Kevin James, Electrical Engineering MS and PhD Fellow, talks with an elementary student about engineering and college as part of a “Life Change Day” on the OU campus.

The Oklahoma Alliance Bridge to the Doctorate program began in 2004 when Oklahoma State University (OSU in Stillwater) was selected as an NSF Cohort II site. The University of Oklahoma (OU in Norman) was selected for Cohort III in 2005.

Since then, each university has received a second BD program. This makes 48 total BD Fellows for the Oklahoma Alliance. As Fellows complete course and degree requirements, they engage in research and are immersed in the rigors of academia. In addition, they extend the reach of STEM to K-12 students and undergraduates. Through service experiences, mentoring, and tutoring they have served as bridges and positive role models to high school students and university undergraduates while exposing them to higher education experiences and exciting them about future STEM careers.