In November 2015, the Chamber’s board of directors adopted a comprehensive set of public policy priorities that are crucial to moving the Greater Oklahoma City region toward success.

Below is an excerpt of the key priorities. Read the full list at www.okcchamber.com/legislative.

**Workers’ Comp Reform**

The Chamber supports defending and improving the comprehensive workers’ compensation reform legislation passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Mary Fallin during the 2013 session.

**Economic Development Programs**

The Chamber supports retaining the state’s premier economic/community development programs, which are

Continued on page 8
Bennett said that as the Chamber worked with the county to find solutions for the facility issue, it became clear that a broader approach was necessary. “We have transformed Oklahoma City over the last 20 years and enjoy a dynamic, growing city with a quality of life that is second to none,” he said. “We have worked hard to diversify our economy and create a place where our children will want to stay and build their families and careers, but there is a part of our family which is hurting. One in three in Oklahoma suffers the effects of addiction or mental illness. This significant and startling statistic has led to enormous challenges and complexities within our criminal justice system and is a primary contributor to the increases in incarceration at the Oklahoma County Jail. It is time for the business community to focus on this issue as it has become too important to ignore.”

The Chamber has contracted with the VERA Institute of Justice, an independent, nonpartisan social science think tank and consulting organization that has been working with local governments since 1961. They combine research, technical assistance and demonstration projects to help leaders in civil society improve the systems people rely on for justice and safety. They have offices in New York, Washington, New Orleans and Los Angeles. “We sought out the nation’s preeminent organization supporting communities on this journey,” said Bennett. “It is active in 48 states and 10 countries worldwide. VERA’s understanding surrounding the issues and vast experience should help us expedite our project.”

The Chamber has asked the institute to complete an initial analysis and make recommendations for next steps in the process. The task force will then consider those recommendations and develop an action plan for 2016 and beyond.

Bennett reinforced the importance of this process to addressing the initial concern of the jail facility. “The system and the jail must be addressed not only to respond to the Department of Justice but to do the right thing and show leadership. We will likely need to make investments in facilities through a temporary county sales tax and through increases in funding with a small permanent sales tax or increase in property tax. We know we cannot address all of these issues all at once, but we must take a meaningful step as it relates to facilities, reforms and programs. We must conduct a principled, transparent and well-informed process, which, like in all of our recent success, leaves self-interest and politics at the door. I am convinced we must and will be successful,” he concluded.
Leadership Notes

A holistic approach to a communitywide problem

Last month the Chamber announced the creation of a task force that will examine the Oklahoma County criminal justice system. The most obvious issue in that system is the overcrowded Oklahoma County jail. Its troubling infrastructure is a problem that we have avoided for far too long, but it is not the only topic of concern for our community. The fact of the matter is this: Building a bigger or better jail will not solve our overcrowding problem.

Consider the following figures from the Vera Institute of Justice:

- Oklahoma County has a jail incarceration rate of 510 per 100,000 county residents ages 15-25. The national average is 350 per 100,000.
- In our state, Oklahoma County’s incarceration rate also leads the three largest counties by population, with Tulsa County having a little less than 400 per 100,000 residents incarcerated and Comanche County with 320 per 100,000.
- More than 80 percent of the inmates of the Oklahoma County Jail have not been convicted of a crime, compared to the national average of 62 percent.

A true solution must address not only the physical problems of the jail facility, but also the comprehensive needs of our community — stronger rehabilitation efforts, consistent sentencing and improvements in the judicial process. Without a doubt, efforts moving this issue forward will also focus on improving the treatment of mental illness.

While this problem is daunting, I am encouraged by ongoing conversations with leaders in our county’s criminal justice system about how we can holistically address this problem. We can accomplish more than a improving a facility or fixing a broken system. We can ensure that our community is a place where all people have the opportunity to reach their highest potential.

Sincerely,

Roy H. Williams, CCE
Chamber CEO & President
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VeloCity Issue Highlights Food Finds in Oklahoma City

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber launched its 12th volume of VeloCity, a digital magazine highlighting the growth of Oklahoma City, last month. This edition highlights Oklahoma City’s growing culinary excellence and Oklahoma City’s abundance of action-filled attractions. The new issue can be viewed at www.velocityokc.com.

This issue of VeloCity examines the rise of the foodie scene in Oklahoma City. Features include a glimpse into the longtime residents and new faces at the Farmers Market District and an examination of Oklahoma City’s evolving restaurant scene, with highlights of the community’s farm-to-table movement, the new names in Oklahoma City’s steakhouse stars and the diverse culinary offerings found throughout the city.

The award-winning magazine, which features interactive videos and links, also includes a feature on Myriad Gardens’ recent Urban Land Institute Urban Open Space Award, the bike lanes and bike sharing programs throughout the city and the ongoing development of the Oklahoma River.

VeloCity was created in 2011 to tell Oklahoma City’s ongoing story, with content that appeals to both residents and visitors. Readers can view the issue and share its content at www.velocityokc.com. Past issues can also be viewed at www.greaterokc.tv.

HELP THE Y BUILD A BETTER US.

YMCA OF GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY

The Y is a positive force in our community. Together, we take on the challenges that shape our city’s future. From tackling the achievement gap to teaching healthy habits for a lifetime or giving people the chance to strengthen our community through volunteering, everything the Y does is in service of building a better us.

Every day, our community faces new challenges that create a greater need for the work we do. YMCA donors, volunteers, members, and partners like you make the difference.

Your gift can help our city and everyone in it shine.

GIVE at YMCAOKC.ORG/CAMPAIGN
As the state's elected officials approach the next legislative session, the Chamber's Legislative Breakfast will give attendees the opportunity on Wednesday, Jan. 20, from 8-9:30 a.m. at the Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens, to hear from a panel of Republican and Democratic leadership on issues that will impact area businesses.

This annual event allows Chamber members the chance to meet area legislators and voice their opinions on issues important to their business. Panel speakers include Brian Bingman, Senate President Pro Tempore; Jeff Hickman, Speaker of the House; Scott Inman, House Minority Leader; and John Sparks, Senate Democratic Leader. Chamber Chair David Rainbolt, BancFirst Corporation, will also outline the Chamber’s public policy priorities for the year.

A ticket to attend this event is $40 for members and $60 for nonmembers, and the cost covers the attendance of one elected official. To register, visit www.okcchamber.com/events.

Special thanks to Signature Sponsor The Boeing Company and Host Sponsor Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel & Spa. The Chamber would also like to thank Government Relations Benefactors AT&T Oklahoma, Devon Energy Corporation and OGE Energy Corp. and Government Relations Sponsors Cox Communications and Enable Midstream Partners.
Network with the Chamber in 2016

Take advantage of your Chamber membership in 2016 by attending one of the Chamber’s upcoming networking events.

Sunset Reception: Jan. 7

Introduce your friends and business contacts to the Chamber by inviting them to a monthly Sunset Reception where a Chamber member will open its doors to the public for networking and complementary food and drinks.

Join The Petroleum Club of Oklahoma City, Inc., 100 N Broadway Ave, 35th floor, for the first Sunset Reception of 2016 on Thursday, Jan. 7, from 4-6 p.m. Sunset Receptions are free to the public and no RSVP is required to attend.

Member Orientation: Jan. 12

Learn more about the Chamber’s key initiatives and programs while meeting other members during the Chamber’s monthly Member Orientation on Tuesday, Jan. 12, from 8:30-10 a.m. Member Orientation includes networking opportunities with attendees and the presentation will outline the Chamber’s work in economic development, advocacy, community improvement and member involvement opportunities.

View more information about these events at www.okcchamber.com/events.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 7
Sunset Reception
Time: 4-6 p.m.
Location: The Petroleum Club of Oklahoma City, Inc., 100 N Broadway Ave, Suite 3400

Jan. 12
Member Orientation
Time: 8:30-10 a.m.
Location: Chamber offices, 123 Park Ave.

Jan. 13
State of the City
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens

Jan. 20
Legislative Breakfast
Time: 8-9:30 a.m.
Location: Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens
critical in attracting new businesses to the state, assisting existing companies expand and encouraging investment in communities across the state. Following are the key programs the Chamber will work to protect:

- **Quality Jobs Act, 21st Century QJA, Small Employer QJA and the Prime Contractor QJA**
- **Aerospace Engineer Tax Credit**
- **Investment/New Jobs Tax Credit**
- **Historical Building Rehabilitation Tax Credit**
- **Freeport (Inventory) Exemption**
- **Five-year ad valorem abatement and sales tax exemption for manufacturing facilities**

There are a number of other programs the Chamber believes should be retained that relate to specific industries or are designed to generate economic development. Those programs include: Oklahoma Quality Events Act, Sales Tax Exemption & Refund for Aircraft Repairs, Exemption & Refund for Aircraft Maintenance/Manufacturing, Excise Tax Exemption on Aircraft Sales, Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program, Tax Credit for Energy Efficient Residential Housing and the state employee payroll deduction program for charitable contributions.

### Gun Legislation

The Chamber supports Gov. Fallin’s veto of Senate Bill 41, legislation that would have allowed open/concealed carry of guns into high-economic impact events, such as horse shows, NCAA and Big XII sporting events (including the Women’s College World Series, college baseball at the Bricktown Ballpark, NCAA and big basketball tournaments at Chesapeake Energy Arena), Olympic qualifying events on the Oklahoma River, high school state basketball tournaments at the State Fairgrounds, the Oklahoma State Fair and concerts and festivals held at parks, fairgrounds and recreational areas.

The Chamber will work with the National Rifle Association, the Oklahoma Second Amendment Association and other stakeholders to pass legislation to improve and clarify existing gun laws while, at the same time, protecting the above events, many of which are contractually obligated to prohibit weapons from being carried onto the premises during the event.

### Oklahoma Beer and Liquor Laws

The Chamber supports efforts to comprehensively modernize and simplify Oklahoma’s beer and liquor laws to encourage economic development and job growth, better meet consumer needs, create a competitive marketplace for Oklahoma’s businesses and eliminate confusion about beer strengths by moving to a single-strength model. Specific reforms supported by the Chamber are: 1) Single-strength beer sold statewide in liquor, grocery and convenience stores; 2) Wine sold statewide in select grocery and convenience stores; and 3) items other than alcohol sold at retail package stores.

### Criminal Justice/Sentencing Reform

The Chamber supports sentencing reforms and rehabilitation programs to ease the financial drain on Oklahoma’s criminal justice system, lessen the burden on jails and prisons throughout the state and allow nonviolent offenders to enter the workforce more quickly.

### Early Childhood Education

The Chamber steadfastly supports early childhood education and full funding of prekindergarten and kindergarten programs. Targeted spending on our youngest children is simply a smart investment. The Chamber supports legislative initiatives to maintain early childhood education programs and initiatives.
Development of New Curriculum Standards

The business community through the Chamber must be actively involved in making sure Oklahoma adopts high-quality new standards to ensure high school graduates are college- and career-ready. We will encourage the Legislature to avoid making changes to the new Oklahoma standards developed by the state Department of Education and urge leadership to have an up-or-down vote to approve the standards.

Maintain and Protect Graduation Requirements

The Chamber wants all high school graduates to be prepared to enter college or the workforce. The Chamber opposes weakening graduation requirements, curriculum standards or other actions that could reduce the expectations of skills students must master before graduation. We support eliminating the Achieving Classroom Excellence (ACE) end-of-instruction tests and replacing them with other rigorous standard assessments such as the ACT, SAT or another widely recognized test. We support using such tests only if the score required for graduation indicates high proficiency. We also support an alternative graduation standard that takes into account GPA and a technology certificate plus scores on other assessments. We would support creation of a separate alternative diploma that would indicate attendance and participation but not proficiency.

Extend Coverage to More Oklahomans

The Chamber supports extending health insurance coverage to more Oklahoma residents, through pursuit of all available funds, to cover the costs of uncompensated care that is currently shifted to employers and health care providers.

Insure Oklahoma

The Chamber supports the State of Oklahoma’s efforts to preserve Insure Oklahoma through securing a multiyear waiver from the federal government. The Chamber further supports broadening Insure Oklahoma to provide health insurance coverage to more of the state’s uninsured.

Care Coordination Model

The Chamber supports efforts by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to implement “Care Coordination” models designed to provide access to more efficient, less costly, higher-quality health care for the state’s high-risk, vulnerable aged, blind and disabled population.

Research and Development

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

Mandates

The Chamber opposes new health insurance mandates and liability that will undermine an employer’s ability to provide quality health insurance at reasonable cost to employees. The Chamber further opposes new mandates being placed on physicians, hospitals and providers that will increase the cost of providing quality health care in Oklahoma.

Major Projects

The Chamber will advocate for full funding and timely completion of work on major interchanges located at Interstate 44/Broadway Extension and I-240/I-35 (Crossroads), as well as the following major projects: I-40 east of I-240, I-40 east of I-35 (Tinker Air Force Base) and necessary improvements to State Highway 74 (north of Lake Hefner Parkway).

Governor’s Bridge Improvement Plan

The Chamber supports providing adequate annual appropriations to implement Gov. Mary Fallin’s and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s (ODOT’s)
Bridge Improvement Plan to repair or replace all of Oklahoma’s structurally deficient bridges on the state’s highway system by 2020.

**ODOT Eight-Year Plan**

The Chamber supports annual appropriations necessary to preserve and implement ODOT’s eight-year construction work plan. Further, the Chamber will strongly oppose any effort to divert dedicated transportation funding to other areas of government. To ensure funding is available to ODOT for the performance of critical project completion and maintenance work on the state's transportation system, the Chamber supports keeping the state’s gasoline tax revenue whole.

**Governor’s Turnpike Plan**

The Chamber supports Gov. Fallin’s Turnpike Plan and, specifically, the following Oklahoma City-area projects: 1) the construction of a new turnpike facility to link Interstates 40 and 44 (Turner Turnpike) in eastern Oklahoma County; and 2) the construction of a new southwest extension of the existing Kilpatrick Turnpike between I-40 and State Highway 152/Airport Road.

**I-40 Crosstown Reconnection**

The Chamber believes timely restoration of full access between I-40 and downtown Oklahoma City is critical and will therefore advocate for the reconnection of the old I-40 (new boulevard) to the remaining reconnection corridor between Gaylord/Shields (east end) and Western Avenue as promptly as possible.

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**Will Rogers World Airport to Offer TSA Pre✓® Enrollment**

Will Rogers World Airport is pleased to announce that passengers and airport visitors will have the opportunity to enroll in the TSA Pre✓® program Monday, Jan. 11, through Friday, Jan. 22 (closed Saturday and Sunday). TSA Pre✓® is an expedited security screening program connecting travelers departing from the United States with smarter security and a better air travel experience. Passengers considered low-risk who qualify for the program can receive expedited screening either as a member of the program or another specific trusted traveler group.

As you may have seen in the news, TSA has expanded participation in the TSA Pre✓® program. This program allows participating flyers to experience a more efficient airport screening process by leaving on their shoes, light jackets and belts and leaving laptops and compliant liquids in carry-on bags. More than 150 airports have dedicated TSA Pre✓® lanes, and 12 airlines participate in the program including Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Hawaiian Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, US Airways and Virgin America.

After completing enrollment, successful applicants will receive a Known Traveler Number (KTN) via U.S. mail within 45 days that is valid for five years. The enrollee then enters the provided KTN in the “Known Traveler Number” field when booking travel reservations. The KTN also can be added when booking reservations online via a participating airline website, via phone call to the airline reservation center or with the travel management company making reservations. Additionally, the KTN can be entered in participating airline frequent flyer profiles, where it will be stored for future reservations.

Travelers, who have previously enjoyed TSA Pre✓® by “opting in” through airline frequent flyer programs, will now need to formally enroll in the program through TSA. The airline “opt in” is no longer valid. To pre-enroll and set up your appointment, go to identogo.com/okc.
The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber continued to pursue its goal of increasing the economic progress of Oklahoma City by recruiting new companies to the region and assisting with company expansions in 2015. During that time, the Chamber worked on 227 successful economic development projects, resulting in more than 5,800 jobs and more than $956 million in capital investment in the Greater Oklahoma City region.

“Oklahoma City offers a strong foundation for businesses seeking to succeed, and I believe our business-friendly environment, growing workforce and enviable quality of life are key factors,” said Kurt Foreman, executive vice president of economic development for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. “As we work together to further enhance and diversify our economy, the Chamber is confident that the region will continue to see further growth in years to come.”

The average wage for the announced positions is $48,442, with more than $280 million in payroll. These new jobs represent both new companies to the region alongside growth of existing businesses, with 221 existing companies expecting to add more than 3,400 new jobs.

“Each year, Oklahoma City’s existing companies create jobs and invest in the community in a variety of ways,” said Foreman. “They are the backbone of the region’s economic success and always critical to our future vitality.”

Several companies announced growth of more than 100 positions during some portion of 2015, including ATC Drivetrain LLC, Devon Energy Corporation, Diagnostic Laboratory of Oklahoma, Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores, Paycom, Precision Parts & Remanufacturing, Progrexion, Swift Transportation Co. Inc. and Tinker Air Force Base. The success of these and may other firms kept the community moving ahead and helped the Chamber exceed its 2015 annual goals, including job creation, capital investment, and increase in tax base. Average wages were 23 percent higher than the area average.

The goals are part of the Chamber’s Forward Oklahoma City program, which completed its forth cycle in December 2015. From 1995-2015, Forward Oklahoma City has assisted with the creation of more than 100,000 jobs in the region.

More than 5,800 Chamber-assisted jobs were announced in 2015 with an average salary of $48,442.

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<th>Job Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td>More than 5,800 Chamber assisted jobs created</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than $280 million in payroll announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>$48,442 average salary for announced jobs</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than $956 million in capital investment</td>
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<td>221 local companies announced expansions</td>
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Congratulations to these Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings! 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.

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Oklahoma City, OK 73114

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Oklahoma City, OK 73127

Payroll Vault
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Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Boot Barn
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Oklahoma City, OK 73108

Vertebræ
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Moore, OK 73160

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Oklahoma City, OK 73102

National Reining Horse Association
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OKC Ranks No. 9 for Domestic Migration

People Continue to Move to OKC

Using the most recent data on domestic migration, Forbes recently ranked the 53 largest metropolitan areas based on their annualized rates of population change attributable to migration.

• Domestic migration is defined as the movement in the U.S. between metro areas.
• Cities are ranked by the annual rate of population increase due to migration since 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Metro</th>
<th>Population, 2014</th>
<th>Net Domestic Migration Gain 2010-2014</th>
<th>Annual Rate of Population Change Since 2010 from Migration</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Austin, Texas</td>
<td>1.94 million</td>
<td>126,296</td>
<td>1.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Raleigh, NC</td>
<td>1.24 million</td>
<td>55,920</td>
<td>1.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>2.33 million</td>
<td>94,159</td>
<td>1.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>2.75 million</td>
<td>103,785</td>
<td>0.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td>1.79 million</td>
<td>63,477</td>
<td>0.88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC-SC</td>
<td>2.38 million</td>
<td>83,305</td>
<td>0.87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Orlando, FLA</td>
<td>2.32 million</td>
<td>72,735</td>
<td>0.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>6.49 million</td>
<td>191,796</td>
<td>0.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
<td>1.34 million</td>
<td>37,528</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Forbes; Census; American Community Survey

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

An investment in Human Capital

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• On-site health clinic  • Wellness portal

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