In addition to poor preparation for the emotional and academic rigors of higher education, students face challenges in getting the aid necessary to fund their education. The admissions and financial aid process present "a lot of hoops to jump through," processes that can intimidate and confuse the inexperienced, the task force reported. Once on campus, culture shock and difficulties transferring from two to four year campuses often present more obstacles.

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**\$1 Million Grant Awarded to OCCC
Aug. 12, 2008**

The Oklahoma City Community College Foundation received a \$1 million grant from the Sarkeys Foundation. A formal check presentation was made Aug. 12 during OCCC's 2008 Convocation Ceremony. The \$1 million lead gift is earmarked for the future construction of the College's Performing Arts Theater. The Theater is Phase II of the newly constructed Visual and Performing Arts Center opening this fall on the campus.

"Our Board was quite impressed with the exciting new directions which OCCC's leadership has taken the College. All of us at Sarkeys Foundation are pleased to have a role in advancing this ambitious project," said Cheri Cartwright, Executive Director of the Sarkeys Foundation in Norman.

"To date, the \$1 million gift from Sarkeys is the largest private gift awarded to OCCC," said OCCC President Paul Sechrist. "We are very grateful to Sarkeys Foundation for this significant gift." At this time, OCCC has approximately \$10.2 million of the \$16 million needed to construct the 1,000-seat theater. In addition to Sarkeys \$1 million commitment, \$9.2 million will come from a Student Revenue Bond which is supported by student fees plus the College's current Student Facilities Fund earmarked for the theater project. The College will begin a formal campaign this fall to raise the balance of the funds needed to build the new facility.

The Performing Arts Theater at OCCC will be the only such facility between downtown Oklahoma City and Norman designed to host major cultural and entertainment events for students and the community.

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**OCCC Makes Presidential Honor Roll
Feb. 19, 2008**

OCCC is one of seven Oklahoma colleges listed on The President's 2007 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Launched in 2006, the honor roll recognizes colleges and universities nationwide that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs. The Honor Roll's Presidential Award, given each year to only a handful of institutions, is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement.

Oklahoma 2007 Honor Roll Members: East Central University, Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, Rose State College, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, University of Central Oklahoma, and the University of Tulsa

For more information on the President's 2007 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, visit the website at: www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll

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