



Belinda Biscoe, Ph.D., Senior Associate Vice President for
Outreach/College of Continuing Education

MISSION

The University of Oklahoma Outreach is a lifelong learning organization dedicated to helping businesses, individuals, groups, and communities transform themselves through knowledge.

Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education

In 1937, Thurman J. White came to the University of Oklahoma as an instructor in what was then called the extension division. White had a passion for adult education, believing all adults should have access to continual education and training to keep up with the increasing demands of social and technological change. White's vision and leadership eventually led to the formation of the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education. In 1957, White secured one of 12 grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for creating university-based residential conference centers worldwide. The grant, the largest the university had received to date, was used to build the Thurman J. White Forum and other structures that, when completed in 1962, formed the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education. As OCCE developed and expanded, the International Association of Continuing Education Hall of Fame was added. We partner with public agencies and organizations to build healthy, safe, and sustainable communities, create a more fair and democratic society, and increase civic involvement.

University Outreach (College of Continuing Education) is housed in the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education (OCCE) complex. Originally designed as a comprehensive adult learning community for educational activities, OCCE is one of several W.K. Kellogg Foundation-funded centers worldwide. OCCE provides a unique setting for individuals who have chosen this facility for their meetings, conferences, workshops, and seminars. The Thurman White Forum Building offers facilities for 1,000 participants through a combination of 15 meeting rooms, a computer lab, and the sizeable auditorium-sized Forum Room that seats 600. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the Forum can adapt to meet almost any group's conference requirements. On-site technical support is also available for the computer lab. The OCCE complex includes the James P. Pappas Administration Building, the Pete Kyle McCarter Hall, and the Boomer Outreach Building. Currently, Belinda Biscoe, Ph.D., trained as a research psychologist, serves as the Senior Associate Vice President for Outreach/College of Continuing Education at the University of Oklahoma (OU) with sixteen departments and over 650 professionals under her umbrella.

The University of Oklahoma Outreach also serves as the home office for the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame, which honors outstanding leaders in the fields of adult learning and continuing education who are distinguished as scholars, practitioners, or policymakers. Annually, around ten adult and continuing education leaders from around the world are selected for induction into the Hall of Fame. These individuals reflect the great diversity of adult and continuing education practice and scholarship and the increasingly global leadership community that constitutes the IACE Hall of Fame.

The induction is set to take place from November 7th to 9th, 2024, in the **historic city of Florence, Italy**. This event is part of a larger conference dedicated to "Revitalizing Adult Continuing Education for Positive Social Change and Personal Growth." **The University of Florence**, in partnership with the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame and with support from the University of Oklahoma Outreach and its European Branch, are working together to create a dynamic environment where professionals from diverse backgrounds can come together to network, collaborate on innovative projects, and explore opportunities for both European and transatlantic cooperation. There is no cost to attend the conference.

CORE VALUES

Lifelong Learner - The lifelong learner is at the core of every activity in which we are engaged.

Lifelong Learning - As an organization involved in the educational enterprise, we will engage in those activities that foster lifelong learning.

Change Agent - We provide leadership for societal change by enhancing and enriching the communities with which we are involved.

Respect, Civility, Social Responsibility - Respect, civility, and social responsibility are fundamental to all of our interpersonal interactions.

Stewardship - We strive to be effective stewards of the resources we manage, ensuring they are leveraged for maximum efficiency.

Cultural Inclusion - All of our activities and programs reflect our high value of cultural inclusiveness.

Trust - Trustworthiness and cooperation are characteristic of all our work relationships.

Knowledge Sharing - We value sharing knowledge and information that enables us to transcend organizational barriers, communicate ideas, and better serve our constituents.

Continuous Improvement - In response to changing environments, we strive for continuous improvement in our staff development, corporate capacity, and service to others.