

THE POINT

GREATER
OKLAHOMA CITY
CHAMBER

May 2020

www.okcchamber.com

Economic recovery post-COVID-19 provides opportunities, challenges for OKC area

In the midst of what may be a potentially defining moment in our economic history, Oklahoma City has begun reopening and re-imagining a new economic reality after the instability caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the main jump-start efforts was an aid program designed to quickly put funding into the hands of small business owners thanks to a partnership between the City of Oklahoma City, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and the Alliance for Economic Development of Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma City Small Business Continuity Program drew over 600 applications in an 11-day window. The plan is designed to provide \$5.5 million

in funding and technical assistance by using general obligation bonds included in the Economic and Community Development Program component of the Better Streets, Safer City program.

“We intend to provide support for small, Oklahoma City businesses, so our review process has made sure the funds are reserved for them,” said Cathy O’Connor, president and CEO of the Alliance for Economic Development of Oklahoma City.

Jeff Seymour, executive vice president of economic development for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, was among committee members asked to assist by the City as it moves through the assessment and recovery process post-COVID-19.

Continued on page 5

Costco eyeing Oklahoma City for back office operation

Costco Wholesale Corporation is considering Oklahoma City as the site for their next back office operation. The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber has been working closely with the City of Oklahoma City, The Alliance for Economic Development, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the Governor’s Office, and Oklahoma Career Tech to provide information and support to the as they consider our market for this expansion.

The Oklahoma City Economic Development Trust will consider an application from the company for incentives at its May 11 meeting. The company expects to add 1,044 new jobs over the next three years, with an expected capital investment of \$25 million.

The company expects to employ 500 people as they begin operations and expect to exceed 1,000 by their third year of operation. The average wage for these positions is \$59,740.

“This news that Costco has selected Oklahoma City for this new back office operation came at exactly the right time for our community,” said Roy Williams, President and CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. “The potential of more than 1000 new jobs to the market would be of significant benefit to the region. We are committed to working with them to finalize the details surrounding this project leading to a firm announcement.” A final announcement of the company’s plans is dependent on the completion of agreements with the City, State, Career Tech, and associated real estate transactions.

The company considered a number of locations before selecting Oklahoma City for this investment. The Oklahoma City center would support Costco’s travel and ecommerce business units.

Practice Social Distancing.

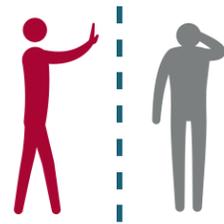
What does this mean?



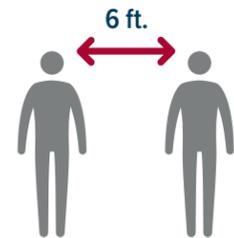
Avoid non-essential travel



Avoid places where large groups of people gather.



Limit any gatherings that include high-risk individuals



Stay at least 6 feet away from other individuals in public places.



Work from home if you can.

Leadership Notes

COVID-19 has reshaped the business landscape

The COVID-19 Pandemic has undoubtedly impacted every person and business in our community. While those impacts are different for each of us, they are important to all of us.

Since this emergency began, your Chamber has had one primary goal – provide as much support and assistance as we can. We have accomplished that in several different ways.

First, we have aggressively listened to you. We conducted a series of surveys that helped us understand your needs. We have made thousands of calls to you – reaching out to learn what is happening in your business and what resources we can bring to the table.

Next, we have been providing information. Our online resource at www.okcchamber.com/covid19 has extensive information about business resources along with links to official information relevant to business. We have created numerous virtual meetings and tele-town hall events to give you access to experts and support.

Third, we are working with our partners to bring assistance to business. We partnered with the City of Oklahoma City and The Alliance for Economic Development to create a Small Business Continuity Program with loans, grants and technical resources for small business. We partnered with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance to create a database for accessing PPE.

Finally, we are advocating on your behalf. We are active with elected officials at all levels on a variety of issues, doing everything we can to make sure our members' interests are represented.

And we've been doing everything we can to keep our work promoting this city, attracting jobs and investment so that as we ease back into a more regular work flow, this city rebounds from a crisis in a way that seizes opportunities that are presented.

If you take away anything from this message, know that we are here to help in any and every way we can. It is vital that our business community stands together and continues our work to make this an ever better place for success.



Roy H. Williams, CCE
President & CEO

Roy H. Williams, CCE
Chamber President & CEO

VELOCITY

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"Take a better break with OKC Biz Boost web series"

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President & CEO

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Editorial staff
Nate Fisher, Cynthia Reid,
Justin Tinder

Designer
Josh Vaughn

297-8900
thepoint@okcchamber.com
www.okcchamber.com

www.twitter.com/okcchamber
www.facebook.com/okcchamber

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www.OUmedicine.com/COVID



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OKC's conservative budgeting results in extra MAPS funds

Oklahoma City's shrewd financial investing and fiscal responsibility has resulted in nearly \$33 million in extra funds for the MAPS 3 projects.

MAPS 3 was approved in 2009 during a severe economic recession, but a conservative approach to budgeting and forecasting combined with a favorable investment environment resulted in even more purchasing power for OKC's premier capital improvement program.

The sales tax collections of all MAPS programs are required by law to fund capital improvement projects. The City Council has discretion on how to spend the additional funds, as long as it's for capital projects and not operations or other uses.

The council has allocated a portion of the extra funds to buy and renovate the historic Union Station to incorporate into Scissortail Park, along with improvements to the park's lower section and a connection to the Oklahoma River.

The purchase of the station and following upgrades are pending negotiations between the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority, which owns the building, and the Federal Transit Administration. The anticipated cost is set for \$19 million.

Bond agencies award OKC top rating

Reports from two of the nation's most prominent bond rating agencies—Standard & Poors and Moody's—have given the City of Oklahoma City their highest rating, continuing a 10-year trend. Moody's affirmed the City's Aaa rating and stable outlook in a March 25 report, and S&P affirmed its AAA rating and stable outlook the same day.

Oklahoma City is one of a handful of cities to achieve an "AAA" rating from both agencies. By granting the AAA rating, bond rating agencies signal that they have as much faith as possible in these entities to honor the terms of the bond. In other words, they believe the city is in a very strong financial position.

The higher the bond rating, the lower the interest entities have to pay when borrowing funds – essentially making infrastructure projects cheaper. In a statement sent out by the City, the agencies cited Oklahoma



OKC's City Council was able to allocate \$33 million from additional funds collected for the MAPS 3 projects for upcoming facility improvements.

Other projects that will be aided by the MAPS 3 surplus will be the allocation of \$9 million to the Fairgrounds Coliseum approved in December as part of MAPS 4. Another \$4.975 million will go toward the expansion of the MAPS 3-funded senior wellness centers located at 11501 N Rockwell Ave., S. Western Avenue near SW 134th St., and NE 36th St. and Lincoln Boulevard.

City's revenue flexibility, financial resilience and strong financial policies and practices as qualities that earned the strong ratings.

"The Mayor and City Council's priority of conservative financial leadership provides the foundation for these bond ratings," said Craig Freeman, City Manager. "In the face of economic uncertainty caused by COVID-19, we are appreciative of the rating agencies' recognition of the strength of Oklahoma City."

The ratings keep Oklahoma City in an elite group of major American municipalities with the highest possible rating. This allows the City to sell bonds at the lowest interest rates and spend more on streets, bridges, sidewalks, trails, park improvements and more. The ratings are used to price bonds that the City sells to fund MAPS 4 projects and the "Better Streets, Safer City" infrastructure investment program.

Opportunities await businesses post-COVID-19 (cont'd from page 1)

"The high number of applicants for the Small Business Continuity Program is good news," Seymour said. "We hope to help businesses re-emerge and quickly retool and recalibrate their product line to position themselves for both the business and social changes being created by the COVID-19 pandemic," Seymour said.

A disbursement committee will make the final award determination, with cash payments and loan disbursements expected to begin May 8.

An internal team of 18 reviewers has been reviewing applications for compliance with requirements. The committee making funding decisions will rank the qualifying applications based on need. Reviewers determined about 100 of the applications did not meet eligibility requirements, in many cases because they were not located within Oklahoma City limits.

In total, approximately 36,000 SBA loan applications totaling a little over \$4.6 billion in funding were approved for Oklahoma firms as of the time of writing.

As the community continues to grapple with how to respond effectively and appropriately to the economic crisis, local leaders have constructed a three-phase plan as to how businesses transition to a re-opening plan.

Businesses should be aware of the guidelines provided by the Oklahoma City-County Health Department when considering re-opening as our community enters "Phase 1." The proclamation takes effect May 1. Its provisions will be re-evaluated no later than May 15 before a decision will be made to enter Phase 2.

The Chamber continues to engage its membership by sharing meaningful information on how Oklahoma City companies are responding to the pandemic through quick video interviews with community leaders, virtual town hall meetings, weekly webinars, informative surveys, and updating event schedules and formats through September.

For Phase 1, businesses should:

Take extreme precautions

Provide accommodations to high-risk employees:

- Minimize face-to-face contact
- Assign tasks that allow them to maintain a 6-foot distance from other employees or customers
- Implement flexible work hours or staggered shifts
- Allow high-risk individuals to work remotely
- Employees and volunteers should operate remotely if possible
- Symptom checking in business interactions
- Face coverings worn; ensure that face coverings are available

- Group gatherings limited to 10 or less
- Workplaces comply with distancing and hygiene guidelines
- Minimize face-to-face interactions, including with customers (e.g. utilize drive-thru, install partitions)
- Where distancing and hygiene guidelines cannot be followed in full, businesses should consider whether that activity needs to continue for the business to operate
- Eliminate unnecessary travel and cancel in-person meetings, conferences, workshops and training sessions
- Require employees to self-quarantine when returning from high-risk areas

Meetings and gatherings:

- Carefully consider whether travel is necessary. Consider using videoconferencing or teleconferencing when possible for work-related meetings and gatherings
- Consider canceling, adjusting or postponing large work-related meetings or gatherings that can only occur in-person
- When videoconferencing or teleconferencing is not possible, hold meetings in open, well-ventilated spaces

UPCOMING EVENTS

state of Health

CALENDAR

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

May 8, 15, 22, 29 | June 5 Enlighten Webinar

Noon to 1 p.m.
okcchamber.com/events

June 9 Membership Orientation

3:30 to 5 p.m.
okcchamber.com/orientation

June 17 Chamber Forum

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
okcchamber.com/juneforum

June 25 Rise & Shine

8 to 9:30 a.m.
okcchamber.com/riseshine

July 13 State of Health

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
okcchamber.com/statehealth

July 15 Chamber Forum

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
okcchamber.com/julyforum

State of Health event goes digital, highlights the health care industry

In response to the ongoing need for social distancing, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's State of Health is pivoting to a virtual event on July 13. While Chamber and community members will not be able to meet in person for this event, State of Health will still feature a chance to connect digitally with health care leaders discussing the role that the business community plays in public health outcomes.

Noted health care and finance filmmaker and researcher Ron Galloway will deliver a keynote address on how innovation and technology might light the way forward in a post-pandemic health care industry society. Galloway has directed four films and authored four books. He also writes a column for the Huffington Post, and his work has been featured in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and New Yorker magazine.

He has appeared on CNN, CNBC, the BBC, and was the subject of a lengthy feature on Jon Stewart's The Daily Show. Galloway is a graduate of Georgia Tech and was an investment advisor and analyst for nearly 20 years.

"Now is a critical time that we can re-examine our health care industry and see how we can make it even stronger," Galloway said. "I think we've seen just what we can do when we are pushed to the maximum, and I think that it can have a positive impact. It has also given us a baseline to better judge what, if any, components can be tweaked to make it even better for America."

The State of Health will also feature a panel discussion from public health experts as they give an ongoing update about how the role businesses play in ensuring a successful public health strategy. The Chamber will communicate with current sponsors and companies who have already purchased tickets at the in-person event rate to discuss the transition to a digital event.

For more information, visit okcchamber.com/statehealth. Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor BKD CPAs and Advisors, Host Sponsor OU Medicine, and Signature Sponsors American Fidelity Assurance Company and Hobby Lobby.



Noted health care researcher Ron Galloway will speak on how innovation and technology might light the way forward in post-pandemic health care.

Chamber events shift in response to health concerns

As the Greater Oklahoma City region begins the road to economic recovery, the Chamber continues to evaluate how to best implement its programs in a world still impacted by COVID-19. Since the phased implementation of recovery does not allow large gatherings until Phase 3, the Chamber is not planning to host in-person events through at least September 2020.

"The Chamber must balance its mission to provide information and education resources with our responsibility to protect the health of our community," said Chamber Chair Percy Kirk, senior vice president and region manager for the central region of Cox Communications. "We feel that the best way to balance those two needs is to shift many of our upcoming events to a virtual format."

In April, the Chamber launched its Enlighten Webinar series, shifting what was a monthly in-person lunch event to a webinar series. In May, the events will be held every Friday at noon. This free event features quick presentations on topics that can strengthen your business during this challenging time, including how to build your professional network using LinkedIn, how to navigate changes to tax filing rules in the face of the pandemic and more. The event will return to its monthly schedule in June.

The monthly Chamber Forum will also resume virtually on June 17. For \$15, members of the community can get timely updates on the topics that matter to our region's future. June's online Chamber Forum will feature a discussion on the stages of growth on economic development projects.

Other networking events that will resume virtually include Rise & Shine, scheduled for June 25, and the Chamber's monthly Member Orientation, which will recommence in June. The Chamber has also decided to move many of its signature events to an online platform. Both State of Health, scheduled for July 13, and State of the Schools, set for Aug. 12, will be held online.

Another significant event moving to a virtual format is Elevate, the Chamber's professional development conference scheduled for Sept. 10. The virtual Elevate experience will still include dynamic keynote presentations and breakout sessions, all from the comfort of your own home. An updated price structure and keynote speaker will be announced in the coming weeks via email and on okcelebrate.com.



Some Chamber events, like Elevate, have been moved to an online platform; others have been cancelled or rescheduled out of an abundance of caution. Check out www.okcchamber.com/events for the most recent updates on all upcoming events.

Some event cancellations are necessary

The Chamber also decided to cancel or postpone a few events scheduled to take place between now and September.

"The last thing we want to happen is for a Chamber event to become a vector for the spread of COVID-19, and several of our events are unable to be replicated in a virtual format," said Jenny Love Meyer, Chamber vice chair of marketing and communications and chief culture officer at Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores. "We made the decision to cancel these events with the utmost respect for the safety of our community."

The Chamber's DC Visit, which was rescheduled from late April to July, is now canceled for 2020, with a return in 2021.

"Managing out-of-town travel to other major cities creates too many variables that make it difficult to justify planning this trip in 2020," Meyer said.

Because many companies are canceling or reducing their internship programs for the summer, the Chamber decided to cancel its InternOKC programming for the year. To help provide professional development for interns throughout the region, the virtual Elevate experience will adapt its programming to include breakout sessions applicable to college students or recent graduates.

The Metro 50 Awards program is also cancelled for 2020. The Chamber and the Metro 50 committee made this decision anticipating that many companies would be focused on other business operations and may not be

able to apply for an awards program in light of the current economic conditions, combined with the inability to host such a large gathering

Two other networking events have been cancelled. The Chamber's Sunset Reception, a free networking event that highlights Chamber member businesses, will be canceled through at least September. The Chamber is also canceling its fall golf tournament.

For Chamber members who have already purchased tickets or sponsorships for any event impacted by this transition, a staff member will contact you to discuss how the changes might shift your investment in the work of the Chamber. Updated registration information about each virtual event will be posted on okcchamber.com/events when available.

"The Chamber takes your support of our events and programs seriously," said Kirk. "We plan on working with each member company that sponsors our events to ensure that your investments remain valuable to your company. It is our intent that Chamber events will be as timely and valuable to our members as ever."

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OKCPS Board extends superintendent's contract

The Oklahoma City Public School (OKCPS) Board of Education sent a strong vote of confidence for the current superintendent, extending Dr. Sean McDaniel's contract for another three years in its annual personnel review.

A former superintendent at Mustang Public Schools, McDaniel has been the leader of Oklahoma City Public schools since taking the post in 2018. He has 19 years of experience as a school superintendent, with 35 years in education.

Significant changes have taken place in the district during his tenure. McDaniel led the creation and implementation of a massive school consolidation plan, known as Pathway to Greatness, which repurposed 15 schools and reconfigured the district's resources to provide a more equitable education to all students.

Board Chair Paul Lewis praised McDaniel's work in his short tenure thus far.

"I hope tonight's vote to extend his contract only reinforces the high level of confidence that our Board

of Education has in Dr. McDaniel," Board Chairwoman Paula Lewis said in a statement. "Whether it's his deep relationships with our community partners, his commitment to caring for the health and happiness of our students, staff and families, his keen focus on the bottom line, or his servant leadership in the midst of such uncertainty, Sean continues to prove he is the right man for the job."

McDaniel and the district administration are currently stirring community conversation about the next bond issue and a five-year strategic plan for Oklahoma City schools.



OKCPS recently extended Superintendent Dr. Sean McDaniel's contract for three additional years.



OKC visitor economy positioned for recovery

Oklahoma City's burgeoning tourism industry is positioned smartly for a faster recovery from the coronavirus pandemic in terms of leisure and business travel, according to leading officials in the industry.

While the effects of the pandemic have stalled leisure and convention plans at cities across the United States, Oklahoma City remains in a prime spot to forge ahead as the recovery continues. The eagerly anticipated opening of two of OKC's premier new additions to our visitor offerings remain on schedule. Target dates remain the spring of 2021 for the opening of the 17-story, 605-room Omni Hotel and the adjacent Oklahoma City Convention Center which boasts more than 275,000 square feet of meeting space.

Construction on the Oklahoma City Convention Center is still on schedule. The bathrooms are nearly complete and flooring has started. The building is estimated at 65% complete and on track to be finished by Sept. 19. Events will start months afterward so the ASM Global management staff can get acquainted with the facility.

"Our current message to meeting planners and leisure travelers is to reassure them that once the timing is right, Oklahoma City is a destination that will be safe and accommodating to all types of travel interests," said Lindsay Vidrine, vice president of destination marketing for the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We are in a prime spot to recover faster than some of the larger cities who rely more on air travel and international visitation," said Vidrine. "Many cities across the U.S. are pivoting their efforts to focus on capturing leisure travelers seeking road trips closer to home, as that is the sector that's predicted to return first. We're already a strong regional drive market destination,

and a lot of the trips that we see are from families or couples. Indications are that air travel, cruise ships and resort locations that typically draw large crowds will likely take longer in the recovery process."

"People still want to get away. They still want to make memories and salvage what's left for a summer vacation," said Vidrine. "We think those who drive in from neighboring states will be the first to come. Online search interest for travel in late July through Labor Day is picking up, so we see there is cautious optimism."

While business travel may lag initially, expectations are it will rebound as well but at a slower rate.

On the business side, the CVB continues to push hotel travel incentives that were in place before the outbreak of the COVID-19, as well as help meeting planners navigate the complexities of deciding to postpone or cancel events.

"Our convention sales and servicing team provides necessary resources for convention planners dealing with a variety of short- and long-term challenges," Vidrine said. "We are working to postpone events, not cancel, the ones on the books. A lot of factors go into it. Switching dates involves venue availability, hotel blocks and many other puzzle pieces."

Vidrine said the CVB team was able to avoid a complete cancellation from a large national convention gathering by providing an alternative date in 2023.

"Despite the immediate challenges that COVID-19 brings, there remains a lot of excitement around Oklahoma City as a destination of choice," said Vidrine. "We continue to work to inspire people across the nation and world that OKC will be ready and waiting when people are ready to visit."

Francis Tuttle, University of Oklahoma to expand aerospace class offerings with new courses

Oklahoma has a longstanding legacy of aerospace innovation. To stay ahead of the demand, two schools are expanding their curriculum by creating additional courses designed to produce students whose expertise will further cement the state as a national leader in the industry.

Francis Tuttle Technology School is adding to its class offerings with composite materials and aircraft mechanical courses this fall. The University of Oklahoma is launching new graduate programs in aerospace and defense through the Price College of Business beginning in fall 2020.

Francis Tuttle's Nick Powell, who serves as the aerospace workforce program developer, has overseen the technology center's rapid growth over the years.

"We are excited to offer these new courses and expand the options available for aerospace industry workers," Powell said. "By offering classes on the cutting edge of aerospace technology, we are ensuring that the training received will be beneficial, both for the short-term in and for the long-term future of Oklahoma's aerospace industry."

Composite materials such as fiberglass, carbon fiber, and Kevlar are lighter, more fuel-efficient, resistant to corrosion, and, in many cases, stronger. Francis Tuttle will incorporate the composite curriculum into a currently running program to create the Aircraft Sheet



Students at Francis Tuttle Technology School will learn with new class offerings in aerospace composite and electrical engineering classes.



Francis Tuttle Technology School anticipates expanding student opportunities with addition of aerospace classes.

Metal & Composites Program.

"There is a need to hire even more skilled aircraft technicians with the industry continuing to grow, and new technologies developed," Powell said. "Our goal is to create a composites curriculum that can train an individual with no aircraft composites background, and upon completion, have the qualification level for entry-level placement."

At Francis Tuttle, the aircraft electrician course will cover high-level wire routing throughout an aircraft, tripping, pinning, soldering, electrical blueprints, hardware and fasteners, and many other aspects about aircraft electrical systems.

"Modern aircraft can have up to 200 miles of wire running throughout the craft," Powell said. "These planes will undoubtedly need maintenance, repair, or modifications throughout their lifetimes, requiring a skilled electrician to perform the work."

Powell and Francis Tuttle's workforce and economic development (WED) team will work with aerospace organizations in Oklahoma to assess their workforce training needs, then quickly create targeted training programs to fill the gap. The curriculum is either specified to a company's detailed job description/analysis or, many times, to more generic, regionally needed skills. The WED team's primary role is to encourage economic growth by providing continuous support to the roots of

the aerospace industry.

Francis Tuttle networks not only with industry professionals but also governmental and economic development bodies focused on the local aerospace industry. This allows them to operate a fluid business model that puts people where they are needed and positioned for success.

"Whether it is in the form of offering annual safety training or building a detailed training program to address changes in technology or processes, our team conducts frequent visits to industry locations and worksites to see first-hand their current operations, how these operations are changing, and determine needs for the future," Powell said. "We are responsive, targeted, streamlined, and affordable."

At the University of Oklahoma, the executive MBA in aerospace and defense is a one-year, 32-credit-hour degree, and the graduate certificate in aerospace and defense is a six-month, 12-credit-hour program. Both programs are designed specifically to develop the managerial and leadership skills of the A&D workforce, including those without a business education.

The curriculum provides participants the opportunity to synthesize concepts related to A&D functions and business, employ critical-thinking skills, develop business strategies, and collaborate with others in a dynamic industry environment.

"As Oklahoma's flagship institution, one of our most important obligations to our state is to fuel its economic growth and foster discoveries," said OU Interim President Joseph Harroz. "These new programs will produce graduates whose expertise will further the exponential growth of the aerospace industry."

The executive MBA includes 20 hours completed online, with an additional 12 hours of residency work. Online courses are offered in eight-week modules and are held two nights a week, from 7 to 9 p.m. Residency courses are offered in three one-week sessions, each held from Sunday to Saturday. Two sessions will take place in Oklahoma City, and the third will be held internationally as a study abroad experience. The program uses a cohort model, allowing students to build strong relationships with others in the industry.

The 12-credit-hour graduate certificate program is entirely online with live instruction. Students will choose



Students at the University of Oklahoma will soon be having a chance to continue their education in the school's aerospace program with the addition of graduate-level classes

six business courses specific to the industry in areas such as financial management, legal environment, IT and cybersecurity, managing supply chain and logistics, project management, and global A&D strategy. All coursework for the certificate is transferrable to the executive MBA program, and the flexible, online delivery is tailored to the needs of those seeking the certificate while still meeting the needs of employers.

"With more than 1,100 aerospace entities currently operating in the state of Oklahoma, we are ready to launch exciting business education opportunities for the rising talent in the industry by preparing them to better perform in an exciting and rapidly changing industry," said Eddie Edwards, executive director of graduate programs at the Price College of Business.

"Our programs are poised to lead the world in preparing the leaders necessary to ensure the enduring strength of our nation's aerospace and defense operations," Edwards said.

The Greater Oklahoma City area is home to 36,600 aerospace workers, according to recent data. More than 230 aerospace firms in the region produce more than \$4.9 billion in goods and services locally. The statewide aerospace sector is as varied as it is large with 67,600 workers and \$8.2 billion making it the state's second-largest industry.

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.

EMERGING LEADER

Flix Brewhouse

Theatres
Mr. Nicholas Toros 766-5900
8590 N. Broadway Extension
Oklahoma City, OK 73114
www.flixbrewhouse.com

ASSOCIATE

EnviroDispose LLC

Waste Management & Disposal
Mr. Dustin Watson (833) 368-4763
4521 NW 3rd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73127
www.envirodispose.com

CORE

Best Western Plus - South OKC I-35

Hotels & Motels
Mr. Eric Lyman 763-5002
4750 S. I-35 Service Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73129

CORE

BridgeRM

Management Services / Consultants
Ms. Kaylee Hendon 938-1300
3075 Willowood Road
Edmond, OK 73034
www.bridgerm.com

CORE

Convergent Technologies

Security Control Systems & Service
Mr. Mark D. Clift 470-1850
6101 W. Reno Ave., Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73127
www.convergent.com

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Exsin

Business Support Services
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www.exactsciences.com

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New York Life

Financial Services
Mr. John D. Williams 651-7744
3030 N.W. Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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NextThought

Educational Services
Mr. Logan Henry 922-7879
301 David L. Boren Blvd., Suite 3030
Norman, OK 73072-7343
www.nextthought.com

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PepStep Promotions

Advertising / Marketing
Ms. Heather Boles 420-6479
321 22nd Ave. NE
P.O. Box 6114
Norman, OK 73070-6114
www.pepstep.promo

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PersonifiSolutions

Information Technology - Consulting
Mr. Daniel Shuart 928-8186
1141 W. Sheridan Ave.
6751 Belmar Circle
Norman, OK 73071-8021
www.personifisolutions.com

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Stantec

Engineers - Civil
Mr. Jason Blubaugh 315-6903
3407 Antler Valley
P.O. Box 95048
Oklahoma City, OK 73143-5048
www.stantec.com/en

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Starry Solar System

Renewable Energy
Mr. Dylan Gilbert (580) 656-6414
6905 W. Wilshire Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73132-5423
www.starrysolarsystem.com

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Transload and Logistics LLC

Railroad - Transloading
Mr. Jim Berry 474-7876
1726 S. Agnew Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
www.transloadandlogistics.com

Members Upgrade Their Support of the Chamber

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

PARTNER+

Paycom

Payroll Services
Mr. Chad Richison 722-6900
7501 W. Memorial Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73142
www.paycom.com

ADVISOR

EMSA (Emergency Medical Services Authority)

Ambulance Services
Mr. Adam Paluka 297-7100
1111 Classen Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73103-2607
www.emsaonline.com

ASSOCIATE

Comfort Inn & Suites Downtown South / I-35

Hotels & Motels
Mr. Kaleb Smart 605-3363
4800 S. I-35 Service Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73129
www.choicehotels.com/oklahoma/oklahoma-city/comfort-inn-hotels/ok107



OKC, Tulsa mayors take on Census challenge

Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt has added an extra incentive to better encourage residents to complete the 2020 Census. Holt answered the challenge of Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum to see which city will have the best census response rate. Results will be announced later this month.

"Everybody in Oklahoma City needs to be counted despite this coronavirus pandemic that we're dealing with. We still need to take care of business, and we still need to respond to the census," Holt said. "So I wanted to give our residents a little bit of encouragement. We have been challenged by Mayor G.T. Bynum to have a better response rate than them."

The two city mayors agreed that the payoff would be the city winning the challenge will have its flag flown at the city hall of the other.

"I don't want to see that any more than you do," Holt said. "Let's do our part and make certain our flag is flying in Tulsa."

Leaders across the state are encouraging residents to complete the 2020 Census because of its impact on

federal funding for the state and the determination of representation in congress. Persons are encouraged to call 844-330-2020 or complete the form online at my2020census.gov. The survey typically takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

Oklahoma is hoping to reverse a costly trend that led to a decade-lasting shortfall in federal revenues by undercounting nearly 30,000 residents 10 years ago. "In 2010, Oklahoma had the second-highest undercount in the nation, so Oklahoma was in 48th place," said Drew Dugan, Chamber vice president of education. "Every person that is not counted will cost our community \$1,675 per year. We simply cannot let that happen again."

The U.S. Census Bureau developed the 2020 Census Response Rate Challenge to connect the importance of the census to individual communities. The challenge allows local leaders an opportunity to educate people about how they can shape their future.



Now more than ever
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feedthechildren.org

GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings! To see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit www.okcchamber.com/grandopenings.



Green Springs Dispensary
2407 N. Council Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73008



Scooter's Coffee
7040 NW 122nd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73142



School of Rock
7200 N. May Ave., Suite D
Oklahoma City, OK 73116



The Brooks Clinic
6401 N.W. Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Oklahoma City is one of the 15 best cities for freelancers

- Fundera ranked Oklahoma City as the 13th-Best City for Freelancers in 2020.
- Seven variables were evaluated for the 50 largest cities based on number of workers.

Factors evaluated include:

- Self-Employment Rate (25%)
- Housing Costs (20%)
- Job Growth (15%)
- Change in Self-Employment (15%)
- Unemployment Rate (15%)
- Coffee Shops (5%)
- State Income Tax Rate (5%)

- Oklahoma City has a notable freelance population with a 10% self-employment rate and a job growth rate of 4.5%

Best Cities for Freelancers in 2020

Rank	City	Job Growth	Self-Employment Rate
1	Atlanta	1.20%	11.10%
2	Oakland	4.80%	12.60%
3	Tucson	4.00%	9.20%
4	El Paso	1.40%	8.60%
5	Houston	3.70%	9.40%
13	Oklahoma City	4.50%	10.00%

Source: Fundera 2020

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

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LOOK INSIDE!

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- 10 Aerospace classes taking flight

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