

The **Royalty Owner Scholarship Fund** is a NSU Foundation Scholarship that has been created to provide annual scholarship monies to one or more students at Northeastern State University that are Class Members or their heirs/kin with secondary priority for other royalty owners in Oklahoma if there are no Class Members or their heirs/kin who apply. **Please email documentation to scholarships@nsuok.edu by March 26, 2025.**

Qualified applicants **MUST** meet the following criteria:

1. **Establish through sufficient documentation that the student is a Class Member as defined below, or an heir or kin of a Class Member, and is not excluded from the Class by any of the exclusions listed below.** Examples of documentation might include (but are not limited to) copies of a settlement document and final settlement check..
2. **If no applicants qualify under paragraph 1, then the student must establish through sufficient documentation that the student is a royalty owner in Oklahoma.** Examples of documentation might include (but are not limited to) a recent royalty check addressed to the student, or if the owner is a parent, guardian, or spouse, a recent royalty check addressed to the parent, guardian, or spouse and documentation linking that person to the student such as a birth certificate, court order of guardianship, and/or wedding certificate. The documentation must show that property on which the royalties are paid is in Oklahoma.

“Class Member” Definition

By Order of the Honorable Kimberly E. West, Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma in Civil Action No. 16-CV-00410-KEW, entered on November 12, 2019, Northeastern State University received funds for a “Royalty Owner Scholarship Fund.” According to the Order on page 2, footnote 1, “Royalty Owner Scholarship Fund means a scholarship fund prioritized for Class Members or their heirs/kin with secondary priority for other royalty owners in Oklahoma if there are no Class Members or their heirs/kin who apply, or if no qualifying applicants apply, to worthy recipients determined by the institution.”

By Order Approving Class Action Settlement and Final Judgment, entered on November 19, 2018, Settlement Class Representatives are John Cecil, Anne Chockley, Dwayne Sager, Johnita L. Foster, and Chieftain Royalty Co. The “Settlement Class” is defined as:

All persons or entities, except as specifically excluded below, who are or were royalty owners in wells located in Oklahoma which had production during any portion of the time period from January 1, 1985 through and including December 31, 2017, where Defendant BP America Production Company (including its affiliated predecessors and affiliated successors) is or was the operator (or a working interest owner) who marketed its share of gas as to production before January 1, 2018. The claims in this matter relate to royalty payments for gas and its constituents (such as residue gas, natural gas liquids, helium, nitrogen, or drip condensate).

Those Excluded as Class Members

Excluded from the Class are: (1) United States agencies and Indian tribes and allottees; (2) the State of Oklahoma or any of its agencies or departments that own royalty interests; (3) Defendant, its affiliates, predecessors, and employees, officers, and directors; (4) the claims of royalty owners to the extent their claims are covered by prior settlement agreements, if any, releasing claims as to all or part of the Class Period, but only to the extent such prior settlements fully released the claims of such royalty owner(s) that would be released by this proposed class settlement as to the Class Wells, Released Parties, and Released Claims (the intent being that this Settlement be and remain effective as to any claims not already released by any such prior settlement agreement(s)); (5) overriding royalty owners and others whose interest was carved out from the lessee's working interest; (6) officers of the Court in this case; (7) persons or entities that the Court determines Plaintiff's Counsel are prohibited from representing under Rule 1.7 of the Oklahoma Rules of Professional Conduct; (8) any publicly traded company and their affiliate entities that produces, gathers, processes or markets gas; and (9) royalty owners who are suing in their individual capacities only for the alleged underpayment or nonpayment of royalties in Watts, et al. v. BP America Production Company, Case No. C-2001-73 in the District Court for Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. [page 6, footnote 3: "The Plaintiffs in the Watts v. Amoco case as of the date hereof are: Ronald W. McGee, as Trustee of Watts Ranch, LLC; Nora Ann Watts Enis; Judy R. Durant; Johnye L. Barnes; the Estate of Clara Joann Smith; and the C&J Wilcox Family Trust.] Order, 3, p. 5-6, Nov. 19, 2018.

Also excluded from the class are the following Class Members for whom the Court received a request for exclusion: Brooks Family Trust, Emma Franklin Ealy, Sutherland Trust, Casey Alani, Crawley Petroleum, Citation Oil & Gas, Ralph Bayless, and Last Chance Minerals. See Exhibit 1 to Order, p. 17, "List of Requests for Exclusion Received," (Nov. 19, 2018).

"Indian allottee" is defined in 30 U.S. Code § 1702(2), Oil and Gas Royalty Management – Definitions as follows: "Indian allottee" means any Indian for whom land or an interest in land is held in trust by the United States or who holds title subject to Federal restriction against alienation."