

OKAMP providing 21st century work force

The 21st Century is fast approaching. We are moving towards a more ethnically and socially diverse workforce than we had at the beginning of the 20th century. The AMP Program is a workforce program rather than a social justice program. The workforce in the near 21st Century will need replacements for the

their students. Nevertheless, we were able to provide support to many of these students in the Fall 1996 Semester. Several institutions made commitments to support students on the faith that the NSF funds would be released. I am very pleased that they were able to make the commitment to the students.

States, March 1993 and 1992 (P20-476), reports that persons with more education can expect to earn even higher lifetime earnings in the next century. For example persons with a graduate degree can expect to earn 3 times as much as someone with some college and twice what one can earn with a bachelor's degree. This is the first report to present information on earnings based on specific degrees rather than years of college. We know that college education increases earnings but we now have data to show the earning potential of specific degrees. Thus, in addition to the educational there is an economical incentive to go beyond the bachelor's degree.

We hope students in OKAMP-SMET want to be at the top of the field but we also want them to know of the economical advantages of advanced graduate training.

—Earl D. Mitchell, Ph.D.
Project Director
Associate Vice President for
Multicultural Affairs and Professor of
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Oklahoma State University



1996 OKAMP Summer Bridge participants.

SMET (Science, Mathematics, Engineering, Technology) persons that will be leaving. Many of those trained in the 50s and 60s will be retired and the availability of personnel will be from the increased diverse populations.

We are reaching the end of the second year of the OKAMP-SMET Program and we have to assess the accomplishments. The results of the second year were tempered by the delay in funding. Several subcontract institutions in the Alliance were unable to provide support to students during the Spring 1996 Semester and were unable to commit summer internships to

I am also pleased with the academic performance of our 1996 Bridge students. The overall GPA was 3.52. In the summer of 1995 it was 3.23. This is particularly impressive because the ACT scores do not coincide with the academic performance. However, their high school grades were a better predictor. These results continue to show the discrepancy between ACT scores as a sole predictor of academic performance for minority students and high school grades in core courses.

Concerning education and salary, The Bureau of Census report: Educational Attainment in the United

WHAT'S INSIDE

Partner Institutions	3-10
Map	11
Contact Information	12



Summer interns study wide variety of fields

Seven OKAMP Summer Internship programs offer continuing undergraduates (or post-graduates) an opportunity to do mentored investigations in a wide variety of SMET fields. Work-sites vary from the field to industrial sites to traditional academic laboratories and training facilities.

OKAMP provides a list of research mentors willing to mentor in their field of study.

Interested students must contact the mentor and work out an agreement. Together, the applicant and mentor develop and submit a research plan for

review and consideration by OKAMP. If approved, the work is carried out during the summer session and reported in either poster or oral format or both.

Interns receive a stipend to help meet personal and internship related expenses. Often, interns form support and resource groups to discuss progress and share information. Interns may volunteer to peer-

mentor Bridge Program freshmen by serving on a panel at the SMET Forum for Bridge Scholars and by hosting visits to their research sites.

Interns from all OKAMP Institutions are invited to present the results of their work at the OKAMP Summer Research Symposium. This summer thirty-six interns from East Central University, Oklahoma



OKAMP Summer Research Poster presentations attracted many visitors.

Panhandle University, University of Tulsa, and Oklahoma State University presented their research results to more than 50 observers.

The Components

SUMMER BRIDGE

Open to students from across the state, this component provides eligible minority students a jump start on college courses and experience as they make the transition from high school to college.

RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS

Offered by all Alliance Institutions, this component provides research stipends to eligible students for two months during the summer at the Alliance Institutions of their choice.

SEMESTER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

This component provides financial, academic and social support for students in eligible majors who attend any of the Alliance Institutions.



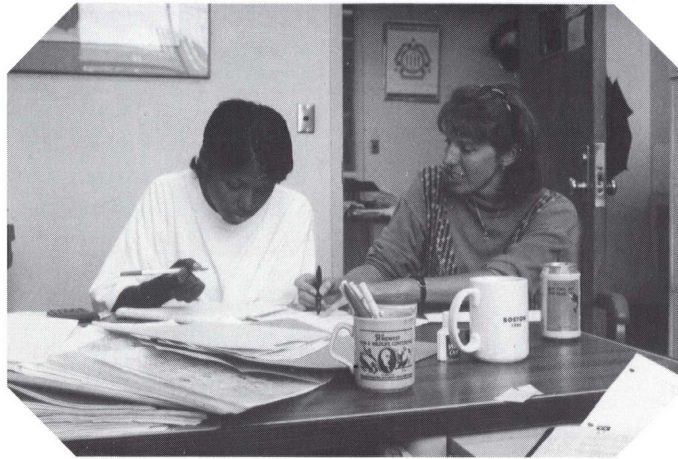
Southeastern Oklahoma University, Durant

Southeastern Oklahoma State University is located in Durant, a city of about 13,000. Durant is about 170 miles south of Stillwater and 100 miles north of Dallas.

SOSU attracts students from several states, foreign countries and most of the counties within the state of Oklahoma. SOSU's "geographic service area", however, is the ten southeastern counties of the state.

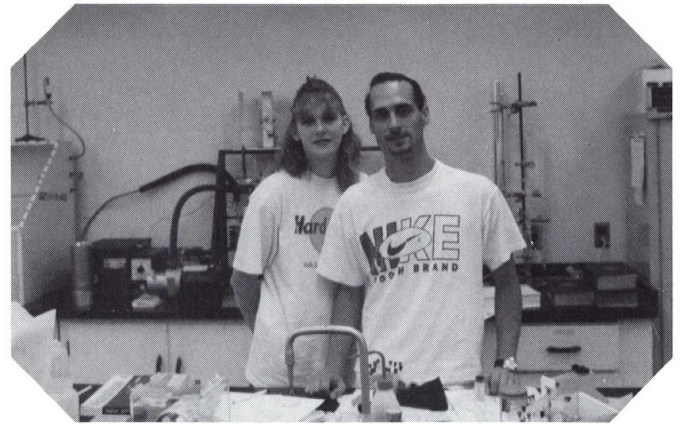
At Southeastern OKAMP Scholars are expected to maintain a respectable GPA and encouraged to bring it up to a level acceptable by graduate schools.

Student progress is monitored through progress reports, due every three weeks. Tutoring in computer science, biology and chemistry is available, should any student require additional help on their course work.



Dr. Brenda Clark, Prof.
Biological Sciences,
OKAMP Mentor,
Southeastern
Oklahoma State
University.

Senior
Eric Wall,
Chemistry
Major,
from Bromide,
Oklahoma



What are SMET fields?

SCIENCES

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Agronomy, Animal Sciences, Biology, Botany, Cell and Molecular Biology, Entomology, Environmental Sciences, Forestry, Horticulture & Landscape Architecture, Microbiology, Molecular Genetics, Nutritional Science, Physiology, Zoology.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, Meteorology.

SCIENCE EDUCATION

MATHEMATICS

MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Mathematics, Computer Science, Statistics.

MATH EDUCATION

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Biosystems Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Industrial Engineering & Mgt., Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Engineering Technologies.



Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva

Northwest Oklahoma State OKAMP is alive and well. We have five students on scholarship and five mentors. The students are Corinn Auld, Bret Dowell, Jessica Prevett, Cheri Gannon and Chantel Utter.

Corinn Auld is a Native American Freshman majoring in secondary Math Education. She spends three hours a week in a math lab. Her mentor is Billy Stewart. Bret Dowell is also a Native American. He is a biology major and is working three hours a week setting up labs. Bret's mentor is Loyd Hill. Jessica Prevett is a Pacific Islander. She is a sophomore majoring in Chemistry. Jessica is working with her mentors, David

Bohlen and Cynthia Pfeifer, three hours a week in a lab. Cheri Gannon is a Hispanic senior majoring in Chemistry. Cheri also works in a lab with David Bohlen as her mentor. Chantel Utter is a Native American Junior. She is majoring in Natural Science. David Hill and Vernon Powders are Chantel's mentors.

Our five mentors are Vernon Powders, Cynthia Pfeifer, Loyd Hill, David Bohlen, and Billy Stewart. Vernon Powders as a Professor of Biology. He received his Ph.d. from the University of Tennessee. Cynthia Pfeifer is an Assistant Professor of Biology. She received her BS degree in Biochemistry from Pennsylvania State

University and her Ph.d. in Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology from Purdue University. Dr. Loyd Hill is an Assistant Professor of Biology. He received his Ph.d. in Plant science from Oklahoma State University. Dr. David Bohlen is a Professor of Chemistry and the Dean of the Mathematics, Natural Science and Computer Science department. He received his Ph.d. in Chemistry from Iowa State University. Billy Stewart is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics and the Chairman of the Mathematics and Computer Science department. He received his MA degree in Mathematics from Louisiana State University and has additional hours from Oklahoma State University.

Follow your dreams into the 21st century

Do you know what SMET is? No? Let me tell you. It stands for Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology. **(For a listing of SMET fields, see page 3)**

Why should you care? The strength of the United States in the 21st Century will depend largely on the successes of a well-developed and diverse SMET work force.

Those who work in SMET fields are primarily responsible for generating "new knowledge" about nature and its systems, thus promoting advancements and improvements in our industries and institutions.

If you have a head for math or science and have dreamed of working on the cutting edge of a SMET field and contributing to the world of discovery, you should immediately develop a plan to

achieve that dream. Here's what you can do:

⇒ find out more about SMET fields by reading career guides or talking to professionals in your community.

⇒ ask your teachers about the kind of advanced degrees you will need to develop a career in a SMET field.

⇒ make sure you are taking the high school courses that will prepare you for a college program in SMET. Minimum requirements for entering college in Fall 1997 are:

- English - 4 units
- Math - 3 units
- Lab Science - 2 units
- History - 2 units
- Skills - 1 unit
- Other - 3 units

Of course, students who want to be better prepared take

more than the minimum, usually Algebra I and II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-calculus, Chemistry and Physics. A good command of the English language is also imperative.

Take as much math as you can, take 2 or more different science courses, take the ACT exam more than once.

Make personal visits to college campuses, even if it's not your first choice. Call their office handling high school recruitment and ask to visit with counselors or advisors in the SMET program you are interested in. Ask them about financial and academic support programs for SMET students, particularly for minority students.

For more help with planning, contact the Oklahoma State University **OKAMP-SMET** program office at **(405)744-7820**.



Northeastern State University, Tahlequah

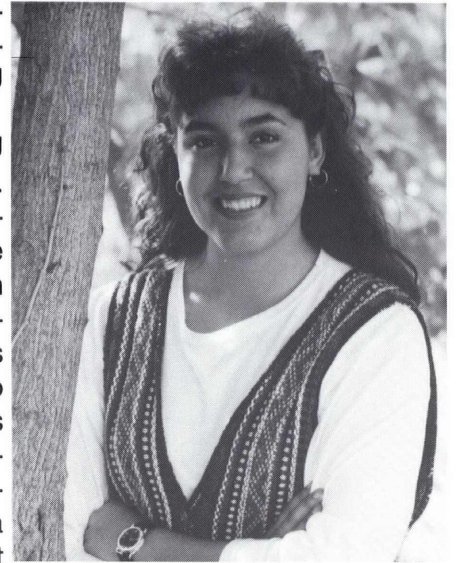
Two of NSU's OKAMP students, Jade Vardeman, senior cell biology major from Stilwell, and Carrie O'Leary, senior math education major from Colcord, are very active in a program at NSU called the Science Clan.

The Science Clan was created three years ago by Jade and two other NSU students as a means of giving back to the American Indian communities.



Jade Vardeman shows a model of the human brain to students of Grand View Elementary School near Tahlequah.

The Science Clan members travel to schools in northeast Oklahoma that



have high enrollments of American Indian students, presenting hands-on scientific demonstrations and speaking to students about staying in school, preparing for college and career opportunities.

Jade and Carrie, both Cherokee, believe that young children often neglect science and math in their elementary and secondary education because they think the

subjects are too difficult. Due to this neglect, very few of the small percentage of American Indian students who pursue a higher education are prepared to study in the fields of science and math. The Science Clan is trying to make a difference in that perception by showing children that science and math can be fun!

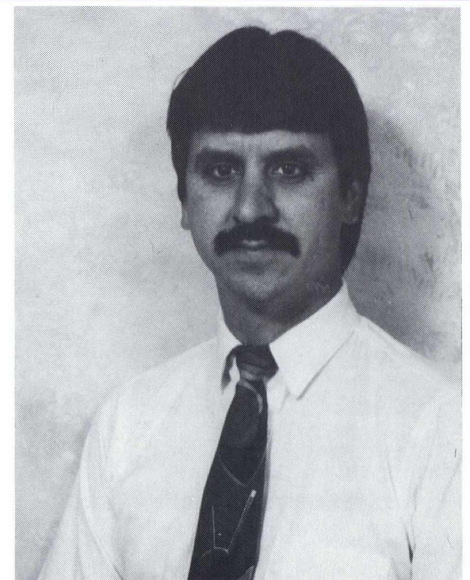
Callaway research project one of top four

During the summer of 1994 John Callaway, senior computer science and math major at NSU, participated in the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program at Oklahoma State University as his OKAMP summer internship.

John was one of twenty students nationwide to present the results of his computer research project to professional computer sci-

tists at the National Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) Convention in Philadelphia in February, 1996. John's project was voted one of the top four, and he was awarded a \$500 check from ACM.

John and his wife, Jana Lou, have three children. John will graduate from NSU in December, 1996, and plans to enter a master's program in computer science at OSU.



University of Oklahoma, Norman

The University of Oklahoma is one of seven Partner Institutions of the Oklahoma Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Math, Engineering and Technologies (OKAMP). OU's main campus is located in Norman, with an enrollment of 20,000 students. Included among OU students is the highest minority student enrollment among the Big Twelve schools.

The University of Oklahoma is an exciting place to be. Recently, OU was listed in the top ten percent of all US colleges by a national college guide—the only state supported university in Oklahoma included on this list.

Among the opportunities available at OU are: new African and African American Studies and Native American Studies undergraduate programs, student cultural centers for minority students, and comprehensive support networks to enhance students' opportunities for success.

The OU OKAMP project is housed in the Office of Minority Engineering Programs (MEP).

During the Fall, 1996 semester a total of 37 minority students shared in over \$20,000 in scholarships. These students included a total of 19 freshmen, one transfer student, and 17 returning students. These students benefit from the MEP's "community-building" retention component, which promotes collaborative learning among students in common classes.

We are extremely proud that two OKAMP students, Gus Gonzalez and Brian Fletcher, received their BS degrees during the 1995-96 academic year.

The new OKAMP participants for the 1996-97 school year are: Shiloh Bear, Celina Hall, Marcus Bivines, Stephen Burchum, II, Shawn Calvin, Heyward Chaplin*, Jerry Don Foley*, Jennifer Fontenot, Eric Harris*, Eli Hawzipta, Braden Janowski, Carolyn Johnson*, Marcus Martinez*, Rebecca Morris*, Mai Nguyen*, Armando Reyes, Jr., Brett Vann, Darrell Wells, and Crystal Williams.

*1996 Summer Bridge participant

Hawzipta finds college pace brisk

My name is Eli Hawzipta, I am currently a freshman at the University of Oklahoma. I am Creek, Kiowa and Comanche. I am studying for a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering. I hope to find an intern position during the summer break with a company or government organization.

The college environment has had a tremendous impact on my life. Many students from thousands of various backgrounds assemble at the University of Oklahoma. The sheer number of students on campus is mind boggling. In some

"I find it easier to learn from someone who genuinely lives for what they teach"

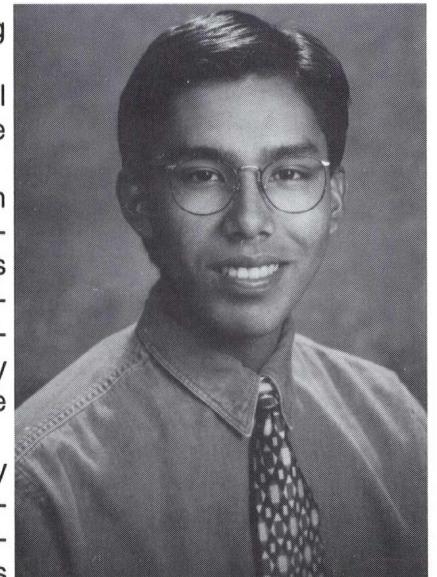
of my general education classes seeing 200+ students isn't uncommon.

The faculty at the college level are able to offer greater insight into the fields that I am taking.

Also, the staff directly involved in student affairs, such as the Minority Engineering Programs/OKAMP and Honors Scholars, have made a major contribution in advising me in classes and student life. Without those departments my stay here at OU would be much more difficult to adjust to.

Before my college career officially started, I auditioned for and was accepted in The Pride of Oklahoma Marching Band. During the past few months we have worked four times a week, two hours a day on our pre-game and half-time presentations for the OU football games. The entire band puts forth a tremendous effort to prepare these shows each week, and the determination of the organization is unmatched.

When I'm not practicing for the band or doing classwork I'll exercise by jogging or playing tennis. Since leisure time is an extreme minimum for me, I never pass up a chance to get out and do something.



University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond

Seidner mixes chemistry and 'katas' thanks to scholarship

Like most kids who wind up with a chemistry set, David Seidner also wound up with a table top through which some now-forgotten mixture dissolved a large hole—the downside to all the “wonderful, magic, bubbling, color-changing things” he mixed while indulging his early love of science. Since then, Seidner has learned to apply the same discipline to his chemistry studies that has earned him a third-degree black belt in judo.

Seidner, who works part-time teaching martial arts to 30 kids a night at the Moore First Indian Judo Club in Midwest City, is one of the 20 to 25 University of Central Oklahoma minority students eligible to receive a \$1,000-per-semester scholarship thanks to a five-year grant awarded to UCO from the National Science Foundation.

The grant, obtained by the Oklahoma Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology (OKAMP), provides support for American Indian, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, and African-American students wishing to pursue academic degrees in the UCO College of Math and Science.

“It’s a heck of a deal to get this scholarship,” said Seidner, who plans on becoming an industrial chemist when he graduates. “It’s a great opportunity. The technology I’ll be working with is widely used in industry.”

Each OKAMP scholar will work on a research project with their mentor-professor. This semester, Seidner is learning how to work with the scanning-electron microscope, which is capable of capturing very fine detail, said David Elmendorf, UCO assistant professor of biology and Seidner’s mentor-professor.

“David’s going to be using technology that’s used in everything from criminal investigations to the silicon-chip industry.” Elmendorf said. “He should get some good experience.”

UCO Director of Faculty Research and OKAMP Co-PI, S.N. Rao, said the goal of the 27 institutions of higher education that comprise OKAMP is to increase the presence of minorities like Seidner, a Native American, in areas of science nationwide. “Our goal, as a recipient of this grant, is to increase minority enrollment in the pure sciences...for the next five years,” he said.

Those professors who choose to serve as mentors to the OKAMP scholars must be available to properly guide the student into a scientific field of interest, said Darryl Carlstone, UCO physics professor.

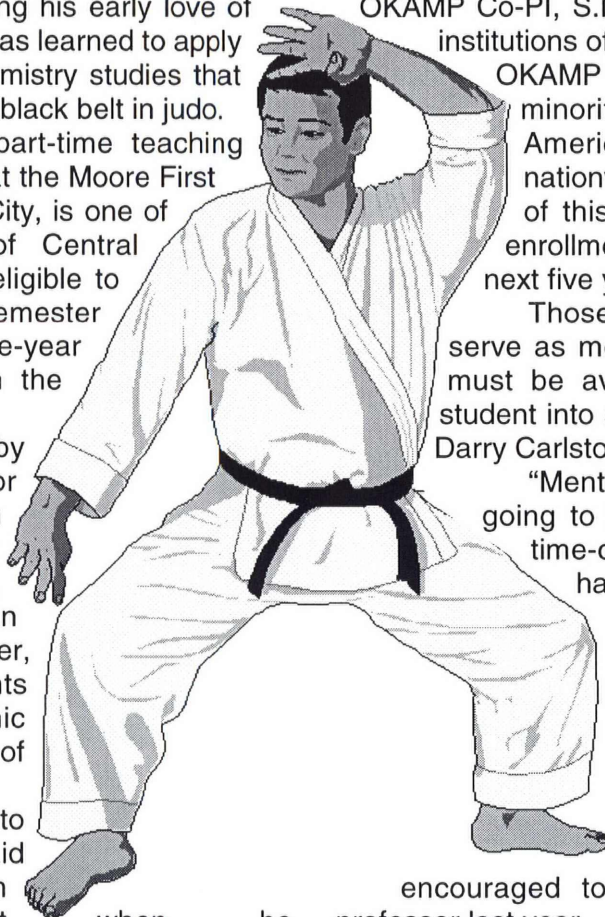
“Mentors should know that this isn’t going to be easy,” he said. “This is a time-consuming venture. But we’ve had some good students...”

“We’re definitely in ‘recruitment mode’” as far as encouraging UCO’s minority students who are interested in the pure sciences to apply for an OKAMP award, Carlstone added.

Seidner said he was strongly encouraged to apply by a UCO chemistry professor last year.

“That was when I started thinking seriously about science as a career,” he said. “But science is such a rapidly-changing field. Sometimes, you’ll start out doing one thing that’ll lead you into something completely different. So I try to keep my grades up and take it one day at a time.”

—Robb Hibbard



"It takes dedication to sit down at that biochemistry book hour after hour. Like with a kata* that has a hundred moves, it's just pure memorization sometimes."

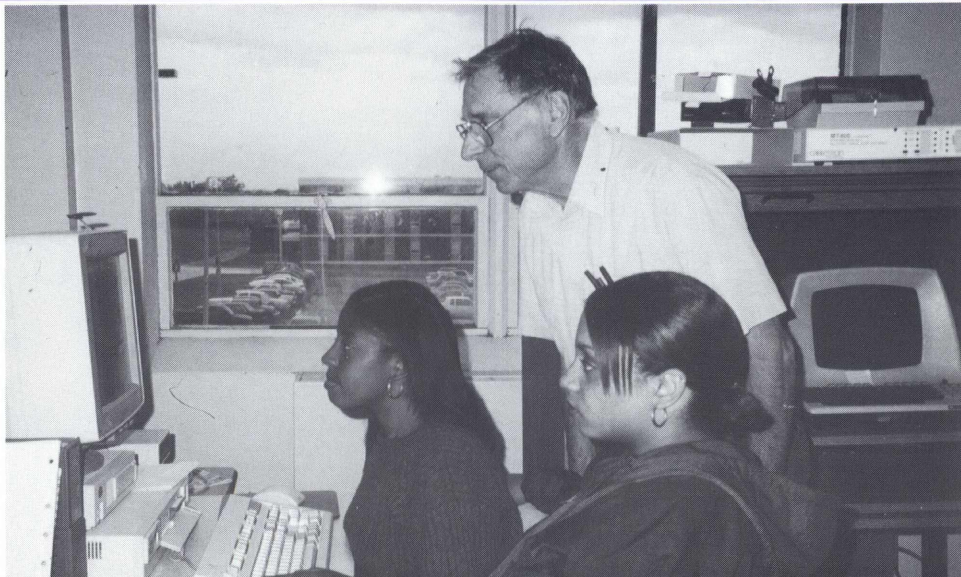
David Seidner

*a prearranged set of martial-arts moves.



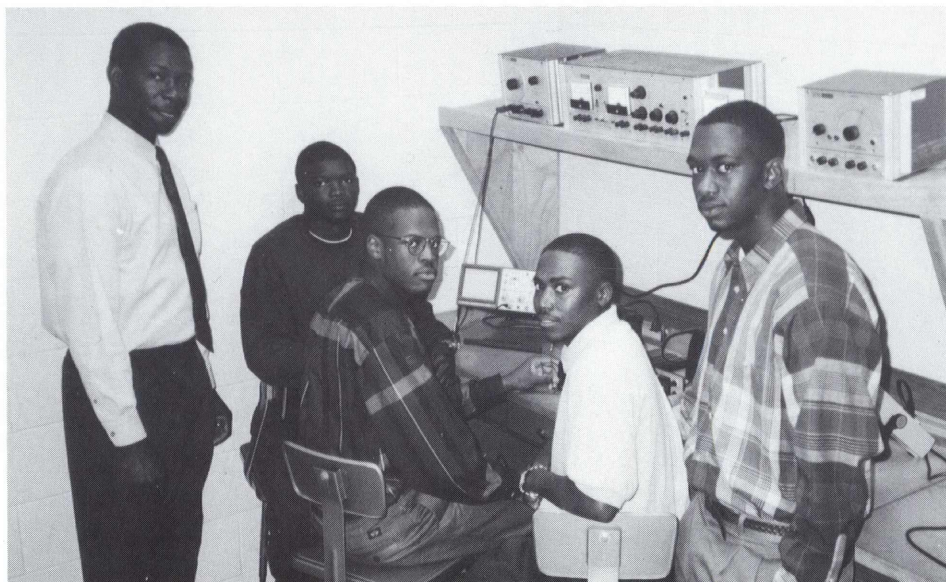
Langston University, Langston

Langston University, the only historically black university in the state of Oklahoma, has been serving minority students since 1897. Located 45 miles north of Oklahoma City, its present enrollment comprises 1,800 students on the main campus and 1,000 at the urban centers. As part of its mission it accepts some under-prepared students and raises them to a level competitive with other college graduates in the state. Its graduates pursue studies in many fields, especially science, mathematics and technology. The best of its students pursue graduate studies in universities across the country.



OKAMP researchers, Joanne Stephenson (l) and Sunny Reed (r), who have determined the crystal structure of the anti-bacterial agent sl-2, with Dr. P.J. Schapiro.

Langston's OKAMP program is in its second year and has increased in size and activity level. The number of scholars being funded



OKAMP Technology Assistants with their director, Mr. A. Gaines in the electronics lab. L to R: Kendrick Crawford, Khaliq Salim, Terrale Wilson and Johnny Rose.

has risen by 21%, the number of summer interns by 100%, the number of assistants by 43%. Summer interns worked for United Airlines and the National Science Foundation. Experiences ranged from computer applications in aircraft maintenance systems to drafting and design systems to security systems and educational data processing. The student assistants, guided by 11 faculty directors, served as math tutors, computer science tutors, chemistry lab assistants, data analysts or research assis-

tants in chemistry, biology, high energy physics, or x-ray crystallography. The Scholars majored in agricultural science, biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and mathematics education and engineering technology.

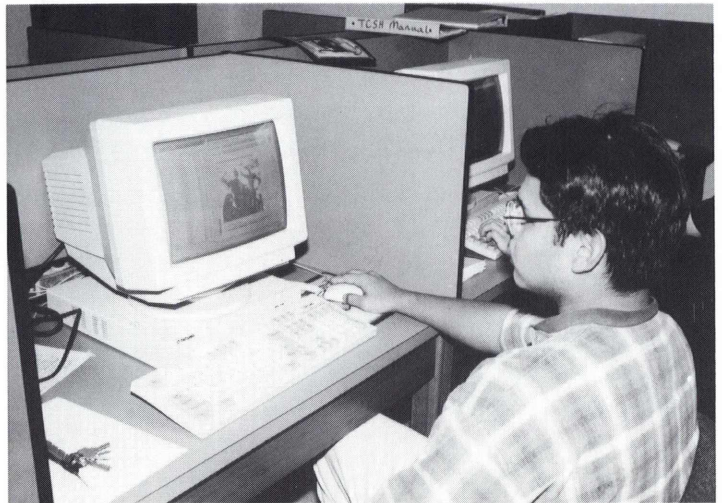
The Co-PI and the Department Chairs of Math, Computer Science, Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Engineering Technology administer the program. They and some of their faculty serve as mentors, research directors and conduct support sessions.

In the summer of 1996, Langston conducted a non-residential Bridge Program in Oklahoma City for recent high school graduates. African American and Hispanic American students earned excellent grades and college credit in English Composition I and College Algebra. Several are enrolled at Oklahoma City Community College, the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University.



East Central University, Ada

One of the most relevant OKAMP programs at ECU has been the development of Coyote, a Comanche Language Word Processor. Coyote is a software system which allows the newly created written language for the Comanche Indian Tribe to be used in a machine assisted environment. OKAMP mentor, Dr. Bill Walker, formed a team of students to tackle the project, including OKAMP scholars Randy Austin (right) and Steven Carter (below).



Professor Walker became aware of the need for Coyote while attending the Comanche Homecoming Powwow at Walters, Oklahoma in the summer of 1995. Until now the Comanche language had been largely an oral one, with no satisfactory written alphabet. The Comanche Language Committee, consisting of a group of Comanche language speakers, created a workable alphabet that seemed adequate to the range of sounds found in the spoken language. The students' task was to create a way for the new alphabet to be utilized through a computer word processor.

The Comanche language text formatter was written to provide a tool for creating typeset documents using Comanche characters and conventions. The program provides the beginning user with a method of creating, formatting, saving, previewing, editing and printing documents using the specialized symbols of the Comanche language. The Comanche language is a member of the Uto-Aztecan language family, Numic branch, and contains several symbols which are not used in English. The philosophy of the Comanche language project is that the language of a people is important because it is unique and distinct from that of other peoples or other tribes. Comanche language acquisition and retention is imperative in order that the tribe retains its separate and distinct iden-



tity from other linguistic groups. Therefore the maintenance of the language is essential to keeping it alive.

The software will be used primarily by educators to develop study aids for very young children. For this reason, the software must be cost-free. The initial target group of the Comanche language project is elementary and preschool children.

Coyote was written in the Unix environment under the X-window system, making use of "emacs" and "LATEX", and then "ported" to the PC environment (the most difficult part of the task.)

There have been many benefits to the students in the project, including:

- △ seeing the "software lifecycle" on a real project with delivered results.
- △ students have matured in their judgments and gained much software development experience.
- △ students and faculty have presented papers at professional meetings.
- △ the project generated favorable campus prestige.
- △ students were exposed to other cultures.
- △ students gained the experience of doing something for someone else on a volunteer basis.

In cooperation with the Cache, Oklahoma public schools, in particular Ms. Gayle Niyah of the Comanche Tribe, the system is currently being "beta tested" in the Cache school system. Roughly 95% of the students are of Comanche descent.

This is an unusual project in that not only was it genuine scientific research done in part by Native Americans, but it also provided a needed service to the Comanche Tribe by preserving their language and heritage.



Oklahoma State University, Stillwater

In the Fall of 1995, there were 57 funded scholars at OSU. In the Spring of 1996, fifty-two scholars received funding. This semester we have 74 funded scholars on campus! All the scholars have participated in a variety of activities, including a 4-week orientation covering these topics:

- » time management
- » study skills
- » test taking skills
- » stress management
- » what SMET faculty say you need to do to pass their course.

OKAMP scholars attend weekly cadre meetings where they meet with their peers and a graduate student liaison to discuss attendance, progress and challenges.

There are currently 8 cadres formed based on majors: life sciences, science education, chemical & biosystem engineering, chemistry & biochemistry, civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and computer science.

With the assistance of the graduate student liaisons, cadres also participate in academic sup-



Campus Coordinator, Valerie Shangreaux (c) and graduate student liaisons: (l to r) Kenneth Brown, Royal Loresco, Marla Brown, Ricardo Nieves, Margaret Letterman.

port activities. This year they visited the OSU career center to explore graduate schools on computer, developed monthly/semester schedules, suggested plans of study, resumes and vitae, completed scholarship applications to other funding sources, developed academic contracts and received tutoring in academic courses.

Once a month scholars hold a business meeting and turn

in reports. These reports provide students with a mechanism for meeting with each of their faculty to find out how they're doing.

OSU OKAMP Scholars are a group of achievers. Several have received honors and recognition during the 1995-96 academic year. Paul DeLa Cerda received the Academic Excellence and Leadership Award from the College of Engineering. Cara Cowen was named September Super Member of the Month by the Society of Women Engineers. Kristi Perryman-Dyer received an Academic Achievement Award from the Multicultural Development and Assessment Center. Jennifer Wright was honored as a national and local Tuskegee Airmen, Charles B. Hall Chapter, Scholar, and was honored by the National Society of Black Engineers. Faron Kirby received academic honorable mention for student athletes. Anthony Hackner was inducted into the Golden Key Honor Society. Mark Clytus received the Marcella Guthrie Fellowship from Avery Chappell AME Church.



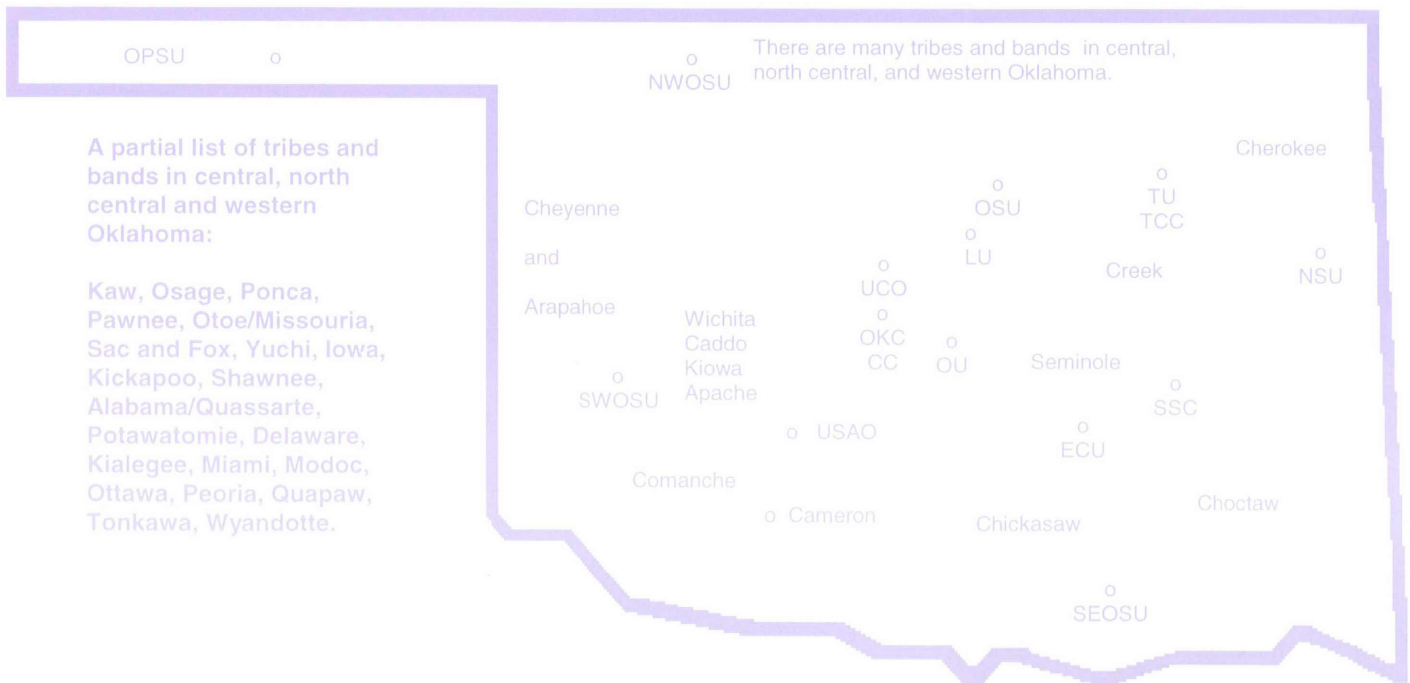
Several OSU OKAMP scholars attended a regional AISES meeting at NSU.



Where We Are

O KAMP is comprised of the Lead Institution, seven Partner Institutions, and nineteen Affiliate Institutions from across the state of Oklahoma.

- ◆ **Oklahoma State University**
- University of Oklahoma
- Langston University
- University of Central Oklahoma
- Northeastern State University
- Northwestern Oklahoma State University
- Southeastern Oklahoma State University
- East Central University
- ◇ Bacone College
- ◇ Cameron University
- ◇ Connors State College
- ◇ Murray State College
- ◇ Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
- ◇ Northern Oklahoma College
- ◇ Oklahoma Baptist University
- ◇ Oklahoma Christian University
- ◇ Oklahoma City Community College
- ◇ Oklahoma Panhandle State University
- ◇ Oklahoma State University - Okmulgee
- ◇ Rogers State College
- ◇ Rose State College
- ◇ Seminole State College
- ◇ Southern Nazarene University
- ◇ Southwestern Oklahoma State University
- ◇ Tulsa Community College
- ◇ University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
- ◇ University of Tulsa
- ◆ Lead Institution
- Partner Institutions
- ◇ Affiliate Institutions



The location of the Lead Institution, Partner Institutions, Active Affiliates and their relationship to Native American populations in the State of Oklahoma.



Who We Are

For more information regarding the OKAMP-SMET Program call or e-mail either staff at OSU or the staff at the Institution you may be interested in attending.

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Our homepage:

<http://bmb-fs1.biochem.okstate.edu/OKAMPHomePage.html>

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