

# THE POINT

August 2018

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## Oklahoma's bioscience story takes national stage

Scientists, business leaders, educators and economic development officers from across the state of Oklahoma took the best of Oklahoma bioscience to Boston to garner interest in one of Oklahoma's fastest-growing economic sectors. At the 2018 BIO International Convention, the Oklahoma Bioscience Association- and Chamber-led delegation promoted the accomplishments of the Oklahoma bioscience sector and met with potential business partners.

"Oklahoma is fast becoming a breeding ground for the bioscience industry," said Roy H. Williams, CCE, president and CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. "There is groundbreaking research being conducted in Oklahoma City and, alongside the opportunities for collaboration and investment, our

bioscience community stands head and shoulders above many locations across the nation."

Members of the delegation hosted 250 meetings with prospective business partners at the OKBio booth. They were also able to share some of Oklahoma's recent bioscience success stories. Read on for a recap of how companies are advancing bioscience research in the region.

### Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation

Scientists at OMRF have discovered a way in which cells duplicate themselves accurately and completely. The new findings provide a better understanding of how cells replicate, and it could help outline how and why this process goes wrong in cancer.

*Continued on page 10*

## Hear From OKCPS Superintendent Dr. Sean McDaniel



*Dr. Sean McDaniel comes to OKCPS from Mustang Public Schools, where he was named Oklahoma Superintendent of the Year.*

On July 1, longtime Oklahoma educator Dr. Sean McDaniel joined the Oklahoma City Public School District as superintendent. McDaniel comes to the role after serving as superintendent of Mustang Public Schools, a suburban school district of 11,000 students. McDaniel was recently named Oklahoma Superintendent of the Year by the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration. He has 33 years of experience in education, 17 of those as a district superintendent.

Recently, members of The POINT! editorial team sat down with McDaniel to learn more about his goals for OKCPS. Read on to hear his perspective on the district.

**The POINT!: When you think of the future of the district, what is the most encouraging thing to you?**

McDaniel: The most encouraging things to me are the talented employees serving the district and the incredible support that OKCPS receives from outside of the district by way of PTAs, booster clubs, civic groups, the Chamber, the

*Continued on page 5*

# Hear from incoming OU president, OKCPS superintendent at State of the Schools

With new leaders in place at Oklahoma City Public Schools and the University of Oklahoma, attendees of State of the Schools will be able to hear how new leadership will take both institutions to new heights. OU President James L. Gallogly will detail the critical role and impact higher education institutions have on improving the future talent pipeline, and new OKCPS Superintendent Dr. Sean McDaniel will provide an update on the opportunities and challenges in the state's largest district on Tuesday, Aug. 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63rd St.

The Chamber also invites attendees to bring school supplies to the event to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Oklahoma County. Frequently requested school supplies include notebook paper, three-ring binders, No. 2 pencils, ink pens, glue sticks and facial tissue. Individual tickets are \$50 for members and \$75 for nonmembers, and tables of eight are available for \$1,250. To purchase, visit [www.okchamber.com/schools](http://www.okchamber.com/schools). Special thanks to Signature Sponsor Bank of Oklahoma and School Supply/Centerpiece Sponsor American Fidelity Assurance Company.



*Attendees of State of the Schools are invited to bring school supplies to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Oklahoma County.*

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# Leadership Notes

*A new school year, a fresh start*

As we move into the month of August, it's impossible not to consider a topic that is of the highest importance to the future of our region: education. While our schools have faced many challenges in the past few years, the 2018-19 school year has the potential to be a fresh start.

Last month, we welcomed the new leadership of Dr. Sean McDaniel, an educator who brings years of experience as a superintendent to his new role at the Oklahoma City Public School District. You can learn more about Dr. McDaniel by reading his Q&A in this issue of *The POINT!*, but I want to highlight one of his responses in particular. When asked what he wished others knew about the district, Dr. McDaniel responded, "We need to talk about the goodness of OKCPS more often."

While Oklahoma City Public Schools does face challenges, there are many reasons for hope. The district is filled with talented and capable teachers and staff who stand ready to serve the district's students. And Oklahoma City's signature brand of working together to improve the community is already active in the district. The Oklahoma City Schools Compact and its continued efforts to improve the literacy and mental health of Oklahoma City's students is a perfect example of that.

As we begin a fresh school year, I want to encourage you to engage in the work to improve Oklahoma City Public Schools. Whether it's by donating time, money or by simply sharing the positive stories that come out of our schools every day, we all share a responsibility for making this district—and by extension, our community—a better place to live and work.



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

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**"Several Projects in Development to Positively Impact OKC's Visitor Economy"**  
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ISSUE #3522 - August 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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## Q&A with Dr. McDaniel (cont'd from page 1)

Foundation, the United Way, Fields and Futures, and a host of other groups and individuals. People genuinely care about OKCPS kids and teachers and are willing to step in and step up in any way they can to help.

### **What do you consider to be the district's biggest challenges and how do you plan to meet those challenges?**

OKCPS has a number of challenges that must be addressed immediately. Included on that list would be the removal of obstacles that would prevent any student from accessing opportunities that would lead to a successful school experience as well as a successful life after high school. We begin to meet these challenges by talking about all kids first and by developing practices and policies that ensure equity across the district. That would include the distribution of resources, the staffing of schools, the setting of high expectations for all, and the execution of evidence-based plans that lead to success. Additional challenges would include declining enrollment, low performance on district and state tests, and high turnover in the superintendent's office.

### **The district has undergone several times of transition in the last 15 years. How do you plan to provide stability to the district?**

I will provide stability in a number of ways. First, stability comes with longevity. I will be here for the long term. Secondly, stability comes with follow through. If I say I will do something I have to follow through and that goes for everyone in the district from the Board to the employees to the students and families. When I follow through, I build trust, and trust will get things done once it is established. Everyone has a stake in stability - not just the superintendent.

### **If there was one thing that you wish more people knew about OKCPS, what would it be?**

Coming from someone who lives in OKC and who has watched OKCPS from a distance for three decades, I would say that the "one thing" would be that I wished people knew how passionate and excited people are about our schools. Unfortunately, people outside of the district are the ones who own the OKCPS narrative. We need to own our own narrative and while we certainly have challenges that must be faced and overcome, we

also have many, many fantastic things going on and some wonderfully talented and supportive individuals and groups amongst us. We need to talk about the goodness of OKCPS more often.

### **How do you plan to be innovative with resources in the midst of a tight budget environment?**

I have begun the process of taking stock of our habits and practices, our programs and personnel. Additionally, I will continue to elicit input from staff and the community in order to find creative ways to meet student and family needs and to provide teachers and schools with support. As a district, we also need to identify additional funding sources while at the same time spending our money wisely and in a manner that brings a premium return on our investment.

### **What are your primary goals for your first year? For the next five years?**

Four personal objectives that I have as an educator have always been to attend to relationships, to keep my focus on student success, to communicate effectively, and to insist on collaboration. It is also important to me to hold myself accountable and to develop a culture of accountability—not as a punitive measure but as a set of agreements with follow-through. Specifically, in OKCPS, we need a focus on the academic expectations that exist in all schools, we need the equitable distribution of resources across the district, we need to review and revise the organizational structure so that we are service oriented, and we need to have a conversation about results, academic and otherwise. On the personnel side we need to recruit, train and retain effective teachers. I am certain that OKCPS has our fair share of quality teachers but we need one in every classroom. We need to recruit, train and retain outstanding leaders to head our schools. Again, we have outstanding ones but we need outstanding ones in every position, in every school.

*You can learn more about Dr. McDaniel's path forward for Oklahoma City Public Schools at the upcoming State of the Schools event on Tuesday, Aug. 21. Learn more at [www.okcchamber.com/schools](http://www.okcchamber.com/schools).*

**"I wish people knew how passionate and excited people are about our schools."**

*-Dr. Sean McDaniel,  
OKCPS Superintendent*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Aug. 7**

**Member Orientation**

Time: 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
 Location: Chamber offices,  
 123 Park Ave.  
[www.okcchamber.com/  
 orientation](http://www.okcchamber.com/orientation)

**Aug. 14**

**Sunset Reception**

Time: 4 to 6 p.m.  
 Location: Aloft Oklahoma  
 City Downtown / Bricktown  
 209 N Walnut Ave.  
[www.okcchamber.com/  
 sunset2018](http://www.okcchamber.com/sunset2018)

**Aug. 15**

**Chamber Forum**

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 Location: Vast, 333 W  
 Sheridan Ave.  
[www.okcchamber.com/  
 entertainment](http://www.okcchamber.com/entertainment)

## Save the date for the Metro 50 Awards

Celebrate the fastest-growing privately held companies in the Oklahoma City metro area at the Metro 50 Awards on Sept. 24 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63rd Street.

At this event, Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt will reveal the rankings of the 50 companies who are making significant contributions to the central Oklahoma City economy. Tickets are \$100, and tables of eight are \$1,500. For more information and to view a list of the 2018 winners, visit [www.okcchamber.com/metro50](http://www.okcchamber.com/metro50).

Special thanks to the Metro 50 sponsors: American Fidelity Assurance Company/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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# Chamber Forum highlights arts, music and food in OKC

Entertainment and tourism continue to be one of Oklahoma City's fastest-growing economies, and while there is much to celebrate around the visitor environment, life-long residents of OKC are finding new and exciting exhibits to see, music to hear and foods to eat daily across the city.

Oklahoma City's entertainment experts will highlight the cool factor around Oklahoma City's hottest arts, food and music scenes at the upcoming Chamber Forum on Aug. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vast, 333 W Sheridan Ave. Panelists include Scott Booker, CEO & Executive Director of The Academy of Contemporary Music at the University of Central Oklahoma; Keith Paul, CEO of A Good Egg Dining Group; and Deborah Senner, President & CEO of Allied Arts OKC.

Individual tickets are \$35 for Chamber members and \$55 for nonmembers. To register, visit [www.okcchamber.com/entertainment](http://www.okcchamber.com/entertainment). Special thanks to Series Signature Sponsor Metro Technology Centers- Downtown Business Campus and Series Corporate Sponsor ADG, PC.



*Learn more about Oklahoma City's hottest arts, food and music scenes at the August Chamber Forum.*



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# ReadOKC launches new ways to improve literacy

ReadOKC, an initiative of the Oklahoma City Schools Compact, is launching two new ways for the Oklahoma City community to encourage the love of reading in students. In addition to the reading challenges ReadOKC hosts during school breaks throughout the year, ReadOKC is working to improve access to reading for all children in Oklahoma City by placing “Little Free Libraries” throughout the community.

A Little Free Library operates on a take-a-book, leave-a-book basis, and ReadOKC is working to place more than 100 of these libraries in public gathering spaces. Specifically, ReadOKC is focusing on providing more access to books outside of elementary schools and in public parks.

Local businesses and organizations can champion a Little Free Library by providing a one-time donation of \$750 for the purchase and installation of the library. Local partners can also steward a library by checking on the library on a bi-weekly basis and stocking it with books as needed.

ReadOKC is also recruiting adults to serve as “Reading Buddies” to students throughout the district. Volunteers sign up to spend about one hour per week reading with OKCPS students, working to improve reading skills and overall attitudes towards reading. Reading Buddies spend consistent time with students to increase self-esteem, foster self-motivation and promote responsibility.

“Focusing on celebrating reading through reading challenges at schools, providing access to reading materials to all children and working to expand the number of caring adults working with our kids is a multi-faceted approach to developing a culture of reading in OKCPS and our community,” said Mary Mélon, president and CEO of the Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools and chair of the ReadOKC committee. “We know we are making positive gains and look forward to sharing results over time. A child who loves to read has the world at his/her fingertips and will be much more successful in school and life.”



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ReadOKC recently completed its second summer reading program and fourth reading challenge total. The initiative challenged OKCPS elementary students to read 20 minutes a day during summer break, for a total cumulative goal of 1 million minutes read throughout the summer. By focusing on reading during school breaks, the initiative hopes to combat the “summer slide” experienced by non-reading students when outside of the classroom.

Companies and organizations can support the efforts of ReadOKC by donating rewards for students to receive when they reach their reading goals, serving as a champion or steward for a Little Free Library, volunteering as a reading buddy, joining the ReadOKC taskforce team, or telling your networks about ReadOKC. To get involved with ReadOKC, contact Abbie Dedmon, ReadOKC coordinator, at 405-604-5977 or [abbie@okckids.com](mailto:abbie@okckids.com).

Since 2015, the Oklahoma City Schools Compact has maximized community resources to help Oklahoma City Public Schools succeed. The five community organizations involved – Oklahoma City Public Schools,

the City of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation, United Way of Central Oklahoma and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber – are tackling specific challenges like improving mental health and increasing literacy.



*ReadOKC has a goal of installing more than 100 Little Free Libraries, pictured above, to help students have 24/7 access to books.*

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# Bioscience in Oklahoma (cont'd from page 1)

## Moleculera Labs

Moleculera Labs, Inc., an autoimmune neurobiology company, issued a key patent covering the company's Cunningham Panel™ and its use in helping physicians identify whether an individual's neurologic and/or psychiatric symptoms could be caused by an autoimmune dysfunction. Specifically, the new patent covers methods of diagnosing Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococci infection (PANDAS). The Cunningham Panel™ can help identify the level of autoimmune antibodies associated with such neuropsychiatric disorders and the capability they have to stimulate and trigger neurologic behavior.

## Progentec

Lead investor i2E, along with Chicago-based OCA Ventures and Mayo Clinic Ventures, has funded the first round of investment to assist Progentec in moving its technology for predicting the onset of lupus flares closer to commercialization. Technology created by the

Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) is at the core of the platform being developed by Progentec.

## Stephenson Cancer Center

The Stephenson Cancer Center at the University of Oklahoma was designated as a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Center. With this award, the Stephenson Cancer Center joins an elite group of 70 NCI-Designated Cancer Centers nationwide. NCI-Designated Cancer Centers represent only the top 2 percent of cancer centers in the United States. Read more at [www.velocityokc.com/stephenson](http://www.velocityokc.com/stephenson).

Oklahoma's bioscience sector currently contributes more than \$6.7 billion in economic activity and supports more than 51,000 Oklahoma jobs. The sector also produces annual revenues of more than \$4.1 billion. OKBio represents more than 500 bioscience-related businesses and organizations across the state and is the voice for Oklahoma's dynamic and diverse bioscience community.

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Bringing NCI designation to Oklahoma has been a state and university goal since 2001 when the Oklahoma Legislature approved House Bill 1072, which called upon the University of Oklahoma to create a comprehensive cancer center to provide leadership in cancer treatment, research and outreach, and to achieve national recognition as an NCI-Designated Cancer Center.

*The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. [www.ou.edu](http://www.ou.edu)*



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## i2E, Inc. celebrates 20 years of investing in entrepreneurs

i2E, a nonprofit that focuses on growing innovative small businesses in Oklahoma and making a positive impact on the state's economy, is celebrating its 20th year of investing in entrepreneurs to build successful high growth companies in the state. While i2E officially started in 1998, the need for its services was born much earlier. As the state emerged from the oil bust of the 1980s, the need to create a more diversified economy became apparent.

“Our economy was tied to the ups and downs of the energy industry and had been since before statehood,” said Scott Meacham, president and CEO of i2E. “Out of that grew some initiatives to help encourage more research at higher education institutions.”

The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) was created to encourage that investment, and the state legislature directed OCAST to create a technology commercialization center with a nonprofit entity to manage it. i2E was born out of this directive to diversify and build Oklahoma's economy for the future.

Before i2E, Oklahoma had limited resources for startups and entrepreneurs – no startup capital, entrepreneurship programs, business accelerators or co-working spaces. Since i2E was founded, the organization has fostered and created more opportunities for entrepreneurship. And by creating a community of startups in the IT, software and bioscience industries, Oklahoma's economy is more diversified than ever.

“As a community, Oklahoma City has continued to thrive during an energy downturn that was every bit as bad as the downturn in the '80s as far as the price of oil goes,” Meacham said. “So what I think that's shown is we have diversified.”

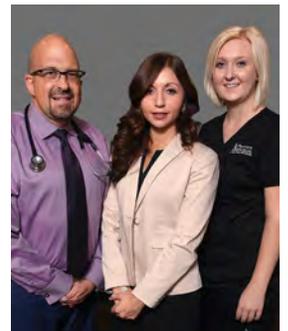
In its early years, i2E served as a source for business advice and networking. Since that time, the organization has expanded its mission to offer investment capital and act as a virtual accelerator. Currently, i2E has a little more than \$60 million under management that they invest in Oklahoma startups.

In the last 20 years, i2E has worked with more than 700 companies that have created 2,500 jobs, an annual payroll of more than \$90 million and an average wage of \$66,000. Several of i2E's investments have become major success stories, including WeGoLook and Selexys Pharmaceuticals. The 266 investments made by i2E total more than \$50 million in local companies, and as a result, those companies have raised an additional \$667 million.

“We've got a really cool environment that supports and embraces entrepreneurs and their startups, and a good capital system in place to get entrepreneurs through the proof-of-concept phase,” Meacham said. “Our next challenge is finding the next round of capital to start scaling businesses. We don't really want to grow them up and then have them be picked off to move to some other state.”

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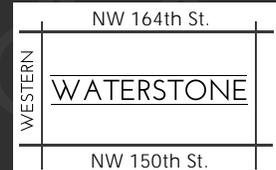
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# GRAND OPENINGS

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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Oklahoma City, OK 73105



**Mercedes-Benz of Oklahoma City**  
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**Positive Tomorrows**  
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Oklahoma City, OK 73107



**Sociallutions**  
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Oklahoma City, OK 73129



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Oklahoma City, OK 73112



**First United Bank - Stockyards City**  
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Oklahoma City, OK 73108



**NewView Oklahoma**  
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Oklahoma City, OK 73106



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Oklahoma City, OK 73102



**Dispatch Health**  
2525 NW Expressway  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Oklahoma City ranks among top 20 cities where your paycheck goes the furthest

- GOBankingRates recently published 20 Cities Where Your Paycheck Goes the Furthest. Oklahoma City ranked No. 11.
- Oklahoma City ranks No. 4 when compared to other cities in metros with population over 1 million.
- The analysis compared the average paycheck to the monthly cost of living — median rent, groceries, utilities and transportation costs — in the 75 most populous cities in the United States.

City	Rank	Monthly Groceries	Monthly Utilities	Monthly Transportation	Monthly Rent
Toledo, OH	1	\$244	\$227	\$55	\$792
Detroit, MI	2	\$306	\$230	\$47	\$747
Memphis, TN	3	\$335	\$133	\$50	\$826
Cleveland, OH	4	\$297	\$128	\$85	\$862
El Paso, TX	5	\$257	\$122	\$40	\$1,005
Wichita, KS	6	\$285	\$146	\$50	\$950
St. Louis, MO	7	\$307	\$148	\$76	\$937
Louisville, KY	8	\$285	\$140	\$50	\$1,020
Tulsa, OK	9	\$298	\$195	\$43	\$981
Buffalo, NY	10	\$289	\$204	\$75	\$958
<b>Oklahoma City, OK</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$293</b>	<b>\$158</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$1,084</b>

A rank of No. 1 is most favorable.

Source: GoBankingRates.com, 2018; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey.

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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