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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics Embarks on Third Annual Exchange with Gymnasium Korntal-Münchingen**

OKLAHOMA CITY – June 20, 2019 – The student exchange between the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics (OSSM) and the Gymnasium Korntal-Münchingen (GKM), in Korntal-Münchingen, Germany facilitated through the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), celebrates its third year this June. From June 24 through July 10, 11 OSSM students will stay with host families while they attend school and visit Stuttgart, Frankfurt and other sites in the state of Baden-Württemberg. They will also have the opportunity to tour the Landtag (State Diet) where they can compare the German state government process to Oklahoma's. While there, the group will also celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Korntal.

“Oklahoma has a rich and significant German heritage, so we hope to create opportunities for greater understanding and appreciation of that history,” said Michelle McCargish, Ph.D., OSSM GAPP coordinator and American History professor at OSSM. “GAPP provides students and teachers with a chance to learn about other cultures and educational systems and to deepen their cultural awareness. Combined, these actions broaden perspectives and makes them more engaged socially and academically.”

The focus of this year's exchange is conservation, sustainability and responsible stewardship. While in Germany, OSSM students will learn about local recycling efforts and visit a recycling center to learn how schools and individuals can contribute to conservation efforts. When the group comes to Oklahoma, they will visit the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Recycles Facility on the Stillwater campus and learn about the schoolwide initiative to reduce waste and save energy.

Alums of the exchange shared their perspectives. Ronie Loffelmacher said, “The experience is extremely hands-on, and you will find yourself doing things that you never thought you would do, with people you otherwise would have never had the chance to meet. Go because it changes your perspective of how life works.”

Bella Ngo relayed that for her, “The opportunity to relate to someone on the other side of the world was the biggest impact.”

OSSM will host its German counterparts on its 32-acre campus in October. The exchange activities highlight both culture and STEM in Oklahoma. While on campus, the German guests

will have the opportunity to engage with OSSM faculty and students and to participate in STEM and Liberal Arts classes as well as in a variety of Fine Arts courses.

Nationally ranked as a top public high school in the United States, OSSM provides an academically advanced curriculum in science and math to juniors and seniors across the state. Created through legislative action in 1983, the two-year residential public high school also serves all Oklahoma schools and students through math contests, research, teacher training and professional development and outreach activities. For more information, call 405-521-6436 or log on to [www.ossm.edu](http://www.ossm.edu).

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