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Published: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 8:33 AM CST

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Heritage Association’s Scholarship Competition provides an opportunity for Oklahoma high school students to earn cash scholarships and tuition grants for college.

With more than \$500,000 available to students statewide, the Association offers \$1,000 in cash or grants to students in each county who earn high scores on an Oklahoma history and geography examination. Each county has at least four tuition grants available, Delaware County has five..

“This program is designed to reward Oklahoma students who have taken an interest in the rich history of our great state,” said Shannon Rich Nance, Oklahoma Heritage Association & Gaylord-Pickens Museum president. “We hope that it also encourages our students to stay in state to attend college and remain here to live and work after receiving their degrees.” Individual donors and Oklahoma colleges and universities provide the cash scholarships and tuition grants in the counties of their choice. Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma Christian University, Bacone College and the University of Science and Arts have made tuition grants available in all 77 counties.

state. Students in grades nine through 12 are eligible to take the exam, and all students must pre-register by April 16.

In addition to the Oklahoma Heritage Scholarship Competition, the Oklahoma Heritage Association offers the four-year, \$10,000 John W. and Mary D. Nichols Scholarship.

As the name implies, the late John and Mary Nichols of Oklahoma City generously fund the scholarship each year. The Nichols scholarship is given to a high school senior who has not only demonstrated that he or she has paid attention in Oklahoma history classes, but also excelled in academics, citizenship and leadership. The student must also commit to attend college in Oklahoma. Students must be nominated for the scholarship by an adult, and the deadline is Friday, March 5.

To see a list of scholarships available in each county, to register for the test, to download a study guide or to download the Nichols Scholarship nomination form, visit www.oklahomaheritage.com or call 405.235.4458.

For information about becoming a scholarship donor, call Gini Moore Campbell, director of publications and education, at 405.523.3202.

The Oklahoma Heritage Association preserves Oklahoma’s history and inspires pride in the state by supporting education, celebrating the accomplishments of Oklahomans and leading the industry in publishing books on Oklahoma history.

Through each of its programs and the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum, the Association is dedicated to telling Oklahoma’s story through its people.

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