

OKLAHOMA SCHOLAR



DAVID BOREN
GOVERNOR, SENATOR &
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

David Lyle Boren was governor of Oklahoma from 1975 to 1979 and has recently retired as president of the University of Oklahoma. He represented the state in the United States Senate from 1979 until 1994 and was the longest serving chairman of the U.S. Select Committee on Intelligence. He also served as co-chair of the nonpartisan U.S. President's Intelligence Advisory Board.

He was born April 21, 1941, in Washington, D.C., when his father, Lyle Hagler Boren, was Oklahoma's District 4 U.S. Representative from 1937 until 1947. His mother was Christine Boren. David Boren graduated in 1963 from Yale University with a degree in American history. He was in the top one percent of his class and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

A Rhodes Scholar, he earned a master's degree in philosophy, politics, and economics from the University of Oxford, in England, and later served as a member of the Rhodes scholarship selection committee. In 1968, he earned a law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

As governor, Boren promoted key educational initiatives that have had an enduring impact on Oklahoma. Established during his **tenure** were the Oklahoma Arts Institute, the Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program, and the Oklahoma Physicians Manpower Training Program, which provides scholarships for medical students and medical personnel who commit to practice in underserved rural areas. Also under his watch, the first state funding for public education gifted-and-talented classes was provided in 1976 and, from 1976 through 1978, Oklahoma ranked first among all states in the percentage increases of funding for higher education.

In the Senate, Boren was known as a centrist Democrat and was respected by both Democrats and Republicans. He has often been listed as a possible presidential or vice-presidential candidate. He has also been saluted for his **expertise** in the field of intelligence. Boren left the U.S. Senate in 1994 with an approval rating of 91 percent after being re-elected with 83 percent of the vote in 1990, the highest percentage in the nation in a U.S. Senate contest in that election year.

At OU, Boren continued his efforts to improve education,

a hallmark of his life. Under his regime, one of his longtime interests is promoting quality education at all levels. For that reason, he founded the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence in 1985. The foundation recognizes outstanding public school students and teachers and helps establish private local foundations to help give academic **endowment** grants to local public schools. As a senator, he was the author of the National Security Education Act in 1992, which provides scholarships for study abroad and for learning additional languages, as well as legislation to restore the tax deductibility of gifts of appreciated property to universities in 1993.

Under Boren's leadership, 20 major new programs were initiated since his inauguration. They included establishment of the Honors College, the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West, a new expository writing program for freshmen modeled on the program at Harvard, an interdisciplinary religious studies program, the Artist-in-Residence Program, the International Programs Center, and the Faculty-in-Residence Program putting faculty family apartments in student residence halls. The Retired Professors Program has been started, bringing 50 retired full professors back to the University to teach freshmen.

On September 20, 2017, David Boren officially announced his retirement as president of the University of Oklahoma, effective June 30, 2018.