FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Shelley Rowan Director of Marketing & Communications Oklahoma Hall of Fame Gaylord-Pickens Museum 405.523.3208 sbr@oklahomahof.com

Oklahoma Hall of Fame offers more than \$4,000,000 in tuition waivers and cash scholarships

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Scholarship Competition provides an opportunity for Oklahoma high school students to earn cash scholarships and tuition grants for college. With more than \$4,000,000 available to students statewide, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame offers at least eight \$1,000 awards in each county to students who earn high scores on an Oklahoma history and geography examination.

"This program is designed to reward Oklahoma students who have taken an interest in the rich history of our great state," said Shannon L. Rich, Oklahoma Hall of Fame & Gaylord-Pickens Museum president and CEO. "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. In addition to schools statewide offering tuition grants to students in various counties, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma Christian University, Bacone College, Southern Nazarene University, Rose State College, Tulsa Community College, the University of Central Oklahoma, and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma have made tuition waivers available in all 77 counties. Bacone College is offering a 4-year, full tuition waiver for every county in Oklahoma.

The test will be given on Sat., Mar. 12 at 13 locations across the state. Students in grades nine through 12 are eligible to take the exam, and all students must pre-register by Fri., Feb. 26. A study guide is available online to help students prepare for the exam at oklahomahof.com.

In addition to the Oklahoma Scholarship Competition, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame 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 Fri., Feb. 26.

To see a list of scholarships available in each county, to register for the test, see full list of testing sites and to download a study guide visit <u>oklahomahof.com</u> or call 405.235.4458. For information about becoming a scholarship donor call Gini Moore Campbell, vice president of publications and education, at 405.523.3202.

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization that preserves Oklahoma's heritage and promotes pride in the state. Through each of its programs and the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, the organization tells Oklahoma's story through its people.