

# THE POINT

January 2018

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

## Chamber Releases 2018 Legislative Agenda

In November 2017, the Chamber's board of directors adopted a comprehensive set of public policy priorities that are crucial to creating a strong future for Oklahoma businesses. Below is an excerpt of the key priorities. Read the full list at [www.okcchamber.com/legislative](http://www.okcchamber.com/legislative).

### Economic Development Programs

The Chamber supports retaining the state's premier economic/community development programs, which are critical in attracting new businesses to the state, assisting the expansion of existing companies and encouraging investment in communities across the state. The following are key programs the Chamber will work to protect:

- Quality Jobs Act (QJA), 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
- Oklahoma Regional Home Office Insurance Premium Tax Credit

*Continued on page 8*

## New Year Brings New Products and Services from the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber

In 2018, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is expanding its products and services to better serve its members. From new events, additional membership levels, more business resources and updated programs, the Chamber is working to meet the needs of the Oklahoma City business community while strengthening the region's appeal as a place to work and live.

"As our membership continues to grow and adapt, it is important that the Chamber develops its offerings alongside it," said Roy H. Williams, CCE, president and CEO of the Chamber. "The new products, programs and services that we are offering in 2018 were designed to make our membership more valuable while creating a stronger community for businesses and residents."

*Continued on page 10*



# Historic Santa Fe Station Opens After Renovation



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Oklahoma City's historic Santa Fe Station – now the city's Intermodal Transit Hub – in December 2017, ushering in a new era for transit connectivity in Oklahoma City.

Mayor Mick Cornett and other civic leaders celebrated the station's ability to improve transit access in downtown Oklahoma City at the event.

"This Art Deco building could have been lost, boarded up or demolished, but this generation said, 'No, we are going to do this right,'" Mayor Cornett said.

The depot was originally constructed in 1934 by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway and it was a hub for rail passengers until Amtrak discontinued service in 1979. The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber played a major role in restoring Amtrak service in 1999.

Today, Santa Fe Station is the northernmost station on Amtrak's Heartland Flyer route, which runs between Oklahoma City and Fort Worth with stops in Norman, Purcell, Pauls Valley, Ardmore and Gainesville, Texas. According to Dawn Sullivan, director of capital programs for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, more than 1 million passengers have used the Heartland Flyer service.

Santa Fe Station will also be served by the MAPS 3 Oklahoma City Streetcar, EMBARK buses and a Spokies bike sharing station. It has charging stations for electric vehicles, a redesigned parking lot and room for expansion to accommodate possible future high-speed trains and regional light rail service.

Since the early 2000s, leaders from the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), the Central Oklahoma Transportation & Parking Authority (COTPA) and city elected officials from across the metro

have been working together to modernize Oklahoma City's transportation options. With Greater Oklahoma City's population forecasted to grow by 453,000 people in the next 20 years, the group acknowledges that passenger rail will be a critical component of that growth.

In 2014, the Oklahoma State Legislature passed Regional Transit Authority (RTA) legislation that would prepare for commuter rail in central Oklahoma by allowing for a multi-jurisdictional taxing authority. Since that time, a number of Greater Oklahoma City communities have financially committed to forming an RTA, including Oklahoma City, Edmond, Norman, Moore, Midwest City and Del City. Using a commuter corridor study, the RTA task force is proposing three transit routes to areas experiencing significant growth.

The three proposed routes include commuter rail or an extension of the Oklahoma City streetcar system, and all three routes would meet at the Santa Fe Station Intermodal Hub.

The station's architecture and interior epitomize the Art Deco era with carved and painted geometric designs, period chandeliers and aluminum canopies, door and window frames. The renovation helped restore the original architectural and design elements of the station, enhance the streetscape on E.K. Gaylord Boulevard and will soon improve the boarding platform.

Limestone and granite on the exterior were restored, and chips to the facade were repaired using stone from the same quarries as the original work. Other elements like the new light fixtures replicate the station's Art Deco style and copy designs from 1934.

In February, crews will bore a pedestrian tunnel from the train station to Bricktown and build a plaza on the Bricktown side to complete the project.

The \$28.4 million renovation project is jointly funded by the City of Oklahoma City (including MAPS 3), ACOG, the state Department of Transportation and a federal TIGER grant. The restoration project architect is TAP Architecture, and the general contractor is Cooley Construction.

# Leadership Notes

*Where there are challenges,  
we see opportunity*

The start of the new year always brings a feeling of uncertainty about the future, especially when you consider the challenges currently facing our state and region. With an important legislative session and election year ahead, it would be easy to only focus on what could go wrong.

Instead, I want to encourage you to focus on what could go right. Oklahoma City's model of success puts our region in a unique position to continue to lead the state in economic and community development. One of Oklahoma City's greatest strengths is our ability to find solutions by putting personal interests aside and working toward a common goal. If we are going to solve our most pressing challenges as a state, this is a trait that we all must put into practice.

Our community has also proven, time and time again, that small, persistent investments and collaborative efforts create dramatic change. We are primed for a year of reaping those rewards in Oklahoma City, with significant progress being made on MAPS 3 projects, the Omni Convention Center Hotel, criminal justice reform, Oklahoma City's workforce development and more. In 2018, it is my hope that we all continue to lead in the face of challenges, both individually and collectively, to create the kind of community in which we want to live.

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
Chamber CEO & President



**Roy H. Williams, CCE**  
President & CEO

## 2018 OFFICERS

**RHONDA HOOPER**  
Jordan Advertising  
Chair

**PERCY KIRK**  
Cox Communications  
Chair-Elect

**DAVID E. RAINBOLT**  
BancFirst Corporation  
Immediate Past Chair

**JOHN HART**  
Continental Resources  
Treasurer

**BRUCE LAWRENCE**  
INTEGRIS Health  
Corporate Secretary

**CLAYTON I. BENNETT**  
Dorchester Capital  
Vice Chair, Strategic Planning

**TERESA ROSE CROOK**  
Oklahoma City Community Foundation  
Vice Chair, Education

**CARL E. EDWARDS**  
Price Edwards & Company  
Vice Chair, Innovation and Bioscience

**DAVID HAGER**  
Devon Energy Corporation  
Vice Chair, Forward Oklahoma City

**STEVE HAHN**  
AT&T Oklahoma  
Vice Chair, Membership

**JUDY J. HATFIELD, CCIM**  
Equity Commercial Realty, LLC  
Vice Chair, Military and Aerospace

**BRADLEY W. KRIEGER**  
Arvest Bank  
Vice Chair, Government Relations

**TOM J. MCDANIEL**  
American Fidelity Foundation  
Vice Chair, MAPS Development

**JENNY LOVE MEYER**  
Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores  
Vice Chair, Marketing and Communications

**J. LARRY NICHOLS**  
Devon Energy Corporation  
Vice Chair, Strategic Planning

**NATALIE SHIRLEY**  
Oklahoma State University -  
Oklahoma City  
Vice Chair, Convention and Visitor  
Development

**SEAN TRAUSCHKE**  
OGE Energy Corp.  
Vice Chair, Economic Development

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

## THE POINT!

ISSUE #3515 - January 2018

### Editorial staff

Kaylee Terracina, Nate Fisher,  
Cynthia Reid

### Designer

Josh Vaughn

297-8900

thepoint@okcchamber.com

www.okcchamber.com

www.twitter.com/okcchamber

www.facebook.com/okcchamber

The Point (ISSN 1075-6264) is  
published monthly by the  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber,  
123 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

### POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to The Point!,  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber  
123 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
or e-mail thepoint@okcchamber.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$15 per year included in  
Chamber membership; nonmembers,  
\$25 per year within the U.S.

Periodicals Postage paid at Oklahoma City.  
Advertising rates upon request.  
Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertising.

## CONTENTS

5 Register to Vote in  
Important OKC Elections

10 See What the Chamber Has to Offer  
in 2018!

6 Attend Upcoming Chamber  
Events

13 2017 Brings New Companies, Jobs to  
OKC

*be* SPICY



Dave Cathey, *The Oklahoman's* Food Editor

**FOLLOW THE OKLAHOMAN'S FOOD DUDE,  
DAVE CATHEY, ON HIS SPICY JOURNEY TO OKC'S  
FINEST RESTAURANTS AND HIDDEN GEMS.**

*be* the very best you can be with The Oklahoman

**START TODAY FOR JUST \$1.54/WEEK AT [OKLAHOMAUNFOLDED.COM/SPICY](http://OKLAHOMAUNFOLDED.COM/SPICY)**

**THE OKLAHOMAN** 

# Register to Vote in Important OKC Elections



Residents of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma City Public School's District 5 must register to vote by Jan. 19 to vote in two important upcoming elections. Feb. 13 is the primary election for Oklahoma City mayor and three seats on the Oklahoma City Public Schools school board.

Three candidates filed for Oklahoma City mayor, including David Holt, Randall Smith and Taylor M. Neighbors. If the winner of the Feb. 13 primary election earns a majority of the votes, that candidate will be sworn in to a four-year term as Oklahoma City Mayor in April. If no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates with the most votes will stand in a general

election on April 3. Oklahoma City's next mayor will succeed current Mayor Mick Cornett, who is not seeking re-election after four terms. Mayor Cornett is Oklahoma City's longest-serving mayor.

OKCPS board seats for Districts 4, 5 and 7 are also up for election this year. Mark Mann and Jace Kirk are running unopposed for Districts 4 and 7, respectively, and will be automatically elected. Nichell Braddy-Garcia, Willie Kelley and Ruth Veales stand for election for the District 5 board seat. Veales is the incumbent for the district. If no candidate receives a majority, the primary election will also take place on April 3.

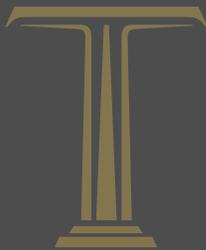
Early voting for the primary election is 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 8-9 at your local county election board. The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the primary election is 5 p.m. Feb. 7. Access the Oklahoma State Election Board's online voter tool at [www.ok.gov/elections](http://www.ok.gov/elections) to find your polling location, confirm your registration or request an absentee ballot.

Asset Management

Personal Trust

Employee Retirement Plans

Investment Consulting



**INVESTRUST**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

(405) 843-7177  
[investrust.com](http://investrust.com)



*"Invest in tomorrow.  
InvesTrust today."*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 11**

## **Ambassador Meeting**

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Location: Central Oklahoma Home Builders Association, Inc., 420 E. Britton Road  
[www.okcchamber.com/ambassador](http://www.okcchamber.com/ambassador)

**Jan. 17**

## **Chamber Forum**

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Location: VAST, 50th Floor, Devon Tower, 333 W Sheridan Ave.  
[www.okcchamber.com/faa](http://www.okcchamber.com/faa)

**Jan. 18**

## **State of the City**

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Location: Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens  
[www.okcchamber.com/soc](http://www.okcchamber.com/soc)

**Jan. 23**

## **Sunset Reception**

Time: 4 to 6 p.m.  
Location: Tower Theatre, 425 NW 23rd St., Suite 209  
[www.okcchamber.com/sunset2018](http://www.okcchamber.com/sunset2018)

**Jan. 31**

## **Legislative Breakfast**

Time: 8 to 9:30 a.m.  
Location: Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens  
[www.okcchamber.com/legislativebreakfast](http://www.okcchamber.com/legislativebreakfast)

**Feb. 7**

## **MegaLunch**

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Location: The Yellow Rose Dinner Theater, 1005 SW 4th St., Moore  
[www.okcchamber.com/megalunch](http://www.okcchamber.com/megalunch)

## Get Involved with the Chamber in 2018

Whether you are a new Chamber member, a new employee or you just want to get more involved, these upcoming networking and educational events will illustrate the Chamber's work in the community and provide ways that you can participate.

### **Member Orientation**

Learn more about the Chamber's key initiatives and programs while meeting other members at the Chamber's Member Orientation. Held on the second Tuesday of every month, Member Orientation is the perfect starting point for learning more about the Chamber. Members of the Chamber staff will explain how the Chamber's economic development efforts, government relations activities, community improvement programs and membership involvement opportunities support the Chamber's work as the visionary organization of Oklahoma City. Attend Member Orientation on Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at La Bella Event Center, 6701 Wilshire Blvd., or visit [www.okcchamber.com/orientation](http://www.okcchamber.com/orientation) for more information.



### **Sunset Reception**

To connect with other Chamber members, be sure to attend the monthly Sunset Reception. Hosted by Chamber member businesses, these free after-hours events feature complimentary hors d'oeuvres, one drink ticket and unlimited networking opportunities. The next Sunset Reception will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Tower Theatre. Learn more at [www.okcchamber.com/sunset2018](http://www.okcchamber.com/sunset2018).

### **MegaLunch**

Take a break from sales calls and have fun networking in a unique way at MegaLunch. To help members spread the word about their business, 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 cancellations of individual registrations require a written, 72-hour notice to receive a refund. Attend the next MegaLunch on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at The Yellow Rose Dinner Theater from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Learn more at [www.okcchamber.com/megalunch](http://www.okcchamber.com/megalunch).



## First Chamber Forum of 2018 to Focus on FAA

For the first Forum of the year, join other business leaders on Wednesday, Jan. 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at VAST to learn about the impact of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, Oklahoma City's fourth-largest employer. Featured speakers include Michelle Coppedge, director of the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center; Dr. Carla Hackworth, with the Civil Aerospace Medical Institute; Randy Burke with the FAA Logistics Center; and Keith DeBerry with the FAA Academy. Tickets are \$35 for

Chamber members and \$55 for nonmembers. Learn more at [www.okcchamber.com/faa](http://www.okcchamber.com/faa).

Save the date for the February Chamber Forum on Feb. 21, which will focus on Oklahoma City's start-up community, highlighting entrepreneurs making a mark in OKC, the resources available to start-ups and how established businesses can collaborate with new companies. Purchase a \$300 series ticket package to receive one seat to all 10 Forums, January through October 2018. Special thanks to Signature Sponsor Cox Business.



## THE Y GIVES ME LIFE

For Penny, a personal trainer isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. Various medical conditions affect her mobility. To help assist with this, doctors recommended a strength-training regimen. Penny spends one hour, three days a week with her trainer, who helps her with various strength machines and free weights. For Penny, the Y is more than a gym, it's a lifesaver.

What starts here changes our community, and it starts with you. As our community continues to grow, so do the challenges we face. We need your help to meet these needs. Your gift will help make our community stronger for all.

### DONATE TODAY, FOR A BETTER US TOMORROW.

## YMCAOKC.ORG



# 2018 Legislative Agenda (cont'd from page 1)

In 2018, the Chamber will support extending and improving the Oklahoma Quality Events Act.

## Wind Subsidies

The Chamber supports ending the Manufacturer's Sales Tax Exemption for new wind facilities. The Chamber also supports requiring the Zero-Emissions Tax Credit to be claimed only as a credit and not as a refund.

## Incentive Evaluation Commission

The Chamber supports the Oklahoma Incentive Evaluation Commission, which was established to make recommendations to the Legislature and governor on which incentive programs are serving their intended purpose and creating economic/community development. If an incentive program cannot show a positive return to the state, it should be scaled-back or repealed.

## Gun Legislation

The Chamber supports the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and responsible expansion of gun-owner's rights. However, the Chamber will oppose legislation to allow open/concealed carry of guns into high-economic impact events, including horse shows, NCAA and Big XII sporting events (including the Women's College World Series, college baseball at Bricktown Ballpark, and NCAA and Big XII basketball tournaments at Chesapeake Energy Arena/Cox Center), the Oklahoma State Fair, Olympic-qualifying events on the Oklahoma River and high school basketball and wrestling tournaments at the State Fairgrounds.

The Chamber will also oppose legislation that would allow guns to be carried on college campuses or limit a business owner's rights to prohibit weapons.

The Chamber will work with the National Rifle Association, the Oklahoma Second Amendment Association and other stakeholders to improve and clarify existing gun laws while, at the same time, protecting the public's safety and the above events, many of which are contractually obligated to prohibit weapons.

## Criminal Justice/Sentencing Reform

The Chamber supports legislation and funding for 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 non-violent offenders to enter the workforce more quickly.

The Chamber supports the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Criminal Justice Reform and will work with other stakeholders to secure their passage in a form that meets the above objectives and protects the public's safety.

## Pension Reform

The Chamber supports legislation to strengthen the long-term financial condition of the state's pension plans.

## Water

The Chamber will work with the governor, state legislature, City of Oklahoma City and other stakeholders to ensure the availability of a long-term water supply for central Oklahoma.

## Oil & Gas Tax

The Chamber supports a stable oil and gas tax structure which promotes the investment of drilling capital in Oklahoma.

## i2E

The Chamber supports continued funding for i2E programs, including the Seed Capital Fund.

## Alcohol Law Modernization

The Chamber will support legislation to eliminate restrictions that prohibit continued modernization of Oklahoma's alcohol laws.

## Teacher Pay Raises

The Chamber recognizes the need to increase pre-K-12 teacher base pay by at least \$5,000 per year, using new revenues if necessary. We want to see Oklahoma teacher pay be competitive with the regional average. We will support a plan that includes these key components:

1. An immediate increase in starting base salary level for all teachers (without creating a funding crisis for other areas of government by reallocation of funds).
2. Development of new, broad-based portfolio of new revenue streams, or expansion of existing revenue streams, that does not disproportionately burden any taxpayer segment.
3. Fundamental administrative reforms that allow more money to go directly into the classroom and provide school districts with more flexibility to spend local funds.

### **Long-term Teacher Pay Plan**

The Chamber supports development of a long-term teacher pay plan that helps address the teacher shortage by rewarding teacher performance and experience or incentivizes teachers to work in high-priority areas. This should include making sure Oklahoma is regionally competitive in the total instruction time required.

### **Extending Health Insurance 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.

### **Preserving and Broadening Insure Oklahoma**

The Chamber supports the State of Oklahoma's efforts to work with the Trump administration to preserve Insure Oklahoma through securing a multi-year waiver from the federal government. The Chamber further supports broadening Insure Oklahoma to provide health insurance coverage to more of the state's uninsured.

### **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.

### **Heartland Flyer**

Passenger rail service is a key component of the development of the Oklahoma City intermodal hub and the future development of commuter rail throughout the metropolitan area. The Chamber will work with the Oklahoma Congressional delegation, the Oklahoma State Legislature, ODOT, the City of Oklahoma City, and the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) to oppose efforts to reduce or eliminate state or federal funding received by Oklahoma to operate the Heartland Flyer Amtrak service to Fort Worth, Texas. The Chamber also supports ongoing efforts by ODOT to negotiate with the State of Texas and Amtrak to ensure Amtrak can be maintained as the passenger rail carrier.

### **Major Projects**

The Chamber will advocate for full funding and timely completion of work on major interchanges located at I-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); necessary improvements to State Highway 74

(north of Lake Hefner Parkway) and expansion of I-40 to six lanes (to Shawnee).

### **Governor's Bridge Improvement Plan**

The Chamber supports providing adequate annual appropriations to implement Gov. Mary Fallin and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Bridge Improvement Plan to repair or replace all of Oklahoma's structurally deficient bridges on the state's highway system by 2020 and further ensure that ODOT is able to maintain a nationally leading bridge improvement program.

### **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.

### **Motor Fuels Tax**

The Chamber supports increasing the state's gasoline tax and diesel tax to the regional average and dedicating these taxes exclusively to transportation.

### **Governor's Turnpike Plan**

The Chamber supports Gov. Fallin and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's "Driving Forward" Turnpike Program 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.

### **FAA Air Traffic Control Privatization**

The Chamber will work with the Oklahoma Congressional delegation to oppose any attempt by Congress or the Executive Branch to privatize the nation's air traffic control system.

Read the complete legislative agenda at [www.okcchamber.com/legislative](http://www.okcchamber.com/legislative).



# See What the Chamber Has to Offer in 2018!

(cont' d from page 1)

## New Membership Levels

Starting this month, the Chamber is launching new levels of investment for its members, including several enhanced member benefits. The new membership levels will allow you to tailor your experience with the Chamber to better reach more of your company's goals.

Through additional visibility and branding, more direct contact with other members, advocacy for your business or information to help your business grow, the new membership levels offer more opportunities and a greater return on investment for members. New membership levels include:

- Core (investments starting at \$500)
- Associate (investments starting at \$750)
- Emerging Leader (investments starting at \$1,500)
- Advisor (investments starting at \$3,000)
- Partner (investments starting at \$5,000)
- Senior Partner (investments starting at \$10,000)
- Executive Partner (investments starting at \$40,000)

Each membership level includes a unique set of benefits. As an existing member, your membership level will correspond with the current value of your investment. To learn more about benefits available to your company, contact Sunny Cearley, vice president of membership, at 405-297-8948 or [scearley@okcchamber.com](mailto:scearley@okcchamber.com).

## Monthly Chamber Forums

Oklahoma City is in a period of growth and positive change. To keep its members informed about Oklahoma City's development and activities that relate to the economy and business issues, the Chamber will host monthly Chamber Forums beginning on Wednesday, Jan. 17.

Held on the third Wednesday of each month in 2018, Chamber Forums bring thought leaders together to discuss major initiatives, programs and current issues that impact Oklahoma City's business climate, economy and community. Learn more about the January event, which will focus on the impact of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City, on page 7 of this issue of *The POINT!*

## Updated Talent Initiative

The most successful city of the future will have the best-trained talent. That's why the Chamber reevaluated its Business Recruitment and Expansion program and incorporated a talent component to ensure that companies have the skilled, trained workforce they need to succeed. With recent hires, the Chamber's workforce team is now fully staffed and planning is well underway for how the program will take shape in 2018.

One of the first steps in the initiative was to connect business leaders for a discussion on best practice models for employer-led training for reskilling and upskilling employees. The goal is to identify ways employers can pool or share training methods to grow our middle-

skilled workforce. The first best practices forum was recently held and close to 50 employers and educators attended.

Along with more best practice forums, the Chamber's talent and workforce team will continue with the upskilling and reskilling efforts by forming working committees, engaging local organizations for collaboration and more in 2018. The team will also launch marketing efforts to help promote the opportunities available in middle-skilled jobs in our region.

### **New Newsletter for Small Businesses**

With insight tailored to the needs of small businesses, the Chamber's new small business newsletter will launch in 2018. The newsletter will include business tips, news and events specifically geared to helping the Chamber's small business members succeed in a competitive marketplace.

### **New Online Learning Tool**

The Chamber will launch Business University, an online learning tool, in 2018 to give its members more access to professional development opportunities. The series of videos will be available on demand and will be offered to associate members and up.

### **New website for Oklahoma City and Chamber news**

In the spring of 2018, the Chamber will launch an exciting community-facing website that drives the conversation about Oklahoma City. Called VeloCity, the website will cover the Oklahoma City economy, events, lifestyle, developments and member news. Partner-level members and up will have the opportunity to have feature stories on the website each year.

### **New Month for Chamber Career Fair**

The Chamber's Greater Grads Career Fair, traditionally held in the spring, will now be held in the fall. Greater Grads will also host additional career fairs with a niche focus on specific skills, industries or degree programs. For more information about the fall career fair, contact Drew Dugan, vice president of education, at 405-297-8940 or [ddugan@okcchamber.com](mailto:ddugan@okcchamber.com).





## New in 2018: PHR/SPHR Certification Preparation Course Starts January 31

24 total hours of instruction  
in 12 easy two-hour sessions

By obtaining a certification in human resources, you demonstrate that you have the knowledge and skills vital to human resource management.

Designed to assist human resource professionals in increasing their knowledge base, this course offers tools to prepare for PHR (Professional in Human Resources) and SPHR (Senior Professional in Human Resources) exams using the official HRCP Program as the curriculum.

The HRCP Program is comprehensive and relevant. You will be ready for the Certification Exam.

**MetroTech**  
DOWNTOWN  
BUSINESS  
CAMPUS 

To register, or for more information on on-site or one-on-one exam prep opportunities, contact the DBC.

405.595.4090 • [Downtown@MetroTech.edu](mailto:Downtown@MetroTech.edu)

[MetroTech.edu/DBC](http://MetroTech.edu/DBC)



**Metro Technology Centers**  
Preparing for Life

# 2017 Brings New Companies, Jobs to Oklahoma City

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber saw a successful year in 2017 as it continued to pursue economic development opportunities for the region. In 2017, the Chamber worked on successful economic development projects that will result in 4,175 announced jobs and more than \$237 million in capital investment in the Greater Oklahoma City region.

“Oklahoma City offers the type of business-friendly environment, quality of life and trained workforce that allow companies to experience success,” said Kurt Foreman, executive vice president of economic development for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. “Our existing companies and those who are new to our market strengthen Oklahoma City’s economy, provide jobs for our residents and invest in our communities.”

The average wage for announced positions is \$49,064, with more than \$204 million in payroll. These new jobs represent both new companies and growth of existing businesses. Several companies announced job growth of more than 100 positions during some portion of 2017,

including MedXM, Amazon, SkyWest Airlines, NTT Data and MidFirst Bank.

The year also brought important progress for several of the Chamber’s community initiatives. Criminal justice reform efforts in Oklahoma County took a significant step forward in 2017 with the first meeting of the new Criminal Justice Advisory Council, an interlocal government council designed to institutionalize cooperation and planning for the criminal justice system in Oklahoma County. Work over the past year has already resulted in a reduction in the jail population from a peak of 2,700 to a current population below 1,900.

The Chamber’s ongoing efforts to improve education in Oklahoma City also continue to gain momentum. The OKCPS Compact, a group of entities led by the Chamber who have come together to tackle tough challenges in our education system, recently launched an effort focused on the mental health of Oklahoma City students. The extensive study is currently assessing the

*Continued on page 15*

## Physicians With a Mission

When it comes to your health, you need a lifelong adviser – someone who knows you and understands your health history. At OU Medicine, our primary care physicians are focused on your overall health, not just your symptoms. We work alongside the state’s largest group of specialists to provide compassionate, research-based health care you can trust.

Call 405-271-4311 today to schedule an appointment.



# RED TIE NIGHT

**BENEFITING THE OKLAHOMA AIDS CARE FUND**

**RED TIE NIGHT** is one of Oklahoma's most anticipated evenings of each year, well known for dazzling decorations, amazing auction items, great music & well-known personalities.

**RED TIE NIGHT** is one of the single largest evening fundraising events in Oklahoma.  Come and see what all the talk is about at Oklahoma's premier evening fundraiser. This year's goal is to raise **\$850,000 in one epic night.**

**100% of the proceeds** from **RED TIE NIGHT** funds nonprofit organizations and projects focused on the prevention of HIV or the needs of individuals living with HIV in Oklahoma.



OKLAHOMA  
**AIDS  
CARE**  
FUND

## RED TIE NIGHT

Saturday, March 3, 2018

6:00 p.m. - Midnight

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

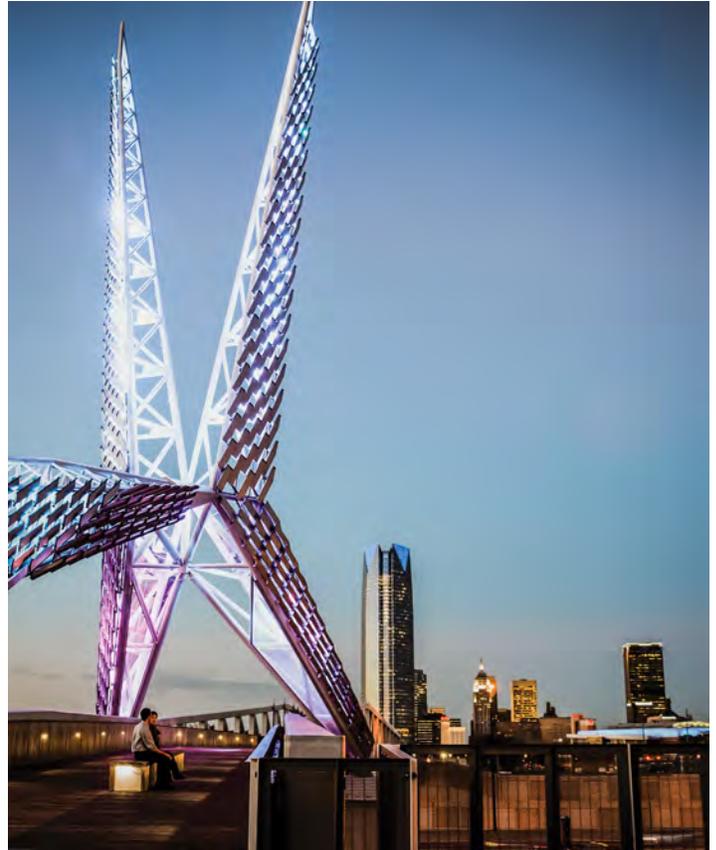
Sponsorships, Tables & Tickets on sale at  
[RedTieNight.com](http://RedTieNight.com) or by calling 405-348-6600

# 2017 Chamber Accomplishments (cont'd from page 13)

mental health of every sixth, eighth and 12th grader in the Oklahoma City Public School district. The study will help analyze the services currently available, identify crucial gaps in service and develop a plan to combat those gaps going forward.

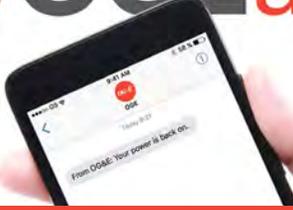
After the success of the Compact's summer ReadOKC initiative, the Compact decided to launch a similar program for the winter break. The Winter Break Reading Challenge took place Dec. 14, 2017, through Jan. 3, 2018, with the goal of students reading a total of 20 minutes over their winter break. During the summer program, students read nearly 800,000 minutes.

The Chamber also continued its work to develop Oklahoma City's innovation district with the release of the Brookings Institution's study on the area. To further develop the spirit of collaboration in the area, the Chamber helped facilitate two cross-disciplinary symposiums to help build connections between similar industries. Both events reached full capacity with attendees representing a wide variety of backgrounds.



**KNOW IT ALL, ALL THE TIME:**

## myOGEalerts



- ALERTS FOR POWER OUTAGES IN YOUR AREA
- NOTIFIES YOU WHEN THE POWER IS RESTORED
- ALLOWS YOU TO REPORT OUTAGES

**CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO BE NOTIFIED:**  
by text, email, phone – or all three.

Go to [oge.com/alerts](http://oge.com/alerts)  
to choose your notification preference.

**POSITIVE ENERGY TOGETHER**

**OGE**  
OGE.COM

© 2018 OGE Energy Corp.

## An investment in Human Capital



Your organization's employees are among its greatest assets. Putting the OU Medicine YourHealth program to work for you can help promote better health and increase retention of these valued employees.

Find out how the YourHealth program can help your organization decrease healthcare costs, reduce absenteeism, increase productivity and decrease sick leave through the following programs:

- Physician-guided health screening
- Health risk appraisal
- Health audit
- Wellness navigator
- Executive physicals
- On-site health clinic
- Wellness portal



For more information, call (405) 271-2535 or visit [www.oumedicine.com/yourhealth](http://www.oumedicine.com/yourhealth)

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. (#125099, 10/17)

Recognizing members who take a special leadership role in financing the Chamber's operations at significantly higher levels. Each Lead Investor is highlighted with a BLUE BOX and identified as a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze Lead Investor. Board of Advisor members are identified as well.

**[Artspace] at Untitled**

*Art Galleries & Dealers*  
Ms. Laura Warriner ..... 815-9995  
1 NE 3rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-2205  
www.artspaceatuntitled.org

**Bassett Furniture**

*Furniture*  
Ms. Lorri Tramontana  
5710 N Classen Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
www.bassettfurniture.com

**Board of Advisors**

Bronze

**Bison Energy Services, LLC**

*Oil & Gas Services*  
Mr. John Leary ..... 529-6577  
210 Park Ave., Suite 1350  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
www.bisonok.com

**Boardroom Salon for Men**

*Beauty Salons / Barber Shops / Spas*  
Ms. Lauren Rachel ..... 594-7437  
5846 N Classen Blvd., Suite Q-05  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
www.boardroomsalon.com

**Chick-Fil-A, I-40 & MacArthur**

*Restaurants*  
Mr. Aaron Weast ..... 440-0500  
6420 SW 3rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73128  
www.chick-fil-a.com/i40andmacarthur

**Comfort Inn & Suites Downtown South / I-35**

*Hotels & Motels*  
Mr. Kaleb Smart ..... 605-3363  
4800 S I-35 Service Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73129  
www.choicehotels.com/oklahoma/oklahoma-city/comfort-inn-hotels/ok107

**Comfort Keepers**

*Home Health Services / Consultants*  
Ms. Samantha Streatly ..... 242-5300  
3601 S Broadway, Suite 650  
Edmond, OK 73013-4116  
www.comfortkeepers.com/okc

**Dorset Place Assisted Living**

*Assisted Living / Nursing Homes*  
Ms. Nicole Hall ..... 755-7800  
2435 NW 122nd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
www.enlivant.com

**Dorset Place Memory Care**

*Assisted Living / Nursing Homes*  
Ms. Nicole Hall ..... 752-4220  
12401 Dorset Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
www.enlivant.com

**Lead Investor**

Bronze

**Emerald Surf Sciences**

*Oil & Gas Services*  
Ms. Audrey Robinson ... (318) 469-3837  
3114 S Council Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73179  
www.emeraldsurf.net

**Family Leisure**

*Outdoor Stores*  
Ms. Laine Rodriguez ..... 928-7665  
8498 Northwest Expresswaay  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162  
www.familyleisure.com

**FirstLight Home Care of Central Oklahoma City**

*Home Health Services / Consultants*  
Mrs. Natalia Smith ..... 594-7433  
4301 NW 63rd St., Suite 309  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
www.firstlighthomecare.com/home-healthcare-central-oklahoma-city

**Board of Advisors**

Bronze

**In-Rel Properties**

*Real Estate*  
Ms. Amber Adamson ... (561) 533-0344  
1900 Northwest Expressway, Suite 500  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
www.in-rel.com

**Board of Advisors**

Bronze

**Johnson & Associates, Inc.**

*Engineers - Civil*  
Mr. Timothy W. Johnson ..... 235-8075  
1 E Sheridan Ave., Suite 200  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-2424  
www.jaokc.com

**Lead Investor**

Bronze

**Keesee & Company**

*Real Estate*  
Ms. Susan Osborne ..... 842-8841  
6421 Avondale Drive, Suite 209B  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
www.keeseeandcompany.com

**Keesee & Company Branch Office**

*Real Estate*  
Ms. Sylvia Shirley ..... 208-7802  
1 NE 3rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
www.keeseeandcompany.com

**Metro Business Tower, LLC**

*Office Space Leasing*  
Ms. Donna Higginson ..... 414-0508  
2525 Northwest Expressway  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

**NorthCare**

*Mental Health Services*  
Mr. Randy Tate ..... 858-2700  
2617 General Pershing Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73107  
www.northcare.com

**Board of Advisors**

Bronze

**Smith Roberts Baldischwiler, LLC (SRB)**

*Engineers - Civil*  
Mr. Marc Long ..... 840-7094  
100 NE 5th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
www.srbok.com

**Stratus Building Solutions**

*Janitorial Services*  
Ms. Chris Green ..... 655-5586  
7700 N Hudson Ave., Suite 9  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
www.stratusbuildingsolutions.com

**Members Upgrade Their Support of the Chamber**

Through increased financial support and attendance at board meetings, Board of Advisor and Lead Investor companies play a key role in the Chamber. The following member company recently increased their investment, demonstrating strong support of the Chamber's efforts to drive the region's economy.

**To increase your investment, contact the membership division of the Chamber at 297-8949 or info@okcchamber.com.**

**Lead Investor**

Bronze

**The Mantel Wine Bar & Bistro**

*Restaurants*  
Mr. Dave Attalla ..... 236-8040  
201 E Sheridan Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
www.themantelokc.com

# 2018 Advertising Opportunities Available for Your Business!

Reach the Chamber's engaged, active audience of community and business leaders through available advertising opportunities.



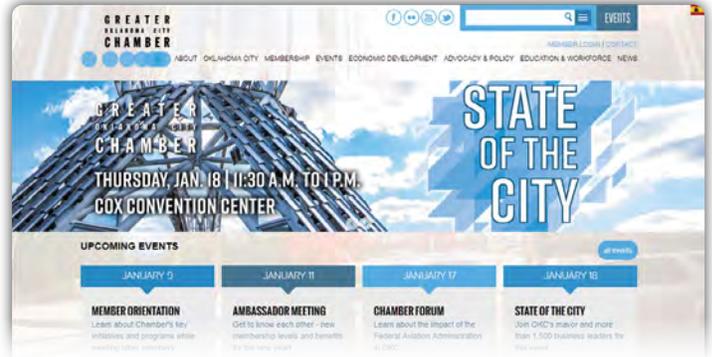
## The POINT! Newsletter

With a monthly print circulation of 5,000, The POINT! newsletter communicates topics that are relevant to the business community. Single-placement ad rates start at \$375.



## 2018 Welcome Guide

This guide directly targets new or soon-to-be new residents of Oklahoma City with information about housing, utilities, weather, education, culture and moving resources. Ad rates start at \$1,250.



## OKCChamber.com

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber website is the first stop for many local leaders who want to know what is going on in OKC. The site is responsive design so advertisers are visible on phones, tablets and desktop computers. A member spotlight ad on the homepage of the website starts at \$1,000.

For more information about advertising with the Chamber, contact Kaylee Terracina at 405-297-8955 or [kterracina@okcchamber.com](mailto:kterracina@okcchamber.com).

AT&T Business Solutions

MOBILIZING YOUR WORLD 

We work as hard for your business as you do.

Learn more. 



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



**Take 5 Oil Change**  
12021 S. Western Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73170



**Oklahoma City University – Kramer School of Nursing Simulation Center**  
2501 N. Blackwelder  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106-1493



**Oklahoma AIDS Care Fund, Inc.**  
4001 N. Classen Blvd., Suite 100  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118



**OKC Outlets**  
7624 W. Reno Ave., Suite 380  
Oklahoma City, OK 73127



**Gene Rainbolt Graduate School of Business**  
865 Research Parkway, 3rd Floor  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104



**Fernandez Agency**  
2236 W. Hefner Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120



**Keesee & Company**  
1 NE 3rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

## INTERIOR DEMOLITION

## SITE CLEARANCE

## EMERGENCY CLEAN-UP SERVICE

COMPLETE FLEET OF HIGHLY  
SPECIALIZED DEMOLITION EQUIPMENT

**405.478.8833**

BONDED, LICENSED, INSURED

MIDWEST  
**WRECKING**  
CO.  
DEMOLITION

**800.249.7325 | AFTER HOURS: 405.550.7206**  
[chris@midwestwreckingco.com](mailto:chris@midwestwreckingco.com)



It's our employees that make us a Top Workplace, and for the 5th consecutive year, we sincerely  
**THANK YOU!**

[www.valir.com](http://www.valir.com)

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## Oklahoma City Ranks Among Best Places for Veterans to Live

- Among the largest 100 U.S. cities, Oklahoma City ranks as 13th Best Place for Veterans to Live according to Wallethub.com.
- Rankings were based on 17 key indicators of livability, affordability and veteran-friendliness.
- Key indicators fell into one of the four ranked categories: Jobs, Economy, Quality of Life, and Health
- Oklahoma City, Austin, Columbus, Seattle, Colorado Springs and Santa Ana were tied for 1st for the lowest veteran unemployment rate.

Overall Rank	City	Jobs Rank	Economy Rank	Quality of Life Rank	Health Rank
1	Austin, TX	4	5	8	24
2	Colorado Springs, CO	16	6	1	44
3	Virginia Beach, VA	38	1	2	52
4	Raleigh, NC	10	3	5	69
5	Plano, TX	8	61	7	24
6	Tampa, FL	9	14	18	22
7	Fremont, CA	1	73	70	1
8	Seattle, WA	2	45	15	67
9	San Diego, CA	45	65	9	19
10	Boise, ID	3	21	4	86
11	Fort Worth, TX	35	2	39	24
12	Scottsdale, AZ	67	15	3	56
<b>13</b>	<b>Oklahoma City, OK</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>64</b>
14	Charlotte, NC	7	29	19	69
15	St. Petersburg, FL	55	56	20	15

Source: Wallethub.com; 2017. A rank of 1 is most favorable.

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and Regional Data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division at [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)

# GET FRESH

Start your new year with a new you!  
Mention "POINT" when you call  
**751.8888** to make your appointment!

*Renaissance*  
SALON & SPA

10440 N. BROADWAY EXTENSION  
**405.751.8888** | [salonsparen.com](http://salonsparen.com)

Luxury Maintenance Free Living

## WATERSTONE

Edmond, OK

[BillRoberts.com](http://BillRoberts.com)



Renderings Are Conceptual

Live Comfortably  
Away from Ordinary



- Meticulously Landscaped Entry & Gardens
  - Gated Community + Clubhouse & Amenities
  - Premium Greenbelt & Courtyard Homesites
  - Priced from the mid \$600's
- 405-204-2560



**BILL ROBERTS**  
CUSTOM HOMES

## LOOK INSIDE!

- 5 Register to Vote in Important OKC Elections
- 10 See What the Chamber Has to Offer in 2018!
- 6 Attend Upcoming Chamber Events
- 15 2017 Brings New Companies, Jobs to Oklahoma City

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

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



# Business Continuity: Is Your Business Prepared?

by Steve Westerman, Director of Product and Marketing, Cox Business

Obviously weather-related disasters are a frequent concern for all Oklahoma businesses. But unfortunately, the disaster threat doesn't stop there. What if a fire interrupts your business? Or a power surge destroys your computers? Or if some kind of human error accidentally erases your files or customer data? And then there's the 24/7 threat of cybercrime; the potential risk of financial loss, intellectual property theft, data theft, reputation damage and legal exposure has made cybersecurity a critical business priority as well. Business continuity, disaster recovery and digital security should all be integrated into the day-to-day operations of your business. Here are some key points that should be top of mind with every business and organization today:

## 1. Business Continuity Planning and Management

To keep your business functioning beyond an unforeseen calamity, it's critical to have a business continuity plan in place. Small businesses are especially at risk; the SBA estimates that up to 40% of small businesses never reopen following a major catastrophe. However, with today's technology, it's easier than ever for a business owner to take significant steps toward keeping his or her company running. As a local technology partner, Cox Business can help evaluate your current phone and data backup systems, and make recommendations on how to eliminate potential continuity gaps.

## 2. Consider Offsite Backup Solutions

If your business depends on data and generates revenue and services based on that data, it's critical to have an offsite location where you can store data should a disaster strike. A specifically built colocation site — typically within 90 to 120 miles of your primary location — is a reliable and safe way to protect, secure and recover mission-critical data.



## 3. The Cyber Threat is Real

Cybercrime is fundamentally an IT issue. If you want to protect your company from cybercriminals, begin by evaluating your technical infrastructure. Knowing your IT environment inside and out is a critical first step in safeguarding it. Also, you can't put up much of a defense if you're always a step behind; cyber threats and attacks require multi-faceted approaches. While each organization needs to implement a customized solution, all companies should utilize a holistic, end-to-end strategy.

## 4. Mitigate the Risk

In today's massively networked world, no business can afford to go it alone. Partner with technology experts who have the skill, experience and local resources to help you make business continuity and cybersecurity an ongoing priority, not just tasks on a "to do" list.

