The history of the Oklahoma Alliance Partners began on November 1, 1994. Oklahoma institutions formed an alliance with support from the National Science Foundation’s Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP) which subseqently was mandated by Congress as the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) in honor of former Congressman Louis Stokes. The 11 participating institutions are: The University of Oklahoma, University of Tulsa, University of Central Oklahoma, Southwestern OSU, Southernmost OSU, Northwestern OSU, Northeastern State University, Langston University, East Central University, Cameron University, and Oklahoma State University as the lead institution. In the past 14 years Oklahoma Alliance Institutions have awarded 7,180 Bachelor of Science degrees in STEM areas to minority and underrepresented students. Nationwide, approximately 30% of all STEM degrees earned by Native Americans were completed in Oklahoma institutions. Oklahoma continues to graduate more Native American students than any other state.

The Bridge to the Doctorate program began in 2004 with Oklahoma State University (OSU) as Cohort II followed by the University of Oklahoma (OU) in 2005 as Cohort III. Each program began with 12 former LSAMP Scholars pursuing advanced degrees in STEM disciplines. Overall, eight Master of Science degrees and one Ph.D. to a Native American in Civil Engineering have been awarded. Six Ph.D. candidates are expected to complete requirements within the next 3-24 months. OSU has students in the following disciplines: Natural Resource Ecology, Entomology/Plant Pathology, Cell/Molecular/Micro Biology, Mechanical Engineering, and Biomedical Research. OU has students in Computer Science, Chemistry, Computer/Industrial/Electrical/Mechanical/Petroleum Engineering and Mathematics. All Bridge to the Doctorate students have been integrated in the academic units and are deeply engaged in research but are still monitored by the LSAMP program and monitored by the Graduate Dean.

The Bridge to the Doctorate scholars during the 2014-2015 academic year have been named as “Bridge Scholars.” The cohort II Bridge program provided approximately 21 students acceptance to University of Oklahoma Bridge to the Doctorate and OSU Bridge to the Doctorate. Each student accepted to the Bridge to the Doctorate program is enrolled in the 3-year Bridge Program at the University of Oklahoma.

Bridge to the Doctorate Graduates

- 21 students accepted to the Bridge to the Doctorate program at the University of Oklahoma.
- 7 students have completed their Master of Science degrees.
- 1 student has completed their Ph.D. degree.
- 1 student was accepted to another program.
- 2 students withdrew without completing any degree.
- 1 student transferred to another program.

The University of Tulsa Junior Robotics Institute involves U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Arkansas State University in the promotion of science and engineering by encouraging high school students to explore science and engineering through robotics projects.