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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STUDENTS NAMED INVEST ED™ STARS WINNERS

NORMAN, OK – The Invest Ed™ “Students Tracking and Researching the Stock Market” (STARS) semester-based program recognized its regional and state winners at an awards ceremony held May 5 on the University of Oklahoma campus. This project challenges high school students to learn the importance of investing as a long-range tool, fraud awareness, and the time value of money.

The winners were: Sara Roberts, a junior from Weatherford High School, northwest region; Kelsey Heidlage, a sophomore from Claremore High School, northeast region; Jessica Walker, a senior from Eisenhower High School in Lawton, southwest region; Dillon Ketchum, a senior from McAlester High School, southeast region; Brian Higgins, a junior from Union High School in Tulsa, Tulsa County; and Gavin Groff, a senior from Putnam City North High School in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County and statewide winner.

For the program, student participants researched stocks, decided which stocks to buy and completed a risk assessment assignment. Students then set investment goals based on this research, created a portfolio and tracked results online. At the end of the tracking period, students prepared a final report, which detailed their entire investment process and explained what they learned throughout the project.

“This event with my stocks showed me how intertwined our economy is with other nations’ economies,” Walker said. “Not only have I had hands-on experience in buying and selling stocks, I have learned how important it is to be informed of the events of the rest of the world and how they can affect me.”

At the awards ceremony, each regional winner received a \$100 prize and a plaque from Irving Faught, administrator of the Oklahoma Securities Commission. The statewide winner, Groff, received \$1,000 and a plaque.

The STARS program is managed by the Center for Independent and Distance Learning within University of Oklahoma Outreach, College of Continuing Education and the Oklahoma Securities Commission. Student participation this semester increased more than 500% over the project’s initial semester, fall 2005. A new semester begins September 2007.

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