

OKLAHOMA CITY - Tulsans Billie and Howard Barnett on Tuesday received the Governor's Arts

Award during a ceremony at the capitol. The couple has a long history of

raising funds for and supporting the arts, especially in the Tulsa area. Billie Barnett

is a former member of the Oklahoma Arts Council, serving six years under two

governors. Howard Barnett is president of OSU-Tulsa and the OSU Center for Health Sciences.

"You are not just giving to an arts organization," he said. "You are giving

to an organization that actually does things in a community that lift people up.

Of course, we know there is a very strong connection between the arts and

academic success. We see students that get involved in the arts and suddenly all

their grades go up." Billie Barnett said that when she was notified that the

couple were to receive the award, it was a little "out of the blue

for her." Dr. Peggy Wisdom of Alva also received the Governor's Arts Award. Wisdom

is president of the board of directors for the Wisdom Family Foundation, which provides

funding for arts, education and agriculture. Arts in Education Award winners were Anne Guevara

of Oklahoma City, Jena Kodesh of Red Rock, OK Mozart of Bartlesville and The

Children's Center in Bethany. Gary Linton of Norman receive the Business in the Arts

Award. Community Arts Awards winners were Don Jordan of Oklahoma City, Jody Naifeh of

Sapulpa, Marie Alley of Norman and Pat Snider of Shawnee. KGOU in Norman and

OklaVision in Oklahoma City received the Media in the Arts Award. The Oklahoma Judicial

Center Art Committee in Oklahoma City received the Public Service Award. The Special Recognition

Award went to Patrick Riley of Bethany. Kim Koch Thompson of Oklahoma City received

the Marilyn Douglass Award. Thompson is the outgoing chairwoman of the Oklahoma Arts Council,

serving seven years. Suzanne Tate of Oklahoma City received the Liddy Doenges Leadership in

the Arts Award. She is the past executive director of the Oklahoma Arts Council.

Gov. Mary Fallin congratulated the award winners and thanked them for their contributions. She

said the state is known for its rich history of talent. Barbara Hoberock 405-528-2465

barbara.hoberock@tulsaworld.com SUBHEAD: Billie and Howard Barnett have a long history of raising funds for the arts. Original Print Headline: Tulsans recipients of Governor's Arts Award