Chairman’s Message – Renee Porter

Dear Business Roundtable Members and Guests:

Celebrating 25 years of service, the Oklahoma Business Roundtable serves as the state’s premier economic development “support” organization comprised of leading business, government, expansion, recruitment and company start-up efforts. It is my pleasure to report to you the significant work we have accomplished on behalf of Oklahoma in this past year.

Today, more than ever, Oklahoma’s economic development leaders continue to work tirelessly to ensure that we maintain our status as a premier business location for new companies entering our state and expanding our existing ones. Our business leaders have realized that Oklahoma’s economic future is critically dependent upon our ability to attract new business investments, attract and retain our existing businesses, and support our emerging and emerging growth businesses.

We continue to make a difference. This past year, our members, who represent key industries, assisted Oklahoma leaders and government officials in leveraging our economies to attract new business investments, promote new business investment throughout Oklahoma, advancing and attracting business facilities and operations in communities across the state, with a focus on bringing the site selection consultant community to the state to bring new and growing businesses.

Continued efforts are focused on creating a pro-business climate and providing strategic business and infrastructure development planning efforts, and sponsoring special business lead and project development events when state appropriated monies cannot be used.

We are confident that Oklahoma’s future is bright. We have an engaged and educated Governor who is committed to our state’s future. We have a Legislative Branch that is committed to providing a stable economic environment for businesses to thrive and grow. We have a strong network of Oklahoma business leaders who are committed to making sure that Oklahoma is a place where businesses can thrive.

Sincerely,

Renee Porter
Chair Executive Committee

EXPANDING AND RECRUITING BUSINESS

The Oklahoma Business Roundtable actively supports projects to promote job creation and investment – through expansion of existing industry and new business location.

Marketing, Trade Development & Recruitment

Targets are industry decision makers, site location consultants and real estate executives representing diverse and “wealth creating” industries such as: aerospace, defense, biotechnology, finance, agriculture, energy, information technology, financial services, and transportation/distribution.

The Commerce Department, Roundtable and statewide community partners work together on strategic business and industry presentations, networking opportunities and project and business interest telephone calls to ensure the state is visible in these efforts. This activity continues throughout the year – and are hosted by the Roundtable, Commerce team and community partners.

Site Consultant Visits

National corporate site selection consultants visit the state throughout the year – and are hosted by the Roundtable, Commerce team and community partners.

Mike Binetti, a global site consultant with Jones Lang Lasalle visited Tulsa and Oklahoma City in April Binetti said the state remained a competitive location for business and that efforts to bring the site selection consultant community to the state to see available sites and communities was very important.


In its twelfth year, the Governor’s Cup has awarded more than $1.6 million in cash, $95K in scholarships and general program support. Roundtable members also assist with judging. The Governor’s Cup is named for long-time Roundtable President Don Paulsen.

Roundtable Supports Make-It-Right Initiative

The Roundtable annually supports dozens of special marketing projects throughout the year. These include:

Oklahoma Academic Challenge Award

Modelled after the respected and prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the Oklahoma Quality Award recognizes the achievement of excellence in Oklahoma companies seeking continuous performance improvement.

Oklahoma Venture Forum

The Roundtable served as host for the annual lecture of the Year honoree sponsored by the Oklahoma Venture Forum and Governor’s Mansion.

Workforce Pipeline – Promoting Early Learning Initiatives

The Roundtable supports the work of a statewide GED2O0 education initiative – which promotes quality early development efforts for children (birth to age 5) education initiative – which promotes quality early development efforts for children (birth to age 5).
GROWING OKLAHOMA'S ECONOMY
Business Expansion | New Business Start-up | Business Recruitment

GROWING NEW BUSINESS

Governor's Cup Recognizes Top Collegiate Business Students

Managed by UT, the Governor’s Cup is a collegiate business plan competition where undergraduate students from across the state present their plans to a panel of judges. Over the past decade, Governor’s Cup scholars have helped nearly 500 Oklahoma businesses. An impressive 2015 class resulted in $43.5 million in investment and 63 new jobs.

Roundtable sponsors the Governor’s Cup and provides special program support. Members also assisted with judging and aspects of plan development. This year’s winners were named for excellence in planning and presentation.

Rosters of notable participants include Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Baptist University, and Rogers Colleges Cordis, Old and Robust University.

Roundtable Members Host Site Consultants/ Business Prospects

The 30th Annual Lt. Governor’s Site Tour was held throughout the state on April 12. Governor Todd Lamb and the communities of Woodward, Alva, Hugo, Ardmore, Duncan, and Okemah served as hosts. The economic development delegation, led by the Roundtable, included over 50 site consultants and business pros.

The visit included site tours and special events, and opportunities to discuss the state’s economic development success stories and challenges.

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