

Annual Report



TULSA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Thomas K McKeon Center for Creativity



Office of Sponsored Programs | FY2025

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Greetings,

The Tulsa Community College Sponsored Programs Office (TCC SPO) provides leadership in the development, coordination, and management of externally funded public grants.

TCC SPO staff serve as a resource for faculty and staff by providing expertise in grant development and management procedures in a variety of ways:

- We research federal and state funding sources aligned with TCC’s mission and strategic plan.
- We facilitate program development in collaboration with college subject matter experts.
- We provide a range of grant writing support, from developing comprehensive proposals to editing drafts and compiling application materials.
- We coordinate the internal review and approval process for competitive federal and state grant applications.
- We oversee processing for new grant contracts and awards.
- We provide training and technical assistance to faculty and staff during program implementation.

This Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025 provides an overview of major grant activity, discusses strategic projects undertaken, and highlights their collective impact on student success. TCC SPO consistently manages a rotating portfolio of 20-plus grants, currently totaling \$21,746,305. In FY25, this included successful obtainment of three new federal awards totaling \$3,110,095.

We value the ongoing collaboration with TCC faculty, staff, and administrators who champion grants in the pursuit of an educated, employed, and thriving community.

Sincerely,



Barbara Waxman, PhD
Director of Sponsored Programs



LaKrisa Walker, PhD
Associate Director of Grant Implementation



Jeff Brown
Grants Coordinator



Wendy Voss-Patrick, MA
Grant Development Manager

“TCC SPO consistently manages a rotating portfolio of 20-plus grants, currently totaling \$21,746,305. In FY25, this included three new federal awards totaling \$3,110,095.”

Executive Summary

Overview:

TCC's Sponsored Programs Office pursues state and federal funding opportunities that support TCC's mission of building success through education. TCC's grant portfolio includes diverse programs aimed at increasing student success and achievement. New grants received in FY25 specifically support TCC's Strategic Plan by building capacity to design programs and practices that fulfill workforce needs (Community Unites Us) and align employer-requested skills with student learning experiences (Everyone Can Learn).


The TCC SPO team focuses on these key activities related to public grants:

- research,
- development,
- management, and
- training/technical support.

This report features quantitative and qualitative data gathered from SPO staff and 17 grant project directors. SPO staff continue to refine practices for data collection and analysis, including the new Services Request form.

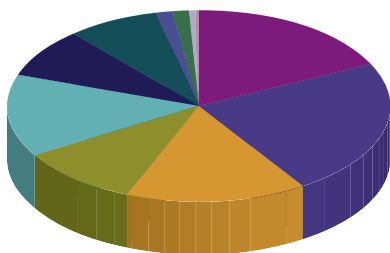
The Big Picture

Through a broad range of public funding sources, grant-funded projects in FY25 supported students, faculty, and staff across multiple TCC schools and departments.



Total Grant Dollars Expended
\$4,394,820

Grant Awards by Division



- Student Success and Engagement – \$5,098,597
- Academic Affairs – \$3,949,955
- Engineering Technology – \$2,410,000
- Workforce Development – \$3,029,737
- English, Communications, and World Languages – \$2,250,000
- Health Sciences – \$1,866,000
- Dual Credit – \$1,700,000
- Child Development and Education – \$261,941
- Science and Aeronautics – \$290,097
- Public Safety – \$160,000
- Signature Symphony – \$20,750

Top Three Funders



Department of Education
\$10,611,553



Economic Development Agency
\$3,188,494



Health Resources and Services Administration
\$1,866,000

New Federal Awards

TCC received three new federal awards in FY2025 totaling **\$3,110,095**:

| Agency | Project Lead | Project Focus | Total Award | Project Period |
|---|---|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| Industrial Assessment Centers – Clean Energy and Manufacturing Workforce Training and Technical Assistance | | | | |
| U.S. Department of Energy | Engineering Technology Don Crall | This planning and capacity-building grant examines the process of incorporating training for Certified Energy Auditors into TCC's Advanced Manufacturing curriculum. | \$80,358 | 9/1/2024 - 8/31/2025 |
| Oklahoma Workforce Commission Demonstration Grants | | | | |
| American Rescue Plan Act - Oklahoma Workforce Commission | Workforce Development Jeremy Wade | This funding supports the launch of the TCC Skills Lab at Gradient, an employer aligned workforce development program of multiple short-form training tracks and stackable microcredential pathways. Focused on high-demand entry level tech careers, such as IT support, cybersecurity, data analytics, IT project management, and software development. | \$1,175,000 | 6/1/2025 - 12/31/2026 |
| Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program – Tech Hubs | | | | |
| U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration | Workforce Development Shannon Schwaebler | TCC is a subrecipient with the Tulsa Community Foundation and Tulsa Innovation Labs serving as the lead grantees. Funding will allow for the creation of a Stackable Credential Micro-Pathway focused on industry-aligned technology skills that directly support the Autonomous Systems Industry. | \$1,854,737 | 10/01/2024 - 9/30/2029 |

Student and Employee Engagement

Over the past year, grant-funded projects engaged with students more than 14,500 times. Critical services delivered include counseling, tutoring, enrollment and scholarship assistance, career advising, success coaching, mental health support, and helping students to overcome non-academic barriers.



14,697
Student Contacts



60+
Full-time and Part-time Faculty and Staff Compensated by Grant Funding



177
Non-Grant Funded TCC Faculty and Staff Benefiting from Grant Activities



123
Non-Grant Funded TCC Faculty and Staff Contributing to Grant Activities



TCC students visit interactive booths on Fresh Check Day, an annual mental health promotion event coordinated by Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT) staff.



Prospective TCC students participate in the Native-American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) Summer Bridge Program, which helps incoming freshmen close curricular gaps before the fall semester begins.



Prospective TCC students participate in the NASNTI Summer Bridge Program.

Internal TCC Partners

Effective collaboration between grant personnel and offices throughout the College ensures that TCC's grant projects meet their goals and make a positive impact on student success. Key partners include:

Academic Counseling

Dual Credit

TCC Library

Bursar

Facilities

Tutoring

Career Services

Financial Aid

Workforce Development

Student Success Stories

“When I moved here, I found the culture to be very different. I also discovered that the American college system was also quite confusing. TRIO, Tulsa Community College, the TCC Foundation, and specifically my counselor Brian, provided invaluable guidance and resources through the process. They helped me navigate the complexities of applications, deadlines, and financial aid, which were quite overwhelming at first. Honestly, I’m not sure I would have made it to TCC without their support. I am incredibly grateful for their assistance...”

This degree represents the realization of my lifelong dream of becoming a commercial pilot, opening doors to a career I have always longed for.”

– TRIO EOC Client

“I truly believe that without the embedded tutor and me going to the Writing Center, I could not have done as well as I did in my class.”

– Title III Embedded Tutoring Student

“The most valuable part of this course for me was learning to have difficult conversations with people who might be experiencing a mental health crisis. I have had friends come to me in the past and express difficulties they were having in their lives that I felt unprepared to talk about. I feel much more confident that I could have a positive impact when someone needs my help.”

– SAMHSA Mental Health First Aid Participant



Major Grant Updates

TCC made major strides in implementing previously awarded multi-year projects, including the following:

- Post-Secondary Student Success Grant (PSSG - \$3.7M)
- Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant (SCC3 - \$1.6M)
- Title III NASNTI Cooperative Grant (\$1.6M)

TCC’s Post-Secondary Student Success Grant (PSSG) successfully staffed its LaunchPad team, who promote cross-departmental collaboration to achieve improved student retention, completion, and overall academic outcomes. Team members work with Advising, Admission, Career Services, Student Success, and Transfer Services to better support students enrolled in one of 17 Social Sciences contextualized course sections, which began in Fall 2025.

The Strengthening Community Colleges (SCC) Training Grant reached its midpoint with a successful Year 2 evaluation. Sponsored Programs facilitated a comprehensive SWOT Analysis with senior leadership and grant staff to refine goals and guide spending for the remaining two years of the grant, focusing on student employment and manufacturing partnerships. The SCC program was also highlighted in the April edition of the American Association of Community Colleges newsletter.

TCC’s funding under the Title III Native American-Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) Cooperative grant (led by Northeastern State University) helped launch the Help Hub, a one-stop resource center offering student support with admissions, financial literacy, and technology tools.¹



NASNTI project staff engage with students about TCC at the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College Fair.



Dr. Kristopher Copeland, Lissa Steadley, and Wael Alqadi brainstorm during DOL SCC mid-grant cycle planning sessions to promote continuous improvement.

¹Due to a change in federal funding priorities, NSU’s grant was canceled; TCC’s funding end date changed to Dec. 31, 2025.

Grants Research

The public grants landscape is constantly evolving, so it is essential to engage in ongoing research and awareness of new opportunities, regulations, and funding priorities.



22

New Grants Researched

Grants Pursued

- » Department of Energy Industrial Training and Assessment Center Planning Grant
- » Mentor-Connect
- » National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education
- » Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Microcredentials Block Grant
- » Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Strategic Prevention Framework
- » TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers
- » TRIO Student Support Services



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New Grants Pursued

Grants Development

The Sponsored Programs Office works closely with faculty, staff, and external partners to develop strong grant proposals, guiding each project from initial concept to final submission.



33

Grant Development Meetings



16

Applications Submitted (New and Renewing)



\$2,705,296

Total Grant Dollars Requested



\$2,433,022

Total Grant Dollars Received

Large-Scale Grant Applications

Sponsored Programs staff guided development of large-scale, competitive grant applications:

| Agency | Project Lead | Project Focus | Total Anticipated Award | Project Period |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| TRIO Student Support Services | | | | |
| U.S. Department of Education | Student Success Joseph Schnetzer | This award would continue the work performed by the current TRIO SSS project, seeking to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants by providing opportunities for academic development, assisting students with basic college requirements, and motivating students toward successful completion. | \$1,361,820 | 9/1/2025 - 8/31/2030 |
| Strategic Prevention Framework | | | | |
| SAMHSA | Wellness Services Randii Harrald | This project would expand TCC's substance use prevention efforts, enhance awareness, increase access to prevention and mental health resources, and promote behavior change among young adults aged 18-25 in Tulsa and Okmulgee counties. | \$2,125,000 | 9/30/2025-9/29/2030 |

Grants Management

Grants management efforts combine ongoing engagement with project directors, evaluator collaboration, and systematic progress reporting to ensure effective implementation and measurable impact.



20+

Federal Grants Managed



29

Collaborative Third-Party Evaluator Meetings, including 2 Site Visits



60+

Project Director Check-Ins



26

Progress Reports Submitted



Mike Gaudette, Title III Grant Evaluator, and Dr. Paula Willyard, Title III Project Director, discuss the grant progress during the grant evaluator site visit.



Dr. Dewayne Dickens, Doug Allen, Timi Richardson, Stephanie Kelle, Kassey Steele, Dylan Chilcoat, and Mike Gaudette during the Title III evaluator site visit.

Grants Training/Technical Support

TCC SPO emphasizes operational efficiency and accessibility through training, direct assistance, and process improvements that simplify systems and enhance communication.



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New Grant Directors Onboarded



5

Open Office Hours Held



Sponsored Programs-Grant Services Request Form

In April 2025, this new form was finalized in collaboration with TCC IT staff to establish a standardized workflow for submitting grants on behalf of TCC. A training video is available in Percipio.



Percipio Trainings

A four-part Grant Manager Onboarding Training is in active development and will be made available in Percipio.

Sustaining Grant Success

This summer, with FY2025 funding from the TCC Foundation, Sponsored Programs launched a new public recognition initiative to honor the contributions of grant-funded staff. Working closely with Project Directors to identify notable achievements, the team visited projects on their home campuses to personally thank staff for advancing both their grant objectives and TCC's Strategic Plan. Recognition included curated gift baskets and features in TCC Today, highlighting the tangible impact of grants at TCC. Recognition efforts will continue in the years ahead, alongside expanded training and support to ensure that grant staff have the resources and recognition they deserve.



Rex Burnett, Lizette Merchán, Clint Sago, Emma Welsh, Brian Allen, and Melissa Gies in the TRIO EOC SEC Office and Student Lounge.



Tyler Hardin, Dr. SethAnn Lange, Jennifer Beatie, and Kasey Williams at the Northeast Campus Fuel Pantry, which received funds from the OSRHE Hunger Free Grant.



MHAT Director Jessica Heavin, Jean Jones, and Randii Harrald in the Wellness Services Office.

Ongoing efforts to sustain and strengthen long-standing grant programs remained a priority, with significant progress on:

- Submitting the final-year continuation application for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Mental Health Awareness Training Grant (MHAT) (\$125,000/yr)
- Establishing new and continued funding priorities for the Perkins V Career and Technical Education Act Grant (\$232,452 in FY25; amount varies by year)
- Applying lessons learned to the second-year application for the Perkins Innovative Grant (\$50,000/yr)
- Adjusting strategies and onboarding new personnel for year two of the Oklahoma State Regents' (OSRHE) Summer Academies Grant (\$40,600/yr)
- Meeting detailed budget requirements and completing annual reporting for the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Grant (\$261,941 in FY25; amount varies by year)

Sponsored Programs also maintained close collaboration with the TCC Foundation by clarifying our complementary missions for internal stakeholders, helping shape grant strategies, and jointly selecting projects for supplemental funding aligned with TCC's Strategic Plan. Collaboration with the TCC Foundation also included the following:

- Dr. Barbara Waxman participated in a joint presentation with the Chief Development Officer at TCC's Stayconference in February 2025. The presentation "Show Me the Money!" detailed the steps involved in identifying grants and ensuring projects support the strategic plan, plus the differences between working with Sponsored Programs and the TCC Foundation.
- Jeff Brown led the Student Success team in their application for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators' Emergency Aid Microgrant Initiative, which he submitted on the Foundation's behalf.
- Dr. Barbara Waxman led the Congressionally Directed Spending request to Senator Markwayne Mullin's office with the aim of providing supplemental funding for Metro campus renovations that are the focus of the Foundation's capital campaign.

These efforts demonstrate the Sponsored Programs Office's commitment to active partnership, resource development, and the pursuit of opportunities that benefit the college community.

Staff Development Updates

Sponsored Programs added a new team member – **Wendy Voss-Patrick, Grant Development Manager** – to continue to build capacity to serve the College.

Soon after starting, Wendy began leading a team from TCC (Dr. Ted Ward, Tim DeGeer, and Dr. Travis White) in the development of an NSF Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant proposal, after applying and being accepted into an NSF-sponsored mentoring program (Mentor-Connect) that supports faculty new to ATE grants. Through monthly mentoring sessions and two in-person writing workshops, the team refined their project, aimed at enhancing TCC's cybersecurity and IT programs to better align with workforce needs in northeast Oklahoma. The three-year project includes the creation of a new academic pathway, increased outreach to prospective students, and enhanced instructional capacity in TCC's Cybersecurity Lab on the Southeast Campus. This ongoing collaboration highlights the strategic role faculty can play in building strong, competitive grant proposals.



Dr. Ted Ward, Tim DeGeer, Dr. Travis White, and Wendy Voss-Patrick in the TCC Cybersecurity Lab. This team participated in the Mentor-Connect program with the goal of submitting an NSF Advanced Technological Education grant in October 2025.

This year, Dr. LaKrisa Walker, Associate Director of Grant Implementation, committed to advancing effective grant management practices and leadership development through the following initiatives:

- **Training Initiatives:** Led the development of a four-part Percipio training series designed to onboard new grant managers, in partnership with Human Resources, and coordinated a grant management panel discussion at Convocation 2025 to enhance institutional awareness of grant program administration.
- **Process Improvement:** Implemented standardized best practices for grant recordkeeping.
- **Institutional Collaboration:** Joined TCC's Training Advisory Panel, providing input on upcoming and new professional development offerings for employees.
- **Leadership Development:** Participated in the 2024-2025 President's Leadership Institute (PLI), a nine-month program emphasizing leadership growth and cross-campus collaboration.
- **Professional Engagement:** Remained an active member of the National Grants Management Association (NGMA).

Contact Us

If you are interested in looking for a grant or are writing a grant for the first time, the Sponsored Programs Office is here to help.

For general questions, contact us at sponsoredprograms@tulsacc.edu or 918-595-7922.



Dr. Barbara Waxman, Director of Sponsored Programs

barbara.waxman@tulsacc.edu | 918-595-7872

Dr. Barbara Waxman oversees the process for federal and state grants and collaborates with TCC leadership and the TCC Foundation to align funding priorities with TCC's mission.



Dr. LaKrisa Walker, Associate Director of Grant Implementation

lakrisa.walker@tulsacc.edu | 918-595-7264

If you have already been awarded a grant or you are stepping into a new role that involves a grant project, Dr. LaKrisa Walker can help you keep the project on track and aligned with grant goals.



Wendy Voss-Patrick, Grant Development Manager

wendy.voss@tulsacc.edu | 918-595-8134

The grant writing process can be complex, but Wendy Voss-Patrick will lead you from concept development to submission.



Jeff Brown, Grants Coordinator

jeffrey.brown6@tulsacc.edu | 918-595-7922

If you want to learn more about the process of seeking grants or researching grant opportunities, Jeff Brown can point you in the right direction and guide you on the next steps.

Additional Resources

If you'd like to stay "in the know" on all things grants, subscribe to the Sponsored Programs group in TCC Today.

Complete a Grant Services Request Form to accurately track the progress of your request for assistance.



Access our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document by scanning this QR code.



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