

THE POINT

GREATER
OKLAHOMA CITY
CHAMBER

November 2019

www.okcchamber.com

Support the MAPS projects; vote "Yes" on Dec. 10

**LOVE YOUR
OKC**

YES MAPS DEC. 10

In little more than a month, Oklahoma City residents will go to the polls to vote on the latest MAPS iteration, a package of 16 projects that are the right combination of what the city needs to keep moving forward.

"Previous MAPS programs have been called some of the most successful and innovative tools ever developed by a city," said Percy Kirk, Chamber chair and co-chair of the Love Your OKC coalition. "We have seen MAPS strengthen Oklahoma City and create an environment of growth. MAPS 4 will keep the momentum going and extend the scope of

Continued on page 2

New gun law goes into effect Nov. 1

More and more businesses are placing stickers on their doors notifying customers that firearms are not allowed.

Many are doing it in response to a new law that went into effect Nov. 1. Sometimes referred to as "constitutional carry", House Bill 2597 allows individuals to carry a weapon without training or a permit.

Oklahoma will join 14 other states that allow it.

While the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber opposed the new law as it was initially drafted, efforts to protect and enhance a business owner's ability to prohibit firearms in their establishments were successful. These protections will also extend to high-economic impact events such as professional and Big 12 sports events, horse shows and other events that are required by contract to prohibit firearms.

"The Chamber is fully supportive of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the responsible expansion



Continued on page 4

Support MAPS4... (cont'd from page 1)

community enhancements and capital projects.”

The Love Your OKC coalition is working tirelessly to educate voters on the value of approving the 1-cent tax that will make these transformational projects possible.

“We have an outstanding speakers bureau, comprised of some of Oklahoma City’s most-informed civic leaders,” said Kirk. “They are available to visit organizations across OKC in order to accurately inform voters about the importance of turning out and voting to approve the MAPS 4 package.”

The coalition also has posters, bumper stickers and signs available for campaign volunteers and supporters.

With much to love about Oklahoma City and MAPS 4, your involvement can help pass this initiative.

- Register to Vote - if you aren’t registered, the deadline is Nov. 15. And make sure your friends and co-workers are registered as well.
- Join the coalition! Individuals, companies and organizations can all join just by signing up online. Visit www.loveyourokc.com
- Follow the coalition on social media: Facebook - LoveYourOKC; Twitter - @yesformaps; and Instagram -@LoveYourOKC. Share our posts on your page and accounts.
- Donate! Help get the word out and get people out to vote. Go to www.loveyourokc.com/donate.

Many Oklahoma City residents already understand the importance of the upcoming election.

“It’s the whole project that makes MAPS work,” said Oklahoma City resident David Barbee. “Where I live, there is no homeless problem, I don’t have animals, I don’t know of any domestic abuse problems among my family and friends, and I typically never go to the east side of town, and I’m not a senior citizen. So should I just say no to everything because it doesn’t affect or benefit me personally? That’s the whole point of an all-encompassing project. Everyone wins something and we just need to not be selfish enough to derail the whole thing because it might contain one or two things that we don’t like.”

“Palomar and the stadium are perfect examples of why we need a single vote for MAPS,” said Stacy Carr of northwest OKC. “They are completely different, one makes incredible change in people’s lives while the other has great economic impact capabilities that allow us to fund such things.”

Join with these - and many other OKC residents – and help work to get out the vote and ensure that Oklahoma City continues to ride the wave of positive momentum generated as a result of previous MAPS initiatives.

Vote “YES” on Dec. 10 and show your love for OKC!



Leadership Notes

Oklahoma City’s willingness to invest in itself has been a hallmark of previous MAPS initiatives. That commitment by our citizens has drawn outside attention to OKC, making the MAPS programs a showcase for how to successfully plan and execute transformational change for the better.

On Tuesday, December 10, Oklahoma City voters will have the opportunity to ensure our city’s continued transformation with new projects that touch the entire city.

Like the MAPS programs that came before, these projects work together to make Oklahoma City a better place to live. Continued investment and development is vital to Oklahoma City’s future.

The estimated \$978 million package will bring jobs. This steady stream of construction projects over the life of the MAPS 4 program will keep our architects, engineers, contractors and trades busy regardless of the ebbs and flows of the economy.

The transformation of the Innovation District will support the growth of jobs, not just in the district, but across the city. Creating a strong innovation infrastructure and entrepreneurial ecosystem will help Oklahoma City further diversify its economy, protect its residents from economic stress and secure an additional tax base.

MAPS 4 also focuses on vulnerable populations and difficult social issues that have compounding social and economic effects. Earlier interventions for domestic violence, substance abuse and addiction, homelessness, affordable housing, mental health, criminal justice and youth services will reduce emergency situations and trauma experienced by our citizens.

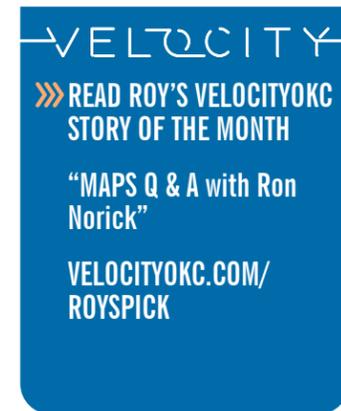
Oklahoma City’s future is in our hands. I’ll be voting “yes” on Dec. 10 and I hope you will, too.

Sincerely,

Roy H. Williams, CCE
Chamber President & CEO



Roy H. Williams, CCE
President & CEO



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THE POINT!

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New gun law...(Cont'd from page 1)

of gun-owner's rights in Oklahoma," said Mark VanLandingham, Chamber senior vice president of government relations and policy. "However, the Chamber opposed legislation that would allow open/concealed carry of guns into businesses and high-economic impact events that want to prohibit firearms."

With the passage and subsequent signing by Gov. Kevin Stitt of HB 2597 this past February, VanLandingham and his team worked with members of the Oklahomans for Business and Property Owners' Rights coalition to strengthen that part of the legislation pertaining to a business owner's right to prohibit the carrying of firearms into their business.

"Under the provisions of the original bill, if a business owner requested that someone leave their premises because they were armed and they refused, there was very little that the proprietor could do," said VanLandingham. "There was no fine, no misdemeanor and no jail time."

Thanks to the efforts of the Chamber's government relations team and the coalition, that is no longer the case.

"There are now penalties for those who refuse to honor a business owner's request to leave their firearms outside or depart the premises," according to VanLandingham. "For a first offense, a violator is subject to a fine of \$100 - \$250, up to 30 days sentence in a county jail and a misdemeanor charge."

A second offense would result in a steeper fine and more jail time.

"One of the most important ways we support our member businesses is by participating in the legislative process," added VanLandingham. "Collaboration is critical to maintaining the momentum and positive growth the Oklahoma City is experiencing. We remain committed to working with all stakeholders to find positive solutions to the challenges facing our state."

Chamber partners with groups to expose students to trade careers

Build My Future OKC, a one-day, hands-on construction career day for high school students across the Oklahoma City area, was recently held at the Exposition Hall at State Fair Park. Hosted by the Professional Women in Building Council of the Central Oklahoma Home Builders Association and sponsored by the Chamber and several trade organizations, the event featured interactive, hands-on exhibits from more than 30 exhibitors in the skilled trades and the building industry and provided students valuable insight into potential internships and future employers. Participating schools sent students for approximately five hours of activities provided by industry partners.

"Our goal is to get students career-ready, rather than college-ready, by introducing them to a skills-based trade where they can learn a skill that will stay with them forever," said Marla Esser Cloos, Build My Future OKC planning committee chair.

"We find that many high school juniors and seniors are just not college-ready," said Cloos. "They aren't yet sure what they want to do, some have no interest in going to college, while others can't afford it, but that shouldn't take them out of the workforce or leave them without opportunities."

"We've got to bring these young people into these industries and we have to teach them the different skills, whether it's this, whether it's aerospace, whether it's engineering," said Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt, who kicked off the occasion with a ribbon-cutting. "So, these events are really important and I see them being replicated across various industries. Anything I can do as mayor to support them and encourage them is good for our community and good for our long-term economy."

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, skilled trades positions will account for one-third of all new jobs for the next three years. The construction industry is ripe with opportunities for career seekers and there's no better time for motivated individuals who enjoy working with their hands and having variety in their day-to-day routine to consider entering a career in a skilled trade in the construction industry.

Southmoore High School Career Counselor Mikayla Williford said the event was important for her students to



experience. "Half the time they hear about an occupation but they have no clue what it is. This actually gives them a chance to do hands-on things, learn about it and figure out how that actually works, what a job is actually like. It's invaluable, because they actually do hands-on before they get there and they can decide, do I love it or do I hate it?"

The nearly 500 students from 20 schools in the metro area attending the event looked forward to learning more about the opportunities jobs in the trades might provide.

One high school senior said the event would help decide what she wants to do after graduation because "...it opens up your horizons, you can see what you like, what interests you, and then decide what you want to go into."

Others said they are looking at all the different types of jobs there are and see what interests them.

"If we don't start exposing high school students – or younger – to the trades, we've lost our opportunity," said Adam Slattery with the Subcontractors Association of Oklahoma. "We're not going to have carpenters, electricians, masons, roofers and plumbers in future years. We have many jobs that people would say are 'uneducated' positions, no college, some maybe have not even finished high school, that are making \$50, \$60, some maybe upwards of \$70k per year on the top end. The opportunities are endless."

"We want to introduce high school students to skill-based trades," said Cloos. "We want to show these students various opportunities – that do not require a four-year college degree – where they can learn a skill that will provide them a stable and steady career."

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR

Nov. 12
State of the Economy
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
National Cowboy & Western
Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St.
okcchamber.com/econ

Nov. 14
MegaLunch
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
La Bella Event Center
6701 W. Wilshire Blvd.
okcchamber.com/
megalunch

Nov. 19
Sunset Reception
4 to 6 p.m.
Energy FC
1001 N. Broadway Ave.
okcchamber.com/
sunset2019

Nov. 20
Chamber Forum
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vast
333 W. Sheridan Ave.
okcchamber.com/
novemberforum

Dec. 6
Enlighten
Noon to 1 p.m.
Walker Terrace
1300 N. Walker Ave. Ste 300
okcchamber.com/enlighten

Dec. 17
Annual Meeting
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
National Cowboy & Western
Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St.
okcchamber.com/annual

Don't miss the next Enlighten event

To help you strengthen your business, the Chamber launched a new event series this past spring. Enlighten, a lunch-and-learn event part of the Business University suite of programming, provides small business networking and education resources exclusively to Chamber member businesses.

At the December event, learn how important a fruitful referral network is for your business from Athena Captain, director of sales and business partner at Turner & Son Homes. Dec. 6 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Walker Terrace, 1300 N. Walker Ave., Suite 300.

Register now at okcchamber.com/enlighten.

Special thanks to Signature Sponsor MassMutual Oklahoma.



Nov. Chamber Forum: MAPS 4 beautification, parks and transit projects

At the November Forum, hear from a panel of experts about how MAPS 4 will impact Oklahoma City's neighborhoods through investments in beautification, parks and transit.

Held each month at Vast, the Chamber Forum series brings thought leaders together to discuss major initiatives, programs and current issues that impact Oklahoma City's business climate, economy and community.

Panelists will include Aubrey McDermid, assistant city manager, City of Oklahoma City; Doug Kupper, director, Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation; and Jason Ferbrache, administrator/director, EMBARK.

Register at okcchamber.com/novemberforum.

Special thanks to Signature Sponsor Cox Business and Corporate Sponsor ADG.



Thunder TV analyst to keynote Annual Meeting



Dec. 17, bring employees and clients to this event, held for the first time at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, celebrating OKC and the Chamber.

Nearly 1,000 local leaders will network and hear from keynote speaker OKC Thunder television color analyst Michael Cage. He played 15 seasons from 1984-2000 as a power forward in the NBA and joined the Thunder broadcasting team in 2014 as its television analyst for FOX Sports Oklahoma. Cage will share lessons in leadership from on and off the court and how they might apply to building Oklahoma City's future success.

Join Percy Kirk, chair of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and senior vice president and region manager of Cox Communications, and learn about current Chamber initiatives at this annual luncheon. Doors open at 10:45 a.m. Program begins promptly at 11:15 a.m.

Special thanks to Signature Sponsor Bank of Oklahoma, Video Sponsor Candor, Host Sponsor American Fidelity Assurance Company and Speaker Sponsor Topographic. Register at okcchamber.com/annual.



OKC's newest professional development event elevate's careers

More than 500 attendees recently experienced Elevate, the Chamber's new professional development event. With motivational speakers, breakout sessions and an after party featuring OKC's best brews and bites, the conference was a huge success for all who wanted to take their careers to the next level.

ELEVATE



Keynote speaker Amy Downs tells Elevate attendees "this is your time."



A packed breakout room hears from David McLaughlin on managing up for results.



After-party attendees were able to sample some of OKC's best brews and bites.



Best-selling author David Epstein delivers his keynote on the Power of Range at the Elevate conference.



Elevate attendees head for breakout sessions.



Walter Nusbaum delivers a keynote address on the Sink Philosophy.



The after-party provided numerous networking opportunities in a relaxed setting after a full day of professional development.



The first-ever Elevate professional development conference was a great success. Don't miss next year's event Sept. 10, 2020.

Chamber efforts recognized at Aerospace Forum

Efforts by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber to recruit businesses and help ensure that companies are able to retain a well-trained workforce once they get here were recognized during the recent Oklahoma Aerospace Forum.

“I’ll give the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber a whole lot of credit for this,” said Lt Gov. Matt Pinnell. “They recognized that we needed a whole lot of software engineers and mechanical engineers in the state of Oklahoma. They came to us with an idea to make sure that we put a tax credit in place to lure those engineers to Oklahoma.”

Pinnell led a panel discussion regarding what is and isn’t working when it comes to Oklahoma’s aerospace brand.

With a \$44 billion economic impact, aerospace is the second-largest – and fastest-growing – sector of the state economy. Aerospace firms locally produce \$4.9 billion in goods and services and employ more than 36,000 workers.



Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt addresses the Oklahoma Aerospace Forum (photo courtesy Jones PR)

“We can get them here, we pass the eye test,” said Pinnell. “We believe we – state government – have a role in making sure that we have events that give business and prospective employees a reason to come to Oklahoma. We’ll prove that this is the best place to start a business or work for any of our companies.”

Many panelists, throughout the day, cited the importance of available workforce and employee

retention as a major factor in their decision to locate their business in Oklahoma.

“Partnerships with groups like the Greater OKC Chamber are vital,” said Jason Thomas of Boeing. “They just did the Elevate Conference, a full day of professional development. You get people to Oklahoma and we can send you there (to Elevate) and not send you all over the country for professional development and that’s cost-effective for the company.”

Thomas also touted the chamber-driven Find Your OKC events.

“Your employees and potential employees, people who have moved here, can experience and learn about the things that they can see and do in OKC,” he said. “It provides a networking opportunity and helps to make them a part of the Oklahoma family.”

“There are some great things going on in the state of Oklahoma,” said Jamey Jacobs, director of the Unmanned Systems Research institute. “Across the country, a lot of folks look to Oklahoma as a leader in the unmanned aircraft industry.”



A panel led by Lt Gov. Matt Pinnell discusses Oklahoma’s aerospace branding efforts.

That is in no small part due to efforts to recruit companies like Kratos Unmanned Systems and Valkyrie Systems Aerospace.

“We talked to several different states, we talked to several different cities, and I have to tell you, there was no welcome that was half of the welcome that we were getting from Oklahoma, the support we were getting from the political arena, the Chamber,

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the local community and from the people that we talked to that live and work in Oklahoma City,” said Steve Fendley with Kratos. “It became a very, very easy decision for us. Everything that was told to us, everything that was promised to us, has come true in spades and in many cases has exceeded that. The focus on aerospace in Oklahoma and Oklahoma City and the commitment that the whole community has to that sector to companies coming in make it a true partnership with Oklahoma and Oklahoma City.”

“We were looking for quality employees,” said Valkyrie’s Glenn Dawson. “We need pilots, we need assemblers, we need people who actually understand aerospace. As we start to build out this manpower we had to find a place that had good connectivity to quality of education and life. We want our employees to be happy. We want them to enjoy coming to work every day. There is a great quality of life in Oklahoma City.”

The community is the main reason the Valyrie Aerospace located in Oklahoma City.”

“Aviation, aerospace and defense is such a huge part of our economy,” said Gov. Kevin Stitt. “Definitely the fastest-growing sector of our economy.”

“Partnerships with groups like the Greater OKC Chamber are vital,”

- Jason Thomas,
HR senior manager, Boeing

Stitt related how the CEO of Boeing was pleased with the decision to locate their engineering group to OKC. Boeing’s chief executive called it one of the best decisions he’s ever made and the facility has grown from 50 engineers when they first came to Oklahoma City to now employing more than 3500.

“We’re so proud that Boeing has found success here and I’m not surprised. Oklahoma’s work force is second to none,” said Stitt.

The governor assured those in attendance he understands the importance of the aerospace sector and that the state will continue to assist in continuing to recruit companies to the state.



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But the Maddoxes don’t just receive help from United Way agencies, they find room in a stretched budget and they give to the United Way.

Can you?

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.



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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Ashton Gray, LLC
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Denver Green..... 300-4003
12360 Market Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73114
www.ashtongray.com

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Oklahoma City, OK 73116
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www.bubbas33.com

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Oklahoma City, OK 73139-2422
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800 W. Sheridan Ave., Suite 400
Oklahoma City, OK 73106-7812
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Members Upgrade Their Support of the Chamber

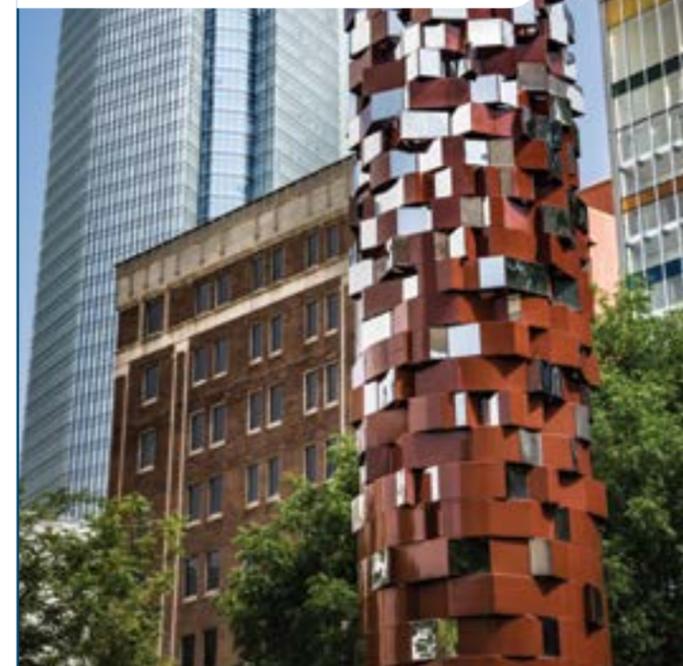
The following member companies increased their investment in the Chamber, demonstrating strong support of the Chamber’s efforts to drive the region’s economy. To increase your investment, contact the membership division of the Chamber at 405-297-8949 or membership@okcchamber.com.

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GRAND OPENINGS

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.



Center for Employment Opportunities
501 N. Walker Ave., Suite 160
Oklahoma City, OK 73102



Quail Creek Golf and Country Club
3501 Quail Creek Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73120



JPMorgan Chase Bank
210 Park Ave., Suite 2725
Oklahoma City, OK 73102



Tide Dry Cleaners
2905 W. Britton Road, Suite A
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Oklahoma City ranks no.1 for ease of doing business in North America

Top 5 Cities for Ease of Doing Business

Rank	City	Score: Ease of Doing Business
1	Oklahoma City	85.2
2	Arlington	84.4
3	Sioux Falls	84.2
4	Boise	83.7
5	Atlanta	83.4

Source: ASU Center for the Study of Economic Liberty, 2019

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and Regional Data, www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators or contact Eric Long, Research Economist – 297-8976; elong@okcchamber.com

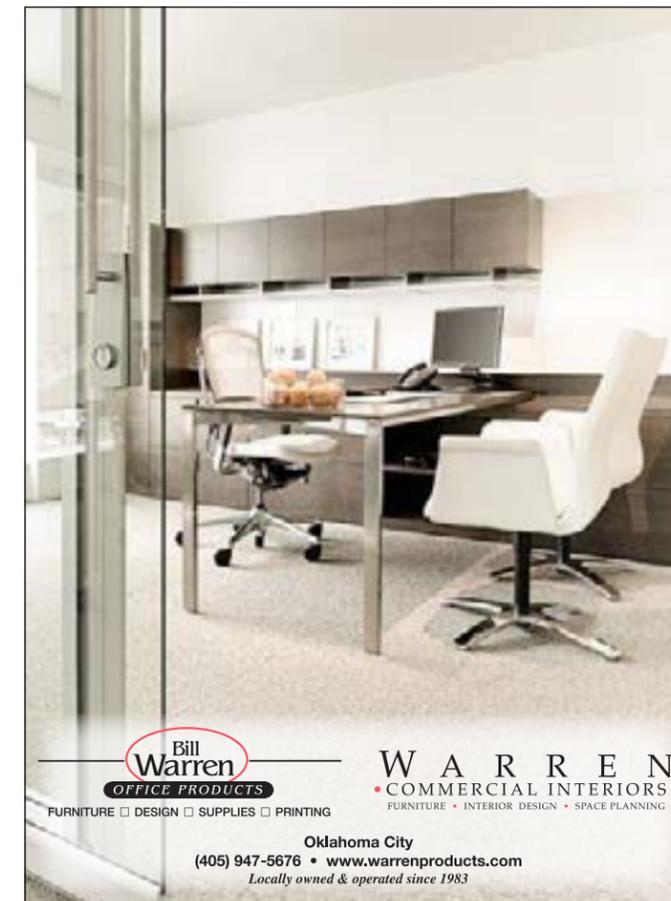
- Oklahoma City ranked #1 out of 115 selected cities in North America for Ease of Doing Business.
- The City of Oklahoma City was ranked the highest in the 2019 Annual Doing Business North America report released by the ASU Center for the Study of Economic Liberty.
- Ease of Doing Business is based up the following categories: starting a business, employing workers, paying taxes, registering property, electricity, and resolving insolvency.

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- 7 Thunder TV analyst to keynote Annual Meeting
- 8 Photo highlights from Elevate professional development event
- 10 Chamber efforts recognized at Aerospace Forum

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