

“Upskilling the Outcast”



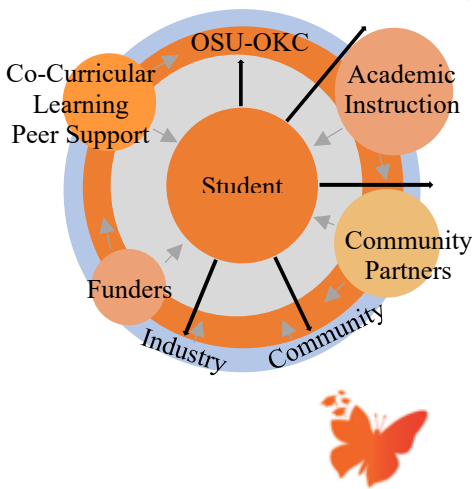
Individuals who have experienced social barriers such as incarceration or substance abuse are faced with many psychological challenges and economic disparities. Likewise, industry is lacking the highly educated workforce they need to fill many critical occupation gaps. The Oklahoma State University Oklahoma City Center for Social Innovation (CFSI) provides a proven pathway from long-term effects of social barriers, bias, and trauma to successful career outcomes through braided academic and co-curricular learning for program participants. Through the pursuit of higher education, CFSI students are rerouting neurological pathways, strengthening self-discipline, and being held accountable to the program’s seven core values: Integrity, Transformation, Excellence, Psychological Safety, Connection, Growth, and Education. Through intense programming and a like-minded community of peers, these individuals are taught that no matter what their background may be, they are worthy, deserving, and capable of pursuing a professional and fulfilling career.

Mission

To give purpose and hope to individuals who have overcome social barriers by providing them a clear pathway toward their desired career by way of education and professional development

“It is not about what you’ve done, but who you are committed to become!”

CFSI provides a two-semester program that advances academic achievement, workforce readiness, important character values and overall resilience. Each integrated learning promotes the life skills and post-secondary attainment necessary to increase **economic standing**.



2022-2023 Cohort 3 Program Outcomes:



Recidivism: Zero Cohort 3 students have reoffended since program completion.

Retention: Out of 16 students who completed the CFSI program in May 2023, 15 of them are currently continuing their education (93.75%) compared to the OSU-OKC retention rate of less than 45%.

Credential Attainment: Out of the 16 students, 93.75% of them completed the program with noncredit certifications which include, but are not limited to, Peer Recovery Support Specialist training, Project Management, HIPPA Compliance, Case Management, Integrative Behavioral Health, Dare to Lead, and more.

Measurable Skills Gain: Out of the 16 students, 100% received measurable skills such as increased communication, social skills, community involvement, professional headshots, social media training, networking opportunities and strategies, computer proficiency, GiANT worldwide’s 5 Voices Assessment and Emotional Intelligence (EQ) tools, Crucial Conversations training, Hope Navigator training through the Lynn Institute, StrengthsFinder Assessments and consultations, Career Services coaching, and more!

Employment: Out of 16 students who completed the CFSI program, 13 of them reported employment in the second quarter after program completion. What’s more, the student’s average income raised from \$10,820.92 to \$36,947.82! As students obtain their sought-after academic degree, we expect these wages to increase even more.

Cohort 4 started August 3, 2023 and is comprised of 28 individuals that are working diligently to reach their academic and career goals!



OKLAHOMA CITY