

TCC SELECTED FOR PATHWAYS PROJECT

Tulsa Community College President Leigh Goodson announced that it is one of 30 community colleges in the country selected to join a national initiative funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and focused on raising college graduation rates across the country through guided academic and career pathways. The Pathways Project, led by American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), builds better bridges for students from high school graduation to college completion leading to university transfer or credentials that match labor market needs.

TCC was selected from among 48 semi-finalists and through a competitive national selection process. This is the first program funded by the Gates Foundation in which TCC has participated and is expected to help lead the next phase of colleges employing Pathway strategies for the future.

Under the Pathways Project, programs, support services, and instructional approaches are redesigned and focused to help students clarify their goals, choose and enter pathways that will achieve those goals, and master knowledge and skills that will enable them to advance in the labor market and successfully pursue further education.



LEIGH GOODSON

TPS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR MAGNET PROGRAMS

According to the Tulsa Public Schools website, Tulsa Public Schools is now accepting magnet program (K-12) applications for the 2016-2017 school year. All applications must be completed and submitted online. Tours for elementary magnet programs are mandatory. To schedule your tour, you must call the school directly.

TPS has a long tradition of magnet schools. Students are required to complete an application process to be considered for acceptance into a magnet school or program. Some magnet schools have a competitive entrance process requiring an entrance examination, interview, or audition. Other magnet schools use a lottery system.

Admissions to the three types of magnet programs are as follows:

Interest Magnets: Student interest is the determining factor for admission to one of the four high schools offering a wide variety of specific programs.

Interest magnet schools include Central, Hale, McLain and Webster High Schools.

Lottery Magnets: Students are selected based on a random drawing from each geographic quadrant of the city to fill available spaces. The lottery schools include:

Elementary schools: Dual Language Program, Eisenhower International School, Mayo Demonstration School and Zarrow International School

Middle/junior high schools: Monroe Demonstration School, Thoreau Demonstration Academy, Will Rogers College Junior High School

High schools: Will Rogers College High

Academic Magnets: Students are selected on the basis of grades, test scores, attendance, and teacher recommendation. Academic magnet schools include: Carver Middle School, Edison Middle School, Booker T. Washington High School, Edison Preparatory High School and Tulsa Engineering Academy at Memorial High School.

Applications for TPS magnet schools for 2016-2017 will be accepted November 9 - January 15. You can find the online application and more information at www.tulsaschools.org.

POVERTY STATS FROM THE OKLAHOMA POLICY INSTITUTE

Did you know that 1 in 6 Oklahomans lived in poverty last year (annual income below \$23,850 for a family of four)? Based on recently-released Census Bureau data, OK Policy's 2014 Poverty Profile breaks down what poverty looks like in our state.

For example:

Poverty is concentrated among the young. Almost 1 in 4 children in Oklahoma are in poverty (22.4 percent), versus only 16.2 percent of working-age adults and 8.5 percent of seniors.

Oklahoma has large racial disparities in poverty rates. Although white, non-Hispanic Oklahomans constitute the largest racial/ethnic group in poverty (326,199 of 623,840 total people in poverty, or 52.2 percent), the poverty rate for black Oklahomans (29.9 percent) and Hispanic Oklahomans (27.2 percent) is more than double that of non-Hispanic white Oklahomans (12.9 percent).

Marriage is not a sure path out of poverty. While the largest group of households in poverty were headed by a female with no spouse present (36.0 percent), more than 1 out of 4 were married couple households (28.3 percent).

One of the best defenses against poverty is education. The poverty rate for Oklahomans with a bachelor's degree or higher was just 4.4 percent, while the poverty rate for Oklahomans with less than a high school degree was more than six times higher (28.4 percent).

Information is from OKPolicy.org. Visit OkPolicy.org for more information and graphics on poverty and economic opportunity in Oklahoma.

NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK BY LOCAL ATTORNEY

David McKenny, a local attorney who also enjoys backpacking and working physics problems, has recently published "Aaron the Aardvark Gets Antsy," a children's picture book. The book follows the antics of Aaron as he forgets to wash out his lunchbox over the course of several days. As the lunch gets smellier, ants invade. You can imagine what happens with ants and a hungry Aardvark. Illustrated by Hannah Tuohy, children will enjoy the humorous tale of Aaron and his stinky lunchbox. Available at amazon.com.



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