



Inspiring story

I've been honored to watch thousands of Oklahoma students experience the Gavlord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum since we opened 18 months ago. Created to share Oklahoma's history through our people, the staff and I have been most inspired when we see a student leave here with a new hero. From famous Oklahomans like aviator Wiley Post and BMX superstar Mat Hoffman, to everyday Oklahomans of all ages, each student has the opportunity to find a role model who demonstrates that any Oklahoman can make an impact on our world.

We've heard from many educators who value our high-tech, interactive exhibits as a fun and engaging way to teach Oklahoma history. But teachers are also telling us the rising price of gas makes educational field trips a luxury they can't afford. Thanks to generous gifts from the Dell Foundation and the museum's teen board, 4,500 Oklahoma students will be able to experience the faces, voices and spirit of our state, all for free. In addition, schools can be compensated for a portion of their transportation costs.

We're grateful to Dell and our teen board for providing these field trips to thousands of students. We look forward to watching tomorrow's leaders gain inspiration from yesterday's pioneers.

Shannon Nance, Oklahoma City

Nance is president of the Oklahoma City museum (www.oklahomaheritage.com).