**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON:                        FOR MORE INFORMATION:**March 30, 2021 Rachael Hunter, Director of Communications
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 **Women’s Foundation of Oklahoma Announces Emergency Grants to Oklahoma Colleges**

*The grants will be used to fund emergency needs related to COVID-19*

March 30, 2021 – At Women’s Foundation of Oklahoma, we are aware of the disproportionate effect that COVID-19 has had on women and single mothers. Across the nation 5.5 million women have lost their jobs and many are not able to look for work, or accept work, because their children are now required to attend school from home. The pandemic and economic crisis have had an incredibly disproportionate effect on women and we know that the situation is even more difficult for single mothers who do not have a partner with whom to share the burden.

In response to this ongoing crisis, the Women’s Foundation of Oklahoma recently announced plans to distribute emergency grants to higher education institutions in Oklahoma, for needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds, given to past recipients of the WFO grant, can be used for diapers, food pantry items, gas cards and other tangible items that single mothers might need.

“This last year has difficult for everyone and Women’s Foundation of Oklahoma wants to be responsive to the needs of Oklahoma single mothers working to complete their education,” said Women’s Foundation of Oklahoma Executive Director, Teresa Rose Crook. “These grants will hopefully provide much needed relief to women overcoming obstacles related to the pandemic.”

Emergency grants were awarded to the following higher education institutions:

* Cameron University
* Connors State College
* East Central University
* Langston University Foundation
* Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
* Northeastern State University
* Northern Oklahoma College
* Northwestern Oklahoma State University
* Oklahoma City Community College Foundation
* Oklahoma Panhandle State University
* Oklahoma State University
* Oklahoma State University- Institute of Technology
* Oklahoma State University- Oklahoma City
* Redlands Community College
* Rogers State University
* Rose State College
* Southwestern Oklahoma State University
* Tulsa Community College Foundation
* University of Central Oklahoma
* University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

The Women’s Foundation of Oklahoma is administered by Communities Foundation of Oklahoma. To learn more about WFO, its mission and grants, visit [www.wfok.org](http://www.wfok.org).

**About Women’s Foundation of Oklahoma**:
Established in 2003, the Women’s Foundation of Oklahoma advocates positive change for Oklahoma women and girls. Born out of the generosity of Merle Chambers, WFO was founded to give back to our state in a unique and deliberate way. The Women’s Foundation of Oklahoma is committed to providing ongoing support to low-income single mothers working to complete their post-secondary education at Oklahoma colleges and universities. WFO works with higher education institutions across Oklahoma to provide grants that are used not only for tangible items such as food, backpacks and baby supplies, but also for the services that can’t be quantified—such as mentoring, tutoring and even childcare. For more information, visit: [www.wfok.org](http://www.wfok.org).

**About Communities Foundation of Oklahoma**:
Communities Foundation of Oklahoma (CFO) is a statewide nonprofit committed to supporting Oklahoma communities by meeting the needs of charitable organizations and donors. Supporting the philanthropic needs of Oklahoma’s rural communities was the motivation for Tom McCasland, Jr. to create CFO in 1992. In 1999, Oklahoma banker Gene Rainbolt joined McCasland in expanding CFO’s original concept to provide philanthropic and investment services to communities across Oklahoma. The members of CFO’s governing board of trustees and advisory board of governors hold decades of business, government, nonprofit, and volunteer experience. Regardless of asset size or mission, CFO helps any 501(c)(3) public charity in Oklahoma build an endowment to support the nonprofit organization for generations to come. Endowments provide annual distributions paid to the public charity to support programming, assist with general operations costs, pay for building maintenance, etc. For more information, visit: https://www.cfok.org/.
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