

# Repayment Prognosis Excellent for Oklahoma Medical Students

## *David Barron Takes a Systemic Approach to Financial Aid*



It's not easy to maintain a 0 percent cohort default rate for three (four, unofficially) years running, but that's just what the financial aid office at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Science has managed to do.

That's no small feat, as anyone in financial aid knows. In fact, the school is one of only four medical schools in the country that can claim the accomplishment. David Barron, Manager of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, attributes their success to a campus-wide effort and to the students themselves.

"Because of their chosen careers, medical students can be successful and pay back their loans. And we have a wonderful team environment at the school," he says.

David offers a variety of other reasons for their amazing default rate, too. The school is small, accepting only 88 students each year (94 percent of them receive financial aid), and strongly focuses on systemic student support. David's office has taken a multi-dimensional approach to financial aid and, as a result, is a key player

in the academic, career and repayment success of the osteopathic medical students.

"We want them to be successful in life, so we really focus on that," says David. "Student life at the school is part of their preparation as leaders. It helps to train them to be community-focused leaders. It's very rewarding."

David has a strong background in financial aid and varied experience to share with the Oklahoma State students. He has worked at a four-year private, a four-year public and a two-year proprietary school. He also brings to his current job a deep involvement in his profession: He serves as President of the school's Staff Advisory Council and as statewide conference chair for the Oklahoma Association of Financial Aid Administrators. Oh, and did we mention he's also enrolled in an Education Doctorate program?

The school's size and narrow focus allow David to tailor borrowing and repayment plans to fit the individual needs of each student, so they often get highly individualized attention. David personally participates in many activities, even organizing counseling sessions for students' spouses, designed to answer questions and otherwise reassure their significant others.

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### outlook

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