

## Portion of New I-40 Crosstown Opened



Drivers received a late holiday gift with the grand opening of the I-40 Crosstown in Oklahoma City at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Jan. 5.

Gov. Fallin said the new highway is important not only to Oklahoma's economy but also to the nation.

Interstate 40 is one of two all-weather routes connecting the east and west coasts.

“We know that good infrastructure is important to the business climate of the state,” said Gov. Fallin. “Transportation is the backbone of commerce and is critical for business and job creation. More than 700 million tons of freight – equivalent to the world's annual wheat production – are shipped each year in our state on highways, railroads, waterways and air.”

Gov. Fallin, who recently unveiled a plan to eliminate structurally deficient bridges from the state's highway system, noted some of the beams from the old I-40

*Continued on Page 5*

## Legislative Priorities Set for 2012

The Chamber's Board of Directors adopted a comprehensive set of legislative priorities for the 2012 session, including the following:

### **Business Tax Reform**

The Chamber supports legislation or a constitutional amendment to permanently address the 2009 ruling of the Oklahoma Supreme Court which held that ad valorem tax is owed on a company's Intangible Personal Property (such as trademarks, patents, computer software, customer lists, advertising campaigns, etc.).

### **Income Tax Reform**

The Chamber supports a reduction in the state income tax provided the need to generate increased revenue does not fall disproportionately or unfairly on businesses.

### **Workers' Compensation Reform**

The Chamber believes the impact of the reforms enacted during the 2011 legislative session should be

fully evaluated before enacting additional, significant reforms. Until then, we support incremental reforms to streamline the process, eliminate waste and delay and produce lower premium costs for Oklahoma employers.

### **Economic Development**

#### **Business Incentives**

We support the creation of a process to evaluate the effectiveness of Oklahoma's economic development incentives. We also support updating the language of these incentives that need to be revised or narrowed.

We support retaining “premier economic development incentives” and will oppose attempts to change, sunset or repeal the following incentives: The Quality Jobs Program (QJP), 21st Century QJP, Small Employer QJP, Prime Contractor QJP and Aerospace Engineer Tax Credit.

*Continued on Page 10*

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# Leadership Notes

*Renewing Our Commitment to the Vision, OKC*

The Chamber kicked off 2011 with the launch of a new strategic plan. As part of this plan, we renewed our commitment to creating a strong business climate through our work with the legislature as well as through our economic development efforts. If our results from 2011 tell us anything, it's that we're on the right track.

- Chamber assisted in creating nearly 5,000 new primary jobs in the region
- Chamber initiated the placement of nearly 70 national stories about Oklahoma City.
- Retail vacancy dropped below 10 percent (for the first time in years)
- Realized progression on 12 of 13 legislative issues at the capitol

Your Chamber is determined that 2012 will be no less successful. As we continue to follow the plan we've set, we will certainly continue to see positive results furthering our city's momentum. We will strive to enhance our strong business climate through our work with the legislature as well as through our economic development efforts. We will also place great focus on improving public education in our community. It is vital that we make changes at the state level that give greater local control over their processes while also encouraging and rewarding innovation and reform. We will, of course, continue our work in a variety of other areas, but these three are the most critical to our momentum.

We can only be successful with your help and support. The tasks that are in front of us might not be easy, but I urge you to get engaged as we work to tackle these issues. Whether it's getting involved in our local school districts, volunteering your time or looking at investment opportunities in some of our up-and-coming areas, there are roles we can all play. Our past has shown that by working together, we can build a great city.

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams  
Chamber CEO & President



**Roy H. Williams**  
President & CEO

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## THE POINT!

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# Portion of New I-40 Crosstown Opened

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bridge will be reused to help lower the number of structurally deficient bridges throughout the state.

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber was one of the early supporters of the new alignment and saw its business significance. Chamber president Roy H. Williams said the new Crosstown is important to Greater Oklahoma City's economy.

"More than 350,000 people commute to work each day in Oklahoma County, and having good transportation is important to keeping existing jobs in Oklahoma," said Williams. "It is also crucial as we work to attract new business."

Mayor Cornett said the new highway will change the face of Greater Oklahoma City and provides many opportunities to improve downtown Oklahoma City.

"This is the ribbon that will tie together the many improvements we see downtown, from Core to Shore to Project 180 to MAPS 3," said Cornett. "This is a wonderful present not only for Oklahoma City, but for all of Oklahoma. Partnering with ODOT on the new Crosstown sets the stage for the growth and continued renaissance for downtown. That partnership will become even more critical as plans for the Oklahoma City Boulevard move forward."

The new Crosstown is designed to carry 173,000 vehicles daily – more than 50,000 more than the current Crosstown carries daily – and includes five driving lanes in each direction. The total cost of the project is \$670 million. Currently only eastbound lanes of the new I-40 Crosstown are open. Westbound lanes will be finished after sections of the original eastbound lanes are removed, which is expected within a few weeks.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## State of the City: Jan. 19



With so much change happening in Greater Oklahoma City, Chamber members do not want to miss Mayor Mick Cornett's "State of the City" address. Mayor Cornett will deliver his 2012 address during a luncheon on Thursday, Jan. 19, at the Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chamber chair Carl Edwards, Price Edwards & Company, will also share highlights of the Chamber's major strategic objectives for 2012.

Registration for the event begins at 11 a.m. Admission is \$50 for Chamber members and \$75 for non-members. Corporate tables seating 10 are available for \$1,000 each. Special thanks to Signature Sponsor, Oklahoma City Thunder.

## Sunset Reception: Jan. 24



The Chamber's Sunset Receptions are a great place to increase your business contacts while enjoying complimentary food and drinks. Stop by Stella Modern Italian Cuisine, 1201 N Walker Ave., Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 4 to 6 p.m. for some after-hours networking with other members of the business community. RSVP not required.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## January 19

### State of the City

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

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

**Cost:** \$50 for members, \$75 for non-members; Corporate tables seating 10 available for \$1,000

## January 24

### Sunset Reception

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

**Location:** Stella Modern Italian Cuisine, 1201 N Walker Ave.

**Cost:** Admission is free. No need to RSVP.

## January 26

### Legislative Breakfast

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

**Location:** Oklahoma City Marriott Hotel, 3233 NW Expressway

**Cost:** \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members; Each ticket purchased sponsors one elected official.

## February 17

### Chairman's Breakfast with the Governor

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

**Location:** Oklahoma Christian University, 2501 E Memorial Road

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

## February 28

### Sunset Reception

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

**Location:** Oklahoma Blood Institute, 901 N Lincoln Blvd.

**Cost:** Admission is free. No need to RSVP.

## February 29

### MegaLunch

**Time:** 11 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

**Location:** Holiday Inn North - Quail Springs, 13800 Quail Springs Parkway

**Cost:** \$35 for members. Reservations must be made 72 hours before the event.

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.

 [twitter.com/okcchamber](https://twitter.com/okcchamber)

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# Legislative Breakfast: Jan. 26

During the annual Legislative Breakfast, attendees will hear from a panel of House and Senate Republican and Democratic leadership at the breakfast Thursday, Jan. 26 from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at the Oklahoma City Marriott, 3233 NW Expressway. Speakers include Rep. Kris Steele, Speaker of the House, Oklahoma House of Representatives; Rep. Scott Inman, Democratic Minority Leader, Oklahoma House of Representatives; Sen. Brian Bingman, President Pro Tempore, Oklahoma Senate; and Sen. Sean Burrage, Democratic Leader, Oklahoma Senate.

Tickets for the event are \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for non-members. Each ticket sold sponsors the attendance of an elected official. Special thanks to Government Relations Benefactors AT&T Oklahoma, Chesapeake Energy Corporation and Devon Energy Corporation and Government Relations Sponsors: Cox Communications and OGE Energy Corp., as well as Host Sponsor Oklahoma City Marriott Hotel.



## Chairman's Breakfast with the Governor: Feb. 17

Governor Mary Fallin will discuss her plans for 2012 and present key issues facing Oklahoma on Friday, Feb. 17 at Oklahoma Christian University, 2501 E. Memorial Rd. from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Chamber chair Carl Edwards, Price Edwards & Company, will also provide an overview of current Chamber initiatives.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$35 for Chamber members and \$40 for non-members. Corporate tables seating eight are available for \$500 each. Special thanks to Signature Sponsor, Cox Communications and Host Sponsor, Oklahoma Christian University.

## Keep OK Grads in OK

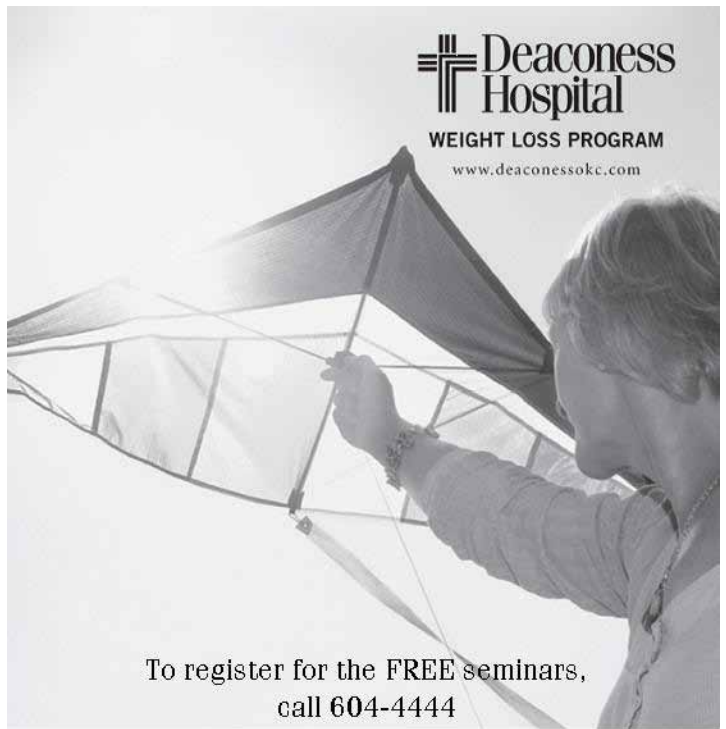


Recruit Oklahoma students to work or intern for your company at the Greater Grads Career Fair. Hundreds of local college students will

meet with employers at the Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens, from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 2.

Help keep talented graduates in our region and recruit the best and brightest to be your new employees or interns. Visit [www.greatergrads.com/recruiter](http://www.greatergrads.com/recruiter) or contact Elena Listen at [elisten@okcchamber.com](mailto:elisten@okcchamber.com) or 297-8875. Single booths are \$400 (\$500 after Feb. 20) and double booths are \$750 (\$850 after Feb. 20). Non-profit and government booth pricing is available.

Special thanks to Greater Grads Benefactors Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Devon Energy Corporation, Enogex Inc. and SandRidge Energy, Inc.



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# Sports in OKC Grow by Leaps & Bounds

When traveling to sports conferences throughout the year, Sue Hollenbeck, assistant director of sports business development, and Holly Shelton, manager of sports business development, regularly overhear Oklahoma City as the topic of conversation. As the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau's (CVB) sports business development department, Hollenbeck and Shelton represent Oklahoma City at conferences each year and meet with sport event planners and event rights owners and holders to discuss new event opportunities.

In 2011, the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau assisted in bringing 59 athletic events totaling more than 91,000 room nights to Greater Oklahoma City. These events led to nearly \$148 million in direct spending. These numbers do not include the Oklahoma City Thunder, the Oklahoma City Barons, the Oklahoma City RedHawks or various other athletic events.

"Everyone is looking to Oklahoma City for ideas on how to get things done in their respective city," said Shelton. "We are constantly approached with questions about our facilities, hotel properties and the abundance of community support here. We have something special that is not seen elsewhere."

As Oklahoma City's popularity increases, so do the opportunities to tell the story of Oklahoma City. Hollenbeck and Mike Carrier, president of the CVB, along with other Oklahoma City representatives such as Mike Knopp, executive director of the Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation, and Joe Jacobi, chief executive officer of USA Canoe/Kayak, have acted as panelists at sports conferences speaking about the partnership between the City of Oklahoma City, the CVB and our industry partners.

"One of the best parts of my job is getting to speak to groups outside Oklahoma City and share how we

have developed the Oklahoma River into a world-class rowing and paddle sport destination," said Knopp. "We are becoming recognized as a leader in both of these Olympic sports across the nation and around the world. Oklahoma City is moving in a great direction and nearly every week we hear from another city that wants to know how we're doing it."

With Oklahoma City at the forefront of the sports destination discussion, the region has seen increased opportunities to host major sports conferences and events. In 2012, Oklahoma City will host the National Sports Forum (NSF), Sports Planners & Organizers Retreat Talk & Share (SPORTS) and the U.S. Rowing Annual Convention. The addition of the Oklahoma City Thunder to the region's sports scene has only helped secure major conferences such as these.

"Professional athletic organizations are usually the main contacts in each city for NSF. We are partnering with the Thunder to host this conference and without the Thunder, Oklahoma City would never have had the opportunity to even bid on the conference," said Hollenbeck.

"After experiencing a positive and productive experience with our CVB, NSF is looking to work with more CVBs and sports commissions in the future."

NSF will bring in approximately 700 attendees for the three-day conference focused on athletic marketing, ticket sales and sponsorships.

"Our team is identifying and securing high-profile sports conventions and events for facilities throughout Oklahoma City," said Carrier. "We continue to explore opportunities to bring new and exciting sports events to the city and we are eager to see what the next "big thing" turns out to be."



# USA Canoe/Kayak to Call OKC Home



*USA Canoe/Kayak will move their headquarters from Charlotte, N.C. to Oklahoma City.*

Last month, USA Canoe/Kayak, the national governing body for flatwater sprint and whitewater slalom and a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, announced plans to move its headquarters to Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City will replace Charlotte, N.C., which had been home to the organization since 2003, as the national headquarters.

“We’ve built a river that’s become not only a health and fitness destination for our citizens, but a U.S. Olympic and Paralympic training site for our nation’s Olympic kayakers and rowers,” said Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett.

Joe Jacobi, USA Canoe/Kayak chief executive officer, and Cornett attributed the move to the development of the boathouse district along the Oklahoma River and the transformation of the area due in large part to the originals MAPS. Jacobi and the USA Canoe/Kayak office will work with the city in the development of the white water facility that is part of the MAPS 3 initiative.

“Becoming the headquarters of a national governing board is a testament to how powerful the MAPS initiatives truly are in influencing our ability to recreate and redefine the city,” said Mayor Mick Cornett. “We don’t really know what this is going to lead to. But I suspect it will lead to things we cannot imagine today.”

The USA Canoe/Kayak staff will share office space with the Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation.

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# 2012 Chamber's Legislative Priorities Set

Continued from Page 1

We support protecting our “foundational incentive programs.” Without these, Oklahoma will not be considered a viable location by most companies: Five-year ad valorem tax abatement & sales tax exemption on facilities and equipment used in manufacturing and warehouse and distributions systems; Freeport (Inventory) Exemption; Investment/New Jobs Tax Credit.

The Chamber supports the retention of several “industry specific incentives” that are necessary for the growth and development of industries important to Oklahoma’s economic future: the Oklahoma Quality Events Act, Sales Tax Exemption & Refund for Aircraft Repairs and Modification, Sales Tax Exemption & Refund for Aircraft Maintenance or Manufacturing Facilities, and Excise Tax Exemption on Aircraft Sales.

We support retaining these community development programs: Tax Credit for Qualified Rehabilitation Expenditures for Historic Buildings; Tax Credit for Electricity Generated by Zero-Emission Facilities; and Tax Credit for Energy Efficient Residential Construction.

## **Research and Development**

We advocate full funding for programs managed by OCAST, including the Seed Capital Fund and other programs managed by i2E, to support the creation and growth of small businesses.

We advocate protecting the Economic Development Generating Excellence (EDGE) Fund from being repealed or borrowed from and support identifying a permanent funding source to allow the fund to reach \$1 billion.

## **Liquor Laws**

The Chamber will work with industry stakeholders, legislators and others to update the state’s liquor laws.

We support legislation to address liquor licensing issues in Bricktown relating to the 300-foot rule, which is preventing the ABLE Commission from granting liquor licenses to new bars within 300 feet of UCO.

## **Immigration Reform**

We oppose illegal immigration and support an improved process that promotes the ability of students and workers to enter the U.S. lawfully and allows employers to accurately verify the status of employees through a federal database. We believe immigration policy should be set by the federal government and support reform at that level.

The Chamber will support state-level immigration reform that is not inconsistent with federal law; does not place unreasonable burdens, costs or penalties on

Oklahoma employers; is directed toward law enforcement issues related to Oklahoma crimes; will not lead to “racial profiling” by law enforcement; and does not limit the ability of students graduating from Oklahoma high schools to qualify for state-supported aid or pay in-state tuition.

## **Water**

We will work with the City of Oklahoma City to ensure the availability of a long-term water supply for central Oklahoma. We will monitor the implementation of the state’s comprehensive water plan and water-related legislation to protect central Oklahoma’s water supply.

## **Pension Reform**

We support a constitutional amendment to protect and strengthen the financial condition of Oklahoma’s pension plans by requiring existing pension benefit obligations be funded before adopting additional benefit improvements.

## **Health Care**

### **Health Insurance Network**

The Chamber supports the creation of an Oklahoma-led and private sector-based state health insurance network that will provide a marketplace and serve to prevent the imposition of burdensome federal mandates upon the state required under the current federal health care law.

### **Research and Development**

The Chamber will oppose efforts to unreasonably restrict the continued development of the state’s bioscience and research programs and will support efforts to foster an environment that is conducive to further research.

## **Transportation**

### **I-40 Crosstown Realignment**

The Chamber advocates for funding and completion of the I-40 Crosstown realignment mainline by 2012. We also advocate for funding and completion of the teardown of the elevated portion of the existing Crosstown by 2013.

The Chamber will work with the Congressional delegation, ODOT, and the City of Oklahoma City to complete the Downtown Boulevard by 2014. We will also advocate for completion of the Lincoln/Byers project to connect Bricktown to the Oklahoma River/Boathouse Row by 2012.

### **Governor’s Bridge Improvement & Turnpike Modernization Plan**

We support Gov. Fallin’s Bridge Improvement & Turnpike Modernization Plan to repair or replace the state’s structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridges by 2019 and to expand the Kilpatrick Turnpike.

## **Quiet Zones**

The Chamber will work with the City of Oklahoma City to establish a Railroad Quiet Zone on the BNSF mainline running through downtown Oklahoma City.

## **Pre-K - 12 Education**

### **Early Childhood Education**

The Chamber supports initiatives that would enhance early childhood education programs and initiatives.

### **In-State Incentive Grants**

The Chamber supports passage of legislation that will allow the State Department of Education to create an in-state grant program to encourage innovative programs.

### **Charter Schools and School Choice**

We support reforms that enable charter schools to fund infrastructure and support efforts to lift the caps on how many students can attend a charter school.

### **Improved Transparency of School Report Cards**

In 2011 the legislature enacted a new law that requires all schools to be graded on an A-F system. The Chamber supports the passage of follow up legislation and regulatory changes needed to improve transparency.

### **Online Education/Virtual Schools**

The Chamber supports curriculum and academic requirements that will allow students to earn academic credit via online courses. We support changes only if online education providers meet academic content and rigor requirements similar to Oklahoma public schools. We support legislation to clarify the rules governing online schools and creates transparency for providers, school districts, parents and students.

### **Increased Instruction Time**

Oklahoma currently requires only 175 instructional days, which is among the lowest in the nation. We support legislation that facilitates increasing instruction time in the classroom and time on-task. This may include additional days and/or hours in the day.

### **Improved Teacher Preparation**

The Chamber supports implementation of programs that will improve the education of teachers and provide additional “real-world experience” to teachers before they enter the workforce.

### **Incentives for Excellence in Teaching**

We support utilization of the National Board Certification (NBCT) model as a basis for creating high performing teachers but encourage these reforms,

1. Pay teachers who previously qualified for NBCT stipends for the remainder of their certification, plus the year they missed.
2. Recommit to offering NBCT scholarships

for teachers to pursue certification and/or re-certification, with a cap to contain costs.

3. Phase-out NBCT stipend as the certification hits the 10-year expiration date.
4. Invest in a pilot, whole-school professional development model.
5. Initiate discussion of pay-for-service stipend model for future NBCTs.

## **Teacher Salaries - Pay for Performance**

The Chamber believes any future benefit enhancements should be based on improved student performance and supports aggressive implementation of the TLE system and a pay-for-performance system to provide financial incentives for high performing educators.

## **Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics**

The Chamber supports the full funding of OSSM and will oppose efforts that would require OSSM students to pay for portions of their tuition or room and board, as this would create a barrier for certain students to attend.

## **Career Technology Education**

### **Career Tech System**

The Chamber supports enhancement of Career Tech programming and funding, including legislation that creates additional flexibility in utilizing the building fund, and legislation requiring a fourth unit of math that recognizes CTE (career technology education) math as meeting graduation requirements. We oppose legislation that further expands possession of firearms on Technology Center campuses.

## **Higher Education**

### **College Degree Completion**

The Chamber supports passage of the legislative initiatives that will enhance implementation of Governor Fallin’s college degree completion plan.

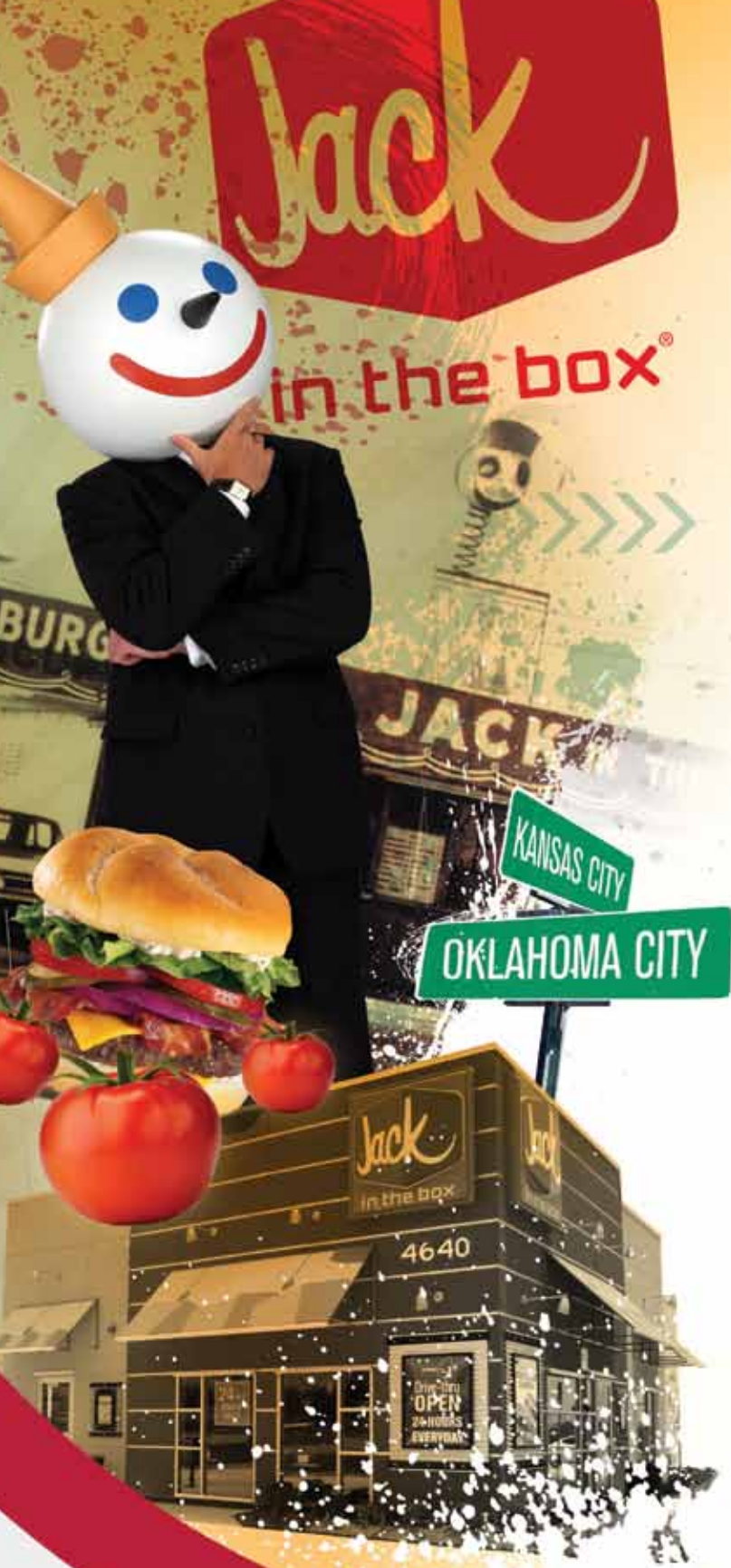
### **Funding**

The Chamber supports higher education funding as growth revenue is available and supports leaving the tuition-setting authority with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The Chamber supports higher education capital and maintenance improvements to support record enrollment growth. We also support continuation of OTEG (equalization grants) and OTAG (aid grants).

### **Campus Safety**

The Chamber continues to oppose efforts to permit the carrying of concealed weapons on college campuses.

**For a complete legislative agenda, look for the 2012 Legislative Guide which will arrive in the annual publication mailing in February.**



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# Innovative Website Re-Launched to Attract Business

Last month, the Chamber re-launched [www.OKCEDIS.com](http://www.OKCEDIS.com), making access to business information research only a click away in a new, easier-to-use interface. The revamped site speeds up and simplifies the process of attracting job growth to the region.

Using Geographic Information System (GIS) software, the website provides immediate access to in-depth information important to site selection searches. Unlike the previous version, property data is automatically captured from commercial real estate industry standard Xceligent, so local brokers do not need to do anything additional to list their properties on the site. Smaller building owners can submit their property information directly to Xceligent via the OKCEDIS website.

“More than 97 percent of initial site selection screening is done online today,” said Robin Roberts Krieger, executive vice president of economic development. “OKCEDIS.com provides immediate access to business intelligence that decision makers need to make an investment decision and reduces their

research time from weeks to minutes. Plus the site makes it easier for our brokers to list properties and sites for consideration.”

OKCEDIS.com gathers economic, planning, infrastructure, geographic, and demographic information often sought by business looking to relocate or expand into a “one-stop-shop” portal on the web. Visitors can view available properties, along with size, use, cost and development incentives.

For more information about the new OKCEDIS.com, contact McKalyn Muldowney at 290-7061 or [mmuldowney@okcchamber.com](mailto:mmuldowney@okcchamber.com).



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- Choose the category “Member News”
- Choose a date for your article to appear
- Give your article a blurb – a sentence or two that summarizes the main details of your article
- Paste your text in the body field and click “submit”
- Once approved, your article will appear on the site in the Member News section

If you have questions or problems while using this new feature, contact Sommer Terry at 297-8929 or [sterry@okcchamber.com](mailto:sterry@okcchamber.com).



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# FLASH BACK

# FAST FORWARD

## FLASH BACK

In 1944, the University of Oklahoma Medical School Alumni Association studied the possibility of creating a research facility in Oklahoma. Just two years later, the articles of incorporation for the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) were signed, and the following year, Oklahoma Governor Roy J. Turner launched a drive throughout the state's 77 counties to raise more than \$2 million to build laboratories and a research hospital. On Dec. 17, 1950, the OMRF research building was opened. Not long after, the organization received its first grant from the American Cancer Society for \$30,000.



*Dr. John Lamb stands at the podium during the dedication of the plot of land where OMRF's first building was built.*

## FAST FORWARD

Sixty-five years and a few months later, OMRF is one of the nation's oldest and most respected nonprofit biomedical research institutes. The organization employs more than 500 people from around the world and annually secures more than \$30 million in competitive grants – ranking it in the top 15 of the Association of Independent Research Institutes.

“Our scientists have already made discoveries OMRF's founders could never have imagined,” said Stephen Prescott, M.D., OMRF president. “They've made breakthroughs in AIDS treatment, they've invented new drugs to treat deadly blood infections, and now their work is paving the way for the first generation of effective treatments for Alzheimer's disease.”

In early 2011, OMRF moved into a new eight-story, \$70-million, 186,000-square-foot research facility which houses dozens of new labs, the Samuel Roberts Noble Cardiovascular Institute and the OMRF Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence.

The organization's 65 years of work is more than a new, state-of-the-art facility. Since its inception, OMRF and its labs have produced three FDA-approved drugs, more than 600 U.S. and international patents and several biotechnology spin-off companies.

“As Oklahoma City continues to grow as a center for bioscience, it is evident that OMRF will continue to lead the way,” said Roy H. Williams, Chamber president and CEO. “Not only is OMRF helping people live longer,



*The OMRF Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence, a clinic that will treat thousands of Oklahomans suffering from MS, is housed in OMRF's new research tower.*

healthier lives through its research, but providing high-quality, high-paying jobs for Oklahomans.”

**At OMRF, doctors have . . .**

- developed a strain of breast cancer cells that helped researchers understand tumors.
- filed for a patent on discoveries made about how the blood clots, resulting in the only FDA-approved treatment for a deadly blood infection.
- established a link between the Epstein-Barr virus and lupus.
- isolated limitin from bone marrow cells, creating a new substance that is able to limit tumor cell growth
- found that BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes may predict breast cancer risk in women.

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# GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to the following Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings & Groundbreakings!

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.okcchamber.com/grandopenings](http://www.okcchamber.com/grandopenings).



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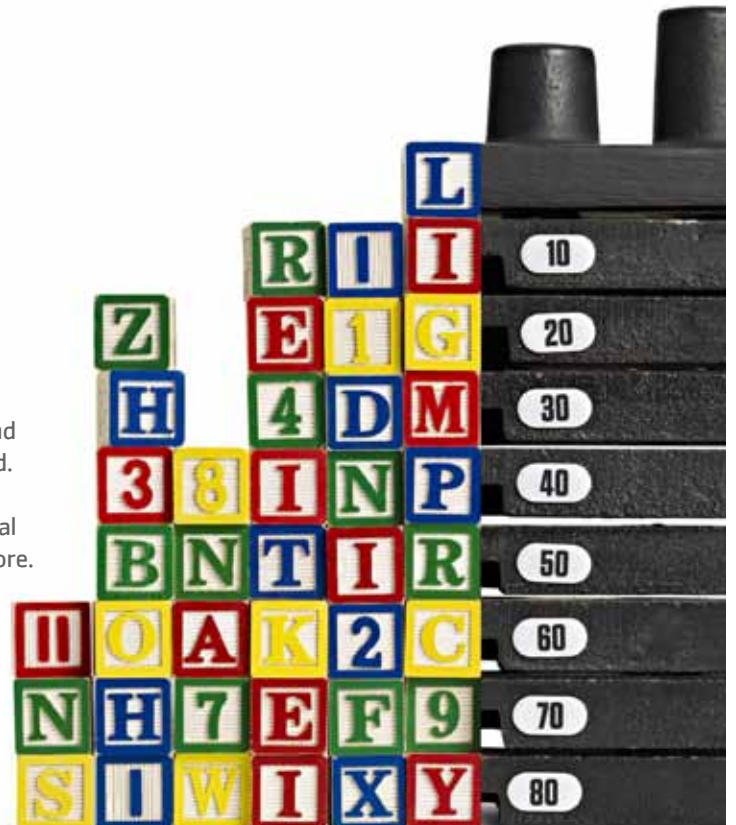
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# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## OKC Ranked #1 for Economic Security

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Full data available through the Urban Institute at [metrotrends.org](http://metrotrends.org)

OKC Rankings (100 Largest Metros)		
Measure	Oklahoma City	
	Grade	Rank
Overall	A	1
Home Price Erosion	A	8
Unemployment	A	3
Affordable Housing for Low Wage Workers	A	7
Serious Mortgage Delinquency	A	17

## Grading The Top 100 Metros: Economic Security



December 2011

Source: Urban Institute analysis of LAUS, HPI, OES, LPS data

For comprehensive Economic Indicator and Regional Data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division [www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators](http://www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators) or contact Eric Long, Research Economist – (405)297-8976; [elong@okcchamber.com](mailto:elong@okcchamber.com)

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PRE-K THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE

January 2012 - Greater Oklahoma City Chamber The Point!

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