

John WOLFKILL

Class of 1993

Over the years, John Wolfkill has collected an impressive array of awards, but they are not the reason two Tulsa business leaders took the time to write the Broken Arrow High School Alumni Association recommending him for consideration as a Great Graduate from the Class of 1993.

For Andrew McRae, a leader at KIPP Tulsa College Preparatory which Wolfkill serves as executive director, it is a “relentless passion to serve others and to invest himself in improving quality of life and quality of opportunities for some of Tulsa most underserved students” that made Wolfkill an ideal candidate.

Don Parker, a Bank of Oklahoma executive who serves as KIPP’s Board Chairman, agreed, adding: “Problem-solving and quick learning are two skills innately ingrained in John’s character.”

After graduating from high school, this former Tiger earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Secondary Education at the University of Tulsa and set out on a path that would make him one of the community’s most active volunteers at organizations ranging from KIPP to Life Church, All Nations Fellowship, Tulsa Day Care for the Homeless and City of Tulsa Human Rights Committee.

While on the West Coast working toward a Master’s Degree from



the University of Southern California, Wolfkill accepted a position as an urban planner with the Watts Labor Community Action Committee. Later, he assumed the role of Associate Director of the PLF Bresee Foundation. Returning home, he became Program Manager for the Community Action Project of Tulsa County; Director of Administration and Donor Partnerships for the Tulsa Community Foundation and, in 2011, the head man at KIPP.

Eager to share his expertise while furthering his passion for helping those who need it most, he has served as a consultant for a variety of organizations, including a number of City of Los Angeles agencies, QuikTrip Corp., Bank of Oklahoma, Tulsa Economic Development Corp., WriteGirls Alliance for Communities and Families, Kendall Whittier Inc., and Mustard Seed International.

While Wolfkill is a self-professed “incurable people person” friends and colleagues point out his accomplishments at KIPP provide clear evidence that he is also a savvy educator who employs unusually high levels of dedication and creativity to make sure the seventh and eighth grade boys he lovingly calls the “Wolf Pack” receive the college-aligned academic instruction, character-infused school culture and social support they need to prosper in college and business world environments.

For most people, trying to explain Wolfkill’s strategies and tactics in a few words would constitute an almost impossible mission. Andrew McRae, however, says it is actually a relatively simple task. In fact, he notes, they can be summarized using only seven words: “On earth as it is in Heaven.”

