The 2017 Legislative Session adjourned on May 26. The Chamber achieved many of its legislative priorities this session despite the disappointment of the final weeks of session, when a teacher pay raise was not enacted and many criminal justice reform measures were not considered by the House. The following is a wrap-up discussion of the Chamber's successes. Read more at www.okcbusinessadvocate.com.

Aerospace engineering tax credit, other key incentives protected

Despite a nearly $1 billion budget shortfall and increased pressure to identify cuts, all legislation negatively impacting the Chamber’s priority economic development programs was defeated. The Aerospace Engineering Tax Credit was extended by eight years until 2026, and the Aerospace Engineer Tuition Reimbursement Tax Credit, Historical Rehabilitation Tax Credit and Oklahoma Quality Events Act were all protected from legislation that would have repealed or limited their economic development impact.

Chamber Achieves 2017 Legislative Priorities

The 2017 Legislative Session adjourned on May 26. The Chamber achieved many of its legislative priorities this session despite the disappointment of the final weeks of session, when a teacher pay raise was not enacted and many criminal justice reform measures were not considered by the House. The following is a wrap-up discussion of the Chamber’s successes. Read more at www.okcbusinessadvocate.com.

Bio Industry Contributes $6.7B in Economic Activity

Bioscience is booming in Oklahoma and more than 30 scientists, business leaders, educators and economic development officers from across the state of Oklahoma took that message to attendees of the 2017 BIO International Convention in San Diego last month. At the convention, attendees connected with an international audience of potential investors and partners, all under the banner of the Oklahoma Bioscience Association (OKBio).

“The momentum for this region’s bioscience industry has truly never been stronger,” said Roy H. Williams, CCE, president and CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. “The groundbreaking research being conducted in Oklahoma City alongside the opportunities for collaboration and investment set our bioscience community apart from many locations across the nation. A perfect example of this is the recent sale of Selexsys to global pharmaceutical giant Novartis, proof that what is happening here is generating international interest.”

Oklahoma’s bioscience sector currently contributes more than $6.7 billion in economic activity and supports more than 51,000 Oklahoma jobs. The sector also produces annual revenues of more than $4.1 billion. Throughout the state, pockets

Continued on page 5

Continued on page 10
In June 1938, a chance landing of an Army Air Corps bomber at Will Rogers Airport changed the course of Oklahoma City’s history. In that plane was Lt. Col. Robert Olds, commander of the Second Bombardment Group at Langley Field, Virginia. The unusual sight of a bomber in Oklahoma City caused a stir, and the Chamber manager Stanley Draper welcomed Olds at the airport to satisfy his curiosity. From that initial meeting and the conversation that followed, a vision was born. Olds pointed out that Oklahoma City was in an ideal spot to serve as a permanent air depot, halfway between military fields in California and Virginia. After a decade of economic depression, Chamber leaders saw an opportunity that could usher Oklahoma City into a decade of recovery.

As the United States monitored the growing unrest in Europe leading up to World War II, the U.S. government began issuing defense contracts, and Oklahoma City began to lose population to cities that had acquired defense work. In addition to securing $3 million in defense contracts by the end of 1940, the Chamber asked firms and individuals to contribute money to secure land that would be used for military expansion in Oklahoma City. By December 1940, a group of Chamber members formed the Industries Foundation with $294,000 in trust. With those funds, the group purchased 1,219 acres adjacent to a municipal airport for a U.S. Army Air Base.

The Chamber’s preemptive work put Oklahoma City on the short list of locations the Army was considering for an air depot location. In February 1941, the government asked the Chamber to submit a proposal for the project, with details about labor availability, housing, utility services, area transportation and services that a large base needed. Because the Industries Foundation had acquired the land previously, and because Oklahoma City residents had approved bonds to finance part of the construction, most of the requirements were met on the spot. However, Muskogee, Okla., and Wichita, Kan., both emerged alongside Oklahoma City as front runners for the depot.

In March 1941, Air Corps officials visited the sites in order to determine the best location, and they favored Wichita. Still, they presented a stringent list of requirements that Oklahoma City had to meet before they could be awarded the depot, thinking that it would be impossible. Through cooperation between local, county and state governments, and much to the surprise of the military leaders, Oklahoma City was able to deliver on every demand. On April 8, 1941, Oklahoma City was rewarded with a U.S. Army Air Depot and all the future growth that came with it. By October 1942, the depot employed 14,292 people.

Around the time of the air depot’s opening, the U.S. military announced plans to strategically locate three aircraft production plants in the middle of the country. Chamber representatives then pursued that option, feeling that it was the perfect complement to the defense work being done at the depot. City and Chamber leaders again worked to fulfill a list of prerequisites, including increasing the pipeline of qualified workers by encouraging residents to apply for defense work. This campaign was so effective that the Chamber’s secretary enrolled in night courses in mechanics and left the Chamber for Douglas Aircraft shortly after.

The new manufacturing plant was under construction by July 1942. By April 1943, C-47s were rolling off the line in record numbers. When the war ended, the Army took over the manufacturing plant to make it a major aircraft maintenance center, a decision that continues to reap economic benefits for the Greater Oklahoma City region to this day.
The power of a persistent investment

In the minds of Oklahoma City residents, temporary sales tax proposals are often associated with the Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS). MAPS, MAPS for Kids and MAPS 3 used a penny sales tax for transformative projects, and there is no doubt that those projects changed Oklahoma City’s destiny. But if you look at the history of voter-approved sales taxes in Oklahoma City, these investments have been used for more than just the MAPS programs.

Before voters approved MAPS in 1993, a three-quarter cent sales tax added funds to both the police and fire departments. Then after citizens decided to “Finish MAPS Right” in 1998, voters approved a half-penny sales tax for public safety before MAPS for Kids was approved. And before MAPS 3, a penny sales tax was used to update Oklahoma City’s arena so that the NBA team could locate here. Each time voters approved a sales tax the focus was different, but the outcome was the same: a better Oklahoma City.

This September, we will once again have the opportunity to harness the power of a penny in changing the landscape of our city. The upcoming Sept. 12 election includes a general-obligation bond program, a 1-cent temporary sales tax that would take effect once the MAPS 3 tax ends and a quarter-cent sales tax intended to fund police and fire services.

The focus? Streets and safety, something that is important to improving Oklahoma City’s quality of life for both individual residents and businesses. When combined with funds from the general-obligation bond, yes votes on Sept. 12 will invest $785 million in building and repairing streets and related “complete street” improvements, including sidewalks and bike lanes, all across Oklahoma City.

Thanks to our shared history, we know that small, persistent investments can make a huge difference. Whether we are building a new park or making sure our streets are safer, all contribute to Oklahoma City’s ongoing transformation.

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Roy H. Williams, CCE
Chamber CEO & President
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of research excellence continue to develop in Oklahoma City, Ponca City, Ardmore, Stillwater and Norman. During the convention, attendees were able to share recent successes of the bioscience sector. Read more about the following successes at www.okcchamber.com/news.

- OMRF receives federal grant to investigate cell death
- Cytovance enters drug development program
- Oklahoma Blood Institute introduces new research initiative
- Moleculera Labs highlights biomarker-based tests as diagnostic aid for infection-triggered CNS disorders
- OKC doctors advance technology to fight solid-tumor cancers
- Web-based bio-informatics allows for selective breeding among livestock
- PERFEQTA automation software on display at BIO

In the mix of the successes is OKBio, which represents more than 500 bioscience-related businesses and organizations across the state. OKBio is the voice for Oklahoma’s dynamic and diverse bioscience community, and the organization works with partners statewide to foster productive bioscience partnerships and facilitate access to investment capital. To learn more, visit www.okbio.org.

Defining Medicine

Life is precious, so there is no room for complacency when treating illness. That’s why the team at OU Medicine works tirelessly to better understand disease – and discover cutting-edge ways to beat it.
Save the Date for State of the Schools

Oklahoma schools need the support of the business community now more than ever before. Learn more about education improvements at the Chamber’s upcoming State of the Schools on Aug. 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

The program will include a keynote address from V. Burns Hargis, president of Oklahoma State University, comments from Oklahoma City Public School District Superintendent Aurora Lora and a panel discussion from area education experts. Panelists include Oklahoma State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, Representative Leslie Osborn and Edmond Public Schools Superintendent Bret Towne. Tickets are $50 for Chamber members and $75 for nonmembers, and tables of eight are available for $1,250. Register online at www.okcchamber.com/sos.


CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 11</th>
<th>Member Orientation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time: 8:30 to 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Location: Chamber offices, 123 Park Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<th>July 25</th>
<th>Sunset Reception</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 4 to 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Location: Scott Rice, 6900 N Bryant Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<th>July 26</th>
<th>MegaLunch</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Location: Hidden Trails Country Club, 6501 S Country Club Drive</td>
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<tr>
<th>Aug. 8</th>
<th>Member Orientation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 4 to 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Location: Dell USA, LP, 3501 SW 15th St.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Aug. 17</th>
<th>Chairman’s Breakfast with U.S. Rep. Tom Cole</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time: 8 to 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Location: Oklahoma Christian University, 2501 E Memorial Road</td>
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<tr>
<th>Aug. 23</th>
<th>State of the Schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Location: National Cowboy &amp; Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63rd St.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Aug. 29</th>
<th>Sunset Reception</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 4 to 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Location: Bravo Cucina Italiana, 13810 N Pennsylvania Ave.</td>
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Register for events online and view a complete event calendar at www.okcchamber.com/events.
Meet New Business Contacts at MegaLunch

Ready to promote your business to an engaged group of Chamber members? Then be sure to register for MegaLunch, one of the Chamber’s most unique networking opportunities. On July 26, MegaLunch will be held at Hidden Trails Country Club from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MegaLunch uses a computerized rotation schedule to guide members around tables where they present a 90-second pitch to other attendees. Due to the unique format of this event, only one person per member company may attend, and advance registration (three business days prior to the event) is required. Register at www.okcchamber.com/events.


U.S. Rep. Tom Cole to Headline Chairman’s Breakfast

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Chairman’s Breakfast with U.S. Rep. Tom Cole (4th District) from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Oklahoma Christian University’s Gaylord University Center on Thursday, Aug. 17.

At the event, Rep. Cole will give attendees a legislative update on federal issues facing Congress and Oklahoma. Tickets are $40 for Chamber members and $60 for nonmembers. Visit www.okcchamber.com/events to register. Special thanks to Signature Sponsor Cox Communications.
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The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. (#91116, 2/16)
Anti-business/economic development gun measures defeated

The Chamber led a broad-based coalition, Oklahomans for Business and Property Owners’ Rights, comprised of 45 businesses, associations, universities and law enforcement groups, to oppose irresponsible expansion of gun rights in a manner that would be harmful to economic development or public safety.

Of the 49 bills introduced this year to expand gun rights, no legislation harmful to economic development or business owners’ rights was enacted into law. The Chamber and coalition members successfully stopped all legislation that would have negatively impacted business owners’ rights, allowed guns on college campuses, allowed guns to be carried into high-economic impact events and prevented law enforcement from protecting the public’s safety.

Discriminatory legislation defeated

The Chamber joined with partners to defeat discriminatory legislation that would have led Oklahoma down the economically devastating paths taken by North Carolina and Indiana. SB 694, which would have prohibited cities and counties from enacting or enforcing ordinances that protect individuals from discrimination, and SB 197, which would have provided business owners the right to discriminate against those “whose marriage, lifestyle or behavior” was contrary to their own conscience or religious beliefs, both failed to advance. The failure of these measures prevented potentially catastrophic economic losses in Oklahoma and kept the state from being viewed as hostile to diversity.

SQ 780 and 781 protected

The Chamber worked to protect State Questions 780 and 781, which were overwhelmingly approved by voters in November, from legislation aimed at repealing many of these key reforms. SB 256 would have reclassified many drug and property fines as felonies. In addition, HB 1482 would have reinstated certain drug possession crimes as felonies. Both bills failed to advance.

Chamber criminal justice reform measure signed into law

The Greater OKC Chamber’s Criminal Justice Task Force, comprised of business leaders, elected/appointed officials and members of the local law enforcement and legal communities, recommended two bills to be considered by the Legislature this session. One of the measures, SB 342, was signed into law by Gov. Fallin on May 25.

SB 342 will create a task force to assess existing laws, policies and practices related to fines, fees and costs assessed on those interacting with the criminal justice system to determine the impact on jail and prison populations.

Tourism Development Act signed into law

Gov. Fallin signed HB 2131, The Tourism Development Act, into law on May 3. This incentive program was repealed in 2014 after it provided financing assistance to the developers of the 21C Museum Hotel. The Chamber strongly supported reinstatement of this program, which will allow a portion of the sales tax generated by new tourism destinations—such as the First National Center and the Convention Center Hotel in Oklahoma City—to be used as a tax credit against a portion of the costs incurred in constructing or renovating tourism projects.

REAL ID legislation signed into law

Oklahoma legislative leaders brought the state into compliance with the federal REAL ID law enacted following the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks by passing HB 1845. Failure to do so would have required Oklahoma residents to possess a federal ID such as a passport or military ID to fly commercially or to access military installations and federal buildings beginning in January 2018. HB 1845 was signed into law by Gov. Fallin on March 2.

Transportation funding protected

In the closing weeks of session, it appeared the Oklahoma Department of Transportation was facing a $250 million reduction in its ROADS Fund, which is the primary funding source for the state’s ongoing infrastructure needs. Such a cut would have been devastating and delayed work on key projects such as the Broadway Extension/I-44 and the Crossroads Project (I-240 and I-35). However, a more positive outcome was achieved under the final FY18 state budget agreement, which includes a significant reduction to the ROADS fund, but maintains its $59.7 annual off-the-top payment and $575 million funding cap. Therefore, ODOT’s current 8-year plan, which includes a historic number of OKC-area projects, will be protected and
all current projects will continue to proceed toward completion.

The Chamber also strongly opposed a cut to rail funding which appeared in the General Appropriations bill the last week of session. This cut would have jeopardized the Future of the Heartland Flyer. The Chamber worked during the last week of session with ODOT, the City of OKC and transportation appropriations committee chairs, Sen. Stephanie Bice (R-Oklahoma City) and Rep. Dustin Roberts (R-Durant), to amend the General Appropriations bill to restore funding to the Heartland Flyer and keep the opportunity open for future connections to the national Amtrak system.

Improvements to A-F school report cards signed into law

The Chamber has historically supported meaningful K-12 accountability and performance assessment systems including the A-F school report cards. Therefore, the Chamber supported HB 1693, which was signed into law by Gov. Fallin on April 28. HB 1693 will improve the current grading system through more valid and reliable measurements. The law will also require collection of valuable information about school progress in certain areas such as performance on assessments, graduation rates, school safety, student engagement and postsecondary readiness.

Lawsuit filed challenging cigarette fee

On June 7, Phillip Morris USA and local residents and businesses filed a lawsuit that challenges the constitutionality of SB 845, which added a $1.50-per-pack cigarette fee to wholesalers. If the bill is ruled unconstitutional at its August hearing, its projected revenue of $215 million would be removed from the budget and lawmakers would have to implement cuts or attend a special session to generate additional revenue. The Chamber is monitoring the issue and will continue to represent the interests of business should a special session be called.
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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze Lead Investor**

**Board of Advisor members are identified as well.**

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**Bronze**
Members Upgrade Their Support of the Chamber

Board of Advisor and Lead Investor companies play a key role in the Chamber’s work in Oklahoma City. To upgrade your investment, contact the membership division of the Chamber at 297-8949 or info@okcchamber.com.
Oklahoma City’s Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center (MMAC) has been an important part of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) since its opening in 1946. The work of the MMAC includes training air traffic controllers, keeping federal aviation records and conducting aviation research through the various services. 

In 1943, Oklahoma City had just seen the successful opening of an air depot and an aircraft production facility to help with the war effort (see page 2). These two successful projects had opened the door for Civil Aeronautics Administration (which was later replaced by the FAA) to recognize the value of centralizing their operations in order to increase efficiency – and Oklahoma City’s track record of success made it an obvious choice.

By the end of World War II, Oklahoma City was the front-runner for the project. In addition to its central location, Oklahoma City was an attractive location to officials due to the large Army space west of Will Rogers Airport that was left vacant after the war. In June 1946, the Standardization Center and its 50 employees from Houston relocated to Oklahoma City, starting MMAC’s more than 70-year history in the Oklahoma City community. After the first relocation, others followed and the center continued to grow. MMAC drew students from all over the world for aviation classes in Oklahoma City. And the growing popularity of aviation caused MMAC to continually expand. By 1957, the center built its first permanent building, which opened on the 20th anniversary of the CAA.

Over 70 years later, MMAC continues to break barriers in the world of flight. MMAC works as the support facility for the entire FAA and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The center’s services include the Enterprise Service Center, the FAA Academy and the FAA Logistics Center. MMAC is one of two centers that support all five aspects of FAA oversight: airports, the Air Traffic Organization, aviation safety, commercial space transportation and security/hazardous materials safety.

MMAC employs 3,600 people and educates more than 1,000 students annually. When combined with the contractors located at the facility, MMAC has approximately 6,300 employees and students on its campus, with a $1.65 billion economic impact. MMAC provides a concentrated space for pilots, educators and trainees from all over the world to gather and advance aviation research and build upon the foundations of the FAA. Its body of work includes providing supply chain management and support services to the FAA, conducting aerospace medical research and training, and providing safety approvals for high-fidelity spaceflight operations and processes.
The zip code 73170, located in south Oklahoma City, ranked high in both school quality and housing affordability, resulting in the Oklahoma City metro being ranked No. 2.

HomeUnion analyzed neighborhoods with the most affordable homes and highest-ranked public schools.

HomeUnion shows that homes purchased within these zip codes will see property values increase faster than others in their metro.

GRAND OPENINGS

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.

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies are a great member benefit. If your company wants to celebrate a new location, expansion or renovation, contact Chrystal Kramer, ckramer@okcchamber.com or 405-297-8961.
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Cox High Speed Internet\textsuperscript{SM} gives you a fast WiFi experience in and out of your home. With Cox High Speed Internet, you get access to superfast in-home WiFi to power all of your devices and do the things you love online. Stay connected while you travel with access to over 500,000 WiFi hotspots across the country, including new spots now available throughout Oklahoma City and surrounding areas.

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TO FIND A WIFI HOTSPOT NEAR YOU VISIT COX.COM/WIFI

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WiFi network access available to residential customers with Cox Internet Preferred or higher service at hotspots in select locations outside of Cox service areas. See cox.com/hotspots for available coverage areas and hotspots. Cable modem required for internet services. For best performance, use of Cox approved cable modem is recommended. A DOCSIS\textsuperscript{®} 3 modem is required to consistently receive optimal speeds for Preferred and higher tiers, and is strongly recommended for all other tiers. Uninterrupted or error-free internet service, or the speed of your service, is not guaranteed. Actual speeds vary. Not all speeds available in all markets. See cox.com/internetdisclosures for complete Cox Internet Disclosures. Other restrictions may apply. © 2017 Cox Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.