# Broken Arrow Resident Graduates from the Oklahoma School for the Blind

Muskogee, Okla. — Broken Arrow native, Joseph Michael Anthony Owens, will graduate from the Oklahoma School for the Blind on May 16. The commencement ceremony will be at noon in the OSB auditorium, at 3300 Gibson Street, Muskogee.

Owens is this year's Salutatorian. He began his education at OSB and on May 16 will complete the journey. He was a member of the three time champions Jazz Band. Owens was on the Student Council and help the position of Secretary.

Owens participated in the work study program, doing a variety of jobs around the campus. In his senior year, Owens began working off-campus at Zomac School of Music in Muskogee working in janitorial services.

This year’s graduating class includes Brittany Marie Bales of Muskogee, Julie Bookout of Broken Arrow, Brianna Marie Brennan of Muskogee, Holly E. Felkins of Collinsville, Sara Michelle Graber of Haskell, Gunner Levi Harris of Sallisaw, Cameron Blake Hughes of Broken Bow, Jake E. Marsh of Fairfax, Joseph Michael Anthony Owens of Broken Arrow, Kinzie Elizabeth Peters of Ponca City, Jonathon Blayne Phelps of Valliant, Thomas Dean Raines of Tahlequah, Lorenzo Alberto Rodriguez of Sapulpa, Halle Miree Stout of Oklahoma City and Shaylin Wells of Sapulpa.

“I am so proud of the 2018 OSB graduates.  It is my hope that they will use the skills and education they have received at OSB to become independent, productive citizens.  We share some incredible memories with all of these graduates and wish them the very best as they begin the next chapter of their lives,” Rita Echelle, OSB superintendent, said.

OSB is a division of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), a state agency which assists Oklahomans with disabilities through vocational rehabilitation, education, employment, independent living programs and the determination of medical eligibility for disability benefits.

OSB was founded in 1897 at Fort Gibson as a private school for children who are blind or visually impaired. Over the past 100 years, the school has provided education programs at no charge for thousands of students with visual disabilities, from students who attend school on campus to those served through outreach programs for families, public school teachers and communities statewide.

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