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## **Foundation presents inaugural Mary Eddy Jones Signature Gift to OCCC Performing Arts Theater**

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – The future Performing Arts Theater at Oklahoma City Community College is the first recipient of a \$50,000 gift from the Fred Jones Family Foundation. The Mary Eddy Jones Signature Gift, which is named after the family's matriarch, was accepted during a reception Sept. 22 at the gallery in the Performing Arts Center, 7777 S. May Ave.

The Mary Eddy Jones Signature Gift will go toward a capitol campaign to construct the Performing Arts Theater. The \$16 million theater, which will seat 1,000 people, is scheduled to open in the spring of 2013. Student performers and artists demonstrated their talents during the reception in gratitude for the gift.

"My grandmother Mary Eddy Jones had a rich history of giving her time and efforts to the arts in Oklahoma," said Kirk Hall, president and chairman of the Fred Jones Family Foundation. "It is our family's vision to continue supporting the causes she loved by developing this gift in her name."

The gift will be awarded annually to nonprofit organizations. Since the Fred Jones Family Foundation was formed, more than 100 nonprofits have received support.

Three other nonprofit organizations also will receive support this month from the Foundation's Mary Eddy Jones Signature Gift. An additional \$40,000 in grants will be given to the Oklahoma Heritage Association, the Oklahoma Creativity World Forum and The Daystar Foundation.

The Fred Jones Family Foundation, formerly the Fred and Mary Eddy Jones Foundation, was created following the death of Mary Eddy Jones in 2001. More than \$3 million has been distributed during the 2001-2009 time period. The Foundation plans to make annual grants in the 2009-2010 fiscal year, ranging from \$350,000 to \$500,000.

The foundation is named after Fred Jones who came to Oklahoma City in 1916 on his 24th birthday. Jones believed that the automobile was going to revolutionize the American economy and quickly found a job at the new Ford Motor company assembly plant.

By 1923, Jones had bought and successfully sold two Ford dealerships. Less than two years later, he opened a third dealership in Oklahoma City. By 1938, Fred Jones was the fourth largest dealer in the nation. That same year was the start of the Fred Jones Manufacturing Co., which became the largest Ford Authorized Reconditioner in the United States.

In 1943 he was elected president of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and in 1964 he was inducted into Oklahoma's Hall of Fame.

**About the Fred and Mary Eddy Jones Foundation**

The Fred Jones Family Foundation is a nonprofit and charitable foundation dedicated to support the 501(c)(3) organizations that increase the quality of life in central Oklahoma through projects dedicated to cultural growth and beautification.

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