

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Erin Page
Communications/marketing director
Oklahoma Heritage Association
Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum
405.523.3208
ep@oklahomaheritage.com

John W. and Mary D. Nichols present \$10,000 scholarship

OKLAHOMA CITY – Civic leaders John and Mary Nichols have eased the financial strain of beginning college for yet another deserving high school senior through their John W. and Mary D. Nichols Oklahoma Heritage Scholarship. The Nichols have named Devin Newsom, a recent Western Heights High School graduate, as the 2008 recipient of the award.

The Nichols have funded the four-year \$10,000 scholarship since 1995 and present it each year through the Oklahoma Heritage Association. The Nichols have personally selected each recipient and base their decision on students' success in academics, citizenship, leadership and a love of Oklahoma. Students also must commit to attending an Oklahoma college or university.

Longtime members and supporters of the Oklahoma Heritage Association, John Nichols is a former chairman of the board and current member of the board of directors, and Mary Nichols is a former member of the Garden Party committee. John Nichols also was instrumental in developing and expanding the Association's scholarship program, which now offers more than \$400,000 to students across the state.

"The impact John and Mary Nichols have made on the state of Oklahoma through their generosity and support is immeasurable," said Gini Moore Campbell, director of publications and education for the Oklahoma Heritage Association and Gaylord-Pickens Museum. "I have seen firsthand the difference this scholarship has made in the lives of Oklahoma students. The Nichols truly are investing in Oklahoma's future."

Devin Newsom has high hopes for his future and knows the Nichols scholarship will help propel him to greatness.

"I am so honored to have been chosen for this amazing scholarship," said Newsom. "My dream is to one day be the mayor of Oklahoma City, and this scholarship will help me get the education I need to accomplish my goals."

Newsom's dream and passion for his home state were inspired by the life of one of his relatives – his great-great-grandfather William L. Couch served as the very first mayor of Oklahoma City.

Newsom served as student council president at Western Heights and is a graduate of Youth Leadership Exchange, Youth in Action and the Youth Council of Oklahoma City. He was also an integral part of the Oklahoma Heritage Association's very first Teen Board, serving as treasurer and fundraising committee chair. Under his leadership, the 20-member board made up of high school students from across the metro raised more than \$15,000 to benefit Oklahoma history education programs through the Association. Newsom will attend the University of Oklahoma this fall.

"I think the Nichols see the same drive and passion they have for Oklahoma and for the Association in Devin," said Campbell. "It's refreshing to know that there are young people who care so deeply about Oklahoma's past and our future."

The Oklahoma Heritage Association is a non-profit organization that preserves Oklahoma history and promotes pride in the state. Through each of its programs and the new Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum, named best new Oklahoma attraction in 2008, the Association tells Oklahoma's story through its people.

###