

# Engaged: Oklahoma Higher Education Network

## Inaugural Symposium

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Friday, November 13, 2020  
9:00 am – 4:30 pm  
Virtual Webinar

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**SPONSORED BY the OU** [Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies](#), [The Center for Faculty Excellence](#),  
and [The Office of the Senior Vice President & Provost](#)

### PROGRAM

**9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Opening Introductions:** Jane Irungu, Ph.D., Executive Director, Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies, Associate Provost for Inclusive Faculty Excellence

**Welcome:** Jill Irvine, Ph.D., Interim Senior Vice President and Provost, Presidential Professor of International and Area Studies

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker:** Jane Irungu, Ph.D.  
[Dr. Chan Hellman](#) - “The Science and Power of Hope”  
Professor, Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work  
Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Health Promotion Science – College of Public Health  
Director, [The Hope Research Center](#)  
The University of Oklahoma

**10:30 AM – 11:50 AM [The Power of One: Creating A Culture of Equity](#)**  
Moderated by Karlos Hill, Ph.D., Associate Professor of African and African American Studies, The University of Oklahoma

#### Panelists:

- [Tommy Chesbro, MHR](#)  
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Tulsa Community College
- [Dewayne Dickens, PhD](#)  
Director, Culturally Responsive Practices; former English faculty, Tulsa Community College
- [Kristen Marangoni, PhD](#)  
Assistant Professor, English, Tulsa Community College

**12:00 PM – 1:20 PM [Inclusive Student Services and Support: Oklahoma College and University Diversity Officers Panel](#)**  
Moderated by Lindsay Echols, Executive Director, OK Campus Compact, & Director, Student Affairs & Diversity at OK State Regents for Higher Education

#### Panelists:

- [Amanda Chastang](#)  
Diversity Officer, The University of Tulsa

- [Bryon Dickens](#)  
Architect and Director of the Oklahoma City Community College mentorship program: Students Connecting with Mentors for Success
- [Dr. Belinda Higgs-Hyppolite](#)  
Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, The University of Oklahoma
- [Dr. Jason F. Kirksey](#)  
Vice President for Institutional Diversity and the Chief Diversity Officer, Oklahoma State University
- [Dr. Talia Carroll](#)  
Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Oklahoma City University
- [Dr. Jason Johnson](#)  
Assistant Vice President for Student Success, Langston University

**1:30 PM – 2:50 PM**    **[The Importance of Town and Gown in Oklahoma Communities: Lessons Learned in Collaboration](#)**

Moderated by Marcia Shottenkirk, M.A., Professor for Liberal Arts and Director of Service Learning, Redlands Community College

**Panelists:**

- [Martha Parrott](#)  
Professor and Associate Dean, Northeastern State University
- [Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan](#)  
Professor of Rural Health, Executive Director, Center for Indigenous Health Research and Policy, Oklahoma State University
- [Robert Spinks](#)  
Professor of Sociology and Justice Studies, Oklahoma City University
- [Haley Biram](#)  
Community Engagement Manager of Recruitment, Reading Partners Tulsa

**3:00 PM – 4:25 PM**    **Action Planning & Wrap-up**  
**Operationalizing Hope in OK: Higher Education Success for All Students**

Facilitated by Chan Hellman, Ph.D., Professor, Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work and Kathleen Shea Smith, Ph.D., Associate Provost for Academic Advising, The University of Oklahoma

**Format:** breakout sessions (8-10 participants; 1-2 moderators per breakout)

**Goal:** to create connections across the state that provide a network of mutual support for higher education faculty and staff and their community partners. Action planning will be used to generate a vision statement for the OHEN group.

**Agenda:**

3:00-3:10 – Introduction (Chan and Kathleen)

3:10-3:45 – Breakout groups (all)

- Introductions
- Choose a scribe and a facilitator for the group
- Begin the conversation with these questions:
  - What is going well at your institution (in OK)? Please share success examples from your institution.
  - How do we address ongoing gaps in higher ed? Please share success examples from your institution.

- What do you want the vision of OHEN to include? (e.g., resources, meetings, mutual support (how?))
- Shall OHEN be a clearinghouse of resources? If so, do we need a website?
- Send email to [engage@ou.edu](mailto:engage@ou.edu) that includes facilitator name, key discussion points, what participants want moving forward.
- Once back in main room, facilitators, please place your name and key points in Chat.

3:45-4:25 – Action Planning Report Out and Wrap-up (Chan and Kathleen)

**4:25 PM – 4:30 PM Conclusion**  
Jane Irungu, Ph.D.

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**This symposium is made possible by collaboration with professionals from these organizations/institutions:**

