Mask Up campaign set for launch

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is partnering with the City of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma City County Health Department to launch a campaign encouraging Oklahoma City residents to MASK UP to slow the spread of COVID-19.

“Slowing the spread of this disease is vital to keeping businesses open and the economy growing,” said Roy Williams, President and CEO. “We have collectively worked hard to create a dynamic quality of life in Oklahoma City – we are hopeful that businesses not only survive, but can thrive following this pandemic. Masks are part of the pathway to achieving that goal.”

The campaign includes a commercial, billboards, digital media and more. The theme of the campaign is MASK UP OKC – it’s for you, it’s for me, it’s for OKC, and features Oklahoma City celebrities and opinion leaders who join in the call for keeping OKC open. The campaign launches later in August.

Second round of aid planned for OKC small businesses

Oklahoma City business owners and non-profits with 100 or fewer full time equivalent employees can now go to OKCSmallBizHelp.com to apply for COVID-19 disaster relief funds from the City of Oklahoma City’s Small Business Continuity Program. The program is accepting applications for the second phase of the program, funded with $12M from the CARES Act.

The website includes information about qualifications and supporting documentation as well as an online application form. Only businesses and nonprofits located in the City of Oklahoma City are eligible.

The Oklahoma City Council approved the first phase of the program in April with a $5.5 million emergency relief program for local small businesses.

The City, the Alliance for Economic Development and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber built the program’s framework based on research of what other communities are doing nationally to save their local small businesses as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.
Leadership Notes

Keep our city open -- Mask UP!

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber’s mission is to help our members prosper and keep the economic environment healthy. As we all work to restore business activity in light of COVID-19, the increase in cases threatens to send us backward.

That’s why the Chamber is asking everyone in our community to join together and wear face coverings. Doing so now can keep us all safer and prevent the need for more stringent limitations in the future.

If we want to get things back to normal quickly, if we want to get our kids back in school, if we want to go back to things we love to do in this community, wearing a mask is the best solution.

We know that masks and social distancing work to slow the spread of the virus. The track record of other cities demonstrates that coronavirus spread can be mitigated – and businesses can remain open – where masks and social distancing have been widely accepted. We have every reason to expect a similar effort here would be successful, too.

We can make Oklahoma City a model. The work of the START Coalition in researching UV lighting and other tools to make people safer in businesses and public places has the potential to put Oklahoma City at the forefront of our nation’s recovery. Research at the University of Oklahoma is playing an important role in treatments and a vaccine.

But it will take more than the experts. We need every person in our city to play a role in making this change. This crisis is no different than any other we have faced. We need to demonstrate once again the Oklahoma Standard – we take care of each other, we take care of ourselves, and we take care of our city.

Get your prostate cancer second opinion at Stephenson Cancer Center, ranked in the top 50 by U.S. News & World Report.

As the state’s only National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center, Stephenson Cancer Center brings Oklahomans nationally-renowned, research-driven care close to home. With more advanced options to treat every stage of cancer, there is no place safer in Oklahoma to receive cancer treatment today.

> Learn more at OUMedicine.com/SecondOpinion
Chamber Forum will examine impact on retail, restaurants since pandemic

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber’s August forum will examine how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting Oklahoma City’s restaurants, food suppliers and retail establishments. Participants will learn how companies in these sectors are maneuvering in the market place to continue their profitability and service to area residents.

The event will be Aug. 19 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in a virtual format, allowing participants to participate in the safety of their workspace or home.

Panelists for the discussion will include Rachel Cope, founder/CEO of the 84 Hospitality Group, Kirk Purnell, General Manager, Oklahoma Division of Ben E. Keith Foods and Jeannette Smith, general manager of OKC Outlets 1, LLC.

Attendees can take part in a 15-minute small group networking opportunity beginning at 11:45 a.m. The panel will begin at 12:00 p.m.

Tickets to the event are $15 for members and $25 for nonmembers. For more information visit okcchamber.com/augustforum. Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Cox Business and Corporate Sponsor ADG.

Boeing begins high-bay facility construction, project expects to add 300 engineering jobs

The Boeing Company started construction on a new high-bay addition at its Oklahoma City facility that will add new engineering positions in support of its B-52 modernization and sustainment efforts.

Designed by Oklahoma City-based Guernsey and being constructed by Alberici, the $20 million, 60,770-square-foot addition will include a wing and fuselage from a retired U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber, allowing the company’s engineers to utilize it for hands-on form, fit and function testing.

This project and others at Boeing will create openings for more than 300 engineers in 2020. This year, Boeing has hired 190 engineers to date.

“The high-bay addition will enable our talented engineers to do prototyping with a B-52, as well as real-time collaboration with our U.S. Air Force customer,” said Nancy Anderson, Boeing vice president of aircraft modernization and modification. “It’s the best of both worlds. We have models and we can now get access to an airplane.”

Boeing’s B-52 modernization and sustainment efforts include the Commercial Engine Replacement Program, which is focused on replacing the B-52’s eight engines with engines that provide economic, operational and environmental benefits, and the Radar Modernization Program, which upgrades the radar on the aircraft to enhance navigation reliability to support nuclear and conventional missions. Both efforts ensure the aircraft remains relevant and mission ready through 2050 and beyond.

Greater Oklahoma City Chamber President and CEO Roy Williams said this expansion announcement speaks volumes about what Boeing sees in the Oklahoma City area.

“This kind of announcement shows Oklahoma City is excelling in meeting the needs for Boeing and the entire aerospace industry,” said Williams. “Boeing doesn’t take these decisions lightly, so this announcement will have people paying even more attention to Oklahoma City and we look forward to helping grow the job opportunities within the aerospace industry.”

According to Anderson, this new space shows Boeing’s commitment to Oklahoma City, which is a key asset in attracting engineering talent and continuing to grow in Oklahoma.

“Today, to attract top talent, it’s important to be able to demonstrate a commitment to the digital engineering world,” said Anderson. “The basic foundations of engineering remain the same, but they are now mirrored with model-based engineering and the ability to create digital twins. This new high bay and our existing AVID Center give us some recruiting advantages and position us well to compete for and win future contracts.”

The new addition is being constructed on land owned by the Oklahoma Industries Authority, which is leased by Boeing. The Alliance for Economic Development of Oklahoma City oversees the OIA.

The project is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2021.
Elevate moving to October 29

With the recent announcements of return-to-school plans and many parents adjusting their schedules to accommodate remote and blended learning schedules, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is moving its Elevate online professional development conference to Oct. 29 to better accommodate the schedules of working parents.

The 2020 Elevate program will give participants the opportunity to experience world-class career coaching from the comfort of their own home or office, with two keynote sessions, the attendee’s choice of three breakout sessions, access to a virtual expo, a custom attendee profile and personalized agenda, live community chat and a digital happy hour featuring online exhibitors, 1:1 speed networking, live music and more. Breaks will highlight Oklahoma City’s arts scene and feature yoga and other movement sessions from local trainers.

Access to Elevate is available in three ticket tiers depending on what suits your needs: The Essential ticket package is $49 for Chamber members and $69 for nonmembers and includes day-of access to Elevate.

The Preferred ticket package, which is $99 for Chamber members and $119 for nonmembers, also includes access to a replay of all general and breakout sessions for one month following the event and a VIP swag box delivered to your home or office. The Premier ticket, which is $149 for Chamber members and $169 for nonmembers, includes an additional live masterclass with keynote speaker Valerie Burton.

Elevate your career with these breakout sessions!

Attendees of Elevate can customize their professional development experience by choosing three live breakout sessions. Sessions will be part of one of the following educational tracks:

- Starting Your Career (sessions geared toward college students, interns and new professionals)
- Managing Your Team (sessions geared toward people who are managers of other people)
- Increasing Your Skills (sessions that focus on practical and actionable skills to use in the workplace)

In addition to experiencing three sessions live, Preferred and Premier Pass ticket holders will have on-demand replay of all breakout and keynote sessions.

Learn from one of the following speakers, with more to be announced:

- Effective Habits: How To Build & Break Them
  Katherine Bethel, Training Coordinator, Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc.
- Business Etiquette in a Post-Pandemic World
  Hilarie Blaney, Etiquette and Protocol Consulting
- What Does This Reporter Want From Me?
  Adam Brooks, Senior Advisor, Candor
- Business Etiquette in a Post-Pandemic World
  Molly Fleming, Public Relations Coordinator, Greater OKC Chamber
- Understanding the Psychology of Selling
  Catherine Brown, Training Partner, Mettise Group, and Founder, ExtraBold Sales
- Strategy in an Unsteady World
  Shelley Cadamy, Partner, The Mettise Group
- How to Understand and Manage Emotions
  Mike Crandall, President/CEO, Sandler Training

How to Master Personal Presence
David Curran
Director of Business Development, Sandler Training of Oklahoma

Impactful Feedback
Sherry Dale
Co-founder/Partner, The Mettise Group

8 Rules of Effective Delegation
Stacy Eads
International Scaling Up Business Coach, CEO, Stacy Eads, LLC

Agility is the New Leadership Superpower
Danielle Ezell
Partner, The Mettise Group

Avoiding Common Social Media Mistakes
Valentina Gutierrez
Founder/Owner, VGM Visual Storytelling

Succeeding in the New Normal with LinkedIn
Gunnar Hood
Principal, WSI-Summit

Please Don’t Do This - The Leadership Behaviors That Stall Out an Organization
Gene Hopper
Partner, The Mettise Group

The 10 Laws of Boundaries
Michael Shellabarger
Learning & Development Lead, Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc.

Effective Presentations: Speaking Out Without Freaking Out
Michael Shellabarger
Learning & Development Lead, Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc.

Starting Your Career in IT
Brad Thomas
President/COO, NvYA Technology, LLC

No Parking: Getting out of a Rut in Personal or Professional Development
Rhonda Thompson
Sr. Technical Training Specialist, OGE Energy Corp.

Managing Your Career
Tennille Whiteman, SHRM-CP
Training and Development Specialist, American Fidelity Assurance Corporation

View the most current list of speakers at OKCElevate.com.

Keynote Speakers
Career coaches Valerie Burton and Dr. Nathan Mellor will be the keynote speakers for the Chamber’s 2020 Elevate program.

Burton is a bestselling author, international speaker and life strategist. Her life-changing message has an intriguing, research-based emphasis in the pioneering field of applied positive psychology.

Mellor is a thought leader, two-time TEDx speaker, author, and President of Strats Leadership. He is recognized for his ability to connect at the heart level with a wide range of audiences.

To purchase tickets, visit OKCElevate.com.

Special thanks to Aspiration Sponsor OGE Energy Corp.

Valerie Burton and Dr. Nathan Mellor

To purchase tickets, visit OKCElevate.com.
Special thanks to Aspiration Sponsor OGE Energy Corp.
Area school districts use varying approaches to deliver student instruction during pandemic

School districts in the metro area plan to reopen with either face-to-face education or online alternatives for instruction through the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. As of the time of writing, the following was the announced instructional plans of metro area schools.

**Oklahoma City Public Schools**

Schools officials voted to delay the start of school three weeks by opting for a nine-week virtual classroom beginning Aug. 31. The district had initially set Aug. 10 as its return. Administrators and the school board expect to review about halfway through the first nine weeks to determine if phase to a face-to-face classes or remain virtual.

“We want to be as flexible in our decision making as possible,” said OKCP’s Superintendent Dr. Sean McDaniel. “We will pay attention to our circumstances and listen to our health officials as we monitor the situation. We realize face-to-face instruction is best for both teachers and students. Delaying the start three weeks and begin virtually is the safest and quickest route that we can make this happen.”

Every student in the district will receive either an Apple iPad or a Google Chromebook, depending on their grade level, to access online schooling. Households without home internet service will receive a mobile hot spot.

Students will participate in scheduled virtual classes with their teachers, the same educators as they would have if they returned to the physical classroom. Teachers will dictate the pace and progress of the class in this remote option.

OKCP’s will utilize Canvas as the learning management system for teachers to host instructional content and to allow students 24/7 access to assignments and activities.

Teachers will spend three weeks before school starts to undergo additional training and discuss how to navigate the system.

**Moore Public Schools**

Moore Public Schools is offering three different options, allowing students to choose their educational experience when school starts Aug. 13. Masks will be required for all high school students.

Option one is the traditional method, allowing students to attend school and receive instruction on-site. Option two is a blend of traditional and virtual learning from home, allowing students to transition between the two options if needed for intermittent health concerns. Option three follows the distance learning educational experience, allowing students to receive instruction and complete all assignments from home. The first and second options are available to students in all grade levels, while the third option is available for students in grades 3-12.

Students would access their assignments through Canvas, the district’s virtual educational platform.

**Edmond Public Schools**

Edmond schools will be using a blended learning model instead of a traditional reopening. Schools will open Aug. 20 after initially announcing Aug. 13 as the start date.

Students will alternate between at-home learning and attending in the classroom into either an A schedule or B schedule. A schedule students will attend face-to-face classes on Monday and Tuesday. The B group will come to school on Thursday and Friday. All students will learn from home when they are not in the classroom. Wednesday will be reserved to allow a deep clean.

If a school or the district has to close, or if officials are required to limit the number of students that can be in a building, they are ready to implement either a remote or hybrid model of instruction.

Each student will be provided a device and internet at home to access online learning.

**Yukon Public Schools**

Yukon Public Schools, home to more than 9,000 students, pushed their initial opening from Aug. 13 to Aug. 20 for students opting for traditional learning. Virtual learning for those who elect that option will begin Aug. 26. All students opting for virtual learning will receive either a Chromebook or an iPad depending on their grade.

A third blended option allows for high school students who have some outstanding circumstances or can document needs that make them unable to attend for the full day.

**Mustang Public Schools**

Mustang has introduced a plan called M.O.R.S.E.Y. – Mustang's Options for Reaching Students & Educating Youth. Plans call for the school year to begin Aug. 14.

Mustang plans to offer a traditional model of instruction where students attend in-person, online for five days a week. It is the district’s default model. High school students and staff will be required to wear masks. Other options include students who are accepted into the Mustang Virtual Academy will be able to complete coursework through an online content management system.

Finally, students in ninth through 12th grades can apply for a blended module that combines both online and traditional school settings.

**Norman Public Schools**

Norman will begin its school year Aug. 24 with students learning in an online format. The intention is to reopen schools once COVID-19 cases abate to a sustainably low level. No timetable has been given on how long classes will be online.

The school district original planned to return with options for both face-to-face classes and online learning. The school district reconsidered when Cleveland County showed a steady rise in COVID-19 cases during recent weeks.

**Putnam City Schools**

Putnam City Schools will begin its first nine weeks in a virtual session when school opens Aug. 27. Though not in a classroom with their students, teachers still will have daily classes in which they take attendance and grade classwork. The district will provide a technology device (iPad or Chromebook) to each of its 19,000 students to access online schoolwork.

Students using the virtual platform will be 100% online. They will also be able to participate in extra-curricular activities. Online classes for students from kindergarten to second grade will be taught by Putnam City teachers. Students in grades third through 12th will have learning delivered through the OdysseyWise platform.

**Western Heights Public Schools**

Western Heights will begin its school year on Aug. 20 with a complete virtual format. The district has used the major part of the $1.3 million dollars in CARES funding to purchase laptops computers for the 3,400 students in the district.

**Millwood Public Schools**

Millwood will begin the first nine weeks in a completely virtual format when school begins Aug. 24. A combination of in-person and virtual learning is among the approaches that will be considered depending on COVID-19 data.

Millwood is offering technology to anyone who needs it through a grant. Before students return to traditional learning, there will be a number of changes implemented to keep them safe, according to Supt. Cecilia Robinson-Wood.
Members Upgrades

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@okchamber.com.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Oklahoma City ranked in the top 10 for best state capitals to live in

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2020 OKC Welcome Guide now available

The 2020 Welcome Guide is now available and is packed with information for Oklahoma City’s newest residents. There are sections loaded with detail about the city’s history, neighborhoods, schools, climate and weather, the economy, and where to go for fun and entertainment.

The guide is an informative tool for companies and businesses to use when recruiting new talent to the city. Companies can work with the Chamber to have a page created in the guide with specific details about the opportunity to live, work and play in Oklahoma City appropriate to their company or situation.

This year’s content includes mentions of the pandemic’s effects, but as the economy improves and the city’s venues welcome visitors again, the team at Better Life will update the guide with the newest information.

To receive a printed copy of the Welcome Guide, visit ABetterLifeOKC.com/welcome and request for one to be mailed to you.

Businesses that want multiple copies can call the Greater OKC Chamber at 405-297-8900.
We're here to help you keep going.

Adjusting to a new way of working isn't easy, but we're here to help you keep business moving. With tools for working together, even when you're apart, and dedicated 24/7 support, we'll help make this new way of working work better for you.

To learn more about our resources for making it work, visit coxbusiness.com/working or call (405) 286-5000.