

BUILDING A STRONGER OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA
BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

BRIEFS

May 2017

Featured News

- Chairman's Message
- New Members
- Upcoming Roundtable Meetings
- Upcoming Events/Projects
- Recent Events/Projects
- Commerce & Workforce News
- Economic Development Briefs
- State Treasurer's Report

Message from Roundtable Chairman Renee Porter



For the past year, it has been an honor to serve as the chair of the Oklahoma Business Roundtable. I am extremely grateful for the good work done by our executive committee and my fellow officers. They have my eternal thanks for their commitment to executing the Roundtable's important mission.

Because of their efforts and the commitment and generosity of our partners, we have been able to fund over a dozen statewide economic development projects in the last year. Grants awarded by the Roundtable and partner organizations have totaled over \$3 million and have supported everything from important trade missions to STEM education scholarships. I am proud to say that our efforts continue to directly contribute to enhanced workforce development, job creation and economic growth.

Also in the past year, the Roundtable has worked on a proposal to update our bylaws. The new bylaws are designed to increase accountability, ensure we are in sync with the state's evolving ethics laws and policies, and help us to better pursue our mission statement and goals. Members will have an opportunity to vote on these bylaws at our June 7 meeting in Tulsa. I encourage you to attend the meeting and offer your support!

My sincere thanks go out to those whose work and contributions continue to make the Roundtable a success. Now in its 25th year, the organization has remained a vital part of the state's economic development effort. We assist our leaders and many partners in creating jobs and opportunities, opening doors and new career pathways for young Oklahomans and helping our communities to thrive. I encourage all of our partners to stay committed and engaged with this organization, which has a profound and positive impact on countless Oklahomans.

Welcome to Our New Members!

CompSource Mutual – Oklahoma City – Jason Clark, President & CEO

Sofidel America – Tulsa – Tony Curtis, CEO

SAVE THE DATES

**Oklahoma Business Roundtable
Annual Business Meeting
Southern Hills Country Club
2636 E. 61st Street, Tulsa
June 7, 2017**

3:00 – 4:15pm Executive Committee Meeting

4:30 – 6:00pm Membership Meeting

Keynote: Matt Jennerich

Google Data Center Manager

6:00 – 7:00pm Networking Reception

RSVP to: amcvey@okbusinessroundtable.org

**Oklahoma Business Roundtable
Fall Membership Meeting
Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club
7000 N.W. Grand Blvd – Oklahoma City
October 4, 2017**

3:00 – 4:15pm Board Meeting

4:30 – 6:00pm Membership Meeting

6:00 – 7:00pm Networking Reception

Upcoming Events and Projects

May 8-11 – AUVSI Trade Show (Unmanned Vehicle Systems), Dallas (Commerce/Partners)

May 10-12 – Call Trip and Business Reception (Business Recruitment), Atlanta (Governor's Marketing Team)

May 22-25 – AWEA (American Wind Energy Association), Anaheim (Commerce/Partners)

June 1 – Tulsa Manufacturers Networking Event (Tulsa Regional Chamber & OCAST)

June 7 – Roundtable Annual Membership Meeting, 4:30 pm at Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa

June 7-10 – Mexican Petroleum Congress, Puebla, Mexico (Commerce/Partners)

June 13-15 – Global Petroleum Show, Calgary, Alberta, Canada (Commerce/Partners)

June 18-20 – Select USA (International Business Development), Washington DC (Commerce /Partners)

June 19- 22 – International Air Show (Aerospace), LeBourget, France (Commerce/Partners)

June 19-21 – BIO Trade Show (Biotechnology), San Diego (Commerce/Partners)

September 27-29 – Southern California Call Trip (Business Recruitment), (Governor's Marketing Team)
Oklahoma team will hold direct company and consultant meetings in the Los Angeles area.

October 4 – Roundtable Fall Membership Meeting, 4:30 pm at Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club,
Oklahoma City

If you have interest in participating or suggesting guests to any of these events, please contact the Roundtable office.

Recent Events and Projects



Love's Entrepreneur's Cup Recognizes Top Collegiate Business Students

Student winners of the annual Love's Entrepreneurial Cup were announced at a special award dinner on April 13th in Oklahoma City.

Managed by i2E, the Love's Cup is a statewide collegiate business plan competition that simulates the real world process of researching a market, writing a business plan and making a presentation to potential investors. The competition helps grow more Oklahoma entrepreneurs who will lead future start-ups that will create jobs and wealth for the state. Love's Corporation, founded by Oklahoma entrepreneurs Tom and Judy Love, serves as the signature sponsor of the competition. Roundtable funding assists with scholarships and the general event.

In its 13-year history, nearly 2000 college students have taken the Love's Cup challenge, producing over 550 innovative ideas from 35 campuses statewide and awarding over \$1.7 million in cash, \$110,000 in scholarships and \$231,000 in fellowships.

The three first-place winners were: **VisuALS** from [Oklahoma Christian University](#) in the small business division, **VisionaRX** from [Oklahoma State University](#) in the high-growth undergraduate division and **Composite Damage Solutions** from the [University of Tulsa](#) in the high-growth graduate division. These teams will compete for additional recognition and prize money at the Tri-State event in Las Vegas in late May.



Love's Vice President of Communications, Jenny Love Meyer (center) congratulates VisionaRX, the winning team from Oklahoma State University, in the high-growth undergraduate division. Led by Jacquelyn Lane, VisionaRX is developing a noninvasive ocular drug delivery platform technology composed of a membrane embedded with drug-loaded nanoparticles to be mounted on a blank contact lens and worn by a patient for a number of days. This venture would help people who suffer from diabetic retinopathy, a complication of diabetes that affects the eyes.

Paulsen Scholars Named

Three \$5,000 Paulsen Scholarships (named for longtime Roundtable President Don Paulsen) were presented to three outstanding students.

Roundtable President Ann Ackerman and Higher Education Chancellor Glen Johnson join Paulsen Award Winners (l-r) Gerrard Edwards (Oklahoma City University), Yusuf Shurbaji (University of Central Oklahoma) and Miranda McNabb (East Central University).



The Roundtable provided four judges for the event. Pictured (l-r) with the students are: Jeff Moen of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Scott Lerch of Enterprise Holdings, Scott Dewald of Rural Enterprises and Dr. Tom Kupiec of Analytical Research Labs.

Lt. Governor Hosts Business Guests at Annual Turkey Hunt in 6 Communities



In an effort to grow jobs and investment, the 31st annual Lt. Governor's Turkey Hunt was held April 12-14 in six communities across Oklahoma. The event was hosted by Lt. Governor Todd Lamb and the communities of Woodward, Alva, Hugo, Ardmore, Duncan and Okemah.

The guest list was comprised of business executives and site location consultants from Oklahoma and across the nation. Each community hosted a dozen or more hunters. The Oklahoma Business Roundtable was an event sponsor.

BioVenture Forum Attracts Business and Venture Capital Executives to Oklahoma



Thirty-five leading venture capitalists and biotechnology industry executives from across the nation joined 95 state scientists and business leaders at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation's 2017 BioVenture Forum.

The goal of the event was to not only increase the visibility of the quality research underway at OMRF, but to explore the commercialization of technologies and encourage interaction between industry and scientists in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Business Roundtable was an event sponsor.

Visiting attendees represented some of the top names in the industry, including Pfizer, Merck, AstraZeneca, AbbVie, 5AM Ventures and Lilly Ventures.

The keynote speech was delivered by Joseph Miletich, M.D, Ph.D., senior vice president of Discovery Research, Preclinical Sciences & Early Development at Merck Research Laboratories. Panel discussions covered a variety of topics, from current trends in industry and drug development and relationship dynamics in startups to diverse funding opportunities.

In addition to panel discussions, the day's events included a tour of OMRF's facilities, networking sessions and a reception hosted by Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin at the Phillips Pavilion.

"The bioscience sector has joined our heritage industries of energy and agriculture to become a major force in the state's economy," said Fallin. "The science here is cutting-edge, but we're still a well-kept secret in the biotech world. That's a combination that spells opportunity."

Lijun Xia, M.D., Ph.D., program chair of OMRF's Cardiovascular Biology Research Program, was one of many foundation scientists in attendance. Xia said that connections he made at OMRF's first BioVenture Forum, which took place in 2015, helped him forge a research collaboration with an industry partner and that he hoped this year's event would plant the seeds for further partnerships.

Discoveries incubated by OMRF's Technology Ventures office have resulted in three drugs that received FDA approval and a diagnostic test currently available on the market.



New Program Targets New Business Growth in Rural Oklahoma



Gov. Fallin with Grow OK sponsors

A unique venture assessment program for early stage entrepreneurs in rural Oklahoma was officially announced by Governor Fallin and Oklahoma funding partners on April 3rd at the State Capitol.

The “Grow Oklahoma” program incorporates i2E’s successful venture assessment program and is targeted to rural and Native American entrepreneurs. The three week program is designed to explore the product/market fit of a new business concept. The overall goal is to increase business start-up activity and grow new jobs in rural Oklahoma.

The project is funded with a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration with matching funds from Oklahoma’s four largest Native American tribes (Cherokee Nation, The Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation), the Business Roundtable and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science & Technology.

Ideal program participants include:

- Concept – an individual with an idea for a business with no current revenue or customers.
- Proof-of-Concept – a business with a few initial customers or a company with a prototype.
- Established business – a business earning revenue and seeking growth.

For further information, contact www.GrowOK.org

Commerce & Workforce News

New and Expanded Industry

Below are selected statewide 1st Quarter 2017 new and expanded industry announcements.

Company	Location	Projected Jobs
Asco Aerospace	Stillwater	59
Big Chief Plant Services	Elk City	100
Choctaw Defense	McAlester	150
Connexions	Tulsa	200
D&M Employee Leasing	OKC	98
McCarthy, Burgess & Wolf	Tulsa	100
MD Building Products	Oklahoma City	105
MedXM	Oklahoma City	400
Oldcastle Services	Poteau	40
SageNet	Tulsa	20
Star Pipe Products	South Coffeyville	108
Summit ESP (Manufacturing)	Tulsa	148
Vallourec Star	Muskogee	100

Higher Education Update

The **University of Central Oklahoma**, Edmond, has begun construction of a unique \$24 million **Interdisciplinary STEM Teaching & Research Center**. The facility will bring together chemists, biologists, mathematicians, forensic scientists, engineers together – under one roof – to help meet future technology employment demands.

A recent report on student success by the *Institute for College Access and Success*:

- 48 percent of Oklahoma graduates graduated without any student loan debt.
- Oklahoma's State System Schools are 23 percent below the national average in student debt.
- This report now ranks Oklahoma as 10th in the nation with students leaving our colleges and universities with the least amount of student debt.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education publishes a quarterly newsletter highlighting goals, initiatives and services of the state system. The recent report highlights several projects and initiatives, including members of the newly announced statewide Task Force on the Future of Oklahoma Higher Education. The task force, which was formed at the State Regents' March meeting, will conduct a systematic review of higher education in Oklahoma; examine existing initiatives and best practices; and report findings and recommendations on strategies that best support improving quality, access, affordability, and efficiency.

Report link: <http://www.okhighered.org/state-system/degrees-of-progress/spring2017.pdf>

Economic Development Briefs

- Governor Fallin has named **Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier as Secretary of Science and Technology** for the State of Oklahoma. Droegemeier is vice president for research at the University of Oklahoma. Governor Fallin has also named former Roundtable Chairman **Dave Lopez as Secretary of State**.
- The State of Oklahoma ranked 10th in the latest *Site Selection Group's* survey of **Best State's for Manufacturing**. The top five states included North Carolina, Texas, Utah, Indiana and Arizona.
- An April survey by *Smart Asset* ranks two Oklahoma communities in the nation's **top ten** locations for **first-time home buyers**. Oklahoma City (2nd) and Tulsa (5th) were chosen based on housing market stability, affordability and availability of conventional mortgage loans.
- QuikTrip, Tulsa and American Fidelity, Oklahoma City are among the top 100 companies on Fortune magazine's **2017 Best Companies to Work For** list. QuikTrip ranked 68th and American Fidelity 89th.
- A recent *U.S. News & World Report* "Best States 2017" survey ranked Oklahoma 6th lowest for tuition and fees and 7th lowest for student debt at graduation.
- An April 17 report by *Anderson Economic Group* shows Oklahoma, Oregon, and North Carolina as top states with the **lowest business tax burdens** in the nation.

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 the link below for latest edition:

https://www.ok.gov/treasurer/documents/OER_5-4-17.pdf

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