

BUILDING A STRONGER OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA
BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

BRIEFS

January 2015



A Message from President Carl Edwards

Happy New Year to all!

We were very pleased to host over 220 Roundtable members and guests at our annual holiday dinner at the Oklahoma History Museum. Special thanks to Chairman Rhonda Hooper for her leadership in making this a wonderful evening for all.

During the next few months, we will review our budget and work directly with our state's leaders and economic development partners to enhance business retention, expansion and recruitment efforts statewide.

Special thanks to all partners who have renewed their membership this year. We currently have 176 members.

Please mark your calendar for our next business meeting. It will be held on June 9, 2015, at 4:30 PM at Southern Hills Country Club.

Carl

Carl Edwards
President

Welcome to the Table!

The Roundtable is pleased to welcome the following new member companies and their representatives:

- IBM - Oklahoma City and Tulsa - James Wilber, Area Manager
- State Farm Mutual Insurance-Statewide - Kristin Givens, Counsel
- Lawton-Ft. Sill Economic Development Corporation - Barry Albrecht, President/CEO

SAVE THE DATE

Oklahoma Business Roundtable Annual Business Meeting June 9, 2015

3:00 – 4:00 – Executive Committee Meeting

4:30 - 6:00 – Business Meeting

6:00 – 6:45 - Reception

6:45 – Dinner

Southern Hills Country Club
Tulsa, OK



Oklahoma Quality Foundation Sets Two Events

The Roundtable supports the mission of the Oklahoma Quality Foundation. If you have interest in participating in either of these sessions, contact our office or Executive Director Heather Griswold. We have a limited number of complimentary registrations for use by our members. To register online, email heather@oklahomaquality.com for the links.

Pursuing Performance Excellence Mini-Conference – February 10

Is your organization currently pursuing a quality journey or considering it? If so, make plans to attend this mini-conference scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th from 8:30am-12pm at Metro Technology Economic Development Center (Room 123). We have a great line-up of local speakers who will discuss the following topics:

- How Organizations Use the Malcom Baldrige Criteria
- Introduction to ADLI (Approach, Deployment, Learning & Integration)
- Comparative Data & Benchmarking
- Aligning Processes & Results

Executive Learning Series Featuring INTEGRIS Health – March 11

At INTEGRIS Health, continuous improvement is not just a goal – it is a part of the culture. By weaving a culture of continuous improvement throughout the organization, the Baldrige journey affects everything from leadership to patient satisfaction to employee engagement. INTEGRIS was the recipient of the 2014 Oklahoma Quality Award for Leadership in Excellence as well as received Best Practices awards in Culture of Continuous Improvement, LEAN Deployment and Leadership Commitment & Effectiveness. Don't miss out on this fantastic learning opportunity!

The presentation will include an overview of INTEGRIS's quality journey and will take a closer look at INTEGRIS's best practices in a variety of areas. Join us Wednesday, March 11th from 10am-1pm at INTEGRIS Baptist Hospital. Lunch and tour Included with registration. Email heather@oklahomaquality.com for the link to register online.

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. Oklahoma Link to the December 29th edition:

http://www.ok.gov/treasurer/documents/OER_12-29-14.pdf

Upcoming Events

Roundtable Special Project Support

Former Lockheed-Martin Chairman to Visit State – Discuss STEM

Norm Augustine, former Chairman and CEO of Lockheed Martin, will be the guest speaker at Higher Education Day on February 10th at 2:00 p.m. at the State Capitol.

Augustine is a major proponent of efforts to strengthen STEM education. He was recently honored with a 2014 U.S. News STEM Leadership Hall of Fame Award for advancing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and workforce preparation.

He chaired the committee responsible for the influential 2005 report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*. In summary, the congressionally requested report indicated the need for this nation to strengthen education in STEM subjects in order to produce a workforce that can compete effectively in a global economy.

The formal program featuring key state legislative and policy leaders will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the House Chamber. Governor Fallin and Mr. Augustine will serve as featured speakers during the program. Other speakers include Lieutenant Governor Todd Lamb, Senate President Pro Tempore Brian Bingman, Speaker of the House of Representatives Jeff Hickman (invited), and Higher Education Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.

The Oklahoma Business Roundtable will host a small reception in the Blue Room at the State Capitol with Norm Augustine immediately following the formal program. Please join us.

Economic Development News

- Oklahoma's population continues to grow slightly – now at 3,878,051 as of July 1, 2014. The state's growth rate is 0.6% vs the national rate of 0.7%. Oklahoma grew at a faster pace than Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri (all were 0.3 %) but trailed Texas (1.7% rate).
- Federal contractor *Serco*, based in Reston, VA, plans to hire 475 workers in Lawton. The Lawton facility is one of four nationally to provide services in support of new health benefit plans.
- Oklahoma ranks No. 9 on the list of "Top Moving Destinations for 2014" by *United Van Lines*.
- Oklahoma-based *BancFirst* ranked No. 9 among the nation's best publicly traded banks in Forbes Magazine's 2015 survey.
- Offshoring is Outpacing Reshoring - The U.S. has continued to grow more reliant on imports from China and other Asian countries despite a much-discussed trend toward "reshoring" of manufacturing, a new study by management consulting firm *A.T. Kearney* shows.
- *The Fraser Institute's* annual survey of 156 worldwide locations ranks Oklahoma as the No. 1 place for ease of investment in oil and gas.

The CEO's Top Priorities

The Wall Street Journal's CEO Council recently ranked the top U.S public-policy and business issues for 2015. They are:

1. 21st-Century Workforce

A competitive work force requires action on all fronts, from expanded early childhood education to reform of funding mechanisms. Involve business in the education system, including curriculum development, to help students prepare for available job opportunities. Encourage schools and parents to sign up for programs engaging businesses. Improve focus on STEM and technical training.

2. Pro-Growth Fundamentals

Focus on pro-growth fundamentals including corporate income-tax reform and free trade. Promote smarter regulation by eliminating constraints on starting and growing businesses to generate additional jobs quickly. Expand H-1B visa program and grant a visa to every

technical graduate. Allow immigrants who already received a STEM degree (or are pursuing one now) to stay.

3. Modernize Infrastructure

The market needs clear rules to spur private investment in a range of infrastructure, including modernizing and expanding the electric grid, pipelines and transportation sector. Streamlined permitting is especially needed. Investment would also help electrify the transportation sector. Establish a national infrastructure bank, aimed at professionalizing public infrastructure investment and being a model for states. Also use public-private partnerships for funding. Establish independent, nonpolitical leadership with a structure similar to the Federal Reserve system.

4. Taper Capital-Gains Tax

Structure the capital-gains tax to create an incentive for investors to hold their shares for an extended period, reducing the tax rate as time goes on. It would discourage traders and attract investors, and help align executives' interests with shareholders'. This would help U.S. companies grow, hire and compete in the global marketplace.

5. Empower Health-Care Consumers

Give consumers more information to make smart economic choices and promote wellness. Cost, quality and outcome data must be made available in a way that will advance paying for quality and value. Shift more accountability to consumers, but make sure they're informed. Allow insurance companies and employers to provide consumer incentives.