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Extension Delegation Goes to State Capitol

On Tuesday, April 29th several citizens and Canadian County Extension Educators went to the Oklahoma State capitol. The group conveyed a message about the economic returns OSU Extension has provided for our legislature's additional funding. The Oklahoma state legislature provided an additional \$5.4 million to fund OSU over the past two years.

That additional funding has resulted in over \$13.5 million dollars in externally funded grants being procured by the new staff and faculty OSU hired with the increased investment in OSU Cooperative Extension. All Canadian County state lawmakers who were visited last week acknowledged the return and accountability OSU has shown with these tax dollars.

In addition to a visit with Representative John Enns, representing the Canadian county communities of Piedmont and Yukon, our delegation also spent time with Senators Ron Justice, Mike Johnson and Kathleen Wilcoxson. Other local representatives called upon were Colby Schwartz, James Covey, Susan Winchester, Ryan McMullen, Rob Johnson and Phil Richardson.

Canadian County delegates who went to the state capitol to highlight OSU Extension accomplishments were Piedmont resident Anna Belle Wiedemann and Yukon residents Nancy and Ashley Roberts. These delegates were accompanied by OSU Extension Educators Casey Sharber and Brad Tipton.

Key contacts were made with local legislators. While at the state capitol the group ran into an OSU football player and current Super Bowl Champion cornerback from the New York Giants, R.W. McQuarters. McQuarters was introduced on the house floor the day OSU Extension went to the capitol and the Canadian County folks got to meet the football star and get a picture.

Shortly after the Super Bowl victory this year, McQuarters cut off his famous 'dreadlocks' and gave them to "Locks of Love". The "Locks of Love" organization takes hair donations to make wigs and hair pieces for cancer patients and others with serious illnesses that lose their hair due to treatments.

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