

DESTINATIONS



12:20 **5**
12:25 **Teacher**
12:25 **Fireman**
12:25 **Surgeon**
12:25 **Artist**
12:25 **Mechanic**
12:30 **Accountant**
12:30 **Dental Hygienist**
12:30 **Hotel Manager**
12:35 **Lawyer**

connecting students with resources for rewarding futures

“ Arriving at one goal is the starting point of another. ”

- John Dewey

Arrivals



DESTINATION MECHANIC



A four-year degree was not exactly what Matt McDonald saw for his future when he graduated from Happy High School in 2013. However, a career that allowed him to build on the skills he acquired working on the family farm appealed to him.

Thanks to the broad criteria established for the Swisher Electric Cooperative Scholarship, Matt was able to pursue a certificate in Diesel Technology-Advanced Mechanics at Amarillo College (AC) and still receive scholarship assistance. And graduates of the AC program look forward to a starting salary of more than \$20 per hour.

AC's primary objectives for technical education are to target academically and technically advanced students and provide them with the education, skills and experiences for success in well paid, rewarding jobs; to improve the skill set of existing workers for professional advancement in their chosen career; and to develop life-long learners destined to become tomorrow's industrial leaders.

"The diesel mechanics program at AC gave me the skills and knowledge to get a good-paying job at Brown's Power and Equipment," Matt said. "Since going to work there, I've had a chance to further my training at the Case IH (the world's second-largest farm equipment manufacturer) headquarters in Wisconsin to further advance my skills and career."

Since the early days of OPI when Buff Morris began working with Oklahoma State University School of Technical Training, an emphasis on any form of post-secondary education has been at the heart of our mission. Thanks to funders such as Swisher Electric Cooperative and certificate programs offered by institutions like AC, OPI continues to be able to assist students who want to pursue their passions and build a rewarding livelihood without spending additional time in a traditional classroom setting.

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Opportunity Plan, Inc. is pleased to recognize the following individuals, families and organizations for their inspirational illustrations of philanthropy. Membership in the President's Circle of Honor is given to those who have provided cumulative gifts of \$25,000 or more to any of OPI's programs. Members who joined or whose giving increased their level during 2015 are indicated in bold type.

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* indicates OPI alumnus.
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204 West Texas A&M University

DESTINATION TEACHER

Common memories for future teachers include lining up stuffed animals as pupils and clamoring to write on chalk boards with every opportunity. And since 1997, Brumley Foundation, Inc. of Amarillo has been making those dreams become a reality for education majors through OPI's R.O.C. and Fannie Brumley Scholarship. The Foundation's underlying intent is to provide quality teachers in the Texas Panhandle by supporting the educational goals of teacher-preparation students.

But not all who become teachers dream of the profession from childhood. Many come to the education profession after receiving a degree in another discipline, and since 2013, the Brumley Scholarship Fund has been assisting students in the Panhandle Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE) program.

"The directors of the Brumley Foundation appreciated OPI bringing the need related to the PACE program to our attention," Marilyn C. Ault, Brumley Foundation, Inc. secretary, said. "It has always been our intent to impact future generations by assisting teachers in the Texas Panhandle, and our collaboration with OPI has allowed us to respond to changing needs."

Since it began, the Brumley Scholarship Fund has assisted 121 students with more than \$635,000 in scholarships. They recently agreed to provide an additional \$1500 in addition to the scholarship for traditional education students in their final semester. This stipend supports living expenses while the recipients are student teaching full time and are unable to maintain additional employment.

MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Membership contributions to OPI support the operations of the program. Having never charged a service fee for managing scholarship and loan funds, OPI relies on these contributions to provide funding for such things as student support, donor cultivation and stewardship and providing educational programs to college bound individuals.

The Sustainers Society was created in 2009 and the Diamond Circle in 2014 to recognize membership contributions. Support has grown 58 percent with the addition of these two donor recognition opportunities.



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*indicates OPI alumnus
 + indicates OPI student

A close-up photograph of a nurse in blue scrubs applying white medical tape to a patient's arm. The nurse's hands are the central focus, with one hand holding a roll of tape and the other hand peeling it. The patient's arm is visible in the foreground. The background is softly blurred, showing a clinical setting.

DESTINATION NURSE

Mikayla Chester decided to pursue a career in nursing because she wanted to make an impact on patients as well as to be impacted by them, but she is finding that there are many more opportunities available in nursing than she even realized. Her route to a degree will include three different stops.

Beginning her higher education trek with dual credit courses through South Plains College, Mikayla graduated from Roosevelt High School near Lubbock as the valedictorian of the Class of 2014. She completed all but two hours toward an associate's degree at SPC and then began the Covenant Health System's School of Nursing in Lubbock. She will receive her R.N. license there prior to entering the nursing program at Lubbock Christian University where she will complete her bachelor's degree.

"CSON is a very hands-on school," Mikayla said. "So while I won't be getting my degree at the same time as my license, I am getting a lot of clinical hours and training. Transitioning from R.N. to B.S.N. through LCU will allow me to work in any health care environment, including home health."

Receiving a degree through various avenues so you can make an impact has been a core value for OPI since we began. We are pleased to support students in their quest for higher education regardless of the path that education takes.

DESTINATION

BANKER

Last December, OPI Executive Director M. Keith Brown experienced a first in his almost 25-year career of working with donors in higher education. A student made a donation, and it caught him completely off guard.

"I've worked with many, many grateful students in my career, but they don't have the opportunity to give back while they're pursuing their degree," Brown said. "Here was a student currently receiving OPI aid and a recent OPI alum bringing a donation to help other students now. I was completely overwhelmed."

Matthew Marrs and Christopher Baca both work for Amarillo National Bank in ANB's recently opened Canyon branch. Each year during the holiday season, ANB allows employees to designate a local nonprofit organization to receive a gift from ANB. Matt, currently pursuing his degree at West Texas A&M University, and Chris, who graduated from University of Texas in 2010, chose OPI.

"There was never a question what organization I would choose," Matt said. "When I mentioned it to Chris, he agreed it's what we should do."

Matt began his career at WTAMU hoping to compete on the football team and receive a scholarship. After realizing that

dream was no longer viable and having borrowed funds for his first semester, he soon saw that attending WT was going to require more debt than he was willing to undertake. He transferred to Amarillo College for a year and worked two jobs to pay off the debt he incurred during that first semester. He is now back at WT where he is able to fulfill his desire for a university education; aid from OPI, WTAMU and his wages, combined with living at home in Amarillo, make that possible. He plans to enter the banking industry when he completes his degree.

Chris thought he wanted a career in electrical engineering when he began at UT, and he pursued that degree for 2 ½ years while receiving OPI's Pantex scholarship. But he decided the financial world suited him better, so he changed his major to economics with a minor in business. He is now the operations manager for ANB's Canyon branch.

Taking different paths to your ultimate career destination is common. Giving back to help others along that path is less common. OPI is pleased to assist in many of those journeys and is honored to have students and former students recognize the importance played by donors who make it possible for students and their dreams to connect.



**Amarillo
National
Bank**

“

ANB sees itself as the heart of the community and strives to be as generous as possible—with our resources, our talent, and our time.

”

- Ross Macon,
ANB Canyon Branch Manager

DESTINATION HOTEL MANAGER

Chloe Shelton's parents purchased the Hudspeth House Bed and Breakfast just before she began high school. Purchasing the B&B meant Chloe and her sister would be permanent residents, which might sound glamorous but really just meant they were resident housekeepers!

Nonetheless, when it came time for college, Chloe gravitated to what she knew and chose restaurant, hotel and institutional management as her major at Texas Tech University. That major turned into an internship with Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts which led to a job after graduation with the Four Seasons Hualalai on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Chloe first learned of Four Seasons' training program when she interviewed for the internship while representatives of the Dallas property were on the Texas Tech campus during her junior year. She was notified the day after the interview that she got the internship.

"I was thrilled as Four Seasons is one of the top companies in the hospitality industry," Chloe said. "During my internship, I was primarily a pool server, but one day each week I was able to shadow in other departments."

The internship led to Chloe's applying for the Four Seasons Manager in Training Programme, designed to give participants the tools needed to accelerate their careers and succeed as future leaders. The application process included three interviews at the Dallas property as well as an online personality assessment and an opportunity to provide input as to locations she would be interested in working.

"I told them I was pretty much willing to go anywhere because I want to take advantage of any opportunities available to me," Chloe said. "I immediately said 'yes' when the Hawaii property called! And now I've gotten to work with famous people in an amazing location."

Although Chloe's path has taken her a long way from Texas, her interests and skills were being honed in high school. Her experiences with luxury and celebrity combined with her destination location confirm OPI's belief that students can do anything to which they set their minds.

2015

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Plains Land Bank

JIM POND SCHOLARSHIP

Jim Pond

DON R. POPE MEMORIAL LOAN DIVISION

Carolyn M. Pope

A.E. "GENE" QUEST LOAN DIVISION

Robin Cummings

RAFFKIND SPECIAL DELIVERY SCHOLARSHIP

Myrna and Daniel Raffkind
Special Delivery AdOption Agency

DAN RAHLFS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Mary Lynn and Toby Patterson
Penny Rahlfs

RANDALL COUNTY 4-H MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Randall County 4-H Booster Club

RANDALL COUNTY EXTENSION DREAM TEAM SCHOLARSHIP

Texas 4-H Youth Development

RANDALL COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP

Randall County Farm Bureau

RITA BLANCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. SCHOLARSHIP

Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative, Inc.

DR. BOB & CLEO ROBINSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dr. and Mrs. Bob Robinson

MARJORIE ROY SCHOLARSHIP

Tana and Bryan Young

SCHAEFFER EDUCATIONAL FUND

Jackie and Stan Byrnes
Joan and John Meason
Geneva and Stanley Schaeffer
Rala Underwood

SHALLER OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

First Presbyterian Church, Canadian

LEW SINGLETON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Lynn Singleton
SOTA-TECH Outdoor Pest Management
Cathy and Carroll Wright

DR. BYRON SKINNER SCHOLARSHIP

Annette and Dr. Byron Skinner
Joy Skinner
Lynn Skinner

JAMES B. SKINNER SCHOLARSHIP

Annette and Dr. Byron Skinner
Joy Skinner
Lynn Skinner

SMITH FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Elaine Smith

A.C. "BUB" SMITH LOAN DIVISION

Ellen and Mark Bivins
Claire and John Siragusa
Mrs. Nancy T. Smith

HOMER AND MARY SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

Debbie and Gary Collier
Cathy and Carroll Wright

JUSSEN AND CURRIE SMITH COLLEGE LOAN DIVISION

Jussen and Currie Smith
Cathy and Carroll Wright

LENORA L. SMITH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Peggie Bush
Carolyn and Jack Cobb
Johnny Ethridge
First United Methodist Church, Sudan
Gregory Hawthorne
Sara Heitschmidt
Catherine Miller
Mary Norris

MAX M. & SYLVIA STETTNER MERIT AWARD

Eva E. Stettner

STEWART FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Mary and Bob Stewart

SWISHER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. SCHOLARSHIP

Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.

TEXAS TECH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION/ WINDY NICKLAUS DIVISION

Texas Tech Alumni Association

THS '72 REBEL PRIDE SCHOLARSHIP

Melody Alexander
Diann Anderson
Anonymous
Debbie and Gary Floyd
Charles Graham
Gloria and Steve Jones
Belinda Rivas
Caryl Smith
THS Class of '72
Suzy Spencer Whisenhunt

LYNDA TINSLEY SCHOLARSHIP

Lynda and Michael Tinsley
Cathy and Carroll Wright

TRI-STATE EXPOSITION SCHOLARSHIP

Amarillo Tri-State Exposition
The Brumley Foundation

TRI-STATE FAIR CALF SCRAMBLE SCHOLARSHIP

Ag Texas Farm Credit Services
Cargill Corn Milling, Lance Storer

GINGER TUCKER SCHOLARSHIP

Ginger and Tommy Tucker

TWENTIETH CENTURY COTILLION STUDY CLUB LOAN DIVISION

Donna Burger
Martha Campbell
Sara and Doug Carmichael
Penni and Robert Clark
Susan B. and Harold A. Cree
Kathryn and Wesley Green
Thressa "Jan" Haynes
Roberta Hendricks
Sharron Hurst
Jane and Robert Jacobs
Koell McKay
Fran Morrison
Sandy and Wyeth Osborne
Linda Reed
Jona and Davee Smith
Leslie Smith
Myrna and David Smith
Susan and John Tripplehorn
Twentieth Century Cotillion Study Club
Janie and Joe Van Zandt

Jana Vinson
Betty E. White

WALKING G ARENA SCHOLARSHIP

Ag Texas Farm Credit Services
Barbara Bain
Bobcat Car Wash
Castro County Farm Bureau
Colonial Funeral Home
Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Dimmitt Equipment Company
Dimmitt Flaking LP
Dimmitt Lions Club
Dimmitt Pharmacy
Dimmitt Sulfur Products LTD
Dimmitt Vet Supply, Inc.
Don's Body Shop
Mandy and Matt Gfeller
Gilbreath Brothers
Great Plains Ag Credit
Higginbotham Holdings, Ltd.
Hi Plains Oil Co., Inc.
MC Campbell LLC
North Gin LTD
Ray Lee Equipment-Dimmitt
Rogers & Sons LTD
Spandet Dairy, LLC
T W's Electronics
Tidwell Sprayers, Inc.

LIBB WALLACE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Janice and Robert Hodges
Reva and Jay Roselius

WEISS AWARD

Ruby Weiss

BYRON B. "BUCK" AND DOROTHY WHITE SCHOLARSHIP

J. J. Gomez
Cathy and Carroll Wright

EDNA AND OLEN WILSON SCHOLARSHIP

Mrs. Oscar Williamson
Lisa C. Wilson
Dr. Mark C. Wilson

WOMEN IN BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP

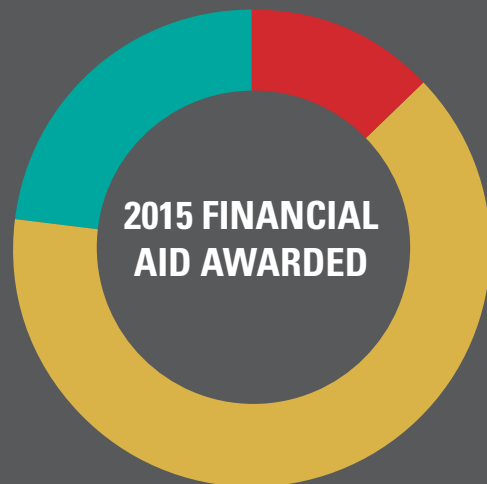
Canyon Chamber of Commerce
Coffman Customs
Smith Wilson Law Firm, P.C.
Stanley Ware

CATHRYN WRIGHT LOAN DIVISION

Cathy and Carroll Wright

WTAMU GREEK LEADERSHIP AWARD

M. Keith Brown



Buff Morris and OPI Scholarship Awards	\$158,402
Designated Fund Scholarship Recipients	\$788,133
Loan Fund Recipients	\$287,988
Total Aid Awarded	\$1,234,523

Executive Committee

Cathryn Wright, Amarillo

President

Larry Johnson, D.V.M.*, Amarillo

Vice President

Lynda Tinsley*, Amarillo

Secretary-Treasurer

M. Keith Brown*, Canyon

Executive Director

Carolyn Baxter*, Hereford

Martha Campbell, Pampa

Currie Smith, Amarillo

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Debbie Collier*, Canyon

J.J. Gomez, Dallas

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Brock Lovett, D.C.*, Amarillo

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Wayne Pierson*, Hereford

Jane Potts*, Pampa

Lynn Singleton, Amarillo

Heidi Taylor, Ph.D.*, Canyon

Susan Tripplehorn, Pampa

Donna Warrick*, Canyon

Bonnie Wuerflein*, Hereford

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Anne Campbell, Pampa

Helen Hall, Pampa

Staff

Cathryn Wright,

President

M. Keith Brown*,

Executive Director

Pam Nease,

Scholarship Coordinator

Pat Whitacre,

Loan Fund Administrator

**indicates OPI alumnus.*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of Financial Position July 31, 2014 and 2015

	2014	2015
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 6,975,396	\$ 8,402,409
Prepaid Expenses	5,081	23,452
Accrued Interest Receivable		
Student Loans	8,345	8,896
Investments	46,413	46,159
Investments	19,035,240	19,020,657
Student Loans Receivable	3,243,383	2,644,419
Property and Equipment, Net	49,537	70,653
Land	7,500	7,500
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$29,370,895</u>	<u>\$30,224,145</u>
Liabilities		
Payroll Taxes	327	1,115
Total Liabilities	<u>327</u>	<u>1,115</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
Operating	10,765,953	10,393,445
Board Designated	904,704	898,429
Total Unrestricted	<u>11,670,657</u>	<u>11,291,874</u>
Temporarily Restricted	265,426	293,316
Permanently Restricted	17,434,485	18,637,840
Total Net Assets	<u>29,370,568</u>	<u>30,223,030</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 29,370,895</u>	<u>\$ 30,224,145</u>

NEW
FUNDS

SHANE BARNETT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
CANADIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND
CANYON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WOMEN IN BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP
PLAINS LAND BANK SCHOLARSHIP
RANDALL COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP
RANDALL COUNTY 4-H DREAM TEAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND
RANDALL COUNTY 4-H MEMORIAL FUND



“DESTINATIONS seemed the appropriate theme to follow up OPI’s 2014 Annual Report, *The Road Ahead*. Roads lead to destinations and career destinations are what OPI has always been about!

But career destinations don’t always mean what society assumes they mean. To reach a fulfilling career destination doesn’t have to include four or more years of university education. It may mean a technical program that results in a certificate. The journey to that destination could mean core requirements at a community college followed by a degree from a university and perhaps even an additional degree from a professional school. It might even include a degree that doesn’t provide the skills needed to match a career change. All these are viable options for individuals to create a bright and satisfying livelihood!

Educational priorities are different for everyone. Educational institutions constantly adjust to meet what students and potential students demand. Those adjustments often require more out-of-pocket expense for the student, and OPI has not changed in our basic mission—to connect worthy students with the resources needed to insure their futures.

The students featured and the individuals listed in *Destinations* are examples of making that connection. Without both, OPI would not have been doing what we’ve done for almost 65 years. Thanks to both, we will continue making those connections for years to come.

To our students’ success,



M. Keith Brown
Executive Director

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P.O. Box 1035 | Canyon, Texas 79015 | 806.655.2528 | opportunityplan.com