



March 2016

A Message From Ann Ackerman, President & CEO



First, let me say that I am both humbled and excited about accepting the reins of this organization from Carl Edwards. Thanks to Carl for his influential leadership and thanks to all of you who supported me in this selection process. I look forward to working with our executive committee and membership as we move forward.

This year - our 25th year of being Oklahoma's primary economic development support organization - may well be our most challenging year. With state funds shrinking, the Roundtable's help is needed now more than ever. We are focused on state and local efforts to retain our companies, grow new start-ups and recruit targeted suppliers and facilities to the state. Additional marketing and workforce development projects and activities are also underway with our many partners.

Building the economy of our state by promoting new business investment and primary job creation throughout Oklahoma is our goal.

In the coming weeks, I plan to contact each of you to get your input, to get your membership renewal and commitment, and to identify what other companies/organizations should be supporting our efforts.

Thanks once again for this opportunity. I hope to see you at our annual membership meeting on June 2, 2016, at 4:30 P.M. at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa. We will follow the business meeting with a networking reception and "early" dinner. Please plan to join us.

Call me or contact me anytime with comments, concerns or questions.

Ann Ackerman

Welcome to the Table!

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore - Roundtable representative is **Jeff Moen**,
Business Development Director.

SAVE THE DATE

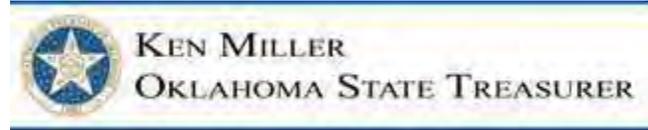
Oklahoma Business Roundtable Annual Membership Meeting Southern Hills Country Club 2636 E. 61st Street, Tulsa June 2, 2016

3:00 – 4:15 Executive Committee Meeting
4:30 – 6:00 Business Meeting
6:00 – 6:45 Reception
7:00 – 8:00 Dinner

Special Economic Development Funding Requests Due April 1

Limited funding for special economic development projects may again be available for FY 2016-17. A Roundtable subcommittee will review applicants for limited grant funds for recommendation to the Executive Committee on June 2. Projects should support business start-up, entrepreneurship, business expansion, recruitment, economic development marketing or education. Favorable consideration is given to projects with matching funds. An application and accountability form are due April 1 and are available via the Roundtable office. Contact Ann McVey, (405) 235-3787 or amcvey@okbusinessroundtable.org .

Monthly State Economic Development Report Available



Oklahoma State Treasurer Ken Miller publishes a very informative monthly newsletter, “The Oklahoma Economic Report” which contains news and analysis of Oklahoma’s economy. See Oklahoma Link below for latest edition – February 29, 2016:

https://www.ok.gov/treasurer/documents/OER_2-29-16.pdf

Oklahoma Marketing Team Targets Site Selection Consultants



Oklahoma Briefing in Dallas/Ft. Worth

Members of the Governor’s Economic Development Marketing Team and Commerce Department staff hosted 44 national site location consultants and real estate executives at a special briefing and networking reception in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex on January 14. The event was supported by the Roundtable and community partners. The group promoted Oklahoma’s business location advantages and several leads were developed as a result of the discussions.

Next Up: Atlanta

The team will host another reception on May 19, 2016 from 5:30- 7:30 pm in Atlanta.

Target participants are national site location consultants (several are based in Atlanta area), corporate real estate and finance executives, representatives of headquarter companies with Oklahoma operations. If you have contacts that should be invited (or are planning to be in Atlanta on this date) – let us know. We welcome your participation.

TechSHOP CEO Visits State



Mark Hatch

Mark Hatch, CEO of TechSHOP, was guest speaker at a joint luncheon with state business and education groups on February 11th at Francis Tuttle Career Technology Center in Oklahoma City. Hatch is the author of “The Maker Movement Manifesto” and is considered a pioneer of the maker movement.

TechShop is a chain of member-based workshops that lets people of all skill levels come in and use industrial tools and equipment to build their own projects. The company has nine locations nationwide.

Hatch explained how new technologies and economic upheavals are paving the way for individuals to create, innovate, make a fortune—and even drive positive societal change—with nothing more than their own creativity and some hard work.

Economic Development Briefs

- *The Mid-American Business Conditions Index* shows limited improvement in the regional economy. The survey of manufacturing supply managers in nine Midwest and Plains states (including Oklahoma) cites “anemic, but stabilizing, economic conditions.” However, Oklahoma’s overall index remained **below growth neutral** for a tenth straight month.
- The **Interstate 35 corridor** has become one of the 10 “megalopolis regions” identified by economists and geographers where commonalities propel economic growth – according to economist Russell Evans of Oklahoma City University. The I-35 megalopolis ranges from Kansas City south through Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Dallas Ft. Worth, Austin and San Antonio.
- A March report by the *Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education* shows an increase in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related degrees at the state’s public higher education institutions. For the last five years, Bachelor’s degrees increased by 28% and Associates degrees by 31%.
- The *Conference Board’s 2016 CEO Challenge* survey cites five major “**hot button**” concerns facing globally based CEO’s. They include the failure to attract and /or retain top talent; the need to develop next-generation leaders;

slowing growth in emerging economies; new global competitors and volatility in cash flow.

- *The Journal Record* reports **Oklahoma installed wind energy capacity increased by 56%** over the previous year. Developers added 12 new projects and 1,768.9 megawatts of capacity in 2015. The state now ranks fourth in the nation with 18.14 percent of its electric capacity manufactured by wind farms. Iowa ranks first with 31%.

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