

Oklahoma

Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation



Ms. Cammi Valdez, Math and Chemistry major, is said to be the "Shinning Star" at Southwestern OSU. She has given presentations in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, Massachusetts, Missouri and Kansas. She has been awarded multiple chemistry and mathematics scholarships and has a tier 1 publication. Cammi is the first Oklahoma LSAMP Scholar and SWOSU graduate to be accepted into a Ph.D. program at the Harvard School of Medicine, majoring in Chemical Biology.



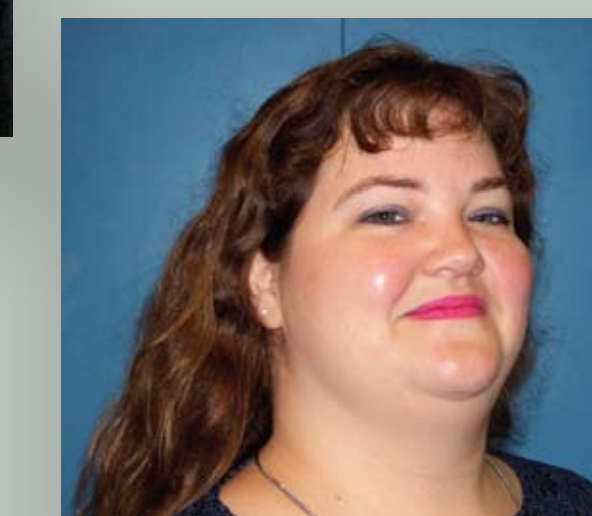
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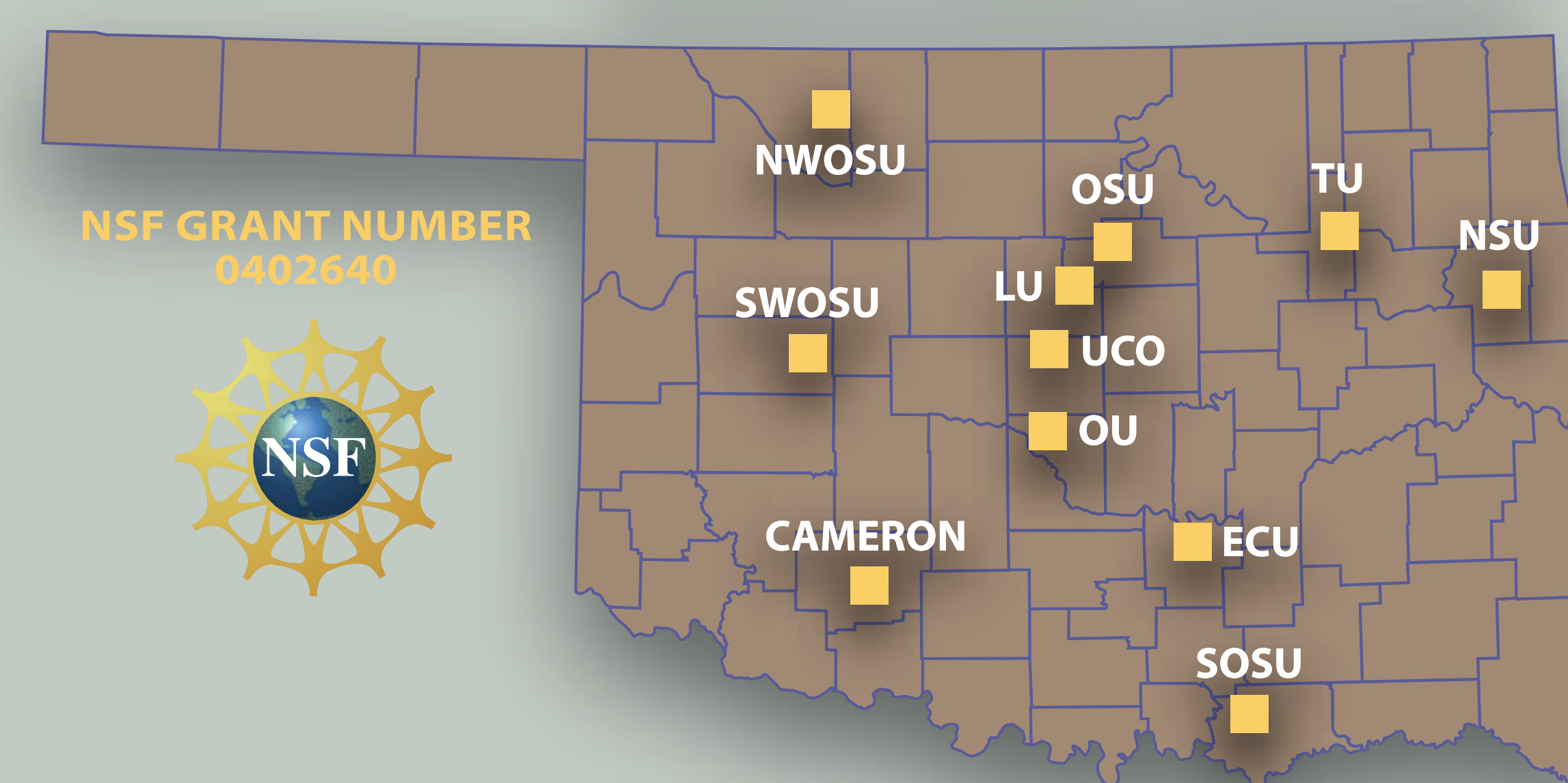


Fara Williams, OSU Data Coordinator



Susan Calonkey, OU Bridge to The Doctorate Program Coordinator

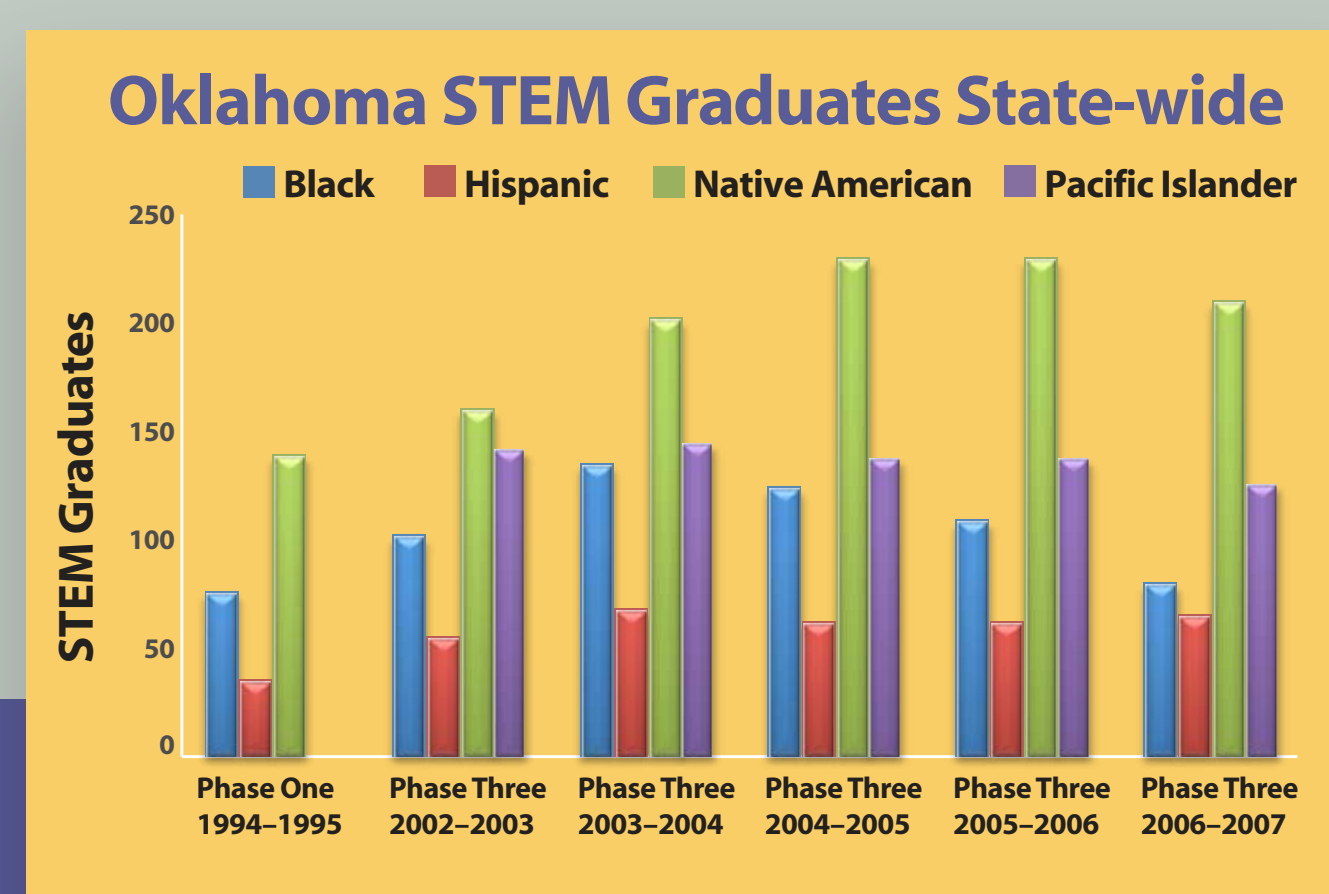
Oklahoma Alliance Partners



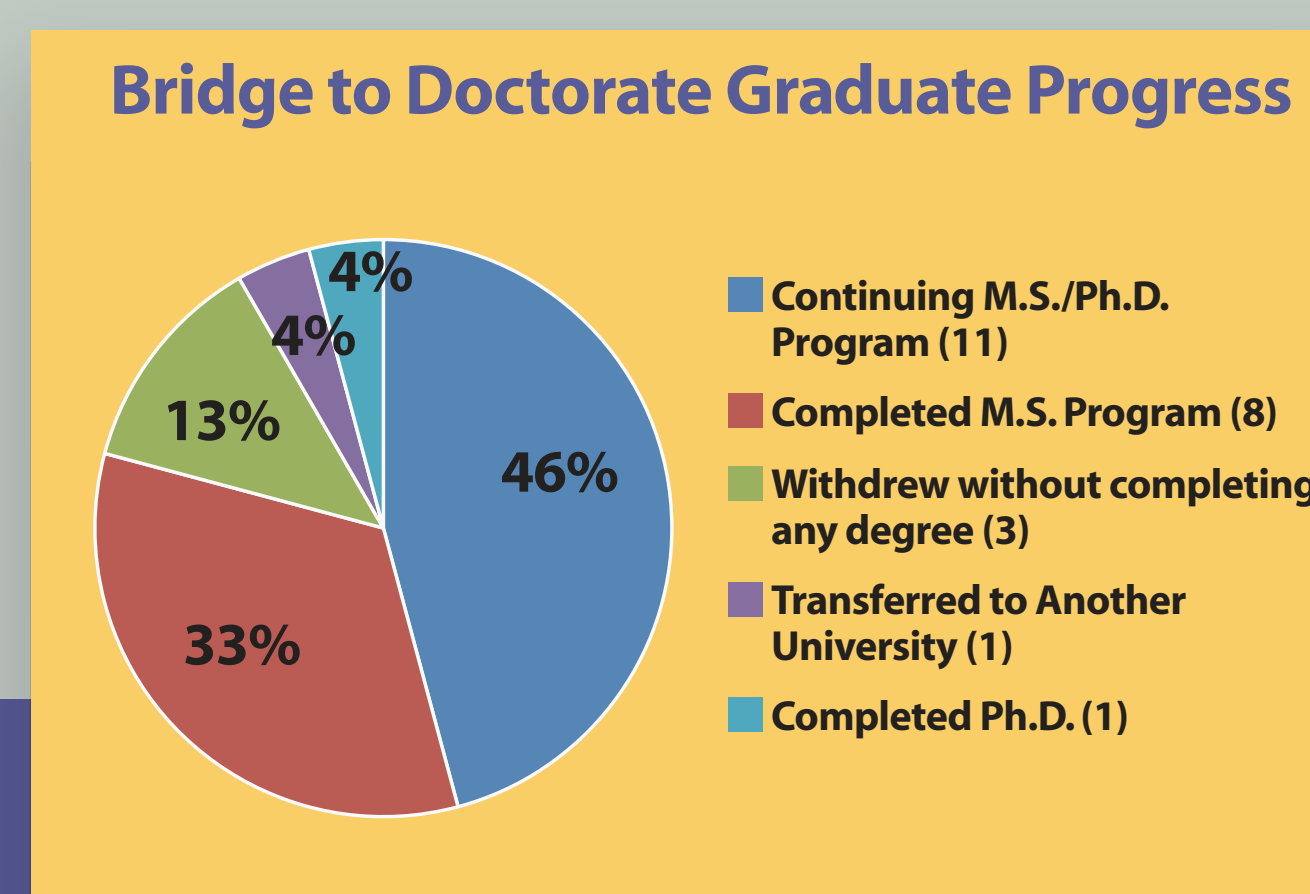
Brett Cowan and Cara Cowan-Watts, brother and sister, former LSAMP Scholars, Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows and members of the Cherokee Tribe. They have always been dedicated to education. The Cowans are descendants of Old Settlers of the Cherokee Nation, who made their home in Oklahoma prior to the Trail of Tears. Brett completed three degrees at OSU: Bachelor of Science in 1999 (Civil Engineering with an Environmental option); Master of Science in 2000 (Civil Engineering with a Construction Management option) and the Ph.D. in Civil Engineering in 2007. Brett is currently employed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Cara has completed two degrees at OSU: Bachelor of Science in 1997 (Mechanical Engineering); Master of Science in 2002 in Telecommunications Management, and expects to complete her Biosystems Engineering Ph.D. in July 2008. Currently, she is a two-term elected Tribal Council Representative of the Cherokee Nation.



The history of the **Oklahoma Alliance Partners** began on November 1, 1994. Oklahoma institutions formed an alliance with support from the National Science Foundation's Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP which subsequently was mandated by Congress as the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) in honor of former Congressman Louis Stokes.). The 11 participating institutions are: The University of Oklahoma, University of Tulsa, University of Central Oklahoma, Southwestern OSU, Southeastern OSU, Northwestern OSU, Northeastern State University, Langston University, East Central University, Cameron University and Oklahoma State University as the lead institution. In the past 14 years Oklahoma Alliance Institutions have awarded 7,180 Bachelor of Science degrees in STEM areas to minority and underrepresented students. Nationwide, approximately 30% of all STEM degrees earned by Native Americans were completed in Oklahoma institutions. Oklahoma continues to graduate more Native American students than any other state.



The **Bridge to the Doctorate** program began in 2004 with Oklahoma State University (OSU) as Cohort II followed by The University of Oklahoma (OU) in 2005 as Cohort III. Each program began with 12 former LSAMP Scholars pursuing advanced degrees in STEM disciplines. Overall, eight Master of Science degrees and one Ph.D. to a Native American in Civil Engineering have been awarded. Six Ph.D. candidates are expected to complete requirements within the next 3-24 months. OSU has students in the following disciplines: Natural Resource Ecology, Entomology/Plant Pathology, Cell/Molecular/Micro Biology, Mechanical Engineering; and Biomedical Research. OU has students in Computer Science; Chemistry; Computer/Industrial/Electrical/Mechanical/Petroleum Engineering and Mathematics. All Bridge to The Doctorate students have been integrated in the academic units and are deeply engaged in research but are still mentored by the LSAMP program and monitored by the Graduate Dean.



University of Oklahoma Bridge to the Doctorate students along with LSAMP Scholars served as "Big Bridge" scholars during the AT&T "HEADS UP" Summer Bridge program. The "Big Bridges" were mentors to 30 incoming freshman "Little Bridges" in a 3-week summer camp designed to enhance calculus readiness of the incoming engineering students and to give them the necessary skills to succeed in their first year in college.



Cohort 2: Oklahoma State University and Cohort 3: The University of Oklahoma Bridge to the Doctorate students accepting the challenge of completing graduate degrees in their selected STEM disciplines and serving as role models to undergraduate LSAMP scholars.



The University of Tulsa Junior Robotics Institute involves OK-LSAMP Scholars in the promotion of science and engineering by mentoring high school students for two weeks during the summer in various aspects of robot building and programming.

