



Oklahoma Educators Credit Union QUARTERLY NEWS

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Fourth Quarter • 2021

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OECU HOLIDAYS

October 11, 2021

Columbus Day

Branch Lobbies: Closed

Virtual Branch: Open 9am-1pm

ITM Enabled Drive-Thrus: Open
24/7/365*

November 11, 2021

Veterans Day

Branch Lobbies: Closed

Virtual Branch: Open 9am-1pm

ITM Enabled Drive-Thrus: Open
24/7/365*

November 25, 2021

Thanksgiving Day

Branch Lobbies: Closed

Virtual Branch: Closed

ITM Enabled Drive-Thrus: Open
24/7/365*



*Drive-Thru Banking Kiosks are
open 24/7/365 at select locations.
See page 4 for more details.



In his book on financial advice, *The Way to Wealth*, Benjamin Franklin wrote, "an investment in knowledge pays the best interest." At the core of Franklin's statement is his unwavering belief that learning is a life-long pursuit and any investment into learning will surely lead to success. Here at **OECU**, we whole-heartedly believe that Oklahoma educators are best suited to motivate our students in their pursuit of knowledge.

To support educators across the state of Oklahoma, **OECU** established the Teacher Grant Program. Since 2001, **OECU** has enthusiastically used the Teacher Grant Program to support state-wide student success through funding educator created classroom innovation. **OECU** is dedicated to supporting the Big Ideas of Oklahoma teachers. Initially established as a bi-annual award, and later annual award, **OECU** has annually granted hundreds of thousands of dollars to over one thousand creative educators through Teacher Grant investments in a variety of projects meant to enhance hands-on learning for pre-k through 12th grade students.

OECU knows that the quest for knowledge is never ending, and has recognized the need to invest even more into Oklahoma educators and their classrooms – we want to hear your **Big Idea** year-round, anytime. This means that teachers who apply for the **Big Idea** grant don't have to wait all year for their next classroom upgrade or to get a fun project started.

**OECU is Now Accepting Applications for
Big Idea Grants Year-Round!**

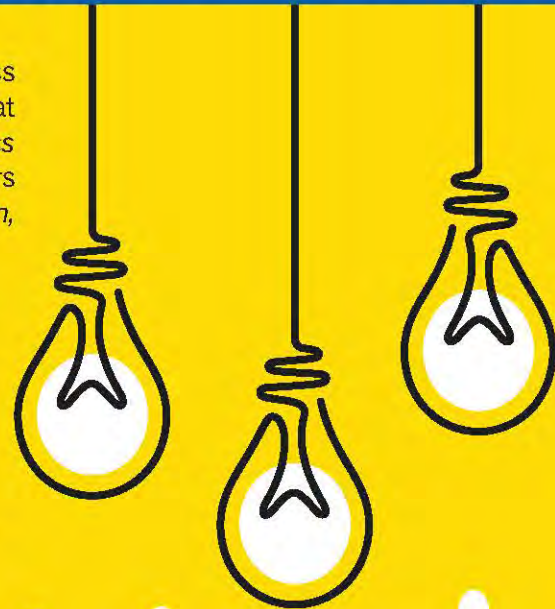
We value our teachers and students and want to invest in their quests for knowledge and success.

In this issue, we will not only divulge details on how to get your **Big Idea** turned into a big reality, but also showcase a few of our past grant winners so you can see what Oklahoma educators are capable of achieving!



The Big Idea theme encourages pre-k through 12th grade educators across Oklahoma to get creative and develop their classrooms and specific projects that engage students to learn in unique and innovative ways. *"Teachers inspire greatness within their students,"* said Cindy White, President and CEO of Oklahoma Educators Credit Union. *"All of these grants play a major role in building up the next generation, and we are so grateful to be a part of their students' development."*

Throughout the years, **OECU** has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars to over one thousand Oklahoma teachers who have aspired to positively build up the next generation by transforming their classrooms and developing student projects. **OECU** has had the privilege to fund **Big Ideas** all over Oklahoma, each geared towards providing students with exciting new ways to learn. Some of our most recent grant awards have invested in programs that supplied educators with sewing machines, drones, and even 3D printers to provide exposure and build classroom curriculum around these new and innovative medias.



Trending Applications

Diversity and Culture

A majority of Oklahoma City Schools have wonderfully diverse student populations. It comes as no surprise then that many Oklahoma teachers have submitted diversity-themed grant applications with the desire to provide better representation and enhanced cultural understanding within their classrooms. For instance, Lisa Loftin, a 12th grade language arts teacher, and department chair at Mid-Del's Carl Albert High School, was awarded a grant that will fund a library centered on topics of diversity, inclusion, and multi-cultural relationship building. Other **Big Idea** trends include applications requesting funds for open-ended learning and tinkering (makerspaces); STEM kits and bins; sports equipment like shot put and discus; solar energy kits; and robotics materials. **OECU** has even funded a **Big Idea** that helped to transform an entire classroom into a volcano! How cool!

Additional trends include applications requesting funds for learning systems for art history and phonics; audio book headsets; chapter books; calculators; dictionaries; books on world history; and requests for books to replace those lost during the pandemic school shut-downs.

A Big Idea that Passed the Test!

Project "Save the Bees!"

In 2019, director of school partnerships and special projects for El Reno High School and BlueSTEM AgriLearning Center (and of course a OECU member!) Kristy K. Ehlers, PhD, won OECU's largest individual teacher grant. Ehlers was awarded \$1,566.60 to fund her school's special project, "Save the BEES!" The program is a STEM project where high school students study honey bees and how valuable and necessary honey bees are to human survival.

Other incredible outdoor **Big Idea** grants have been awarded to teachers to create a beautiful butterfly garden at Monroney Middle School and to break ground on an outdoor vegetation garden at Banner School. In fact, **Big Idea** creator of the



Monroney Middle School Garden was just awarded additional funds for an irrigation system!

All of these wonderful **Big Ideas** combine classroom time, technology, and active interaction to create an exciting environment of interesting topics for students.



Application Deadline - Open!

Eligibility for the Teacher Grant Program is easy! Each applicant must be an active OECU member in good standing* and employed at any Oklahoma K-12 institution and/or school district. You can apply now by going to [OECU.com/grants](https://oecu.com/grants). Paper applications are available at any branch location.

If you are interested in applying for the Teacher Grant Program and you aren't a member, don't worry – there's plenty of time to join! There's no deadline for the Teacher Grant Program. Educators with Big Ideas can apply anytime because OECU's Teacher Grant Program is now continuous, which means funds will be awarded to Oklahoma teachers every month! You can become a member today by stopping by a branch, by visiting online at [OECU.com/about-us/become-a-member](https://oecu.com/about-us/become-a-member) or scan the QR code now!

SELECTION CRITERIA & AWARDING GRANTS

Grant recipients will be chosen by the Teacher Grant Committee. The Committee will base its selection on the information provided by the applicant.

Scan the QR Code!



Our grants are not limited to any school district, grade level, or subject matter! When submitting your grant application, it is important to **show your work!** Give us all the details – be specific; information to be considered includes, but is not limited to: the reason for the project, clearly stated goals, whether or not the funds will provide reusable materials; are matching funds available; how broad of a group of students will the funding benefit; and of course, OECU membership. All Committee decisions will be final.

OECU understands that sometimes the smallest things have the biggest impact, which is why OECU has kept the tradition of awarding grants for a variety of helpful purposes including funding the purchase of classroom equipment, teaching materials, and other classroom necessities. However, OECU will not award funds for furniture; field trips; electronic equipment for one-person use; magazine subscriptions; software subscriptions; or supplies typically provided by the school. Oklahoma Educators Credit Union endeavors to give priority to active OECU members in good standing* who use our banking and lending products. If your **Big Idea** is selected, we will notify you via letter or e-mail. For those of you who have already submitted an application, be on the lookout for your certificate of approval!

GRANTS IN MOTION

OECU loves to receive updates of project progress and classroom upgrades! Show us the fun and imaginative way your **Big Idea** has transformed your students' education and environment! Send photos and updates to: marketing@oecu.com or tag us @OKEDCU.

**Please refer to the OECU member booklet for clarification*

Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Member# _____ How long have you been a member? _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

If you are awarded a grant, we will send a press release to the local media. Do we have your permission to do so?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, where would you like it sent? _____

Which OECU Products do you use?

- ☐ Fresh Start Checking
- ☐ Platinum Checking
- ☐ Rewards Checking
- ☐ Student Checking
- ☐ Kidz Only Savings Account
- ☐ Home Equity Line of Credit
- ☐ Payroll Deduction

- ☐ Visa® Credit Cards
- ☐ Money Market Account
- ☐ Online Banking
- ☐ Mobile Banking
- ☐ Regular Savings Account
- ☐ IRA Savings Account
- ☐ Direct Deposit

- ☐ Bill Pay
- ☐ Free Checking
- ☐ Share Certificate Account
- ☐ Auto Loan
- ☐ eStatements
- ☐ Other _____

School _____ District _____

Position _____ Grade Taught _____

Principal _____ Superintendent _____

Amount Requested _____

Summary of grant request _____

Your Goals _____

Who and how many will be affected? _____

When are the funds needed? When will the project be complete? _____

Detail your grant budget request (you can attach all the costs related to your grant request) _____

Matching Funds? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, where are the matching funds coming from? _____

BRANCH LOCATIONS:

 **OKLAHOMA CITY**
4001 NW Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

MIDWEST CITY
1704 S Air Depot
Midwest City, OK 73110

 **MOORE**
2120 Riverwalk Drive
Moore, OK 73160

 **YUKON**
732 Garth Brooks Blvd
Yukon, OK 73099

 **NORMAN**
1251 Alameda St.
Norman, OK 73071
Inside Homeland®

 **DUNCAN**
1006 W. Main Street
Duncan, OK 73533

 Drive-Thru Banking Kiosks available 24/7/365.
Employee assistance available M-F 8am-6pm & Saturday 9am-1pm

 Norman Banking Kiosk located inside Homeland® & is available during Homeland® hours (7am-10pm).

 **Banking Done Better.**

Contact Us!

 **Local — (405) 722-2234**
Toll Free — (800) 324-8259
Fax — (405) 720-5242

 **OECU.COM**
Social Media: @OKEDCU

