

making the DIFFERENCE

FALL 2019

EDUCATING OUR FUTURE LEADERS A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Many people are concerned about the future of their community. Who will rise up to lead? Who will create new jobs? Who will make up the future workforce?

These are all questions that can be answered through postsecondary education and lighting the way on a path

to keep our best and brightest young minds in the community.

The OPI Pathways Scholars program is lighting the way by giving young people the support they need to complete degrees and pursue careers that will benefit our communities, our economies and our area for decades to come.

OPI's first round of Pathways Scholars started at Clarendon College this fall, and with your help, OPI will be with them every step of the way as they earn the degrees they need to become the next generation of economic leaders throughout the Panhandle.

Your gift of \$100 or more will help keep the best and brightest students in our area so they can grow our local economies and build stronger, more vibrant communities in the coming decades.

Donations allow the Pathways Scholars program to help students through every step of their educational journey.

Pathways Scholars receive career guidance, customized college counseling, accountability and encouragement, as well as the financial support needed to make higher education possible. Equipped with that education, these students can become tomorrow's leaders for our communities.

Are you ready to give the next generation a strong foundation to lead into the future? Your donation of \$100 or more will go toward scholarships and college counseling for these emerging leaders in the Texas Panhandle. Please make your gift today.

Thank you for your support of OPI. Your help gives opportunity to our region's best and brightest and will fuel our communities' economic growth for years to come.

With gratitude,

M. Keith Brown
Executive Director

P.S. You're our best partner for ensuring the next generation of leaders gets the education they'll need to drive our area's economy. Your donation today will change lives and shape the future of our area.

KUDOS TO OPI GRADS!

Congratulations to our OPI students who have completed degrees! The following individuals completed degrees in May and August of 2019.

Abilene Christian University
Elisabeth Berry - Amarillo

Amarillo College
Jamey Germany - Groom
Emily Ramirez - Tulia
Domenica Sigala - Amarillo

American Musical and Dramatic Academy
Avery Cross - Lubbock

Baylor University
Lauren Southern - Mesquite
Macy Wright - Canyon

Brigham Young University
Emma Morris - Amarillo
Carolyn Meier - Lexington, KY

Lubbock Christian University
Hunter Ates - Amarillo

McMurry University
Meghan Inman - Miami

Oklahoma State University
Chandler Dockray - Canadian

Southern Nazarene University
Jordyn Johnson - Amarillo
Macy Smart - Bushland

South Plains College
Noah Baker - Sudan
Colby Scott - Seagraves

Texas Tech University
Katie Adams - Hedley
Berkley Bowman - Canyon

Averye Ferris - Hereford
Nicholas Foos - Amarillo
Cole Kleman - Nazareth
Garrett Welch - Canyon

University of Montana
Sarah Davis - Missoula, MT

University of North Texas Health Sciences Center
Jayton Welch - Canyon

University of Texas at Austin
Dylan Lee - Amarillo

University of Texas - San Antonio
Christopher Damron - Dimmitt

Wayland Baptist University
Marissa Felton - Amarillo

West Texas A&M University
Logan Aragon - Canyon
Alec Baldwin - Amarillo
Amanda Brookhart - Hereford
Kara Brown - Groom
Braden Carson - Canadian
Shlay Denison - Amarillo
Kylee Fuston - Silverton
Daniel Giedraitis - Canyon
Kyler Gregory - McKinney
Chanci Henderson - Canyon
Lydia Howard - Amarillo
Laramie Lancaster - Ft. Elliott
Nikita Padilla - Dalhart
Lydia Solomon - Canyon
Sierra White - Happy

PLAN

an intention or decision about what one is going to do



OPI exists thanks to visionary individuals who wanted to help students achieve their dream of higher education. Your legacy of support can continue through planned giving.

Examples of planned giving include a bequest in your will designating a specific amount or percentage of your estate for OPI, designating your IRA Rollover Minimum Distribution to OPI once you reach the age of 70½ or naming OPI as the beneficiary of an insurance policy or retirement account.

For more information on OPI's planned giving options, visit www.OpportunityPlan.com/plannedgiving or contact Executive Director M. Keith Brown at 806-655-2528 or kbrown@opportunityplan.com.



ROAD TO HOPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
provided by Bank of America
"Power To" program

\$50,000

Inspired by BoA employee Natalie Woods, this program will provide scholarships and mentorship for students with an incarcerated parent pursuing higher education.

An opportunity to support students' educational goals also benefitted the beautification efforts of OPI's hometown of Canyon. Thanks to OPI scholarships provided to the WT Mural Squad, 11 students were able to enroll in a dual-credit travel course. The students traveled to Mexico City where they learned about mural painting for a studio class credit and focused on Latin American artwork as a part of an art history course. The culmination of the studio course can be seen in the outstanding mural located at the corner of 4th Avenue and 23rd Street in Canyon.



A New Day features a Western/Panhandle theme reminiscent of the original mural that was painted on the location approximately 30 years ago and had become badly faded. In addition to the familiar Lighthouse formation in Palo Duro Canyon, the mural also depicts a settler couple and a Spanish shepherd. The north end of the mural includes "Palo Duro Mt. Rushmore." Canyon citizens were able to choose the four individuals depicted through a poll on Facebook. The likenesses include Georgia O'Keefe, Col. Charles Goodnight, Matthew "Bones" Hooks and Quanah Parker.



Course instruction, provided by WT Associate Professor of Art Jon Revett included planning and budgeting.

"One of my goals is for these students to be able to make proposals for mural projects, and this experience teaches them that entire process," Revett said. "The study abroad component provided direct exposure to the rich culture of Mexico City and an understanding of the larger art world. Many of our students have not experienced artwork from different times, and to see that people have been making art for millennia really drives home the importance of art and artists."

DUAL-CREDIT TRAVEL COURSE LEADS TO CANYON BEAUTIFICATION

"One of my goals is for these students to be able to make proposals for mural projects, and this experience teaches them that entire process."

- Jon Revett, WT Associate Professor of Art

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

OPI is blessed to receive many gifts given as memorials and tributes. The following gifts were given as such between March 2019 and July 2019.

For a complete list of tributes in the last year, visit www.OpportunityPlan.com/memorials-and-honorariums.

JULY 2019

In Memory of Dr. Paige Carruth
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of George Henry Coffey, Jr
Leslie and Wayne Pierson

In Memory of Reedy McDonald
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Dan Rahlfs
Penny Rahlfs

In Memory of Joe Donald Vaughn
Tricia and Kyle Odom

In Honor of Corey Weiss
Ruby Weiss

In Memory of Lee Weiss
Ruby Weiss

In Memory of Billy Ray Woods
Opportunity Plan, Inc.

JUNE 2019

In Memory of June and Crispin Green
Jennyslippers, Muleshoe, Texas

In Memory of Faye Fluty
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Memory of Bob Lanier
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Memory of John Osborne
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Memory of Carl Patterson
Dani Heathington

**In Memory of Lew Singleton on
Father's Day**
SOTA-TECH Outdoor Pest Management

In Memory of Bess Williams
Leslie and Wayne Pierson

**In Memory of Edna Wilson on
Mother's Day**
Lisa Wilson

**In Memory of Olen Wilson on His
Birthday & Father's Day**
Lisa Wilson

MAY 2019

In Honor of Kara Brown's M.Ed. Degree
Helen Piehl

**In Honor of M. Keith Brown's M.B.A.
Degree**
Helen Piehl

In Memory of Alene Bryant
Jennyslippers, Muleshoe, Texas

In Memory of Jim Christopher
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Thomas Flores
Leslie & Wayne Pierson

In Memory of David McKay
Susan Pollard

In Memory of Jane Morris
Leslie and Wayne Pierson

In Memory of Wanda Reynolds
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Dr. James Amadeo Rosica
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Buckner

APRIL 2019

In Memory of William Bentley
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Memory of Kathy Landers Bostick
Nina Landers

In Memory of Troy Burris
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Don Carr
Leslie and Wayne Pierson

In Memory of Dr. Hiram Carr
Linda Kay Baker

In Memory of Dr. Patrick Crouch
Smith Oasis Cattle, Ltd.
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Memory of Delbert Davis
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Vicki Funk
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of E. J. Hail
Polly Herrington

In Memory of Cameron Harrison
Traci and Randy Shields

In Memory of Bill Head
Linda Kay Baker
Celia Fancher
Tom Ford
Mary and Tony Gardner
Opportunity Plan, Inc.
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson
Courtney Slater

In Memory of Flo Jones
Leslie and Wayne Pierson

In Memory of Bob Landers
Nina Landers

In Memory of Kristy Landers
Nina Landers

In Memory of Carol Mae McClure
Traci and Randy Shields

In Honor of Mary Ann and Joe McKay
Susan McKay

In Honor of Paige and Mike McKay
Susan McKay

In Memory of Charles and Sally Nester
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Failla

In Honor of Sheryl and Mark Piper
Susan McKay

In Memory of Harrell Reynolds
Leslie and Wayne Pierson

In Memory of Dwayne Schulte
Leslie and Wayne Pierson

In Memory of Evelyn Stewart
Jussen and Currie Smith

In Memory of William Dale Tisdale
Sammy Saulsbury

In Honor of Phillip Wheeler
Susan McKay

MARCH 2019

In Memory of Thomas Brown
Janet and Robert Ezzell

In Memory of Gwynith Burchett
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Bobby Lee Byrd
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Jolene Chitwood
Patricia and Bart Barnett

In Memory of Richard LeGrand
Cowboy 4-H, Happy, Texas
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Loraine McDonald
Cleo and Dr. Bob Robinson

In Memory of Thane McCloy
Jussen and Currie Smith
The Smith Family

In Memory of David McKay
Tricia and Scott Campbell
Michael Huggins
Dawn Rhea and Kirk Kear
Ann Thomas Williams

In Memory of Kathleen Ragland
Mary Ann and Harry Hueston
Erika and Jeff Millican

In Memory of Parker Barron Wetzel
Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**In Memory of Edna Wilson on Her
Birthday**
Lisa Wilson



PATHWAYS SCHOLARS TAKE FIRST STEP

The first class of OPI's Pathways Scholars program met on August 28 to discuss the program, learn more about personal budgeting for college and meet leaders from their new school.

Each of this year's Pathways Scholars graduated from Pampa High School last spring, and they've all chosen to attend Clarendon College as the first step in their path toward a fulfilling career.

The first cohort of Pathways Scholars was made possible by a generous donation from the Payne Foundation to give Pampa students an opportunity to start at a community college in the Texas Panhandle and gain the education they'll need to become leaders in the Pampa community.

This year's Pathways Scholars are:

- **Thomas Almanza**, son of Francisco and Esther Almanza
- **Roman Diaz**, son of Roman and Maura Diaz
- **Matthew Frost**, son of James and Heidi Frost
- **Ethaniel Palma**, son of Joseph and Janie Palma
- **Rogelio Servin**, son of Rogelio and Telésfora Servin

The Pathways Scholars inaugural orientation included an exercise to help scholarship recipients create a budget that they can stick with. One of the most valuable parts of the Pathways Scholars program is the support students receive outside of academics – from career counseling to practical, life skills-focused training, such as time management and budgeting.

Additionally, the orientation served as an opportunity for Pathways Scholars to meet with Dr. Robert Riza, the President of Clarendon College, Doug Carmichael, the President of the Clarendon College Pampa Center Foundation, and board members Kathy Cota and Kayla Parnell. The orientation included time for scholars to have conversations with these local leaders and discuss the transition from high school to college.

These scholars will have a number of additional opportunities to get academic, financial and networking support as they continue with their educational journeys and find fulfilling, productive careers.



Dr. Robert Riza, Clarendon College President, Doug Carmichael, Clarendon College Pampa Center Foundation Board President and board members Kayla Parnell and Kathy Cota visit with the first cohort of OPI Pathways Scholars.



Ethaniel Palma, Rogelio Servin, Matthew Frost, Roman Diaz and Thomas Almanza

569 STUDENTS AWARDED OPI FINANCIAL AID
2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

First, let me start this letter with a thank you. Thank you for your continued generosity throughout my college career. Without your support, I truly do believe that finishing college would still be a dream of mine and not something I am about to mark off my long list of things to accomplish in life. When I walk the stage in the Alamodome on May 18th, I not only will be representing myself, but will also be representing everyone that has helped me with this momentous achievement, and I will make sure to keep my head held high. Secondly, I will speak on behalf of my mom who I know is probably even more appreciative than I am. My mom has always had me believe that college is a stepping stone to a greater life. When my father passed in 2000, attending college became that much harder to achieve. Without the continued support of the great community we live in, I would not be where I am today, nor the person I am proud to be. Thank you again for believing in someone who wasn't guaranteed to mark something off his bucket list.

Christopher D. Damron

University of Texas -
San Antonio Graduate

I want to thank you for such an amazing (& easy) experience I had with my student loans. Having the support of OPI during & after college was such a blessing. I could not have excelled in my schooling without OPI. While I am thrilled to have paid off my loans, I am sad I won't have an excuse to come see ya'll! Thank you again for everything you did to help me graduate from WTAMU.

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Thanks!

 **OPI**

M. Keith Brown,
Executive Director
Opportunity Plan, Inc.

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