



August 2012

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## Air Force Sustainment Center Activated at Tinker AFB

On July 10, the Air Force Sustainment Center (AFSC) was officially activated at Tinker Air Force Base. The AFSC will now be the Air Force's focal point for all Air Force weapon systems, and will provide crucial support to the warfighter through depot maintenance, supply chain management and installation support.

The ceremony was officiated by Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) commander Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger. In the ceremony, Gen. Wolfenbarger presented Lt. Gen. Bruce Litchfield with his third star as he was promoted from major general to lieutenant general. Lt. Gen. Litchfield will be in command of the AFSC.

"How we support combat airpower is what really



*Last month, the Air Force activated the Air Force Sustainment Center at Tinker Air Force Base.*

*Continued on page 11*

## PAC Supports Pro-Business Candidates

Since 2010, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Political Action Committee (Greater OKC Chamber PAC) has been working to create a more business-friendly environment in Greater Oklahoma City. During 2010, the PAC contributed \$38,000 to 22 candidates – 21 of which were elected or re-elected – putting the PAC in the top 27 percent of all PACs in the state.

"The 2010 elections were a great start to our efforts to support the pro-business candidates who will move Oklahoma City and our state in a positive direction," said Mark VanLandingham, Chamber vice president, government relations and policy. "It is critical that we continue to support these candidates and continue the positive economic growth in Greater Oklahoma City."

These candidates have received contributions from the PAC during 2012:

**Court Clerk:** Tim Rhodes

**State House:** Scott Biggs (HD 51); Marion Cooksey (HD 39); Elise Hall (HD 100); Katie Henke (HD 71); Mark McBride (HD 53); Charles McCall (HD 22); Glen Mulready (HD 68); Terry O'Donnell (HD 23); Mike Sanders (HD 59); Shane Saunders (HD 70); Todd Thomsen (HD 25)

**State Senate:** Brian Crain (SD 39); Clark Jolley (SD 41); Mike Mazzei (SD 25); Dan Newberry (SD 37); Ron Sharp (SD 17); Jabar Shumate (SD 11); Tim Wright (SD 33)

For more information, contact Mark VanLandingham at 297-8925 or [mvanlandingham@okcchamber.com](mailto:mvanlandingham@okcchamber.com)

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# Leadership Notes

*Be a hometown hero.*

In recent months, Greater Oklahoma City has been the beneficiary of a number of image opportunities. From the NBA Finals to the Women's College World Series and beyond, we have been front and center on the national and international stage.

The Chamber acts as the main storyteller in promoting our region and its many successes, but, at the end of the day, the image we portray is a responsibility shared by each and every one of our residents.

One of the best ways we can promote our city in a positive way is by hosting visitors. The Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau's (CVB) Hometown Heroes program makes it easy for you to help us showcase our city and region by connecting us with groups and organizations you're involved with. Maybe your business sends you to regional sales meetings. Maybe your favorite hobby is the reason you joined an association. Maybe you're part of a family that enjoys putting on reunions. Whether you find yourself in one of these situations, or a whole host of others, each of these instances present us with an opportunity to host visitors in Oklahoma City.

Being a Hometown Hero is simple. All you have to do is get in touch with a member of the CVB's staff (you can find their information at [www.okcchamber.com/](http://www.okcchamber.com/) staff) and give them your group's information. Every group is a little different. Some plan their meetings a few months out; others plan years in advance. No matter what their situation or needs are, our staff is ready to help them organize their next event in Oklahoma City. Be a hometown hero – help us promote all Oklahoma City has to offer.

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams  
Chamber CEO & President



**Roy H. Williams**  
President & CEO

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**ROY H. WILLIAMS**  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber  
President & CEO

## THE POINT!

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## CONTENTS

- 5 Upcoming Primary Elections      7 2012 Chamber Golf Tournaments  
9 CVB Ends Successful Fiscal Year      10 InternOKC Recruits Talent  
15 Local Businesses Boost Economy      19 Economic Indicators



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# Primary Runoff Elections to be Aug. 28

Election year is in full swing with primary run-off elections set for Tuesday, August 28. The individuals elected to office will impact the business community, jobs and Greater Oklahoma City's future. Pro-business candidates across the state find themselves in highly contested run-off races, including:

- Mark McBride (R-Moore), HD 52
- Tim Rhodes, Oklahoma Court Clerk
- Shane Saunders (R-Tulsa), HD 70
- Ron Sharp (R-Shawnee), SD 17
- Tim Wright (R-Tulsa), SD 33

The Prosperity Project, a program of the State Chamber, offers quality resources to become informed

before voting. It also provides various materials that employers can provide their staff to help them get informed before heading to the polls. Visit [www.okprosperity.com](http://www.okprosperity.com) to find your voting location, talking points to send employees, information on how legislators voted and other useful tools. Enter your address to find a list of candidates running in your district and a voters' guide to help you determine which candidates will work to support the business community.

The deadline has passed to register for the primary run-off election. The deadline to register for the general election is October 12. Voter registration forms are available at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber or on the state's election board site, [www.ok.gov/elections](http://www.ok.gov/elections).



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# Liquor Petition to be on 2014 Ballot

The Oklahoma Supreme Court recently ruled that the sale of wine in grocery stores may be considered by voters in the form of a state question. Oklahomans for Modern Laws, the group supporting this effort, was working to have the signatures necessary for their Initiative Petition in time for the November election. However, due to the timing of the court's decision, it appears they will likely withdraw the question and re-file. The group must collect 155,000 valid signatures, which may then be challenged in court, likely resulting in the question being considered by voters in November 2014.

During the 2012 Legislative session, the Chamber's Board of Directors voted to endorse the state question if its legality was upheld by the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

For more information on this issue, contact Mark VanLandingham, vice president, government relations and policy, at [mvanlandingham@okcchamber.com](mailto:mvanlandingham@okcchamber.com) or 297-8925.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Breaking Through: August 15

Join Dr. Stephen Prescott, president of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF), at the Breaking Through luncheon, Wednesday, August 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., as he moderates a panel discussion on “Innovations in Medical Research in Oklahoma City.” Panelists include Dr. Ken Copeland (OU Health Sciences Center, Harold Hamm Diabetes Center); Dr. Paul Kincade (OMRF); Dr. Scott Rollins (Selexys Pharmaceuticals); and Dr. Jim Long (Integrus Baptist Medical Center). Held at the Research Tower of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, 820 NE 15 Street, attendees will have the opportunity to not only hear about current research but also tour these state-of-the-art facilities.

Special thanks to Series Signature Event Sponsor Cox Business and Host Sponsor Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. Space is limited, make your reservation today.

## Chairman's Breakfast: August 21

Washington is reaching a critical point. With important issues such as health care, tax rates, highway funding, government-funded programs, a growing deficit and others having an incredible impact on Greater Oklahoma City, it is vital that the business community remain informed. At the Chairman's Breakfast Tuesday, August 21, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens, Senator Tom Coburn will give his insight into the work taking place in Washington and how his involvement on the Finance, Homeland Security, Government Affairs and Judiciary committees is working to reduce wasteful spending, balance the budget, and improve health care access and affordability.

## State of the Schools: August 22

Hear about efforts to improve K-20 education, including challenges at the legislature, in classrooms and on campuses, at the annual State of the Schools luncheon, Wednesday, Aug. 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63rd. Speakers include State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Janet Barresi, and Rich Petrick, Executive Director of the Business Alliance for Higher Education and the Economy, who will discuss changes in higher education and the importance of higher education alignment with business.

The Chamber and American Fidelity Foundation invite attendees to bring school supplies to the event to benefit the Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools. Special thanks to Signature Event sponsor Cox Business and School Supply/Centerpiece Sponsor American Fidelity Assurance Company.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August 15

#### Breaking Through Luncheon

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Location:** Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, 820 NE 15th St.

**Cost:** \$35 for members. Space is limited, so reserve your seat today.

### August 21

#### Chairman's Breakfast with Senator Coburn

**Time:** 7:30 - 9 a.m.

**Location:** Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens

**Cost:** \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members

### August 21

#### Sunset Reception

**Time:** 4 - 6 p.m.

**Location:** Quad/Graphics, Inc., 6801 S Sunnyslane Road

**Cost:** There is no cost to attend this event. RSVP not required.

### August 22

#### State of the Schools Luncheon

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Location:** National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63 Street

**Cost:** \$50 for members; \$75 for non-members

### September 11

#### Member Orientation

**Time:** 4 - 5:30 p.m.

**Location:** Chamber offices, 123 Park Ave.

**Cost:** This event is free to attend. Register by contacting Christine Soileau at 297-8961 or [csoileau@okcchamber.com](mailto:csoileau@okcchamber.com).

### September 18

#### Sunset Reception

**Time:** 4 - 6 p.m.

**Location:** Credit Union Association of Oklahoma, 631 E Hill Street

**Cost:** There is no cost to attend this event. RSVP not required.

### September 24

#### Metro 50

**Time:** 6 - 9 p.m.

**Location:** National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63 Street

**Cost:** Tickets are \$100 each. Corporate tables seating 10 are available for \$1,000.

Register securely online for Chamber events at [www.okcchamber.com/events](http://www.okcchamber.com/events) or e-mail [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com) with questions.

# 2012 CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT

SIGNATURE SPONSOR



According to *Inc.com*, a round of golf remains “one of the greatest ways to build and maintain solid business relationships.” Take your business to the links with some golf and networking at the Chamber’s annual golf tournaments. The tournaments are played in a scramble format and will be held on three different days, Oct. 15, 16 and 17, at Gaillardia Country Club, with an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

The golf tournaments also present a great opportunity to promote your business. Beyond participating in the tournaments, companies can receive additional recognition by being a hole or team sponsor. Entry fees are \$1,000 for teams of four. Sponsorship opportunities begin at \$500. For golf team and sponsorship information, contact Elena Listen at 297-8875 or [elisten@okcchamber.com](mailto:elisten@okcchamber.com).

*The Chamber’s annual Golf Tournaments are a great opportunity to take your business and networking activities outside for a round of golf.*

## THE RIGHT FIT IS EVERYTHING. (SO’S THE RIGHT TEAM.)



from left –  
Melissa Johnson,  
CPA, CVA, CFFA  
Lou Ann Gibson,  
CPA/ABV, CVA, CFFA  
Tony Otto,  
CPA/ABV, CVA  
Bud Sartain,  
CPA/ABV

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## FLASH BACK

In January 1907, 10 months before Oklahoma gained statehood, a meeting was held at the offices of the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the possibilities of “organizing a state fair association.” Later that month, a charter was issued for the incorporation of the State Fair Association of Oklahoma. The initial location of the fairgrounds was met with great discussion, and eventually a 160-acre location two miles east of downtown was chosen. The first State Fair of Oklahoma opened on Oct. 5, 1907, with a crowd of more than 10,000 people. Just a year later, on “Derby Day” at the State Fair, attendance reached more than 30,000.

The deterioration of facilities, limited space and the growth of oil production on the site led to increased talk of relocating the fairgrounds. With the help of the Chamber, a new location was chosen on a 320-acre site which would sit at the junction of two future highways. On Sept. 1, 1953, the ground was broken on the current location of State Fair Park. The first State Fair in this location opened on Sept. 25, 1954, with more than 84,000 people in attendance.

While the new location was an obvious success, those closely involved with the State Fair, including the Chamber, knew that the facilities were the bare bones of what was possible on the site – opportunities for exhibitions and events outside the 10-day fair, and laying the foundation for Oklahoma City’s future as “Horse Show Capital of the World.”

In 1961, the fair board announced their plans for an eight-year, \$4.6 million capital expansion plan. The first phase would include a new building, the expansion of current facilities, new horse barns and the building of a multi-purpose arena.

“The horse industry in Oklahoma is big business,” said the updated master plan, “and the inclusion of an arena provides not only the opportunity for performance classes or horses, but a facility for World Championship rodeos . . .” The arena also opened the door for Oklahoma City to attract a variety of other events, including circuses, basketball games, large conventions and others. The improvements and new facilities were funded through revenues generated by the fairs, an Oklahoma City bond issue and funds from the fair board. Improvements at State Fair Park continued from 1961 to 1980 with nearly \$7 million from earnings

## FAST FORWARD

being reinvested into the facilities and grounds.

Over time, State Fair Park not only secured Oklahoma City’s place as “Horse Show Capital of the World,” but it also greatly increased the city’s visitor, event and convention traffic. The City of Oklahoma City has continually recognized the importance of these facilities through financial support, including securing \$16 million from the original Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS) initiative for improvements at State Fair Park.



*State Fair Park annually hosts more than 180 events and 1.4 million people.*

Today, State Fair Park remains a crucial element of Oklahoma City’s tourism industry. Situated on 435 acres, the site hosts more than 180 events annually, including the annual State Fair of Oklahoma, ice shows, concerts, equine events, exhibitions and more, bringing in an overall attendance of more than 1.4 million. In December 2009, Oklahoma City citizens once again voted to fund improvements that will move State Fair Park forward and increase its economic impact for the region. MAPS 3 will use more than \$58 million to replace aging public event buildings used primarily for antique shows, gun shows, craft fairs and the annual Oklahoma State Fair. The new exhibition space is expected to generate more than \$136 million in direct spending annually, an increase of more than \$40 million compared to the existing facilities. This increase is expected to bring city tax revenues to more than \$8 million, a \$2.4 million increase over current taxes generated by events using the existing exhibition facilities. Collections to fund the MAPS 3 projects began on April 1, 2010. The projects at State Fair Park are expected to be completed by [month] [year].

"The most valuable skill I learned through my internship was how to be proactive. I gained confidence and real-world experience."

Marta Adamiec, Oral Roberts University, interning with Griffin Communications/News9



"I liked how InternOKC showcased the professional world. Now I don't want to go to Dallas to start my career."

Christian Pearson, University of Oklahoma, interning with Coppermark Bank



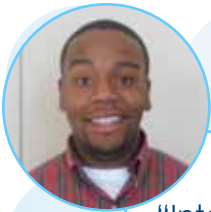
"InternOKC gave me a positive feeling about Oklahoma City, both business-wise and socially. I now know there are many opportunities for me here."

Jill Sodowsky, University of Central Oklahoma, interning with Oklahoma State Fair, Inc.



"InternOKC opened my eyes to Oklahoma City's new and growing economy."

Jonathan Cole-McKay, Baylor University, interning with The Worx Company



# InternOKC Recruits Talent for OKC's Future

A recent survey by *Thumbtack.com* noted that in the last decade the number of college students staying in Oklahoma City has steadily increased, with 81 percent of those earning bachelor's degrees remaining in the region after graduation (up from 71 percent). Urban revitalization was cited as having an impact on the increase. The Chamber's InternOKC program works to increase this number by promoting the benefits to living and working in Greater Oklahoma City after graduation.

With more than 380 students from approximately 80 employers, this year's InternOKC program marked the largest enrollment in the program's six-year history. Since the program's inception, annual enrollment has increased nearly 95 percent.

"InternOKC is instrumental in the Chamber's efforts to attract and retain Oklahoma-educated college students," said Roy H. Williams, president and CEO of the Chamber. "We have watched as the program has grown from an initial enrollment of 200 to nearly 400. The feedback from student participants is consistently positive, and the growth in enrollment shows that Greater Oklahoma City companies believe in the work we're doing for the future of Oklahoma City."

Throughout the program, interns attended weekly luncheons at various locations outlining Oklahoma City's political scene, sports and recreation opportunities, pursuing their passions and an overview of the cost of living advantages available in Oklahoma City.



# Tinker Air Force Base (continued from page 1)

counts,” said Lt. Gen. Litchfield. “Mission capable and ready weapons systems are what is required to fight and win our nation’s wars. And that is what AFSC will deliver.”

Lt. Gen. Litchfield and the AFSC will now have oversight of the air logistics centers at Robins AFB (Georgia), Hill AFB (Utah), and the Air Force Global Logistics Support Center at Scott AFB (Illinois). The logistics centers will be re-designated as air logistics complexes. Their missions will continue at their respective bases, but without command staff.

The Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center was also re-designated as an air logistics complex. The facility provides depot maintenance, management, installation services and information support for 31 weapons systems, 10 commands, 93 Air Force bases and 46 foreign countries over the last 40 years, a legacy that has existed since World War II.

“Since World War II, Oklahoma City has garnered a legacy of supporting the Air Force, its mission and its people,” said Carl Edwards, Chamber chairman,

Price Edwards & Company. “As our state’s largest single-site employer, Tinker is not only a crucial piece of our economic development engine, but it provides high-quality jobs to our citizens. The activation of the Air Force Sustainment Center validates the effort put in by the men and women at Tinker Air Force Base, and the dedication to the base shown by the citizens of Oklahoma City. I’m certain that our region’s legacy with the Air Force is far from finished.”

Establishment of the AFSC at Tinker is one of the first major steps of the transition phase that will reduce the number of centers nationwide. The establishment of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center at Wright-Patterson AFB (Ohio), along with the re-designation of the Air Force Test Center at Edwards AFB (California) are also currently taking place. These will be joined by the present Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson and Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center at Kirtland AFB (New Mexico) to complete the five-center line-up. Initial operational capability will begin on Oct. 1, with full operational capability planned for mid-2013.



David M., OKC Midtown

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# OK Aerospace Industry Showcased in UK

Representatives from the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber joined U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe, Governor Mary Fallin, Oklahoma Science and Technology Secretary Stephen McKeever, the Tulsa Metro Chamber, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and other aerospace representatives from around the state at the Farnborough International Air Show in Farnborough, UK, July 9 - 13, 2012.

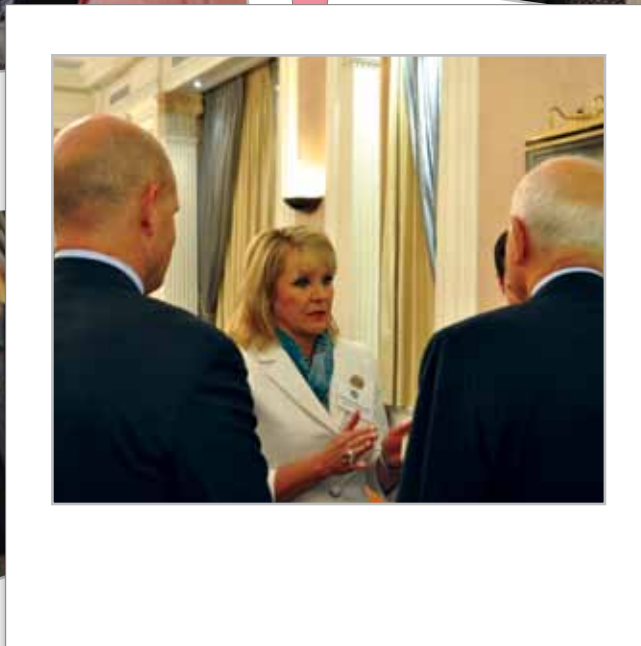
This show annual is the largest outdoor event in the United Kingdom outside of the 2012 London Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Organizers expected to see more than 250,000 visitors at this year's show. An estimated \$47 billion in business order was expected to come out of the 2012 show.

During the show, seven Oklahoma companies exhibited in the Oklahoma booth, and 50 additional Oklahoma companies exhibited at the show. Gov. Fallin presented information about Oklahoma's aerospace

and defense industry, as well as the growing Unmanned Aircraft Systems sector, to an audience of industry leaders and CEOs.

"I'm excited to share the Oklahoma Story with an international audience that includes leaders in the aerospace, defense and UAS industries," Fallin said. "Oklahoma has resources and opportunities in these areas that no other state in the country has. It's important for Oklahoma to have a strong presence at one of the largest aerospace tradeshows in the world."

The Farnborough International Airshow is one of the largest aviation events in the world, attracting approximately 130,000 attendees. Oklahoma has positioned itself as a national leader in the aerospace, UAS and defense industries, which support more than 150,000 jobs in the state for a total payroll of \$5 billion annually.



# Members Show Support for Chamber

The following member companies increased their investment between April - June 2012, demonstrating strong support of the Chamber's efforts to drive the city's economy to make this the best place to live, work, play and visit.

## Board of Advisors

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### Mark 1 Asset Management, Ltd.

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### Miles Associates Incorporated

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### Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality, Inc.

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### Pelco Products, Inc.

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# Metro 50 to Honor Growing Companies

*CNN Money* recently named Oklahoma City the “Most Business-Friendly City” (of the nation’s 40 largest metro areas) due to the region’s low cost of living and strong economic climate despite a continued national economic downturn. The region’s fastest growing companies will be honored at the 17th annual Metro 50 gala, September 24, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Mayor Mick Cornett will be on-hand to celebrate local business leaders who are providing an economic boost to Greater Oklahoma City as he unveils the official Metro 50 ranking.

Corporate tables seating 10 are available for \$1,000. Individual tickets are \$100. Metro 50 sponsors include Bank of Oklahoma, Cox Business, Ernst & Young LLP, Express Employment Professionals, Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville, The Journal Record Publishing Company, OGE Energy Corp., and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.okcchamber.com/metro50](http://www.okcchamber.com/metro50).

- |  |   |
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All Chamber members are welcome to attend Grand Openings.

To view more photos, see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit [www.okchamber.com/grandopenings](http://www.okchamber.com/grandopenings).



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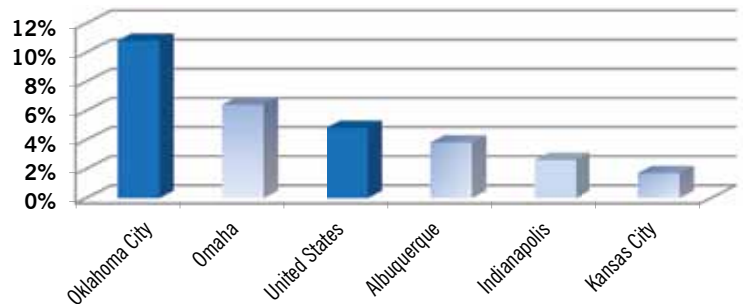
## Oklahoma City Ranks No. 4 in Long Term Job Growth

In a time when most metropolitan areas have had difficulty sustaining economic momentum, Oklahoma City has risen to the top.

Oklahoma City has added private-sector jobs for 23 consecutive months from August 2010 to July 2012.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic Modeling Specialists Inc., *The Business Journal On Numbers*

2004-2001 Total Employment Growth



U.S. and Metro Area Job Growth over a Recent 100 Month Period (January 2004 - April 2012)

	Rank of All Metro Areas	Months with year-to-year private sector job growth	Months with year-to-year private sector job growth > 1%	Months with year-to-year private sector job growth > 2%
Oklahoma City	4	81	72	45
Kansas City	25	74	61	5
United States	-	72	57	14
Indianapolis	34	72	56	5
Omaha	42	71	49	11
Albuquerque	78	60	42	22

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**LOOK INSIDE!**

- 5 Upcoming Primary Elections
- 7 2012 Chamber Golf Tournaments
- 9 CVB Ends Successful Fiscal Year
- 10 InternOKC Recruits Talent
- 15 Local Businesses Boost Economy
- 16 Economic Indicators

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