



# OKLAHOMA SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

*Promoting Ethics & Excellence in Education*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Two Non-Profits Merge to Promote Ethics and Character in Schools**

**OKLAHOMA CITY (November 9, 2020)** – After years of partnering together, the SEED Foundation and the Oklahoma Center for Character Education have combined their non-profit organizations to form “Oklahoma Schools of Character” for promoting ethics and excellence in education.

The Student Education and Ethics Development (SEED) Foundation started in 2005 as an educational outreach effort by the Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium. In recent years, the SEED Foundation has organized ethics bowl competitions for colleges, universities, and high school students to practice applying ethics to real-life scenarios. The Foundation’s work is currently evident on 13 college campuses and in 18 high schools throughout the state.

The Oklahoma Center for Character Education was established in 2011 by former State Secretary of Education Dr. Floyd Coppedge, long-time educator Dr. Earlene Smith, and Oklahoma businessman Tom Hill for the purpose of empowering and encouraging effective character education programs in public and private educational environments.

By combining organizations, the Oklahoma Schools of Character will continue helping schools implement best practices for character development. This includes training in “11 Principles of Effective Character Education,” helping schools become State and National Schools of Character, and facilitating Ethics Bowl events for high school and college students.

“We are excited to combine time and talents to help more young people in our state develop their ethical decision-making skills,” said Shannon Hiebert, co-president of SEED Foundation, now Oklahoma Schools of Character. “Today’s students will shape the future of our state, which is why building character, ethics, and integrity is so essential.”

“I think the most important thing we do in schools today is develop character,” said Don Raleigh, superintendent of Pryor Public Schools where five schools have been recognized as National Schools of Character. “I am excited to see this movement spread across our state.”

Visit **OKcharacter.org** to learn more about Ethics Bowl competitions, Schools of Character training, and the 11 Principles for Effective Character Education.

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