

In this season of Thanksgiving, we express our heartfelt gratitude for your support of the OSU Center for Developmental Disabilities.



CENTER FOR
**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

Fall 2024 Newsletter

New Law Creates Scholarships for Students with Intellectual Disability

Last fall, the OSUCDD team educated Oklahoma legislators about the needs of students with intellectual disability in higher education. We are thrilled to report that Oklahoma passed a new law, taking a significant step to enhance accessibility and inclusion of students with intellectual disability on college campuses.

On July 1, 2024, the [Oklahoma Access and Achievement Scholarship Program \(OAAS\)](#) went into effect following the passage of House Bill 37921. This new program covers full tuition costs for eligible Oklahoma residents enrolled in comprehensive transition and postsecondary education programs for students with intellectual disability within the state.

By covering tuition costs, OAAS removes a significant financial barrier, potentially opening doors for more students with intellectual disability to pursue their educational and career goals. [Read more here.](#)



Dr. Emily Tucker and OOS students speak to legislators at an [interim study](#) held at the state capitol in October 2023.

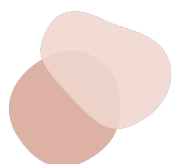
The Ideal Graduate: How One OSU Alum is Revolutionizing Mental Health Services for the Neurodiverse Community



Emily Schleich's path to becoming a champion for neurodiverse individuals began at OSU. Emily initially came to OSU in August 2014 to pursue a master's degree in Human Development and Family Science with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy.

During her graduate studies at OSU, Emily worked as a graduate research assistant on the Oklahoma National Core Indicators (NCI) Research project, under the direction of Drs. Jennifer Jones and Kami Gallus. Connecting her work on the Oklahoma NCI project with her graduate studies in Marriage and Family Therapy led Emily to recognize the critical need for accessible, quality mental health services for this underserved population.

After graduating from OSU, Emily moved to Denver where she founded *All Minds Counseling*. Her practice offers inclusive mental health services for neurodiverse individuals, couples, and families, focusing on personal growth and community connections. [Read more about Emily's journey here.](#)



All Minds Counseling
Mental Health Services

OSU Unified Celebrates Inclusion



OSU Unified was recently highlighted in the "Something Good" segment on News 9 in Oklahoma City. The segment showcased the program's impact and growth. Since launching in Fall 2022, OSU Unified has successfully doubled the number of flag football and basketball teams, attracting athletes from across Oklahoma to participate. The feature showed OSU Unified's commitment to promoting inclusion on the OSU campus. [Watch the News 9 "Something Good" segment.](#)

Documentary Spotlights Opportunity Orange Scholars

The documentary film, *Educating Oklahoma: Keeping the Promise of Public Education* explores public education in Oklahoma, while showing the value of teachers and the work they do. Produced by the OSU College of Education and Human Sciences, and filmed and directed by Kelly Kerr, the film includes interviews with teachers, administrators, legislators and retirees.



At the 31:09 mark, the film emphasizes an important aspect of inclusive education by featuring programs that enable students with intellectual disabilities to attend college. The segment specifically showcases the Opportunity Orange Scholars program at Oklahoma State University. [Watch the full-length documentary.](#)

Our Mission

The Center for Developmental Disabilities elevates the land grant mission by learning from and working alongside individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and supporters to enhance the quality of life for all.

Our Vision

Live in a world that supports everyone to pursue and experience their best life.

To Support the Work of OSUCDD

Opportunity Orange Scholars



OSUCDD



OSU Unified



For more information about ongoing research and programming,
[visit the OSU Center for Developmental Disabilities here.](#)

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OSU Center for Developmental Disabilities | 032 Nancy Randolph Davis (NRD) | Stillwater,
OK 74078 US

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