

# THE POINT

March 2018

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

## Criminal Justice Council Names First Executive Director

The Oklahoma City Criminal Justice Advisory Council and its reform efforts took a significant leap forward last month with the announcement of the council's first executive director. Timothy Tardibono was selected as the executive director of the council under a contract approved by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber last month. Tardibono brings criminal justice, legal and governmental experience to the position.

"Tim brings the right combination of passion for this work and experience pursuing collaborative public sector solutions that we need to help lead our council's efforts," said Clay Bennett, chairman of the council.

"This is an important step to have staff fully committed to supporting the council's strategic initiatives."

Tardibono was the founder of the Family Policy Institute of Oklahoma. He also served five years as legal counsel to U.S. Senator Tom Coburn, four years as assistant general counsel at the Oklahoma State Department of Health and five years as a policy analyst for Oklahoma's Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"I'm excited to join this effort that already has so much positive momentum," said Tardibono. "Much work has been accomplished but there is still more work to do to bring justice to our neighbors in Oklahoma

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## Learn More about Oklahoma City's Next Mayor

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, Oklahoma City voters overwhelmingly elected David Holt as the next mayor of Oklahoma City. Mayor-elect Holt, a native of Oklahoma City, brings with him years of experience in state, local and federal government. Holt was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 2010, where he represented parts of Oklahoma City. Prior to that, he served as chief of staff to Mayor Mick Cornett for five years. Holt is also the author of "Big League City: Oklahoma City's Rise to the NBA."

Members of The POINT! editorial team recently interviewed Mayor-elect Holt on his goals as mayor of Oklahoma City. Read the Q&A below to learn more about his priorities and how he plans to implement them, beginning when he is sworn into office on April 10.

**Chamber:** What inspired you to run for Oklahoma City mayor?

**Mayor-elect Holt:** On a civic level, I wanted to see our city's momentum continue. I love Oklahoma City. This is my hometown and where our family has chosen to build our lives together. I felt as if I uniquely understood how to continue that momentum and make sure

*Continued on page 8*



*Mayor-elect David Holt was chosen by voters to be Oklahoma City's next mayor on Feb. 13. He will be sworn in on April 10.*

## Myriad Botanical Gardens Celebrates 30th Anniversary



On March 25, 1988, the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory at Myriad Botanical Gardens opened to the public, and since that time, Myriad Botanical Gardens has served as the heart of downtown Oklahoma City and a breath of fresh air for all Oklahoma City residents. The history of the gardens starts much earlier, however. This jewel of Oklahoma City was born during the downtown urban renewal project of the late 60s.

While legendary architect I.M. Pei's plan for Oklahoma City is the subject of controversy, Myriad Gardens was part of his plan that continues to reap benefits for Oklahoma City to this day. Dean A. McGee, an oil pioneer and founder and CEO of Kerr-McGee Oil Corporation, was a huge proponent of this project and kept the concept moving forward. In order to win public support for the idea of a centrally located garden, city leaders made a trip to Denmark to study the Tivoli Gardens for design inspiration. Still, the project caused division among city leaders and was not always supported by Oklahoma City residents. The vote to approve the construction of the gardens was so close that one city council member had to return early from a European vacation to cast a vote.

A nation-wide search was made for the architects that would design the Myriad Gardens, which was named after "the Myriad," the building now known as the Cox Convention Center. In 1971, the New York architectural firm Conklin + Rossant was chosen, and city leaders

broke ground on the 17-acre plot for the garden on Nov. 17, 1977.

Unfortunately, construction was delayed as the oil bust of the 1970s and '80s diminished the project's funding, and the area was constructed as money was available. In 1981, leaders formed the Myriad Gardens Foundation to raise private funds for the construction of the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory. Construction resumed from 1983-1985, but the building finally opened to the public on March 25, 1988.

More recently, Myriad Gardens and its Crystal Bridge received a facelift thanks to funds from the construction of Devon Tower and Project 180. This \$176-million redesign of downtown streets, sidewalks, parks and plazas included new landscaping, a new children's garden, a new restaurant space, and reglazed acrylic panels on the Crystal Bridge. Today, Myriad Gardens hosts activities for all ages throughout the year, including free concerts, movies and performances. Myriad Gardens also serves as an educational outlet, with classes about gardening, cooking, art, reading, exercising and more for adults and kids alike.

Myriad Botanical Gardens and the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Sunday, March 25, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with free admission to the Crystal Bridge. Learn about the gardens and its upcoming events at [www.myriadgardens.org](http://www.myriadgardens.org).



# Leadership Notes

## *Being our own biggest cheerleader*

At the recent Chamber Forum covering Oklahoma City's bustling startup scene, event panelist Tommy Yi, co-founder and president of StarSpace 46, made an interesting observation about how Oklahoma City residents speak about the opportunities available in our region. "We are often times our own worst enemy," Yi said. "We are often apologetic about all the bad things instead of saying, 'actually, here is all the opportunity that Oklahoma presents to you.'"

Those of us that live here know that Oklahoma City is a completely different place than it was 20 years ago, but we don't share that message as much as we should. If you are looking for talking points to use the next time you are introducing someone to Oklahoma City, consider the following:

- Far from being just an oil and gas town with no other industry, less than 3 percent of the region's employment is in the oil and gas industry. In fact, the aviation/aerospace, bioscience and hospitality industries all have double that percentage of employment in the region.
- The fastest-growing industry in our region is hospitality. Thanks to our quality-of-life and community investments, people want to host meetings and events here. After people experience Oklahoma City for the first time, they want to come back.
- Oklahoma City is by no means finished growing and investing in its future. In addition to the significant work taking place on MAPS-3 projects throughout Oklahoma City, there are private projects and developments all across the metro that are propelling the region forward.

Our community is known for working hard and making the most of every situation, and we have built something incredible as a result. Now is the time for us to become known for how proud we are of our accomplishments. If we don't celebrate our own successes, who will? It's up to each of us, individually, to share the news about where Oklahoma City is headed, and how other people can be a part of the momentum.

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
Chamber CEO & President



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
President & CEO

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ISSUE #3517 - March 2018

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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.

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“I’ll check out social media sites to see what everybody is talking about, and then I turn to **The Oklahoman** to get the facts.”

Kristin – Subscriber

## AMERICANS ARE 3X MORE LIKELY TO TRUST NEWSPAPERS THAN SOCIAL MEDIA FOR LOCAL NEWS. – AMERICAN PRESS INSTITUTE

Kristin uses social media and websites like Facebook or BuzzFeed but takes the information she finds there with a grain of salt.

“They’re definitely not my top sources. When you use social media as your primary source of news, you’re getting a lot of opinions. You’re not always getting facts,” she says.

Where does Kristin turn to get the facts?

“I rely on The Oklahoman to see what’s really happening,” she says. “If you want solid, local facts you need to go with them.”

At The Oklahoman, we believe readers like Kristin deserve legit news they can trust. That’s why we fact-check each story and report with context and care.

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THE OKLAHOMAN 

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# Connect with National Leaders at Upcoming D.C. Visit

Decisions made in our nation's capital have a significant impact on our businesses and our community.

From regulation and infrastructure development to investments in our nation's defense, Oklahoma City – and our companies – feel the consequences of choices made there.

The Chamber's upcoming D.C. Visit will give you the opportunity to make your voice heard. Join fellow community leaders in a two-day visit to Washington, D.C. on April 25-26.

This annual event includes briefings with Oklahoma's U.S. senators and congressmen and a reception on Capitol Hill with federal officials and defense leaders. On the second day, "off the hill" sessions will cover specific topics of interest on issues important to our community including military defense, the future of NAFTA and free trade, the Trump administration's infrastructure plan, and the current national political landscape for the 2018 mid-term elections.

An \$800 registration fee includes one night's hotel stay lodging at The Dupont Circle Hotel and all affiliated events. Air travel to and from Washington, D.C. is not included, giving attendees the option to extend their stay for additional business in the area. Additional room nights are available for Tuesday, April 24 and Thursday, April 26. To register, visit [www.okcchamber.com/DC](http://www.okcchamber.com/DC). Special thanks to Signature Sponsor American Fidelity Corporation.



*The Chamber's D.C. Visit includes briefings with Oklahoma's U.S. senators and congressmen, a reception on Capitol Hill and a military defense briefing.*

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Learn How Tax Reforms Might Impact Your Business

At the upcoming Chamber Forum, hear how the sweeping changes made via recent tax reforms could impact small and mid-sized companies. Attend the event on Wednesday, March 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vast, 333 W Sheridan Ave., to learn more about what is being described as the most comprehensive tax reform in decades.

Mark Whitman, a tax partner and tax location leader in EY's Oklahoma City office, will provide tips on how businesses and individuals can navigate the new law at the March Chamber Forum. Individual tickets are \$35 for Chamber members and \$55 for nonmembers. Visit [www.okchamber.com/tax](http://www.okchamber.com/tax) to register. Special thanks to Signature Sponsor Cox Business.



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## Exhibit at RecruitOKC on April 4

Looking to fill open positions with an educated workforce? RecruitOKC, a Greater Grads networking event, can help! RecruitOKC will help you promote your business, recruit new employees or interns, and interview for open positions on-site at the event on Wednesday, April 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Jim Thorpe Museum (Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame), 4040 N Lincoln Blvd. This event also gives employers the opportunity to have a presence in the market this spring with the move of the Greater Grads Career Fair to the fall.

Chamber members, government agencies and non-profit organizations can exhibit for the discounted rate of \$200, which includes one draped table and two chairs. Due to limited space, registration will close on March 27. Reserve your table now by visiting [www.greatergrads.com/recruit](http://www.greatergrads.com/recruit). Special thanks to Greater Grads Benefactors American Fidelity Corporation, The Boeing Company, Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc., OGE Energy Corp., SandRidge Energy, Inc., and University of Central Oklahoma College of Business.

### March 21

#### Chamber Forum

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Vast, 333 W Sheridan Ave.

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

### April 4

#### RecruitOKC

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Location: Jim Thorpe Museum (Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame), 4040 N Lincoln Blvd.

[www.greatergrads.com/recruit](http://www.greatergrads.com/recruit)

### April 5

#### SchmoozaPalooza

Time: 4 to 7 p.m.

Location: Oklahoma Expo Hall, 3213 Wichita Walk

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

### April 10

#### Member Orientation

Time: 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Location: IBC Bank, 3817 Northwest Expressway, Suite 100

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

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## David Holt Elected Oklahoma City Mayor (cont'd from page1)

it reaches every part of our city. And on a more personal level, I've served at every level of government, but I felt the most fulfilled when I was at City Hall. This is where you can make a difference.

### **What have you learned from your time as an elected official in the Oklahoma State Senate, and how will that impact the way you will lead Oklahoma City?**

A lot of times, it's been what *not* to do. The current Legislature doesn't understand the importance of investing in our future, it spends too much time on trivial issues, and it doesn't know how to compromise. In Oklahoma City, we have been willing to do what it takes to build a city where people want to live and work. We have focused on things that matter. And we have worked together to compromise, which is the only way a diverse city of 650,000 people can move forward. On a more personal level, I would say my eight years in the Senate *have* been valuable in learning how to navigate the many challenges presented in any political process. Experience is, as they say, everything. I authored more than 70 pieces of legislation that became law. Every one of those bills—and the ones I failed to advance, too—provided experiences I'll draw upon moving forward.

### **Oklahoma City has a lot of positive momentum after three decades of successful public investments that in turn spurred even more private investment, jobs and development. As mayor, how do you plan to continue that momentum?**

First, we want to make sure we take care of the basics—police, fire, streets, infrastructure. The good news is the voters approved major investments in

those areas last September, and I'll work to ensure those promises are kept. Second, we need to have an inclusive conversation about continuing the quality of life investments that have given us this positive momentum. Specifically, we'll need to start talking soon as a community about whether to pursue a MAPS 4 and what challenges it might address. Third, to continue our momentum, we have to focus on education. And finally, we have to better incorporate the diversity of our city into decision making. To me, these are the foundational elements that allow us to continue this momentum and to extend it to every part of the city.

### **What role does economic development play in Oklahoma City's success, and how do you plan to strengthen OKC's economic development potential?**

Humans can't live without food and water and cities can't live without jobs. It's that fundamental. When I talk about momentum or the foundational elements to our city's success, I'm really talking about all the things that create an ecosystem for economic growth. That's the ultimate goal. So, I think all the things I mentioned previously play into our economic development potential. I would add there are also some more direct ways we influence that equation. There are entities like the Chamber of Commerce or the Alliance for Economic Development that take these assets we have cultivated and sell them to job creators around the world. That work is important and must continue. I also believe we can probably do more to create a local ecosystem for entrepreneurs, especially in the tech and bio industries. Encouraging the Innovation District's growth could help to address that.

## How do you plan to support public education in Oklahoma City?

Public education is the greatest challenge facing our city. And it's personal to me as well - my kids are students in Oklahoma City Public Schools. Cities and school districts are separate entities in Oklahoma, but a mayor must do everything he can to address our city's greatest challenges. A mayor can convene the interested parties in our city and develop a consensus around a strategic vision for education. We had MAPS for Kids, but that was 17 years ago. It's time to develop a new vision and rally our city around its implementation.

## One of your top priorities is incorporating diversity into decision making. How do you plan to bridge divides and make Oklahoma City leadership more diverse?

The first step is to use the platform of the position to force us all out of our bubbles a little bit. Spending a year running for mayor has a way of exposing you to people and places you wouldn't have otherwise experienced. I need to be engaged in all the communities within our city, and I need to share those experiences with everyone else. A mayor also has direct appointment authority over hundreds of volunteer positions. Over time, I will make sure those appointments reflect our population. And finally, the mayor has a big say in who is in the room when decisions are made. I will make sure those rooms reflect the diversity of our city. There are communities that have not felt a part of our decision-making and our momentum, and for our city to succeed in the long-term, that has to change.

## What is the best way for Oklahoma City business leaders to contribute to Oklahoma City's ongoing growth?

Business leaders have played an extremely critical role in getting us to this point over the last 25 years. Without Oklahoma City's business leaders, we wouldn't have MAPS, the NBA, etc. Moving forward, that leadership has to continue. The close relationship between City Hall and the Chamber has to continue. At the same time, we all recognize the city is evolving and that leadership has to come from more parts of the city if we are to continue this momentum. I'll be working with business leaders to build a bigger table so everyone feels like they have a voice in major decisions. I'll also be working with business leaders on MAPS 4 and education, because those issues will require everything we have to be successful.

## Four years from now, what is your vision for what Oklahoma City will look like?

We'll have core services we're extremely proud of. We'll have more quality of life investments coming that ensure our momentum for another decade. We'll have a hopeful vision for public education that we're pursuing together. We'll have a decision-making process that the whole city feels a part of. And I think with those things in place, we'll have continued job growth and a continued sense of pride and optimism.

## CJAC Executive Director Named (cont'd from page 1)

County. I'm ready to get to work helping the council make sustainable changes and reforms. I am grateful to the council for this important opportunity."

The council was formed late last year through an interlocal agreement to institutionalize cooperation and planning for the criminal justice system in Oklahoma County. The council contracted with the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber to provide an employee to serve as the council's executive director. The stated goals of the Council are to study and evaluate the criminal justice system; collect and analyze data related to the criminal justice system; promote increased efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system; recommend policies and programs to reduce recidivism, reduce jail

population and increase community and public safety; recommend policies and practices to control the costs of criminal justice system and incarceration; and increase community support for the criminal justice system.

The council was a natural progression of the Chamber's criminal justice reform efforts, which started in December 2015 with the creation of the Chamber's Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Reform Task Force. Since that time, community members representing almost all facets of the county's criminal justice system have worked together to enact smart reforms and have reduced the average daily jail population by more than 900 individuals. Visit [www.smartsafeokco.com](http://www.smartsafeokco.com) for more details on reform efforts.

# Chamber Tells Story of Biotech's Rise in the Region

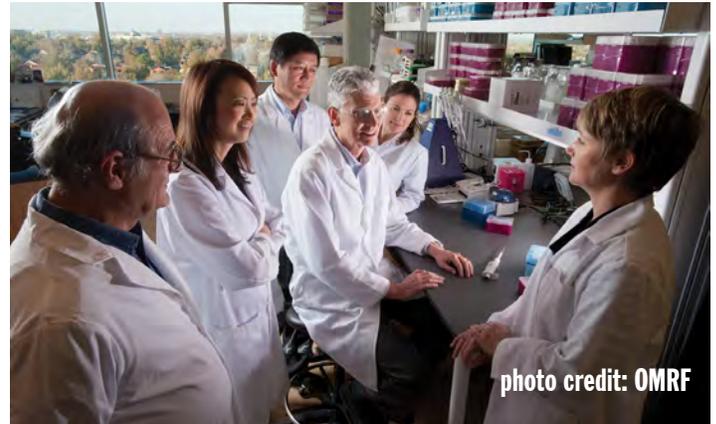
The Chamber is continuing to tell Oklahoma City's story in dynamic ways on [www.greateroklahomacity.com](http://www.greateroklahomacity.com), this time with a focus on Oklahoma City's rising biotech industry. With a format intended to be easily shared with clients, coworkers and friends, the storytelling section of the Chamber's economic development website combats the disconnect between Oklahoma City's impressive growth and outdated perceptions about Oklahoma City's culture.

"Brilliant: Soaring Science from a Rising Bio Campus," the second installment of the series, demonstrates how Oklahoma City's pioneering spirit shows up in the futuristic achievements of the region's biotech industry. From its foundations until today, the feature walks the reader through how synergy, discovery and sharing Oklahoma City's bioscience industry with the world has made the region a frontier for achievement.

Each chapter of the story offers the chance to engage with more contextual content, with links to interviews with Oklahoma City's brightest researchers, virtual

tours of research space and more. Like all Chamber websites, this site is responsive and can be accessed on smartphones, tablets and computers, which means it will look great however you choose to read it. The story is also easy to share with friends, co-workers and contacts outside of the Oklahoma City area.

Read the feature at [www.greateroklahomacity.com/biostory](http://www.greateroklahomacity.com/biostory).



*Oklahoma City's biotech industry is the focus of the newest feature story on [www.greateroklahomacity.com](http://www.greateroklahomacity.com).*

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# Escape to Paradise with SchmoozaPalooza

The Chamber's SchmoozaPalooza Trade Show is back with a Hawaiian flair at the Oklahoma Expo Hall at State Fair Park on Thursday, April 5, from 4 to 7 p.m. Join the luau with your coworkers and friends and spend the afternoon meeting new potential clients, enjoying food from Oklahoma City's best restaurants and caterers, and learning about the products and services available from Chamber members. A \$10 ticket includes one drink and unlimited networking in a casual setting.

Increase the fun by purchasing a PaloozaSpecial and save on admission. PaloozaSpecials must be purchased in advance and include:

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# GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to 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).



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# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## OKC 2nd-Lowest Cost of Living Among Large Cities

Oklahoma City ranks second for lowest cost of living among all reporting large cities over 500,000 population. If you are earning \$70,000 after tax in Seattle, the comparable income to achieve the same standard of living in Oklahoma City is \$39,892. If you moved from Seattle to Oklahoma City:

- Groceries will cost 29% less
- Housing will cost 62% less
- Utilities will cost 29% less
- Transportation will cost 35% less
- Health will cost 26% less

Where You Live Matters! C2ER 2017 Annual Average Price Report [www.coli.org](http://www.coli.org)

City	Composite Index	Coffee	Apartment Rent	Gasoline	Doctor Visit	Men's Haircut	Movie Ticket
<b>Oklahoma City</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>\$3.78</b>	<b>\$797.06</b>	<b>\$1.89</b>	<b>\$92.92</b>	<b>\$14.66</b>	<b>\$9.49</b>
Denver CO	112.0	\$4.59	\$1,414.31	\$2.25	\$131.22	\$19.24	\$12.42
Indianapolis IN	92.6	\$4.30	\$1,014.10	\$2.16	\$92.24	\$17.73	\$10.92
Kansas City MO-KS	91.5	\$4.18	\$957.40	\$2.13	\$99.13	\$15.70	\$9.55
Omaha NE	92.1	\$3.84	\$1,047.42	\$1.82	\$137.37	\$17.00	\$9.59
Nashville-Murfreesboro TN	96.7	\$4.66	\$1,008.61	\$2.11	\$83.40	\$16.07	\$11.36
Dallas TX	102.1	\$4.40	\$1,318.22	\$2.09	\$106.11	\$24.91	\$10.58
National Average	100.0	\$4.35	\$1,043.55	\$2.25	\$107.26	\$16.10	\$10.31

Check out the Cost of Living Calculator at [www.abetterlifeokc.com/costofliving](http://www.abetterlifeokc.com/costofliving)

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 – 297-8976; [elong@okcchamber.com](mailto:elong@okcchamber.com)



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TOP WORK PLACES 2017 THE OKLAHOMAN

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