

OBU Students Work with Mayor Ed Bolt in Natural Disaster and Beyond



Pictured, left to right: Lindsey Baird, Aubrey Young, and Benjamin Mason

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma May 8, 2023 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Students at Oklahoma Baptist University partnered with Shawnee Mayor Ed Bolt during the 2023 Spring semester to help build rapport and relationships between the city and the students at OBU. The students, Aubrey Young, Lindsey Baird, and Benjamin Mason are in a digital & internet marketing class where they have learned the value of online and digital marketing for business and for personal brands.

The course was taught by Dr. Daryl Green, the Dickinson Chair of Business professor at Oklahoma Baptist University in the Paul Dickinson College of Business. Dr. Green assigns a variety of clients from around the community to different teams within the class. This project allows the class to gain real-world experience while helping businesses and community members reach their goals. The objective for this set of students was to help Ed Bolt (Shawnee mayor) with his goal of uniting the City of Shawnee and OBU.

Ed Bolt is a Shawnee man through and through. Ed graduated high school as a Shawnee Wolf before attending the University of Oklahoma. He worked at AT&T for 29 years before retiring in 2008 and starting his own photography business. The mayor began his four-year tenure at the City of Shawnee in 2020, and he serves in the role without compensation. His short time served in Shawnee has been anything but easy. He's led through the events of a pandemic, a significant snow & ice storm, and most

recently, a tornado.

The mayor's heart for Shawnee shown especially bright through the recent events of the EF-3 tornado that tore through Shawnee and surrounding areas on Wednesday, April 19th. The tornado significantly impacted countless residences, stores, and local schools in Shawnee. The students and the mayor were scheduled to have an interview with questions from elementary school kids through seniors at OBU on Thursday, the 20th. Although they couldn't see the interview through because of the tragedy, team member Lindsey Baird isn't without gratitude. She says, "It's been an honor to get to know Mayor Bolt and to see the way he's handled himself and the issues in the community in the midst of this bizarre disaster."

Before the tornado, the team worked with Visit Shawnee and the OBU to coordinate event schedules, working city events and school events into each other's schedules. The team is excited to see what the future holds for the city of Shawnee. Student Ben Mason chimes in, "There is so much opportunity for partnership between the city and University we can't wait to see that continue to grow for years to come." With the city recovering from this natural disaster, there are a lot of things to look forward to in Shawnee. New parks, highway expansion, and various improvement projects are in the works, despite recent events and the hurdles that they've thrown at the city, mayor, and students. The future is still bright in Shawnee.

The mission of the Paul Dickinson College of Business is to provide a quality, Christian-based education to students pursuing a bachelor's degree in business. OBU's business degree programs are nationally accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs. For more information on studying business at OBU, visit www.okbu.edu/business.

Media Contact

Lindsey Baird

Lindseyadelineb@gmail.com

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