

# THE POINT

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April 2019

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## Airport expansion another sign that OKC is really taking off



It's been quite a year for the aviation sector in Oklahoma City. With the opening of Sky West Airlines' new maintenance hangar at Will Rogers World Airport, the groundbreaking of a manufacturing facility by Kratos Defense and Security Systems, the addition of several non-stop destinations from OKC and the continuing construction of the KC-46A maintenance campus at Tinker Air Force Base, the sky really is the limit when it comes to the number-two economic sector in the state.

All of that, and many factors totally unrelated to aviation (think tourism and economic development activities), has contributed to increased passenger traffic levels the past several years at OKC's primary airport. While that's a good thing, the airline passenger gateway to OKC had not

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## New Brookings report gives OKC high marks

A new report from the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program explores the local realities of America's economic progress, illuminating how metropolitan economies are performing today and over the past decade. Beyond the headlines of the nation's rising GDP, low unemployment rate, and stock market performance, the report finds that truly inclusive economic growth remains rare in metro America.

The new report, *Metro Monitor 2019*, analyzes trends for the 100 largest U.S. metro areas in growth (size and dynamism of the regional economy), prosperity (average wealth and income the regional economy produces), and several other markers. The report provides analysis both for the latest year of complete data (2016 to 2017), and across the decade from 2007 to 2017.

Over the past decade, Oklahoma City ranked third in percentage change of productivity, fifth in the

prosperity index (changes in the average wealth and income produced by an economy), fifth in annual wage percentage change, tenth in fastest-growing Gross Metropolitan Product and twelfth in percentage change for standard of living.

"The results of this Brookings report, showing growth over the last 10 years in these areas, reinforce what those of us who live here already know," said Roy Williams, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber president & CEO. "The OKC metro is a great place to live, learn, work and play. We expect the growth we have seen over the past 10-plus years to continue. It is an exciting time to be in Oklahoma City."

To see the data on Oklahoma City, visit [www.brookings.edu/research/metro-monitor-2019-inclusion-remains-elusive-amid-widespread-metro-growth-and-rising-prosperity/](http://www.brookings.edu/research/metro-monitor-2019-inclusion-remains-elusive-amid-widespread-metro-growth-and-rising-prosperity/).



## New marathon course sets stage for 20th anniversary

Runners of the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, set for April 28, will get to take in some new scenery starting with this year's race.

The start line remains the same – in front of the OKC National Memorial & Museum - but the finish line changes. For the past 18 years, the marathon ended in Automobile Alley. This year, the finish line will be at the corner of Hudson and Sheridan, the southwest corner of Devon Energy. Next year, the five races of the OKC Memorial Marathon will finish at the new Scissortail Park.

Organizers said 2019 will test out the new course ahead of the marathon's 20th anniversary in 2020. Highlights of the new course include running south on Robinson to Reno, west on Reno to Walker, south over the bridge and past Little Flower Church and then east on SW 15 Street in between the Oklahoma River and what will be lower Scissortail Park.

Runners will turn back north on Robinson and turn east at the Chesapeake Arena through Thunder Alley. The course will remain the same along Sheridan to Lincoln.

Marathoners, half marathoners and relay runners will still run up Gorilla Hill and half marathoners will start their journey back toward the finish line just past the big Gorilla.

Other major changes on the course include marathoners going along Britton to Pennsylvania, but they will not run to and along Lake Hefner. The marathoners and half marathoners will run parallel streets (Classen and Shartel) from 18th to 4th Street where all runners will rejoin on 4th Street running east, then turn south on Hudson heading to the new finish line just past the crosswalk between Devon Energy and Bank of Oklahoma tower.

The new finish allows the runners to run on one of the widest corridors in downtown and finish just outside Myriad Gardens, where there will be an outdoor concert, food and other amenities after the race.

The kids marathon will take a different route this year to avoid construction and the changes to the new marathon route, but will still race among the skyscrapers of downtown and end in the newly redesigned Kerr Park, as it has the past two years.

Visit [www.okcmarathon.com](http://www.okcmarathon.com) for the latest information on the marathon.

# Leadership Notes

*Join us next month at our nation's Capitol.*

It's almost time for our annual trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with the members of Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation. I am frequently asked why we go and what we hope to accomplish

Quite simply, when business leaders speak up for what they believe, they get more attention than average citizens. They are quoted in the media and their business perspectives hold a lot of sway in Washington.

What happens in D.C. can have a huge impact on us here in Oklahoma City. Our elected officials need to know what those impacts – positive and negative – are and how they might affect our local economy. And we need the insight our representatives provide to better understand the how's and why's of the federal legislative process.

It's a quick trip that is packed with potential. We'll be briefed on pending legislation, hear from military officials and have the opportunity to develop, or further cement, relationships with our Congressional Delegation and their staffs.

If you aren't going with us on May 1 and 2, please give it serious consideration for next year. It is a great tool for ensuring that the voice of the OKC business community continues to be heard by our representatives in Washington.

To register, visit [www.okcchamber.com/DC](http://www.okcchamber.com/DC).

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
Chamber President & CEO



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
President & CEO

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President & CEO

## THE POINT!

ISSUE #3530 - April 2019

### Editorial staff

David McCollum, Nate Fisher,  
Cynthia Reid

### Designer

Josh Vaughn

297-8900

[thepoint@okcchamber.com](mailto:thepoint@okcchamber.com)

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

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

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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](mailto: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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# Airport expansion signals a soaring OKC (cont'd from pg 1)

undergone a major expansion for 12 years, and that project only added one new airline gate and a pre-TSA designed security checkpoint.

But all of that changed on March 29, when city leaders, contractors and airport stakeholders gathered to formally launch the Will Rogers World Airport terminal expansion. Among other improvements, the \$89 million project will add four new airline gates, a consolidated security checkpoint and much-needed greeting lounge space.

“Here at Will Rogers, we’re so excited to see this day come,” said Mark Kranenburg, airports director. “From the additional gate space, to impressive new public circulation areas, we’ve reached the point where we can start talking about this expansion in present tense. This is the point where we can see our vision truly start to come to life.”

“Will Rogers plays such a critical role in our city and its economic growth,” said Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt. “Physically, it’s the first impression for most job creators and visitors, and the level of air service it provides has a direct correlation to our city’s level of economic opportunity across virtually all business sectors. This project will have a major positive effect on all the things that make our airport successful, and therefore it will have a major positive effect on our city’s economy.”

One highly anticipated feature of the project is an elevated public circulation area that will give non-ticketed visitors a place to view airplanes. Lounge seating in this new area will provide a comfortable place for the non-traveling public to watch aviation activity, without requiring them to purchase an airline ticket.

Another component of the airport expansion is an art project that will be located in two sites in the terminal expansion project. The first site is the terrazzo flooring located in the new lobby area in front of the new security checkpoint. The second is a public circulation area located on the mezzanine level and where a glass wall extends the length of the access corridor and seating area.

Thirty-five complete entries from national and international artists were received. A six-member selection jury conducted a blind-review of all the submissions and short-listed five finalists. The finalists

attended a mandatory meeting in Oklahoma City to learn more about the project and the community. The finalists presented their designs to the jury on Feb. 25. Based on criteria outlined in the solicitation, “OKConnected” by Matt Goad was determined to best meet the criteria for both locations of the project. The selection was reviewed by the Oklahoma City Arts Commission which approved the jury’s recommendation to the Trust.

Goad’s winning design, tells the story of OKC’s unique beginnings then bridges to the present celebrating the City’s colorful cultures and industries.

“OKConnected is the story of Oklahoma City, designed as a welcome mat for the city’s front door: Will Rogers World Airport,” says Goad. “Here, the concept of connection is more than the typical connotation one might have with an airport. More than merely people to places. It’s a connection of past to present, of present to future, and of earth to sky. A connection of Oklahoma City to the world.”

Goad will work closely with the airport, architect and general contractor to finalize the design and oversee the installation.

Completion of both projects is expected to be second quarter of 2021.



*OKC Mayor David Holt (right) is joined by Airports Director Mark Kranenburg, Airport Trust Commissioner Larry McAtee and others at the groundbreaking celebration for the airport’s terminal expansion.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## CALENDAR

### April 17

Chamber Forum

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

Location: Vast,  
333 W Sheridan Ave.  
[www.okcchamber.com/aprilforum](http://www.okcchamber.com/aprilforum)

### April 18

**Ambassador Meeting**

Time: 11:30 am to 1pm

Location: Main Event  
Entertainment  
1441 W. Memorial Road  
[www.okcchamber.com/ambassador](http://www.okcchamber.com/ambassador)

### April 29

**Golf Tournament**

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Twin Hills Golf &  
Country Club, 3401 NE 36 St.  
[www.okcchamber.com/golf](http://www.okcchamber.com/golf)



## Rise and Shine with the Chamber April 25

Network with other professionals and engage in a topic of discussion

“Ethical Leadership in the Workplace” with Dr. Nathan Mellor, President, Strata Leadership

Doors Open: 7:45 a.m. | Registration & Breakfast: 8 to 8:15 a.m. | Program: 8:15 to 9:30a.m.

If you want your company’s materials placed at each seat, drop off items by Monday, April 22nd at the Chamber offices.

Guests will receive an electronic list of attendees after the event.

This is a members only event. Contact Reagan Perry at [rperry@okcchamber.com](mailto:rperry@okcchamber.com) or 405-297-8961 with questions. Members can register at [www.okcchamber.com/rishine](http://www.okcchamber.com/rishine).

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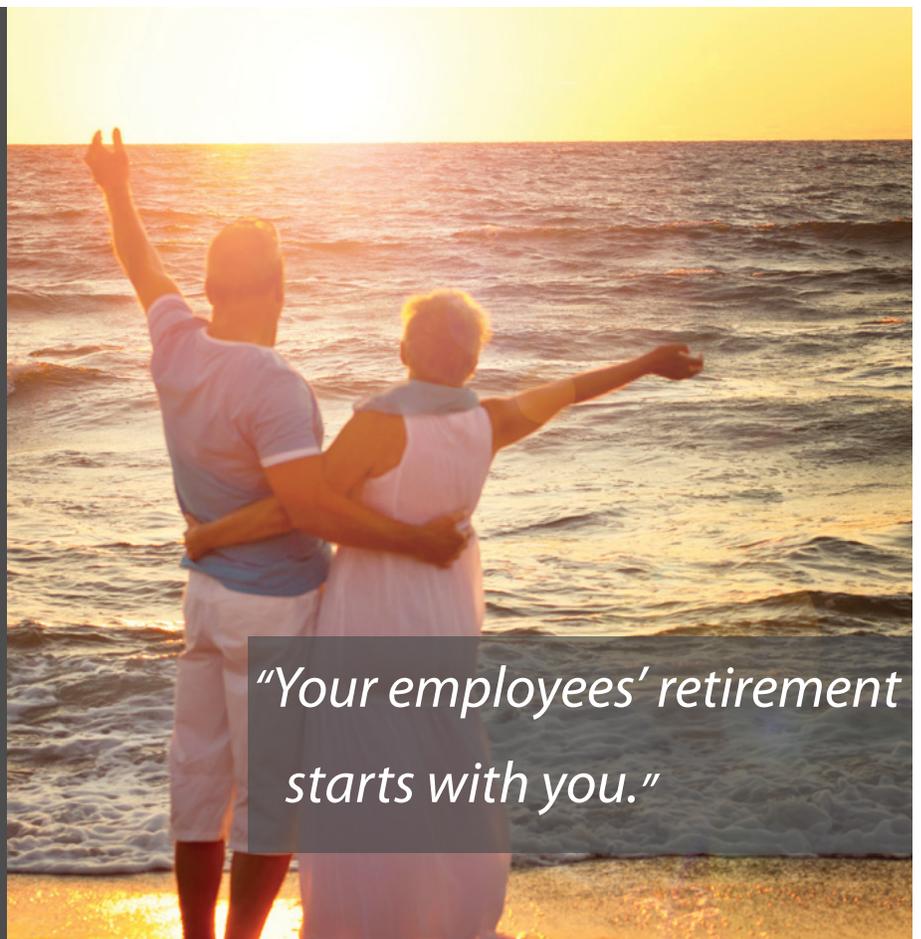


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# Experience the Chamber's newest event on May 13

The Chamber's newest signature event, State of Health, will detail the current landscape of the region's health care systems and how businesses and organizations can work together to build a healthier community. For the first time ever, all four leaders of Oklahoma City's major health care institutions will take the stage to discuss current challenges in health care and medical advances taking place in the region. The event will also feature 40 Chamber-member exhibitors aligned with the health care industry.

State of Health will be held May 13, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cox Convention Center. Panelists include:

- Jim Gebhart, Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City
- Joe Hodges, SSM Health Oklahoma
- Timothy Pehrson, INTEGRIS Health
- Chuck Spicer, OU Medicine

Event Schedule:

- 10:30 am - Exhibitor row open
- 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Lunch program
- 1 to 2 p.m. - Exhibitor row open

Tables of 8 are available for \$1,250. Individual tickets are \$50 for members and \$75 for nonmembers.

Special thanks to Signature Sponsor BKD CPAs & Advisors and Host Sponsor CIGNA HealthCare.

Register at [www.okcchamber.com/statehealth](http://www.okcchamber.com/statehealth).

state of   
Health

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# Innovative OKCPS Foundation program emphasizes the importance of reading

ReadOKC, an initiative of the Oklahoma City Public Schools Compact, strives to instill the love of reading in students and community, with the ultimate goal of increased reading levels.

As ReadOKC moves into its third year, this initiative continues to host reading challenges during every summer, fall, winter and spring break that encourages students to stay engaged with reading even when they are out of school. In the most recent challenge “Chill Out and Read”, the 3,584 students who participated read more than 1.8 million minutes during the winter break, shattering the fall break record where the 3,363 participating students read more than 1.3 million minutes.

Students who read an average of 20-minutes per day or more during the breaks receive prizes and awards. The number of students who met the reading goal increased from 1,576 students during the fall, to 2,096 students during the winter break. Hawthorne Elementary students finished as the first place school for the third consecutive reading challenge.

“Our school reading culture was fair at best before ReadOKC,” said Hawthorne Principal Melinda Elms. “As a staff, we decided to use the challenges to bring that much-needed momentum to do even better! Challenging our students to do more reading, thinking and discussing at home. As educators, we know that reading will increase academic readiness, but reading for fun started to feel like an afterthought because we were lacking the student motivation and ‘fun’ portion that ReadOKC has brought to OKCPS. Now that we have succeeded our student’s goals our students are unstoppable!”

ReadOKC also seeks caring adults to serve as Reading Buddies who visit one student or a small group of students at their school once a week and read with them for 30-45 minutes. The mission is to expand and enhance the Reading Buddies program in the OKPCS District in order to improve students’ attitudes toward reading. There are still many students in our schools in need of a Reading Buddy.

ReadOKC also strives to improve access to reading materials for all students in OKCPS by providing Little Free Libraries throughout the city. The goal is to provide a Little Free Library for every OKCPS elementary school, as well as installing them in OKC parks. The premise of the Little Free Libraries free book exchange is a “take a book, return a book”. The libraries come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is a small wooden box on a post filled with books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. There are currently 17 Little Libraries installed outside of OKCPS Elementary schools and in public parks with nine more Little Libraries in the works.

While OKCPS is keeping pace with the state regarding reading scores, students are starting from behind. The district has been closing the gap between district and state performance over time and 81 percent of OKCPS elementary schools had at least one cohort making more than one year’s growth. Expectations are in place for 1.5 -2.0 years of growth for all students performing below proficient levels.

For more information regarding the ReadOKC initiative, please contact Mary Mélon, ReadOKC Chair at [mary@okckids.com](mailto:mary@okckids.com) or Abbie Dedmon, ReadOKC Manager at [abbie@okckids.com](mailto:abbie@okckids.com). Phone number is 405-604-5977. Both are with The Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools.



# Apply for the 2019 Metro 50 Awards

Be recognized for your company's growth and celebrate the impact that existing businesses have in the Oklahoma City region by applying for the 2019 Metro 50 Awards.

The Metro 50 committee is now accepting applications for the awards, which honor the 50 fastest-growing, privately held companies each year at the event on Monday, Sept. 23.

Qualified companies must have been in business for at least three years; be for-profit, privately held companies; be headquartered and operated in the Greater Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area; have total operating revenues or sales in 2018 of at least \$1 million; and not be a holding company, regulated bank or utility.

Companies will be ranked based on percentage of revenue growth during 2016-2018. To apply or see winners from 2018, visit [www.okcchamber.com/2019metro50](http://www.okcchamber.com/2019metro50) or email Meredith Manley at [mmanley@okcchamber.com](mailto:mmanley@okcchamber.com) for more information.

The deadline for applications is Friday, May 31. Metro 50 sponsors include American Fidelity Corporation/INSURICA, Bank of Oklahoma, Cox Business, EY, Express Employment Professionals, The Journal Record Publishing Company, OGE Energy Corp. and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.



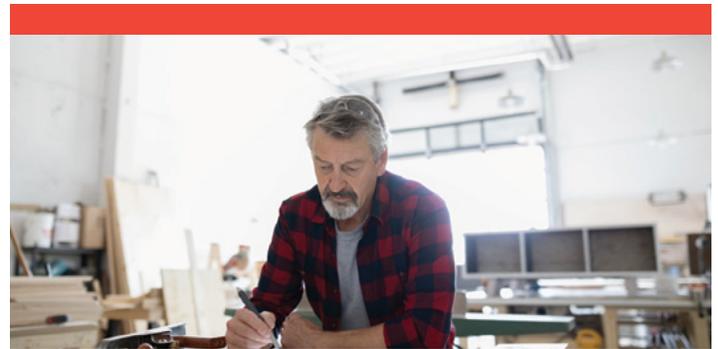
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## Q&A with retiring Councilwoman Meg Salyer

After serving the residents of Oklahoma City's Ward 6 for more than a decade, Councilwoman Meg Salyer will step down from her role when Councilwoman-elect JoBeth Hamon is sworn into office on April 9. Recently, VeloCityOKC staff spoke with Salyer about her impressions of Oklahoma City since moving here from Long Island, her time as a city council representative, and perspective on where Oklahoma City is headed.

"I have observed this shift from a bit of a lack of self-confidence to an attitude that we can do anything, and nobody can stand in our way if it's something that we want to do."

**VeloCityOKC: First off, talk a little bit about how Oklahoma City has changed from when you first moved here until today.**

**Salyer:** Oh my goodness. Well, I first came to Oklahoma City in April of 1981. So, it doesn't resemble, in any way, the same place that I came to all those many years ago. This is a city today that is just full of positive energy, and excitement, and promise. In 1981 we were in the midst of a giant oil boom so that energy and optimism and reckless fearlessness was there, but when Penn Square Bank closed in July of 1982, that set off years of repercussions of economic downturn and difficulties in every business sector. It's taken years and years to recover. So, the town is completely different today. It is diverse, there's a food scene, there is traffic, and there are people downtown at night. You know, it's just a reimagined community with a beating heart downtown, and in all of the neighborhoods all over the city, they are full of life and energy.



**When did you decide to run for public office?**

I decided the first day of filing in September of 2008. Being the founding board chair of Automobile Alley, I had worked with the public works department, with the planning department and with the city manager's office. I had a working relationship with the Mayor [Mick Cornett], having helped him first be elected to his council seat, and then with his mayoral campaign. So, I knew a number of people at the city. I just didn't think I was ready, or I wasn't sure that it was something that I was qualified to do, or had the time to do. I had daughter in high school, and I just wasn't sure about the timing, so I continued to, I guess, think about it a bit, and the honest story is that my dear friends Clayton and Marnie Taylor took me up to Stillwater to a football game, and all the way up in the car and all the way back, they had me as a captive audience. We just talked through the idea that serving on the council is not a political job, it is a community service position. It really would mirror a lot of the activities I'd already been doing, just from a different seat or a different level of responsibility.



**So what would you say are some of your favorite memories or any big moments that stick out to you when you're reflecting on your time in office?**

My timeline really tracks pretty tightly with MAPS 3. We began that conversation early in 2009, and so I had the privilege of being part of putting that package together, and talking to groups of citizens and weighing the balances, finding something for everyone. It really was a discussion about trying to reach out into the community, and to talk about important issues, like health and well-being, so senior wellness centers, and trails, and sidewalks, and whitewater activities down on the river, things that would get people outside and moving, along with the momentous things of addressing peoples' interest in public transit, knowing that we needed to replace the 50-year-old convention center. Having the opportunity with the relocation of I-40 to create a 70-acre park at the front door to our downtown. All of those things came together. So, I'd have to say that one of the biggest moments was counting down and then seeing the vote in December of 2009 when the citizens approved that penny sales tax. That was an exciting, exciting time.



**What would you say is the biggest lesson that you've learned in your time? Not just serving on city council, but even before that?**

I probably would start with the skills needed to be a really good listener, and it is different being in a role like this is very different than I've been used to running my own business. When I encounter a problem here we talk about it, but typically we'll just come to a solution, we'll just move to solve the problem. In working with a lot of diverse groups of people, it just takes more time and you really need to come to the realization that within a group of very smart people, people can definitely disagree on either an approach or on the right direction to go.

**So what do you think is Oklahoma City's best asset?**

Without any hesitation, it's the people. What I see today is this beautiful combination between what makes this place so unique—the grit, the pioneer spirit, the roll-up-your-sleeves and do the work yourself, combined with this great new energy that we're seeing around where our society is a lot more mobile, people are traveling, they're experiencing new things, new foods, placemaking, new concepts, and you know, bringing those ideas here with our own special Oklahoma twist, and making them ours. Getting to work with the people of this great city and this great state has been a real joy and it just points out that I do think we have a unique type of personality.

**What advice do you have for all of our new leaders? I'm noticing the parallel between your early time on council was the beginning of MAPS 3, and we're currently in the beginning of MAPS 4. So what advice or words of wisdom would you share?**

Well, be true to yourself to start with. I think the approach that Mayor Holt's taking is really exciting. He's doing exactly what he campaigned on. Different things are needed at different times. Just like in a person's evolution, you need something different at different times. I would say the same thing about Oklahoma City. We're maturing in some ways, and we've tackled some of the big problems that we have experienced. There are new things to tackle. There are things that we know we can do better.

**Read the original story at [www.VelocityOKC.com/salyer](http://www.VelocityOKC.com/salyer).**

Businesses who join the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber are part of the largest coalition of businesses in the state and make the Chamber's work in the community possible. Each member level is identified on the listing below.

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## Members Upgrade Their Support of the Chamber

The following member companies increased their investment in the Chamber, 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 405-297-8949 or [membership@okcchamber.com](mailto:membership@okcchamber.com).

### ADVISOR

**Children's Hospital Foundation**  
*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
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 901 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 305  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
[www.chfkids.com](http://www.chfkids.com)

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 Ms. Cristen DeJager .....302-4923  
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### SESSION 1 June 2-15

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- B) June 9-15

### SESSION 2 June 16-29

- A) June 16-22
- B) June 23-29

### SESSION 3 June 30-July 13

- A) June 30-July 6
- B) July 7-13

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Congratulations to Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings! To 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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9417 N. Council Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162



**Walmart Neighborhood market #2877**  
11101 N. Rockwell Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162



**AAA Car Care, Insurance and Travel Center –  
NW OKC**  
6163 N. May Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112



**Oklahoma ER & Hospital**  
15103 N. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Edmond, OK 73013



**Primary Health Partners**  
14100 Parkway Commons Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73134



**Mercy Clinic Orthopedic Associates &  
Mercy Outpatient Surgery Center**  
3301 NW 50th St., Suite 100  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112



**DaVita – Lake Hefner Dialysis**  
6917 N. May Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Rate ranking improves by 20 spots since 2010

### Select State Workers' Comp Rate Comparisons

State	2018 Rank	2018 Index Score	Percent of Median
Kansas	6	1.15	68%
Texas	9	1.21	71%
Oklahoma	28	1.71	101%
Illinois	30	1.8	106%
California	50	2.87	169%

*Source: Oregon Department of Commerce, 2018 Workers' Compensation Premium Index Rates. A rank of 1 is most favorable.*

- The recently released 2018 State Ranking of Worker Compensation Premium Costs showed Oklahoma has improved its workers' compensation premiums by 20 places out of the 51 states and territories measured since 2010.
- In 2010, Oklahoma had the 4th highest Workers' Compensation Premiums in the country.
- By 2018, Oklahoma's rates were ranked in the middle of all states with rates just 1% above the national median. The dramatic decrease in rates placed Oklahoma in the same echelon (\$1.50-\$1.99) as neighbors New Mexico and Missouri.

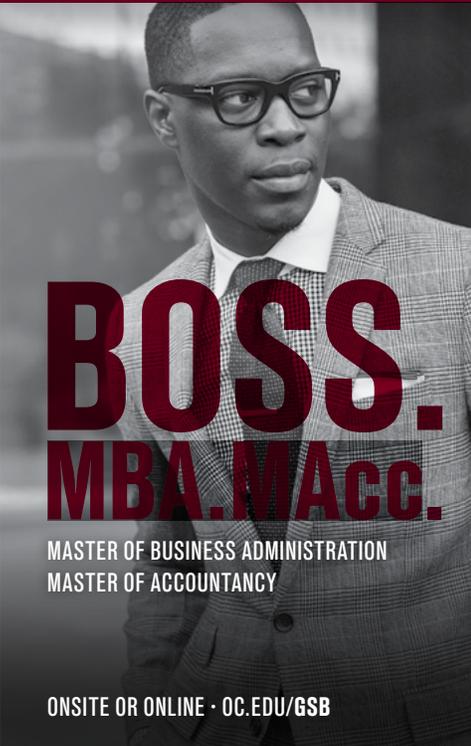
*For comprehensive Economic Indicators and Regional Data, [www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators](http://www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators) or contact Eric Long, Research Economist – 297-8976; [elong@okcchamber.com](mailto:elong@okcchamber.com)*


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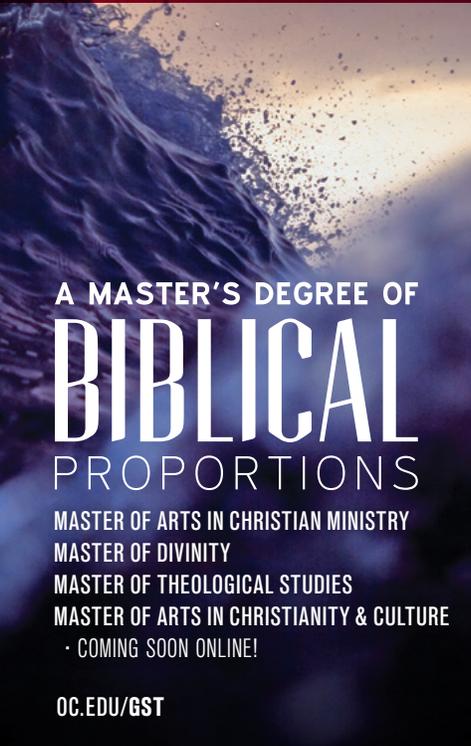


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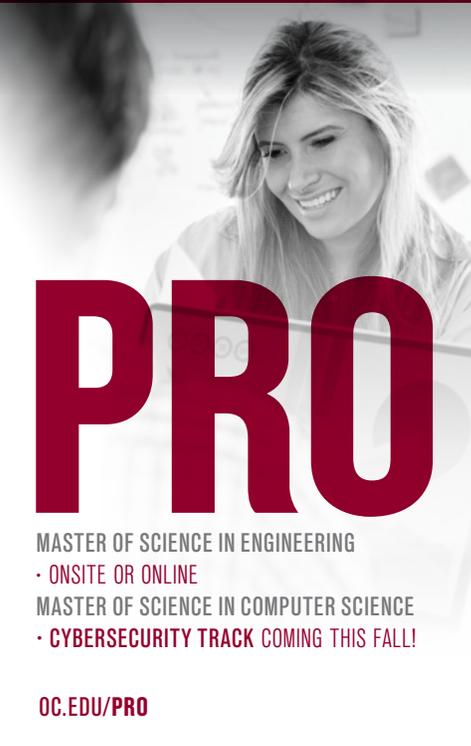
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