



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Everyday Democracy

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EVERYDAY DEMOCRACY STRENGTHENS NATIONWIDE NETWORK WITH NEW “ANCHOR” PARTNER IN OKLAHOMA

HARTFORD, CT – Everyday Democracy, a national organization that supports dialogue and community change to advance a , more authentic, equitable, and participatory democracy, is pleased to announce its newest “Anchor Partner”– **Oklahoma State University – Tulsa**. Everyday Democracy Anchor Partners are leaders in addressing structural racism, engaging all different kinds of people in public dialogue, and linking dialogue to action and positive change. These partnerships advance effective work in communities and a vision of democracy that values everyone’s voice and participation and that works for all.

Valeriano Ramos, Director of Strategic Alliances at Everyday Democracy, who implements the anchor partnership strategy, explains: “Anchor partners help build a civic infrastructure for equitable, democratic change in our country. We learn from them and they learn from us and each other about ways to strengthen our toolkits and practices to support authentic community participation for local problem-solving and decision-making.”

“We are thrilled that Everyday Democracy now has eight anchors in various regions of the country,” said Martha McCoy, Everyday Democracy’s Executive Director at a “virtual signing” of the Anchor Partner agreement October 8th (*see photo to the right*). “We are excited at the ways these partners are building and sustaining civic infrastructure in their states and regions. Everyday Democracy supports anchor partners as they support communities in their region with training and coaching. Working together, we can expand, diversify and nurture leadership for participatory democracy with a racial equity lens.”

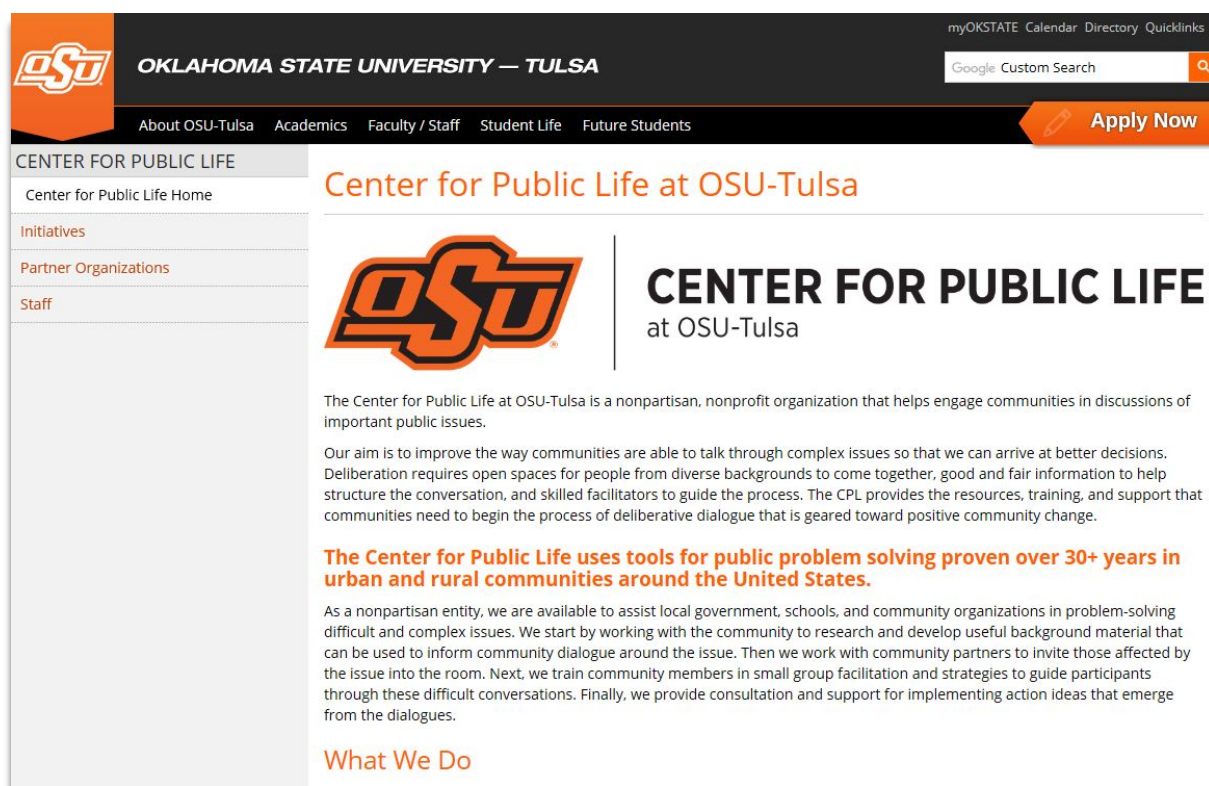
Oklahoma State University – Tulsa President Dr. Pamela Fry notes, “We are very excited to be joining the



Everyday Democracy Anchor Network as the 8th partner institution. We share their vision of everyday people engaging with others across their community, and look forward to becoming active participants in “a movement of regional and national organizations dedicated to strengthening democratic capacity for community voice and change. Through this opportunity we will expand OSU-Tulsa’s capacity for sharing knowledge and engaging with the surrounding community.”

Dr. Michael Stout and Dr. Tami Moore, both with the Oklahoma State University-Tulsa Center for Public Life, have been working closely with Everyday Democracy and have used many of its community dialogue tools to implement two exciting programs--one in the City of Tulsa and one in the town of Stillwater, OK. They believe that the anchor partnership will continue to strengthen their local efforts.

Dr. Stout noted, “OSU-Tulsa faculty and students, through The Center for Public Life at OSU-Tulsa, have introduced Everyday Democracy’s Dialogue to Change model on campus in Stillwater and in the Tulsa community as a process for engaging people to identify and address concerns. Everyday Democracy has been a tremendous partner/resource in our work, providing materials, training, and resources as well as important connections with others doing this work across the country. For all of these reasons we are honored by the invitation to join the Anchor Network, and we look forward to working with Everyday Democracy to build capacity for democratic practice in communities across Oklahoma.”



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CENTER FOR PUBLIC LIFE at OSU-Tulsa

The Center for Public Life at OSU-Tulsa is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that helps engage communities in discussions of important public issues.

Our aim is to improve the way communities are able to talk through complex issues so that we can arrive at better decisions. Deliberation requires open spaces for people from diverse backgrounds to come together, good and fair information to help structure the conversation, and skilled facilitators to guide the process. The CPL provides the resources, training, and support that communities need to begin the process of deliberative dialogue that is geared toward positive community change.

The Center for Public Life uses tools for public problem solving proven over 30+ years in urban and rural communities around the United States.

As a nonpartisan entity, we are available to assist local government, schools, and community organizations in problem-solving difficult and complex issues. We start by working with the community to research and develop useful background material that can be used to inform community dialogue around the issue. Then we work with community partners to invite those affected by the issue into the room. Next, we train community members in small group facilitation and strategies to guide participants through these difficult conversations. Finally, we provide consultation and support for implementing action ideas that emerge from the dialogues.

What We Do

The new Anchor Partnership agreement will both strengthen the work being done in in the Tulsa and Stillwater areas of the state through technical assistance and capacity building as well as provide value for the entire Everyday Democracy Anchor Partner network through the ongoing sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

Oklahoma State University – Tulsa joins a distinguished list of Anchor Partners that are making a difference in their respective regions including extensions in North Dakota and Montana. Other Anchor Partners include: New Hampshire Listens, NHListens.org; West Virginia Center for Civic Life,

wvcivivlife.org; InterFaith Works of Central NY, interfaithworkscny.org; and Housing Partnership of West Palm Beach, Florida, www.cp-cto.org and Project Ujima in Ohio <http://www.projectujima-inc.org> .

During the October 8th “virtual signing” OSU-Tulsa’s Tami Moore noted she was reminiscing about the late 70’s / early 80s show, *Eight is Enough* and all agreed “eight is great, but it is not enough.” There is much work to be done throughout our nation and our ultimate, collective aim is to develop and work with anchor partners in every part of the U.S., to strengthen the movement for participatory, equitable democracy.”

If you know of an organization or institution that may be interested in becoming an Everyday Democracy Anchor Partner, contact Valeriano Ramos at: vramos@everyday-democracy.org or call 860-727-5917.

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Oklahoma State University – Tulsa (OSU-Tulsa) As a public comprehensive research university located in downtown Tulsa, OSU-Tulsa offers Oklahoma State University’s world-class academic programs in an urban setting. The Center for Public Life at OSU-Tulsa, the connector between OSU-Tulsa and Everyday Democracy, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that helps people from diverse backgrounds come together for problem-solving difficult and complex issues, such as health disparities, community economic development, and community health and wellness. More information is at: <https://tulsa.okstate.edu/cpl>

Everyday Democracy supports organizing across the country by bringing together diverse groups of people, helping them structure and facilitate community dialogue on pressing issues, training them to use a racial equity lens to understand longstanding problems, and supporting them as they work together to generate and implement equitable solutions. Since its inception, Everyday Democracy, based in Hartford, CT, has worked with more than 600 communities by providing advice, training, tools and resources. It also partners with national and local organizations to help build equitable, participatory democracy at every level of society, to strengthen the field of dialogue and deliberation and promote a stronger, more equitable democracy. More information is at <http://www.everyday-democracy.org>