

THE POINT

July 2018

www.okcchamber.com

Will Rogers World Airport Lands Coveted OKC-to-DC Flight

Oklahoma City's airport continues to grow with several recent announcements of nonstop flights, including a new connection to the nation's capital. Southwest Airlines announced that it will be expanding its Oklahoma City service with a new nonstop flight to Ronald Reagan Washington National (DCA) from Will Rogers World Airport beginning Nov. 4, 2018.

"Attracting business or visitors to our market requires excellent air service," said Roy Williams, president and

CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. "With our growing aerospace defense sector in particular, nonstop service to Washington Reagan has long been a demand we hear from our companies. And with the new convention center underway, shoring up our nonstop routes will make us even more successful in attracting meetings. Our service to major markets continues to improve and I anticipate this route being heavily supported by business travelers."

Continued on page 8

MAPS 3 Convention Center Construction Now Underway



The MAPS 3 Convention Center is expected to be complete in 2020.

On Friday, June 15, Oklahoma City officials broke ground on the MAPS 3 Convention Center, launching a new era for MAPS 3 projects and Oklahoma City's Core-to-Shore redevelopment. This state-of-the-art, \$288-million project is expected to be complete in 2020, and its groundbreaking means that all MAPS 3 projects are either complete or currently under construction.

"Three of the MAPS 3 projects are right in the heart of downtown – the OKC Streetcar, Scissortail Park and the convention center," said Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt. "With today's groundbreaking, construction is underway on all three and dreams are becoming reality. As much as everyone talks about how far our downtown has come, the opening of these three projects will dramatically alter our city within the next two years."

Oklahoma City voters approved the convention center as part of the MAPS 3 projects on Dec. 13, 2009, but the idea was born earlier when the relocation of Interstate 40 added more than 1,000 acres of space to downtown Oklahoma City. City leaders then began to dream of development possibilities, and a

Continued on page 5



Chamber exploring health care plan for members

Turn to page 9 for more.





Chamber Launches Two New Products

The Chamber is launching two new products in July that will provide more resources for the community and more benefits for Chamber members.

VeloCityOKC.com

Part of the mission of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is to share good news about what is going on in the Oklahoma City region. To fulfill that goal, the Chamber is launching a new website called VeloCity to help drive the conversation about Oklahoma City.

“VeloCity is another way that we can share Oklahoma City’s many success stories,” said Cynthia Reid, Chamber vice president of marketing and communications. “OKC has never had a higher national profile than it does today. Whether it is a recognition of economic strength, growing status as a visitor destination or our major league success story, people are talking about our community. With so many exciting things happening, there will never be a shortage of content to share and take advantage of this momentum and continue our work to raise the profile of Oklahoma City.”

The site will feature news about the Oklahoma City economy, advocacy efforts, area events, lifestyle, developments and member news. The launch of the site will take place on July 9 at VeloCityOKC.com.

Partner-level Chamber members and up will receive complimentary sponsored stories as part of their Chamber member benefits. If you are interested in receiving that benefit, contact Sunny Cearley, vice president of membership, to discuss an upgrade in your investment level.

Business University

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is launching the Business University on-demand and webinar training program this month to provide content that is meaningful for small and mid-sized businesses. Topics include information on human resources issues, marketing challenges, legal questions and more. Viewers will be able to learn on their own schedule and most videos average just 15-20 minutes.

“Small businesses across all industry types need ongoing sources of professional development and education, but it can be hard to find the time and financial resources to get what they need. Business University answers that need with an online platform that members can access when it is convenient for them,” said Sunny Cearley, vice president of membership for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. “Business University is one of several new benefits launched in 2018 that will give our members more for their investment at all membership levels.”

The site will offer four new videos each month across different educational topics. In July, video topics will include competitive advantages in organizational strategy; current labor challenges and labor laws in the U.S.; current trends in privacy and more. Business University, brought to you by founding partner MassMutual Oklahoma, is available to associate-level members and up. Contact LToya Knighten, director of marketing, at 405-297-8941 or lknighten@okcchamber.com for more information.

Leadership Notes

Driving the conversation about Oklahoma City

Since its inception, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber has championed the continued success of the region. We do that in many ways: encouraging economic development, attracting retail growth, supporting education and workforce development, and speaking up for businesses at all levels of government. Another important way that we push for continued growth is by simply communicating Greater Oklahoma City's story, and this month the Chamber is launching a new website that will help the entire community stay more informed.

VeloCityOKC.com will feature news about the region's companies, new developments, events, business issues and lifestyle features. And while it will share many success stories, it's also going to drive the conversation about important issues our community faces, including information about ongoing criminal justice reform efforts, business policy issues, education reforms and more.

It's incredibly important that members of the business community stay informed on ways the region is continuing to grow—and even more so, the areas in which we need to continue improving. I encourage you to browse VeloCityOKC.com, share the stories that interest you and stay engaged in Greater Oklahoma City's progress.

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams, CCE
Chamber CEO & President



Roy H. Williams, CCE
President & CEO

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THE POINT!

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CONTENTS

2 Chamber Launches Two
New Products

9 Innovation District Names New
President and CEO

6 Upcoming Chamber Events

10 Special Thanks to 2018 TRDC
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Convention Center Construction (cont'd from page 1)

convention center that would allow Oklahoma City to compete for more high-economic-impact events was one of them.

Roy Williams, president and CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, said that the hospitality industry—especially hosting large-scale meetings and events—plays a vital role in changing outdated perceptions of Oklahoma City.

“In a world where people rely on word of mouth and the advice and experience of friends, we will change the image of our community by graciously hosting our guests in this magnificent facility and sending them back into the world as new ambassadors of all our community has to offer,” Williams said. “The dynamic environment we are creating sends a clear message about our city and provides something for both residents and our guests of which we can all be incredibly proud to enjoy.”

The convention center’s sleek and modern design features sweeping downtown views and materials designed for energy efficiency and resiliency against the weather. A 200,000-square-foot exhibit hall and about

45,000 square feet of meeting spaces will allow multiple events to take place simultaneously. The design also calls for a 30,000-square-foot ballroom, 10,000 square feet of pre-function space and a 4,000-square-foot balcony overlooking the MAPS 3 Scissortail Park.

The MAPS 3 Convention Center’s total project budget of \$288 million, including land acquisition and other related expenses, is the biggest in City history for a single project. The construction contract is \$168.2 million, \$20 million under budget.

While the convention center is often associated with visitor-centric events, MAPS 3 Citizens Advisory Board Chairman Tom McDaniel commented that many important events in the lives of Oklahoma City residents will take place in the facility as well.

“It’s always amazing to me how many graduations and how many events that our citizens use our convention center for, and I think it’s going to be well-used by our community for decades to come,” McDaniel said.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 10

Member Orientation

Time: 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Location: Chamber offices,
123 Park Ave.
[www.okcchamber.com/
orientation](http://www.okcchamber.com/orientation)

July 17

Sunset Reception

Time: 4 to 6 p.m.
Location: HeyDay
Entertainment, 200 S
Oklahoma Ave.
[www.okcchamber.com/
sunset2018](http://www.okcchamber.com/sunset2018)

July 18

Chamber Forum

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

Meet New Business Contacts at MegaLunch

Ready to promote your business to an engaged group of Chamber members? Then be sure to register for MegaLunch, one of the Chamber's most unique networking opportunities. On July 25, MegaLunch will be held at Hidden Trails Country Club from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MegaLunch uses a computerized rotation schedule to guide members around tables where they present a 90-second pitch to other attendees. Due to the unique format of this event, only one person per member company may attend, and advance registration (three business days prior to the event) is required. Register at www.okcchamber.com/megalunch.

Special thanks to Host Sponsor Hidden Trails Country Club and Networking Event Sponsors AT&T Oklahoma, American Fidelity Corporation, Centennial Bank, Grand Casino Hotel Resort, Liberty Business Park and OU Medicine.



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kneal@ymcaokc.org

July Chamber Forum Focuses on Community Health

The overall health of a community affects health care costs for businesses and individuals. At the Chamber Forum on July 18, attendees will learn about the current Oklahoma County Wellness Score and its role in the Oklahoma City community. From mortality rates to health care access and crime statistics, the current Oklahoma County Wellness Score is used as the foundation for improving health outcomes and reducing health care costs in Oklahoma County.

Panelists include Mary Mélon, The Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools; Gary Cox, Oklahoma City-County Health Department; and Steve Hill, City of Oklahoma City.

Tickets are \$35 for Chamber members and \$55 for nonmembers. Learn more and register at www.okcchamber.com/health. Special thanks to Series Signature Sponsor Metro Technology Centers - Downtown Business Campus and Series Corporate Sponsor ADG, PC.



Each month, Chamber Forums bring thought leaders together to discuss major initiatives, programs and current issues that impact Oklahoma City's business climate, economy and community.

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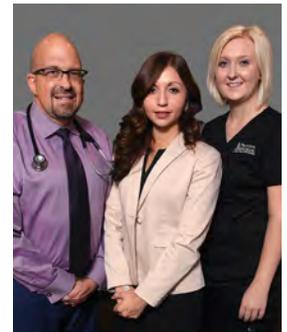
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Will Rogers World Airport Flight Additions (cont'd from page 1)

“This flight to Reagan National is a great new connection for Oklahoma City, and it clearly makes sense for all involved,” said Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt. “As a state capital, we have a lot of interaction with our nation’s capital. We also have a significant federal presence with Tinker and the FAA. And we are a business center for the energy, bio and aerospace sectors, all of which will benefit from this connection to Washington. This additional new nonstop flight continues our city’s momentum and solidifies our status as a place to visit and do business.”

Many factors are considered when an airline makes an air service decision, one of which is the economic health of a community and the potential businesses that would take advantage of the service. Oklahoma City clearly stands out as a city that has connections to the nation’s capital.

The availability of nonstop flights also factors into decisions by potential businesses looking to relocate to the area or meeting planners selecting convention sites.

American Airlines also recently launched two new nonstop flights to Philadelphia, which will increase Oklahoma City’s connecting options to the northeast and for transatlantic travel. Philadelphia is the second destination American has added to the Oklahoma City market in the last three months; in April, the carrier began nonstop service to Phoenix. The airport now serves 30 nonstop airports with an average of 72 daily departures.



American Airlines recently launched a nonstop flight to Philadelphia, better connecting Oklahoma City to the northeast destinations and to transatlantic travel.




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Innovation District Names New President and CEO

The Oklahoma Health Center Foundation has announced that Katy Evans Boren has been selected to lead Oklahoma City's innovation district efforts as president and CEO. Boren begins her work on July 9.

"We are thrilled to have someone of Katy Boren's caliber to lead this effort," said David Harlow, chairman of the Oklahoma Health Center Foundation. "This is essentially a start-up enterprise and she brings a blend of business experience, legal and entrepreneurial know-how, and management and governance expertise that are vital to creating a new entity and putting in place successful strategies for the future."

Oklahoma City's innovation district represents a concentration of the region's innovation assets that offer the potential to spur economic growth and civic vitality where innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity and placemaking intersect. In this newly created position, the CEO will create, identify and lead strategies in which anchor institutions, firms and civic leaders rally stakeholders to engage with their time, expertise and resources to support the innovation district's vision to create a dynamic, inclusive innovation hub.

The Oklahoma Health Center Foundation is serving as the governance entity for the district's efforts and

is joined by the founding participants of the project: Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, Oklahoma Health Center Foundation, Presbyterian Health Foundation, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and Oklahoma City Redevelopment Authority, in the implementation of the project plan.

The project plan was the result of a study completed by the Brookings Institution and the Project for Public Spaces that looked at the potential growth of jobs and innovation in and around a study area loosely defined as the Oklahoma Health Center and Automobile Alley.

Boren is a native Oklahoman. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Denver in 1992 and her law degree from the University of Oklahoma three years later. She has practiced law in private firms, state agencies and served as Regional Vice President of Cox Communications.

She most recently held the position of Chief of the Utilities Regulation Unit in the Oklahoma Attorney General's office. In these positions, she gained valuable leadership experience developing and executing strategic initiatives, creating collaborative solutions and managing people and process.

Chamber Pursues Health Care Plan for Members

With the U.S. Department of Labor officially expanding health care options to include association health plans in late June, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is taking steps to explore offering health care plans for its small-business members with the goal to offer coverage as early as Jan. 1, 2019.

"Small businesses who are members of the Chamber have made it clear – providing health care coverage at a reasonable cost to their employees is a top business need," said Rhonda Hooper, president and CEO of Jordan Advertising and chair of the Chamber. "Because of this expansion, we hope to offer an alternative for businesses to bring health care at a rate that will help businesses save money and

ultimately invest more in the Greater Oklahoma City region."

"The Chamber always strives to provide true value and return on investment to its members," Hooper said. "The ChamberChoice program offered to our members prior to enactment of the Affordable Care Act was very successful due to the quality of benefits and the ease of purchasing. By exploring the opportunity to offer a similar plan, we hope to continue that tradition."

The Chamber will communicate more details about its association health care plan in the coming weeks.

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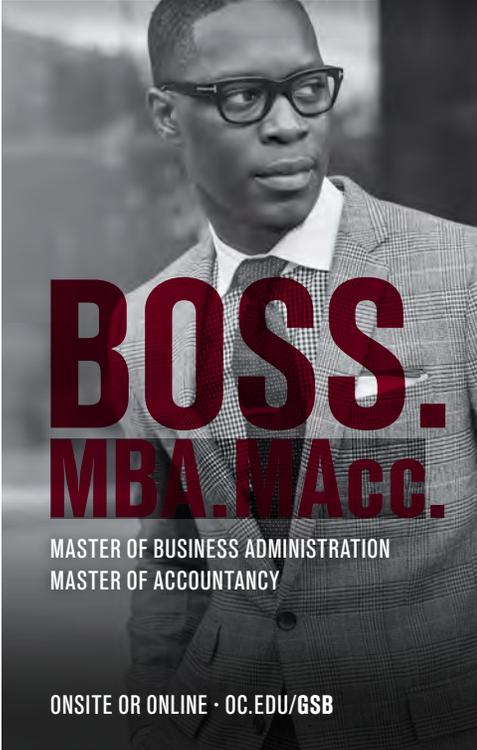


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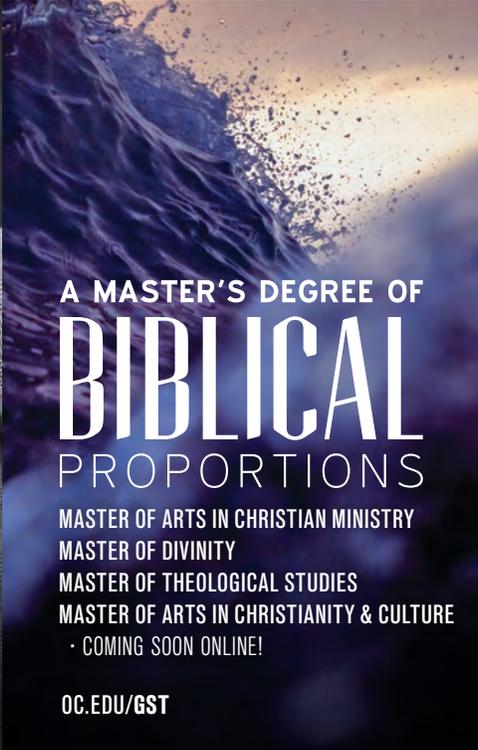


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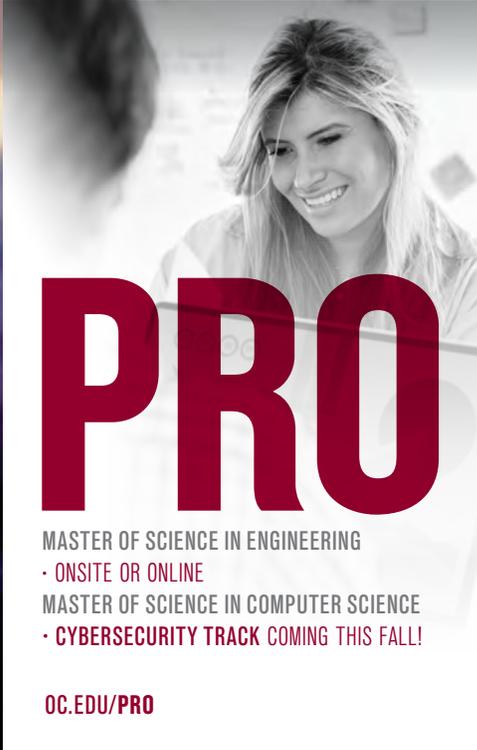
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Members Upgrade Their Support of the Chamber

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 info@okcchamber.com.

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Memory Care Community
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Oklahoma City, OK 73112-7361
www.mansionatwaterfordslc.com

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OKC American Shaman

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Nonprofit / Service Agencies
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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.



The Commons at Mount St. Mary Catholic High School
2801 S. Shartel Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73109



Home2 Suites by Hilton – OKC Airport
4311 SW 15th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73108



Eatery & Cocktail Office @ The Union
616 NW 5th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73102



Wood Window Rescue
1720 NW 5th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73106



Wal-Mart Supercenter
6100 W. Reno Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73127



Scissortail Gifts & Destination Oklahoma
120 S. EK Gaylord Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73102



405 Yoga
1004 N. Hudson Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73102



Outreach Home Care
4045 NW 64th St., Suite 190
Oklahoma City, OK 73116



INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center
3300 N.W. Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73112



Skyline on Bricktown Canal
12 E. California Ave., Suite 300
Oklahoma City, OK 73104



OKC American Shaman
9112 N. MacArthur Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73132



BriteBee
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Oklahoma City Ranks No. 1 for High Salaries and Low Cost of Living

- GoBankingRates.com recently determined the top 12 U.S. cities with high salaries and low cost of living. Oklahoma City came in at No. 1!
- GoBankingRates.com compared and ranked 270 U.S. cities based upon their livability, taking into consideration the average yearly income and the average monthly living expense for that area. All data was sourced from Zillow, Numbeo and the U.S. Census Bureau.
- OKC was also on the GoBankingRates.com list of places you can live comfortably for less than \$50,000 a year as well as being listed among the top 20 cities where your paycheck goes the furthest.

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and Regional Data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division at www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators or contact Eric Long, Research Economist – 297-8976; elong@okcchamber.com

City	Rank	Average HH Income	Total Necessities
Oklahoma City, OK	1	\$72,385	\$18,701
Kansas City, MO	2	\$69,301	\$19,756
Lexington, KY	3	\$77,827	\$20,535
Phoenix, AZ	4	\$73,135	\$21,412
Durham, NC	5	\$74,401	\$21,625
Omaha, NE	6	\$74,125	\$21,779
Bakersfield, CA	7	\$76,673	\$22,632
Tampa, FL	8	\$80,121	\$23,035
Dallas, TX	9	\$76,726	\$23,057
Charlotte, NC	10	\$86,922	\$23,249
Houston, TX	11	\$77,312	\$23,296
Raleigh, NC	12	\$92,275	\$23,331

Total necessities includes costs of median home rent, groceries, utilities and transportation. A rank of 1 is most favorable. Source: GoBankingRates.com, 2018.



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LOOK INSIDE!

- 2 Chamber Launches Two New Products
- 6 Upcoming Chamber Events
- 9 Innovation District Names New President and CEO
- 10 Special Thanks to 2018 TRDC Sponsors

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