

2026 DaVinci Institute Scholar Award

A \$1,000 Award for Promising First-Year Teachers

The DaVinci Institute Scholar Award is designed to honor pre-service teachers whose academic accomplishments and service to the university are deemed most notable. Nominees will demonstrate the ability to integrate content into relevant applications through a service learning proposal. The proposal should exemplify scholarship, creativity, inventiveness, sound teaching techniques, and a keen sense of responsibility. **Eligible applicants for this award must in their final two years in a teacher preparation program.**

Presidents or Provosts of each university may nominate up to two education majors for the award. The deadline for submitting nominations is **Friday, February 6, 2026.**

Selection will be based on four characteristics:

- 1) Academic GPA (20 percent)
- 2) Service Learning Proposal (see attached instructions) (50 percent)
- 3) Creativity (20 percent)
- 4) Letter of Recommendation (10 percent)

Scholarship recipients will be honored at the annual DaVinci Awards Celebration, **March 27, 2026**, and will receive the first half of the award (\$500) at the event. The second half of the award (\$500) will be disbursed in October of the first year of teaching in an Oklahoma school. Awardee attendance at the DaVinci Awards Celebration is required, and the Scholar's home institution is expected to sponsor a table at the event to cover the awardee's costs and help celebrate their achievement.

A complete application consists of four documents:

- 1) **Nomination form** from a representative of the Office of the University President or Provost
- 2) Current **transcript** of nominee
- 3) Nominee's completed **Service Learning Proposal** (not to exceed five typewritten pages)
- 4) **Letter of recommendation** (not to exceed one typewritten page) which provides specific examples and/or evidence of nominee's distinguished qualities and activities.

Nomination Submission: The complete application should be submitted electronically by **February 6, 2026** to davinci@osrhe.edu. A notice of receipt will assure submission is complete.