

VELOCITY

APRIL 2024 • OKCCHAMBER.COM

GREATER
OKLAHOMA CITY
CHAMBER

THE CHAMBER HAS PARTNERED WITH OSU-OKC AND LOCAL MANUFACTURERS TO LAUNCH FIRST FAME CHAPTER IN OKLAHOMA

In the ongoing work to ensure businesses in the Greater Oklahoma City region have access to the talent they need to grow, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber recently helped launch Oklahoma's first chapter of the Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) program.

FAME is a national, highly successful hybrid academic/training program designed to help students prepare for highly skilled, globally competitive jobs.

FAME was created by Toyota and moved to the Manufacturing Institute for national scaling in 2019. Today the Manufacturing Institute — as the workforce development and education partner of the National Association of Manufacturers — manages FAME USA as it continues to grow across the country with the support of more than 400 manufacturers.

“OKC FAME is a nationally renowned program that we are thrilled to introduce to our community. As a chamber, we are committed to helping our employers, especially in manufacturing, find new ways to access skilled talent,” said Christy Gillenwater, president and CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. “OKC FAME is an incredible asset in our arsenal to bolster the economic growth of Greater Oklahoma City and we cannot wait to see how this program grows in the coming years.”

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EVENTS ABOUND IN APRIL

Late April in Oklahoma City has never been short on events and this year is no exception. From the artists and their art, to the runners from across the globe, to America's top canoe/kayak slalom athletes, the last weekend in April will offer fun and festivities sure to please locals and visitors alike.

OKC's annual “rite of spring,” also known as the Festival of the Arts, kicks off on April 25 and continues through April 28. Downtown's Bicentennial Park will be filled with artists in all mediums, performers, musicians and an array of delicious culinary delights.

America's top canoe/kayak slalom athletes are coming to OKC April 26-27 to compete for a spot on



CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



A New Noninvasive Treatment for Essential Tremor

OU Health is the first and only health system in Oklahoma to offer an incisionless treatment for patients with medical refractory essential tremor that can result in improvement in hand, head and body shaking as well as increased mobility through a same-day treatment. Called “Focused Ultrasound,” the new technology is for essential tremor patients who have not responded to medication, or who cannot take it.

Focused ultrasound for essential tremor is an FDA-approved, non-invasive procedure that’s transforming patient care. The procedure uses ultrasound waves to target the specific areas of the brain responsible for tremors. Guided by MRI, the soundwaves pass safely through the skull and soft tissues to focus heat on only the targeted area, providing relief from symptoms. With no surgical cuts or permanent implants necessary, there is minimal to no risk of infection, and the treatment is often performed on an outpatient basis. Many patients can expect to resume normal activities within days.

OU Health is proud to be the first in Oklahoma to offer this revolutionary treatment.

To make an appointment or for more information, visit us at OUHealth.com/EssentialTremor

OU Health Physicians — Neurosurgery Clinic
1000 N Lincoln Blvd, Suite 4000
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
(405) 271-4912



LEADERSHIP NOTES



As the calendar flips to April, we enter one of the most exciting times be in OKC, with major events that delight our residents, and attract visitors from across the country and the world.

We can join in celebrations like the Festival of the Arts, enjoying the art, food and performances. That same week, we will cheer the runners at the Oklahoma City National Memorial Marathon, with runners from every state and 13 countries.

This year brings two events that will drive energetic engagement. The first is the NBA playoffs. For our young team to reach this milestone, battling it out this last month for a potential top seed has been fantastic to watch, and a true testament to teamwork, determination and preparation. Oklahoma City is back at the top of the NBA news, sharing the story of our team and our city with the world.

It is fascinating to hear stories about how our city and fans have rallied around our team in the past. It's time we crank up that machine and do that again – wearing Thunder clothes and colors on game day, showing our support on signs, marquees, our cars and more. Fly a Thunder flag, literally and figuratively, to rally around the team and our city.

The second event we will host in April bringing international attention is the U.S. Olympic trials to choose the athletes to compete in canoe/kayak slalom for the upcoming 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. We are so fortunate to experience this level of competition in our city.

What a schedule for April! Then May brings the return of the Women's College World Series, and more. Make sure you take the opportunity to experience these events and support their success. Working together to make our best showing to visitors and viewers will enhance our image and attract ever greater opportunity. Thank you for your partnership!

»» READ CHRISTY'S VELOCITYOKC ONLINE STORY OF THE MONTH

Rolling Thunder Book Bus rolls into Rogers Middle School, spreading literacy and smiles

[VELOCITYOKC.COM/CHRISTYSPICK](https://velocityokc.com/christyspick)



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— VELOCITY —

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR

(Events are subject to change. Consult okcchamber.com/events for the most recent updates.)

APRIL 17

Chamber Forum

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

The Petroleum Club

100 N Broadway, 34th Floor

okcchamber.com/aprilforum

MAY 2

Elevate

8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Oklahoma City Convention Center

100 Mick Cornett Dr

okcelebrate.com

MAY 8

State of the Aerospace Industry

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

Delta Hotel by Marriott MWC at The

Reed Conference Center

5750 Will Rogers Rd, Midwest City

www.okcchamber.com/aero

MAY 21

Chamber Connection

3 to 4:30 p.m.

Credit Union House

631 E Hill St

sellison@okcchamber.com

MAY 22

Chamber Forum

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

The Petroleum Club

100 N. Broadway, 34th Floor

okcchamber.com/mayforum

JUNE 12-13

D.C. Fly-In

okcchamber.com/dc

JUNE 18

InternOKC

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Delta Hotel by Marriott MWC at The

Reed Conference Center

5750 Will Rogers Rd, Midwest City

abetterlifeokc.com/internokc



OKC's appeal and potential as a visitor destination the highlight of April Forum

In fiscal year 2023, Oklahoma City's visitor industry had a \$4.3 billion impact on our economy and brought 23.2 million visitors to our community. With the new, exciting attractions being added, our city's visitor economy is poised for exponential growth.

During the April Chamber Forum, attendees will hear how Oklahoma City compares to other destination markets, what's next for our city's visitor industry and the impact it will have on our community.

The forum will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 17, at the Petroleum Club Downtown Oklahoma City, 100 N. Broadway, 34th floor.

Participating on the panel will be:

- Zac Craig, President, Visit Oklahoma City
- David Lorenz, Executive Consultant, MMGY

The cost to attend the April Chamber Forum is \$45 for Chamber members and \$55 for nonmembers. To register, visit okcchamber.com/aprilforum.

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. Visit the events page on the Chamber website for up-to-date information on this and other events the Chamber hosts throughout the year.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Cox Communications and Silver Sponsor ADG | Blatt.

DEVELOP YOUR INTERNS AT CHAMBER'S JUNE EVENT

One of the important avenues to a company's future talent pool is an effective intern program – and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is here to help.

Intern OKC is back this summer to provide your interns with important skills and information to be successful as they transition from education to the workforce. This one-day program includes sessions from trainers from our region's top companies, along with networking with fellow interns, and motivational speeches from OKC leaders.

Lee Copeland, the Chamber's director of talent and business growth, works with companies every day to tap into new talent pipelines. "Attracting college graduates, and ensuring their skills development at the outset, is an important component for many companies' talent plans," he explained. "Our event helps interns gain valuable tools to help them transition from college graduate to young professional, and network with other interns."

The training focuses on three areas:

- Reinforcing professional behaviors and habits
- Navigating networks and creating relationships
- Developing a mindset of lifelong learning

InternOKC 2024 is set for Tuesday, June 18 at the Delta Hotel by Marriott MWC at The Reed Conference Center, 5750 Will Rogers Rd., in Midwest City, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores is the event's Presenting Sponsor.

More than 300 interns are expected to participate this year.

Employers interested in enrolling their interns for this year's event can do so at www.abetterlifeokc.com/internokc. The registration fee is only \$200 for Chamber members, and \$300 for nonmembers.

If you are interested in starting an internship program at your business, the Chamber has resources that can help you, including a printed guide with steps to take and decisions for consideration as you launch the program. Reach out to Lee Copeland, the Chamber's director of talent and business growth at 405-297-8803 or lcopeland@okcchamber.com.

AEROSPACE INDUSTRY THE FOCUS OF MAY EVENT

Oklahoma's aerospace industry continues to soar in Oklahoma City, playing a key role in OKC's economy by providing thousands of jobs across the metro, most notably at Tinker Air Force Base, the state's largest single-site employer, and at numerous defense contractors that have a large presence here, including Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Pratt & Whitney and others.

To deepen your understanding of the aerospace industry and its impact in the Oklahoma City region, join us at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's State of the Aerospace Industry event on Wednesday, May 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Delta Hotel by Marriott MWC at The Reed Conference Center in Midwest City.

The featured keynote speaker at the event will be Steve Fendley, president of the unmanned systems division at Kratos Defense and Security Solutions. Fendley will discuss the growth of Unmanned Aerial Systems for the

Department of Defense and the potential for Oklahoma to grow its influence in the sector.

Attendees will also hear a panel discussion on Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Advanced Air Mobility moderated by Kent Shortridge, Chamber vice chair of military and aerospace. Participating on the panel will be:

- James Grimsley, executive director of advanced technology initiatives, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- David Zahn, research pilot, Ames Research Center, NASA

Tickets are \$55 for Chamber members and \$80 for nonmembers. Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,000. To purchase your tickets, please visit okcchamber.com/aero. If you would like to purchase a sponsor table, contact Suzette Ellison at sellison@okcchamber.com.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor The Boeing Company and Platinum Sponsor Rose State College.



BIG APRIL EVENTS (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

the U.S. Olympic Team at the 2024 Paris Games this July. RIVERSPORT at the Boathouse District will host the Olympic Trials competitions--with slalom racing Friday and Saturday and kayak cross on Saturday. And you won't want to miss the TEAM USA Announcement Celebration from 7 to 9 p.m. on April 27.

A tribute to those who were killed, those who survived and those changed forever by the Oklahoma City bombing, the 24th Annual Run to Remember returns for a full weekend of activities April 26-28. Check out the latest in running gear and other health and fitness products at the Health and Fitness Expo on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, get up bright and early to cheer on the runners in the 5K, half marathon and full marathon—voted one of the “must run” marathons by Runner’s World magazine.

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 okchamber.com/grandopenings.

Aetna Better Health of Oklahoma
777 NW 63rd St.
OKC, OK 73116

Excel Construction
1435 W. Britton Road
OKC, OK 73114

Panda Express
4932 N. May Ave.
OKC, OK 73112

Senior Health Clinic at Epworth Villa
14901 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
OKC, OK 73134

The Roche Wealth Group Advisors
13104 N. MacArthur Blvd., Suite B
OKC, OK 73142



CHANGING THE CULTURE FOR ANIMALS IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Animals in Oklahoma City are one step closer to a state-of-the-art shelter as plans were recently unveiled for a new \$42 million facility. “Once it is finished it will be one of the nicest—if not the nicest—municipal shelters in the country,” said Jon Gary, superintendent, Oklahoma City Animal Welfare.

The new shelter was approved as part of MAPS 4, something Gary says is very special. “It shows our citizens believe it is important to increase the quality of life of the animals in our care.”

The goal is to break ground by late summer/early fall 2024, and once underway, it is projected to be completed within 18 months. “Our community is going to love it,” added Gary. “It is worlds away from our current shelter and honestly, it just can’t get here fast enough.”

As they began the design process for the new building, Gary relied on his 24 years of experience in animal welfare, a career that began in 1999 cleaning kennels at the OKC shelter.



As of April 3, Oklahoma City Animal Welfare was at 121% of capacity with dogs.

Connolly Architects & Consultants, an Austin, Texas-based firm with a national reputation for excellence in animal welfare design was brought in to offer their expertise and ideas. “We laid out a vision of what we needed and wanted and HSEarchitects made it come to life,” he said. “There is so much about the new shelter that people will appreciate. It is gorgeous but also offers a more peaceful environment for animals, staff, and patrons.”

Reducing stress for animals that arrive or are staying at the shelter was a top priority, so much of the design takes that into consideration. In addition, there will be both an adoption lobby and an intake lobby to cut down on lines and wait times, along with a larger indoor waiting room and a new outdoor waiting space. The new building will also have a much-needed meeting space for staff, but also for use by the community and local businesses. “We want this shelter to be a place where people want to come,” added Gary.

The planning for the new shelter has set in motion a few changes at the current shelter, including the addition of a check-in system that allows people to wait in their car or nearby, ultimately reducing wait time.

The new shelter will be constructed on the property where the current shelter is located, 17 acres near SE 29th and Bryant. The property did pose a few challenges due to the narrow and long configuration of the land, so the building was designed to accommodate the space. While the current entrance is off SE 29th, the new entrance will be to the east off Bryant.

As with all MAPS projects, a significant piece of artwork will be a part of the new building. Though the design isn’t finalized, Gary’s hope is it will highlight the bond between humans and animals. “We want the artwork to be meaningful and create excitement and increased involvement in animal welfare.”

With all the upgrades and changes, Gary cautions the new shelter won’t fix all the problems facing animals in our community. “This new facility is desperately needed, and the community agreed, but Oklahoma City has a severe pet overpopulation problem. It will take work to continue to educate our citizens, increase adoptions and reduce intake,” he said. “The building shows we are serious about animal welfare, but people need to understand this is culture shift on how we can all do better in taking care of animals.”

ELEVATE AND IMPACT YOUR WORKFORCE AT CHAMBER'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



Designed to help your company provide professional development options to its employees—without having to send people out of the market—Elevate will take place on Thursday, May 2, at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, with registration and a continental breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. Morning and afternoon breakout sessions will include education tracks for new managers, new employees, small business owners, entrepreneurs, young professionals, salespeople and general sessions that will apply to everyone, no matter their career stage.

The afternoon closing keynote by documentarian Brett Culp will be one you and your employees won't want to miss. In his stirring presentation, Culp will demonstrate the power within every one of us to build influence, capture opportunity and create connections. The future of work isn't an absence of leaders, but an abundance of them, and this high-energy session will empower you to unleash that potential within your organization.

A special thanks to Transformation Sponsor Gardner Tanenbaum and Aspiration Sponsor OGE Energy Corp.

MEET THE LUNCHEON KEYNOTE

The Chamber is thrilled to announce Kelli Masters as the luncheon keynote. Masters is a native Oklahoman and recognized as one of the most influential women in

sports business. She is an attorney, an NFL sports agent, and Founder and President of KMM Sports, a full-service sports management company based in Oklahoma City.

Masters has represented more professional athletes than any woman in the industry, having served as agent/contract advisor to players in every NFL draft since 2006 as well as numerous athletes in the MLB draft and the Olympics. In 2010, she made history as the first woman to represent a Top 5 pick in the NFL Draft.

MASTERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS

In her keynote address “Becoming a High Impact Person,” Masters will delve into the principles and practices that have propelled her to success in both the competitive world of sports and the realm of personal development. From harnessing your unique talents and passions to cultivating a mindset of resilience and purpose, she will guide you on a transformative journey towards becoming a high-impact individual.

BREAKOUT SESSION PREVIEW

Throughout the day, attendees will choose four breakout sessions to attend. Below are just a sampling of the sessions taught by Oklahoma City's best and brightest talent. To see the full schedule and session offerings, visit OKCElevate.com.

ELEVATE YOUR BUSINESS

Party With Your Data: Market Research for Small Business Success

Lily Terry and Monique Walker, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber

Who says research has to be dull? Step into our virtual dance floor, where business growth is the life of the party. Let's ditch the stress, break out the disco balls and groove while discovering the secret weapons the Chamber's Economic Development team uses to recruit and amplify businesses in our market!

ELEVATE YOUR FUTURE

Relationships Matter

Sunny Cearley, Allied Arts

Everything good that has ever happened in my personal life, or my professional life, has happened because of an investment that I made in a relationship. Spending time cultivating meaningful relationships

isn't always easy, but I believe that it's always worth it. Attend this session for real-life examples of the power of relationships along with tried-and-true tactics for how to develop and sustain them.

ELEVATE YOUR INFLUENCE

The Emotionally Intelligent Leader

David McLaughlin, Pendulum Coaching LLC

Emotional Intelligence (EI) is one of the core essentials of great leadership. In this session, participants will learn what emotional intelligence is, how to develop it and how to excel as a leader using EI.

ELEVATE YOUR MINDSET

Mindful Self-Compassion: An Experiential Workshop

Lauree Dash, Meditation Rebound LLC

In this introductory workshop, Lauree will explain the basics of self-compassion and the common misgivings or misconceptions people often have, as well as the physiology behind self-compassion. There will be pen and paper exercises, meditation and informal practices. Participants will leave with an understanding of how to resource themselves with the basic components of Mindful Self-Compassion.

ELEVATE YOUR TEAM

Creating an Inclusive Work Culture

Angela Russell, Express Employment International

Cracking the code for building a diverse, inclusive and positive work environment is difficult. Leaders want to hire the right people and retain good talent, while maintaining a culture that is welcoming, collaborative and productive. This workshop provides leaders with tools to build and maintain a place where individuals want to belong and thrive.

ELEVATE YOUR SALES

Accelerate Your LinkedIn Impact: Quick Wins and Long-Term Strategies

Gunnar Hood, WSI Summit

This session offers business leaders, individual professionals and business owners three key strategies for immediate LinkedIn success: profile optimization, strategic networking and thought leadership through content creation. This concise workshop is designed to impart actionable tactics for rapid profile enhancement,



forging valuable connections and establishing authoritative voices in their industries.

REGISTER

A conference pass includes two keynote sessions, four education sessions of your choice, continental breakfast and lunch, and one drink ticket to the closing reception. Take advantage of three ways to engage your employees:

- Individual passes are \$250 for Chamber members or \$200 for nonprofit Chamber members.
- For groups of three or more within the same company, passes are \$200 for Chamber members or \$160 for nonprofit Chamber members.
- Want to give more of your employees training opportunities? Consider a Boost Package, which includes 10 all-day passes and sponsor recognition throughout the day.
- Interested in sponsoring Elevate? Contact Suzette Ellison at sellison@okcchamber.com to secure your sponsorship today.

Visit OKCElevate.com for more information and to register.

STATE SPOTLIGHT HIGHLIGHTS

The Chamber's State Spotlight event brought together key figures and industry leaders to discuss pivotal topics shaping Oklahoma's future. Governor Kevin Stitt set the tone with a vision for the state's advancement, emphasizing economic development, infrastructure enhancement and education reform as cornerstones of progress.

Stitt articulated an ambitious agenda to propel Oklahoma among the top 10 states across critical sectors, highlighting investments in education and strategic allocations to address workforce shortages. He noted a significant \$20 million line-item appropriation to expand engineering programs, alongside \$17.5 million for teacher scholarships and \$12.5 million for targeted workforce initiatives. His focus is on leveraging the state's strengths, including robust energy sectors and federal partnerships, overviewing priorities for sustained prosperity for the 2024 legislative session.

Following Stitt's opening keynote at State Spotlight, a panel of experts delved into the intricacies of Oklahoma's tourism industry, with Chamber Chair Teresa Rose leading the panel discussion alongside Secretary of Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage Shelly Zumwalt; Representative Mark Lawson; and Zac Craig, President of Visit OKC. The conversation shed light on the Tourism Development Act's (TDA) profound effects, emphasizing its role in shaping the state's tourism landscape.



Gov. Kevin Stitt, with Chamber Chair Teresa Rose, discussing his vision for Oklahoma's advancement at the annual State Spotlight event.

Craig highlighted Route 66's appeal and urged targeted investments to maximize its potential, emphasizing heritage preservation and innovative initiatives. He cited TDA-funded projects like the former 21C Hotel and the OAK entertainment district as examples of enhancing cultural landscapes and boosting tax revenue.

Representative Mark Lawson stressed tourism's economic importance for rural Oklahoma, advocating for strategic investments like the Route 66 Fund to support local communities. He also championed increased funding for state parks and echoed the significance of the TDA in attracting visitors.

Zumwalt noted Oklahoma's 12% tourism growth from 2021 to 2022, emphasizing strategic investment in state parks and endorsing a \$15 million increase in the TDA supported by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. She highlighted the TDA's role in driving economic growth through tourism-related projects statewide.



From L-R, Visit OKC President Zac Craig, Rep. Mark Lawson, Sec. of Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage Shelly Zumwalt and Chamber Chair Teresa Rose at the State Spotlight event.

DEEPEN FEDERAL RELATIONSHIPS AT CHAMBER'S ANNUAL DC VISIT

Ready to make your voice heard in Washington, D.C.? Want to better understand the federal issues facing our region? Then make plans now to attend the Chamber's annual D.C. Fly-In set for June 12 and 13. The event includes intense briefings from Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation, a private reception with Pentagon leaders and members of the administration, and a series of briefings from national experts and administration leaders. This event provides an excellent opportunity to stand with Chamber leadership in representing our community's priorities to our elected representatives.

The two-day visit begins with a series of briefings from Oklahoma's congressional delegation: Sen. James Lankford, Sen. Markwayne Mullin, Rep. Tom Cole, Rep. Stephanie Bice, Rep. Frank Lucas, Rep. Josh Brecheen and Rep. Kevin Hern. These briefings provide insight into congressional activity, world affairs and national politics.

The first day concludes with a high-powered reception led by Oklahoma's senior Senator James Lankford and includes senior leaders of the Pentagon, along with other officials. This event is an important opportunity to deepen relationships and support Tinker AFB, the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center and other federal priorities.

On the second day, speakers this year include Lt. Gen. Tom Miller, deputy chief of staff for logistics, engineering and force protection; and Susan Howard, director of policy and government relations for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. Other topics will include artificial intelligence, the re-shoring of semiconductor manufacturing and more.

Register by June 1 to join this delegation and connect with federal policymakers and national experts. Registration is \$950 and includes one night hotel, all official events and transportation. Attendees are responsible for their own air travel to allow for extending their stay or conducting other business in the area.

To register, visit okcchamber.com/dc.



1 in 5

Oklahoma children don't know where their next meal will come from.

For these children, the summer months can be a difficult time. Through the Summer Feed & Read program, Feed the Children and our partners are providing nutritious meals and books to help kids grow and thrive.

Donate today at feedthechildren.org!



we understand the importance of the manufacturing talent pipeline,” said John Behrend, senior human resource director for Climate Control Group. “We are thrilled to be among the first partners to introduce FAME to Oklahoma City. We are dedicated to developing this exceptional program in our community and giving people a chance to grow their skills.”

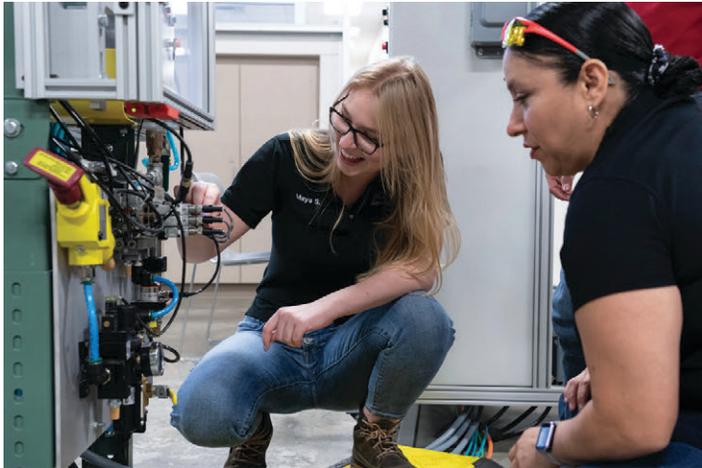
Human resource leader Cheri Goodman noted that IDEX Energy was interested in becoming involved early on in helping launch a FAME Oklahoma City Chapter.

“IDEX continues to build a culture of winning as a team in a high-performance environment where people are invited to do and be their best every day,” Goodman said. “We strongly believe that providing more opportunities for young people to explore careers in manufacturing is not only beneficial for our company, but also for the future of our region.”

OMADA International will give students a chance to get a head start in an aerospace career.

“As a leading aerospace manufacturer, we have undertaken several initiatives in our schools to familiarize students with career opportunities in our industry,” said Jason Jentsch, director of operations for OMADA International. “FAME is an excellent opportunity for us to expand our efforts and nurture budding talent that can contribute to the growth of the aerospace industry in Oklahoma City.”

If your company wants to learn more about getting involved with OKC FAME, contact Lee Copeland at (405) 297-8803 or lcopeland@okcchamber.com.



The Chamber will act as the hub organization and convening partner for the OKC FAME chapter with OSU-OKC as the educational partner. OSU-OKC will provide classroom, laboratory space, equipment and instructors for the program.

“OKC FAME and OSU-OKC are offering an innovative intersection of education and paid training to help students earn an associate degree and the certifications needed to land jobs in a modern manufacturing workforce,” said Dr. Ronna Vanderslice, OSU-OKC interim provost and vice provost of academic affairs of the OSU System. “This partnership with the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and a growing number of outstanding Oklahoma industrial companies is helping Oklahoma address its shortage of high-tech workers and spark a revolution of hiring and economic growth.”

Students enrolled in the OKC FAME program will come to OSU-OKC two days a week for classroom-based learning and then spend at least 24 hours a week working off-campus for a sponsoring employer who has agreed to provide students hands-on training and pay at least \$16 an hour. Upon completion of the two-year program, OKC FAME students will have an associate degree from OSU-OKC and certification as an advanced manufacturing technician.

OKC FAME has already partnered with manufacturers IDEX Energy - Advanced Flow Solutions, Climate Control Group, Canoo and OMADA International which will employ OSU-OKC FAME students.

“As an employer in Oklahoma over multiple decades,





RAIL EXPANSION: A STEP CLOSER

Federal funding could expand passenger rail service, connect Oklahoma to national Amtrak network

For the past 25 years The Heartland Flyer has connected Oklahoma City to Ft. Worth, Texas—the only passenger rail service in the state—but imagine a new connection offering travel to Los Angeles, Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago.

Thanks to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) which was signed into law by President Biden in November 2021, between \$30-40 billion in funding is now available for passenger rail expansion outside the D.C.-Boston-Acela Corridor through the Corridor ID program. Through the work of the Chamber and its partners, The Heartland Flyer was selected in the first round of Corridor ID, making the state eligible for federal funding.

“This is a chance to secure funding that has never been available,” said Derek Sparks, senior manager, government relations, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. “We have a window of opportunity that is unprecedented, and the Chamber is working diligently to gather support at the state and local level.”

Support at the state level is vital, as matching funds will be required to receive the federal funding. Sparks said the stage is being set with the Oklahoma Legislature on making an ask for state dollars, possibly as soon as the next legislative session. “We are studying costs and gathering the information we need to ensure the Legislature understands their role,” he said. “We want the federal government to know without a doubt that Oklahoma will support and maintain these operations.”

If funding is received, The Heartland Flyer would connect north to Newton, Kan., a route that existed up until 1979. “This would link us to the national Amtrak network via the Southwest Chief to Los Angeles and routes to Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago. The Oklahoma and Kansas Departments of Transportation are working closely together on the shared objective of obtaining federal funding,” added Sparks.

In addition to the national network, the Newton route would connect Oklahoma City with other communities along the route including Guthrie, Perry and Ponca City, which would ultimately maximize economic and community development.

“We have been long standing supporters and protectors of The Heartland Flyer and know its importance to our city and state,” said Sparks. “We are in a unique situation where expanding passenger rail in Oklahoma is more achievable than it has ever been.”

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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.

ASSOCIATE

amshot LLC

Computer System Integration
Information Technology
Mr. Ian Dauteuil.....(405) 418-6282
1300 N. Broadway Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73103-4814
www.amsot.com

The Rudnicki Firm

Attorneys / Lawyers
Ms. Leah Rudnicki.....(405) 445-7422
6305 Waterford Blvd., Suite 325
Oklahoma City, OK 73118-1153
www.rudnickifirm.com

ADVISOR

Better Business Bureau of Central Oklahoma

Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Ms. Kitt Letcher.....(405) 239-6081
17 S. Dewey Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-2421
www.bbb.org

Boyd Street Ventures LLC

Venture Capital
Mr. James Spann.....(801) 651-7795
331 W. Boyd St.
129 W. Gray St.
P.O. Box 6557
Norman, OK 73069-6557
boystreetventures.com

Langston University

Schools - Universities & Colleges
Dr. Daryl D. Green.....(405) 466-3275
1500 Sammy Davis Jr. Drive
P.O. Box 1500
Langston, OK 73050-1500
www.langston.edu

Rose Creek Golf Club

Golf Courses - Private
Ms. Bianca Beebe.....(405) 330-8220
17031 N. May Ave.
Edmond, OK 73012-8909
www.rosecreekgc.com

Worldwide Missinglost Inc.

Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Mr. Kevin Stewart.....(800) 898-3295
3545 NW 58th St., Suite 115C
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-4725
missinglost.org

CORE

Ace Appraisal Group

Real Estate - Commercial
Ms. Andrea Johnson.....(405) 505-0238
113 SW 168th Terrace
Oklahoma City, OK 73170-6701
www.aceappraisalgroup.com

Alpha Community Foundation of Oklahoma

Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Mr. George Williams.....(405) 657-7800
3401 NE 16th St.
P.O. Box 20295
Oklahoma City, OK 73156-0295
www.alphafoundationok.org

Central Staffing Solutions

Employment Agencies
Mrs. Whitney Hill.....(405) 900-6111
300 N. Meridian Ave., Suite 102
Oklahoma City, OK 73107-6562
central-staffing.com

Delta Hotel by Marriott Midwest City at The Reed Conference Center

Hotels & Motels
Ms. Jennifer Smith.....(405) 455-1800
5750 Will Rogers Road
Midwest City, OK 73110-2646
www.marriott.com/okcdm

Hope is Alive Ministries, Inc.

Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Ms. Ari Patchett.....(405) 923-9571
14400 Bogert Parkway
Oklahoma City, OK 73134-2652
www.hopeisalive.net

Knockouts Haircuts and Grooming

Beauty Salons / Barber Shops / Spas
Mr. Paden Huff.....(918) 617-3621
6401 NW. Expressway
12011 Hidden Run Road
Guthrie, OK 73044-8691
knockouts.com

Knudsen Institute

Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Mr. Michael Morford.....(512) 787-8717
411 Chickasha Ave.
P.O. Box 207
Chickasha, OK 73018-0207
www.surgetheory.org

Panda Express

Restaurants
Ms. Rachel Razon.....(405) 468-9339
4932 N. May Ave.
1683 Walnut Grove Ave.
Rosemead, CA 91770-3711
https://www.pandaexpress.com/

Precision Restoration, Inc.

Construction Companies
Mr. Nickolas Sloan.....(405) 246-8559
14310 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 314
Edmond, OK 73013-3450
precisionresto.com

MEMBER 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@okcchamber.com.

PARTNER +

Willowbrook

Construction Companies
Ms. Cristy Callins.....(405) 224-1554
620 NE 36th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
www.willowbrookbuild

ADVISOR

Artspace at Untitled

Art Galleries & Dealers
Ms. Laura Warriner.....(405) 815-9995
1 NE 3rd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-2205
1ne3.org

Cut It Forward Inc.

Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Mrs. Angela Hein.....(405) 889-8850
5900 Classen Blvd., Suite 111
Oklahoma City, OK 73118-5923
cutitforward.org

Oklahoma City Beautiful, Inc.

Associations / Membership Organizations
Ms. Lisa B. Synar.....(405) 525-8822
3535 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
www.okcbeautiful.com

SidexSide, Inc.

Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Mr. Chad Jordan
900 N. Broadway Ave., Suite 210
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-5852
sidexsideokc.org

Citizens Caring for Children

Social Service Organizations
Ms. Lynne Roller.....(405) 753-4099
730 W. Wilshire Creek Blvd., Suite 112
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
www.citizenscaringforchildren.org

Hearts for Hearing Foundation

Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Mrs. Kris Hopper.....(405) 548-4300
11500 N. Portland Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
www.heartsforhearing.org

Possibilities, Inc.

Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Mr. Byron Jackson.....(405) 525-3131
4301 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118-5031
https://www.possibilitiesinc.org/

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY HAS FIVE OUT OF THE TOP 10 FASTEST GROWTH COUNTIES IN THE STATE

Greater OKC 10 - County Population Growth

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	2022	2023	2022-2023 PERCENT CHANGE
CANADIAN COUNTY	169,254	175,829	3.88%
MCCLAIN COUNTY	45,410	47,072	3.66%
LOGAN COUNTY	51,924	53,029	2.13%
KINGFISHER COUNTY	15,228	15,481	1.66%
GRADY COUNTY	56,648	57,375	1.28%
LINCOLN COUNTY	34,134	34,562	1.25%
PAYNE COUNTY	82,701	83,352	0.79%
OKLAHOMA COUNTY	803,103	808,866	0.72%
POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY	73,351	73,791	0.60%
CLEVELAND COUNTY	299,484	301,193	0.57%

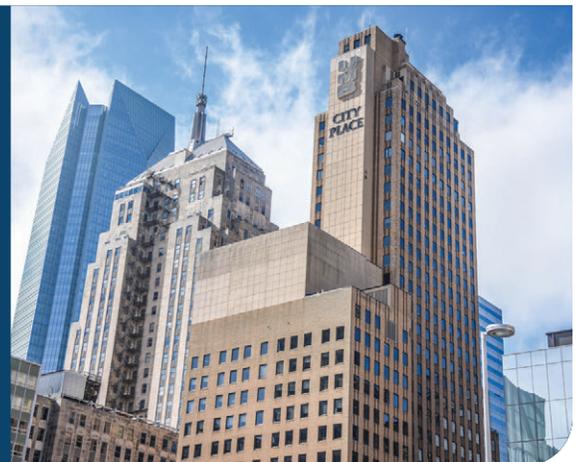
SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS MID-YEAR JULY 1 POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR 2023, RELEASED MARCH 2024

- From 2022-2023, five counties from the Greater Oklahoma City Region were among the top 10 fastest growing counties in Oklahoma. (Canadian, McClain, Logan, Kingfisher, Grady County)
- Canadian County and McClain County are the fastest growing counties in the entire state of Oklahoma.
- The 10-County region experienced a 1.2% growth rate over the past year, adding nearly 20,000 people.
- The Greater OKC growth rate (1.2%) is more than double the nation (0.5%).
- OKC is the 42nd largest metro in the nation. Of the metros larger than OKC, OKC is growing at a faster rate than nearly 75% of them.

For comprehensive Economic Indicator and Regional Data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division at www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators or contact Eric Long, Research Economist, at 405-297-8976; elong@okcchamber.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Get regional demographic data, consumer expenditure information, labor force data for the Greater Oklahoma City Region and more at greateroklahomacity.com.



→ VELOCITY ←

Periodicals
PAID
Oklahoma City, OK
73102

LOOK INSIDE!

- 1** The Chamber has partnered with OSU-OKC and local manufacturers to launch first FAME chapter in Oklahoma
- 5** Aerospace industry the focus of May event
- 8** Elevate and impact your workforce at Chamber's professional development conference
- 10** State Spotlight Highlights

GREATER
OKLAHOMA CITY
CHAMBER



TWITTER.COM/OKCCCHAMBER



FACEBOOK.COM/OKCCCHAMBER

Elevate your career at OKC's professional development conference



ELEVATE

May 2, 2024 | 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City Convention Center

OKCElevate.com

Chamber Member | \$250
Nonprofit Member | \$200
Group discounts & ticket packages also available

Keynote Speakers:



Brett Culp

An energetic, engaging & award-winning documentary filmmaker, Brett will encourage you to engage in a passionate, meaningful mission that leaves a positive impact.



Kelli Masters

A native Oklahoman and one of the most influential women in sports business, Kelli will inspire you by sharing the lessons from her victories, battles & failures.