

→ VELOCITY

APRIL 2022 • OKCCHAMBER.COM

GREATER
OKLAHOMA CITY
CHAMBER

OKC FILM INCENTIVE PROGRAM LOOKS TO BOOST FILM INDUSTRY, OTHER INVESTMENTS

More large-budget film and TV productions may be coming to Oklahoma City, thanks to a new film incentive program that the Oklahoma City Council approved March 15.

Crafted by a partnership between the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, the City of Oklahoma City and the Alliance for Economic Development of Oklahoma City, a new incentive has been launched to boost the city's film industry and generate more sales tax revenues for the city. The Oklahoma City Film Incentive Program provides filmmakers rebates between 5% and 10% of qualified expenses for production and post-production

activities. Hotel stays, catering, set construction, editing and photography are just some of the activities that could be deemed as qualified expenses under the incentive program.

Only feature films, television series, including certain types of streaming series, TV pilots and reality TV programs are eligible for the rebates.

“There is a tremendous opportunity right now for growing the film industry in Oklahoma City. The combination of new studios and soundstages, and the state's expanded film incentive program, have positioned our community for growth. Filmmakers and production studios are seeing an increasing value for filming in Oklahoma City,” said Chamber president and CEO Roy Williams. “This incentive program gives us an essential tool to make Oklahoma City a destination for the industry.”

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DRINKWARE COMPANY SIMPLE MODERN EXPANDING IN OKC; MEASURES SUCCESS DIFFERENTLY THAN MOST

What do you get when you cross a high-growth startup with a nonprofit mentality? The answer: Simple Modern.

A local company that specializes in the design and manufacture of insulated stainless steel and plastic drinkware, Simple Modern produces water bottles and tumblers, which are reusable and sustainable, as well as various accessories, including replacement lids, straws and bottle brushes. The company also manufactures products emblazoned with professional and collegiate



Simple Modern has leased this 175,000-square-foot facility in southeast OKC. (Photo courtesy Simple Modern)

sports teams' logos and can customize orders to fit any organization or groups' needs.

Simple Modern experienced phenomenal growth since it first opened in late 2015 and was initially located in an upstairs room of one of the co-founder's houses. The company grew so fast that within a span of five

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Nursing at OU Health means I pick a schedule that works for me.

Safia Franks, RN
Cardiology



We Make a Difference for Our Patients.

Nursing at OU Health means you have flexibility in your schedule through innovative programs – created by nurses and made for nurses. We are dedicated to creating and fostering a strong culture of collaboration and patients-first mentality in our hospitals and clinics. We know that when you put the patients first, everything else falls into place.

We've recently launched new nursing positions and programs with competitive pay rates, including:

- OU Health Weekend Position (*Work 2 shifts, get paid for 3*)
- OU Health Travel at Home Position
- OU Health Education Accelerator Program

Apply today by visiting OUHealth.com/Nursing. Job opportunities are available in all areas of adult and pediatric care, oncology and more, in hospital and clinical care settings, including OU Health University of Oklahoma Medical Center, Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health, OU Health Edmond Medical Center and OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center.

As an integrated academic health system, interested nurses can practice at OU Health and seek a faculty appointment at the OU Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing.



LEADERSHIP NOTES

THE OPPORTUNITY TO FINALLY
FIX THE JAIL IS HERE

Over the past few years, we've had the privilege and great responsibility to lead our community's response to the major challenges of our criminal justice system here in Oklahoma County. When we began, long-term overcrowding and poor living conditions at the jail had drawn the attention of the US Department of Justice for civil rights violations. It was clear that something had to be done.

The overcrowding at the jail was a symptom of a broken system. To understand how to first bring the population down, we brought in the Vera Institute of Justice, an independent national research and policy nonprofit. Their report back to us led to the creation of the Criminal Justice Advisory Council and a focused effort to reduce the population and ensure more people could be rehabilitated and back in the workforce.

Those efforts have been successful. The average population in the Oklahoma County Detention Center in 2021 was 1,713, down by nearly a thousand from our peak. On the day I write this, our numbers are down to 1460, which we believe is the lowest it has been in 25 years. This success can be attributed to better processes, case processing improvements and, most notably, diversion programs that help those with mental illness and substance abuse disorders stay out of the jail when they don't really belong there.

Now it is time to address the jail facility itself, and the pending expiration of existing county bonds will allow us to build a new facility without a tax increase.

We know who needs to be in our jail and who does not. We need a facility that functions efficiently so people are not unnecessarily detained, and that those who are dangerous have a place to be held pre-trial. This new facility will ensure our public safety, provide for job training, mental health treatment and more. This is the right facility at the right time. Join us in voting YES on June 28 to finally fix the jail.



Roy H. Williams, CCE
Chamber President & CEO



Roy H. Williams, CCE
President & CEO

VELOCITY
 >>> READ ROY'S
 VELOCITYOKC ONLINE
 STORY OF THE MONTH
 "INTERNATIONAL
 COMPANY TO BRING
 UP 770 NEW JOBS TO
 NORMAN"
 VELOCITYOKC.COM/
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Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
President & CEO



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Editorial staff

Harve Allen, Nate Fisher,
and Cynthia Reid

Designer

Josh Vaughn

405-297-8900

thepoint@okcchamber.com

okcchamber.com

twitter.com/okcchamber

facebook.com/okcchamber

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Health care marketing expert, author highlight State of Health

CALENDAR

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

APRIL 14

Elevate
8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City Convention Center
100 Mick Cornett Dr.
okcelevate.com

APRIL 20

Chamber Forum
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vast
333 W Sheridan Ave.
okcchamber.com/aprilforum

MAY 13

State of Health
10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Oklahoma City Convention Center
100 Mick Cornett Dr.
okcchamber.com/statehealth

MAY 18

Chamber Forum
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vast
333 W Sheridan Ave.
okcchamber.com/mayforum

JUNE 15

Chamber Forum
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vast
333 W Sheridan Ave.
okcchamber.com/juneforum

JULY 14

State of the City
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Oklahoma City Convention Center
100 Mick Cornett Dr.
okcchamber.com/soc

JULY 20

Chamber Forum
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vast
333 W Sheridan Ave.
okcchamber.com/julyforum

Health care futurist and marketing leader Chris Bevolo will be the keynote speaker during the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's State of Health event from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 13 at the downtown Oklahoma City Convention Center.

Bevolo has provided leadership and guidance in the areas of strategy, brand, marketing, digital and change management to hospitals and health systems across the country for more than 20 years. An award-winning author, his latest book is "Joe Public 2030: Five Potent Predictions Reshaping How Consumers Engage Healthcare."

In his keynote address, Bevolo will explore ways in which consumer health engagement may change over the coming decade and offer an in-depth look into one of the predictions called The Funnel Wars. Registered attendees will also receive exclusive access to a virtual meeting conducted by Bevolo, where he will dive deeper into all five predictions reshaping how consumers engage health care. The virtual meeting will be scheduled for a later date in June.

State of Health attendees will also hear from a panel of local health care leaders discussing the impact of the past year on their institutions and the outlook for the health care industry's growth in 2022 and beyond. Participating in the panel will be:

- Jim Gebhart, President, Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City
- Dr. Kevin Lewis, President, SSM Health Medical Group
- Dr. Richard Lofgren, President & CEO, OU Health
- Timothy Pehrson, President & CEO, INTEGRIS Health

Attendees will also get an opportunity to connect with Chamber-member exhibitors aligned with the health care industry as well as other Chamber-member exhibitors before and after the scheduled luncheon. Companies that will be participating in the exhibitor row include companies such as INTEGRIS Health, MidFirst Bank, The Oklahoman|LOCALiQ, OU Health, Presort First Class, Simmons Bank and Variety Care.

If you or your company would like to exhibit your product or service, there is still time to reserve your spot! Exhibitor tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$300 for members and \$600 for nonmembers. Each table includes one skirted table and two chairs. To purchase an exhibitor table, email register@okcchamber.com.

Individual tickets to attend the State of Health event are \$60 for members and \$85 for nonmembers. Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,500. To register for State of Health, or to inquire about sponsor tables, call 405-297-8921 or visit okcchamber.com/statehealth.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor MidFirst Bank and Host Sponsor OU Health.



Chris Bevolo

April Chamber Forum to highlight new CareerTech compact

Officials representing CareerTech as well as business and industry will serve on a panel to discuss Onward OKC, a new compact making it easy for businesses to create a prepared workforce by leveraging the combined resources of five technology center districts. Onward OKC streamlines access to training for business owners, HR managers and job seekers. The Chamber Forum is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vast.

Participating in the Onward OKC panel will be:

- Gayla Lutts, Superintendent/CEO, Canadian Valley Technology Center
- Rick Mendenhall, Chief Operations Officer, Mid-Del Technology Center
- Brian Ruttman, Superintendent/CEO, Moore Norman Technology Center
- Jeff Seymour, Executive Vice President of Economic Development, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
- Tanner Smith, Training Specialist, ATC Drivetrain

The cost to attend the April Chamber Forum is \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for nonmembers. Chamber

Forum half-season ticket packages are also still available. Half-season ticket packages are good for five Chamber forums at a discounted rate of \$175. To register, visit okcchamber.com/aprilforum.

If you are also interested in attending the May Chamber Forum, you can register early. The forum is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 18 at Vast. Stay tuned for the topic announcement. To purchase tickets for the May Chamber Forum, go to okcchamber.com/mayforum.

If you prefer to purchase a half-season ticket package, which is good for five Chamber Forums at a discounted rate of \$175, you can still do so by emailing register@okcchamber.com or calling 405-297-8921.

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

Special thanks to our Series Presenting Sponsor Cox Business and Series Corporate Sponsor ADG.

Connect with OK delegation, other officials during Chamber's annual D.C. Fly-in, Registration deadline extended

The Chamber's 2022 D.C. Fly-in is less than three weeks away, but that does not necessarily mean you will be left out in the cold if you still want to make the trip. For those who missed the April 1 registration deadline, there is good news: the deadline has been extended to April 12!

This year's D.C. Fly-in is scheduled April 27-28 and provides Chamber members with an opportunity to interact one-on-one with members of Oklahoma's congressional delegation and defense leaders.

The event includes full briefings from each member of the Oklahoma congressional delegation. Another highlight is a reception on Capitol Hill with Air Force leadership and other Oklahomans in Washington, D.C.

On the second day, sessions will cover specific areas of interest on issues critical to our community. Trey McKenzie, executive director of government affairs with the U.S. Chamber, will discuss infrastructure and transportation. Other speakers will focus on defense issues, the Federal Aviation Administration and

cybersecurity. Attendees will learn more about legislation that impacts local business and hear directly from our Oklahoma congressional delegation.

If you would like to join some of your fellow Chamber members for this excellent opportunity to connect with various federal and elected officials and each other, registrations are being accepted now through April 12 for \$900, which includes a one-night hotel stay, official events, most meals and some transportation to and from programmed events. Air travel to and from Washington, D.C., is not included.

To register for the annual D.C. trip or to learn more details, including the latest itinerary and travel recommendations, visit okcchamber.com/dc.

Thanks to Presenting Sponsor American Fidelity Assurance Company.

OKC FILM INCENTIVE

(CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

Under the new incentive program, feature films that spend between \$500,000 and \$5 million in qualified expenses in Oklahoma City can receive up to 5% in rebates, while those projects that spend more than \$5 million can earn up to 10% back in rebates. Television series, TV pilots and reality TV shows can earn up to 5% in rebates if they spend between \$100,000 and \$500,000 in qualified expenses; up to 10% if spending is more than \$500,000. The rebate program stipulates that production companies must spend at least 50% of filming days within OKC's city limits, among other requirements, to be eligible for the incentives.

Jeff Seymour, the Chamber's executive vice president of economic development, said filmmakers have an opportunity to earn the highest incentives by hiring locally and using locally owned and minority-owned small businesses. A pool of \$3 million has been set aside to pay for the program, he said, with the hope of one day increasing that amount.

"The \$3 million is a good place to start. We don't have unlimited resources, but we want to send a signal to the market that we are serious about what we want to try and build here," Seymour said. "We want a tool that is big enough to be meaningful, but we also have to make sure we stretch our public dollars really well across not only film opportunities but other traditional economic development projects as well."

The number of films and TV series being produced in Oklahoma has steadily grown in recent years, with many of those productions shooting in Oklahoma City. That growth is not going unnoticed.

MovieMaker Magazine recently ranked Oklahoma City number 13 in its annual list of "Best Places to Live and Work as a Moviemaker in 2022," up two spots from their 2021 ranking. The magazine specifically noted Oklahoma's passage of the Filmed in Oklahoma Act of 2021 that raised the cap on the state's film rebate program from \$8 million to \$30 million and created a new tiered structure for filmmakers to qualify for the incentive. The legislation was aimed at encouraging more filming in the Sooner State.



Rachel Cannon, founder and co-CEO of Prairie Surf Media, which operates Prairie Surf Studios, a 1.3-million-square-foot production facility located in downtown Oklahoma City which has already benefitted from the state's film rebate program, said Oklahoma City's new incentive program is an extraordinary step forward for Oklahoma City, establishing it as the state's premier production hub, complete with soundstages, production services and a rapidly expanding crew base.

"We are so grateful that our city's visionary leadership sees the value of doubling down on film to grow an unshakeable foundation for this industry to build upon for generations to come," Cannon said. "Production is at an all-time high with an anticipated \$180 billion spend on original content by 2024. If Oklahoma City wants to be a true industry player, incentives are the only way to grab a studio's attention. This incentive will help recruit the right partners to Oklahoma City to create desirable jobs for our residents, revenue for local businesses and shine a new light on Oklahoma City for the world to see."

Seymour said development of an Oklahoma City film office is also in the works to help spur the growth of the city's film industry. Adding such an office will help new film projects get off the ground, provide assistance in obtaining permits, serve as a hub for workforce development activities creating networking opportunities in the industry, as well as tell Oklahoma City's story outside the market, leading to more growth in the city's film industry.

"When you think about our traditional economic development role, first and foremost we want to support who's already here. That should be what we wake up and think about every day. But it's also important for us to take Oklahoma City on the road and tell our stories so we can be attractive to other investment," he said.

SIMPLE MODERN EXPANSION

(CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

years, they had moved three times to accommodate that growth. For that reason, not to mention the uncertain global environment we all now live in, Simple Modern recently announced it was expanding its manufacturing footprint and moving some of its overseas production to Oklahoma City.

Although its headquarters is located in Moore, the company announced in February that it had leased a 175,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in southeast Oklahoma City where it will begin producing many of its products.

Company co-founder and CEO Mike Beckham said the company has invested about \$5 million in its expansion efforts. Their goal is to manufacture about 2.2 million units between now and May 2023. Production will begin as soon as all of the equipment is moved in and installed, all part of a highly automated production line. The manufacturing facility should be operating at full capacity sometime in September, he said.

Although the company has grown by leaps and bounds since its inception and is one of the most successful companies in the drinkware space, Beckham, who grew up in Oklahoma City and graduated from the University of Oklahoma, will be the first to tell you that the company's success can be attributed to two things – surprisingly, profit margin is not one of them.

"We basically built the company on the idea that life is primarily about relationships. The people you spend your day with and the type of interactions you have with people really ends up being the single biggest driver of happiness and fulfillment. And so, we wanted to build a company that had fantastic relationships with each other and not just coworkers, but actually people that you really valued and that you know. And then kind of a natural outcropping of that is we're very focused on generosity," Beckham said.

In a lot of ways, we're a lot more of a mission-driven company than we are about selling water bottles. I kind of say it's about creating generosity for everybody we interact with -- our customers, our employees, the community. We just so happen to sell water bottles," said Beckham, adding that Simple Modern's products get



Simple Modern co-founder and CEO Mike Beckham (Photo courtesy Simple Modern)

reviewed as well or even better than drinkware products manufactured by other companies around the world.

Simple Modern's mission and company culture of being generous and relational is sprinkled all over the company's website, including a wonderfully produced video that tells the story of Simple Modern and how the culture they have created impacts practically every idea and decision it makes. The results are telling: 1,055 organizations supported, \$1.5 million in monetary donations, \$1 million worth of bottles donated and 10% of profits given away annually.

"The point of growing the business isn't to figure out how we can afford nicer things or bigger houses, but it's to say how are we really a part of improving and enriching the lives of other people. That really has influenced the type of people that we hire, and it's so ingrained in the culture that it really guides all of our thought processes. We really do want to make as big of a positive impact as we possibly can," Beckham said, revealing that 10% of all company profits are given away annually to charities. Beckham said as the expansion moves forward and the company continues to grow, he would like to create jobs that are more long-term compared to those you typically see in the manufacturing world. A good way of ensuring that happens is by investing in technology, a plan Simple Modern has embraced.

"I would love to really create high-quality jobs, and I see that as being highly related to our willingness to invest in the right kinds of equipment. We're going to heavily invest in state-of-the-art machinery, automation, things of that nature, so that the jobs that we do create are jobs that aren't going to go anywhere."

ELEVATE

ELEVATE YOUR WORKFORCE WITH THE CHAMBER'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE APRIL 14.

Invest in the future of your company by sending your company's managers and new employees to Elevate, a professional development conference and networking event that's all about strengthening Oklahoma City's workforce.

Designed to help your company provide professional development options to its employees—without having to send people out of the market to experience an excellent conference—Elevate will take place on Thursday, April 14, 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 and general sessions that will apply to everyone, no matter their career stage.

Keynote speakers include lunch session speaker Linda Clark, a nationally recognized human resources consultant who will inspire audiences with keynote address entitled, "Elevating the Ask: The Art of Transforming Perspective Through Inquiry," and Dr. Elizabeth Lombardo, who will provide the closing keynote session with "Creating Success in the New Normal."

SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

EXPANDING YOUR INFLUENCE

Everything Communicates

Speaker: Susan Dell'Osso, Accenture

Five Ways to Increase Your Influence

Speaker: Teresa Atkinson, Express Employment Professionals

Building Your Leadership in a Hybrid Work Environment

Speaker: Jema Esparza, United Way of Central Oklahoma

BOOSTING YOUR SALES

It's All in Your Head: How to Keep Your Head Game on Point in Sales

Speaker: Sunny Cearley, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber

Ask & Ye Shall Receive (Well, Most Times Anyway)

Speaker: Teresa "Tee" Hicks, Gannett & The Oklahoman

Why People Lie to You...and What to Do About it

Speaker: Mike Crandall, Sandler Training

DEVELOPING YOUR CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Championing Equitable Advancement

Speaker: Shalynne Jackson, City of Oklahoma City

Building Inclusive Leaders in This Complex, Employee-Driven Society

Speaker: Sandra Quince, Bank of America

Creating a Culture of Inclusion

Speaker: Adam Soltani, CAIR Oklahoma

Moving Beyond Politeness

Speaker: Suzette V. Chang, Thick Descriptions

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

Elevate Your LinkedIn Brand

Speaker: Gunnar Hood, WSI Summit

Leading at Scale: How to Master your Business Cash Flow to Grow

Speaker: Stacy Eads, Scaling Up with Stacy Eads, LLC

The Future is Now: Recruiting, Retaining and Developing Millennial and Gen Z Employees

Speaker: Landis Tindell, Oklahoma City Thunder

INVESTING IN YOUR RESILIENCE

Improving Emotional Intelligence and Conflict Resolution Through the Arts

Speaker: Jennifer Maynard, M.S., Artio Services

Better Together: The Importance of Connection and Healthy Relationships

Speaker: Emma Wassilak, Sunbeam Family Services

Keeping Balance: Mind Brain Skills and Resilience Strategies for Today's Fast-paced Life

Speaker: Dr. R. Murali Krishna, INTEGRIS Health's James L. Hall Center for Mind, Body and Spirit

MANAGING YOUR TEAM

Help Wanted: Why is Everyone Quitting?

Speaker: Doug Hacking, Relationship Resonance, Inc.

I Need a Leadership Instruction Manual: Leading with Clarity

Speaker: Kati Hanna, The Mettise Group

Leading People Unlike Yourself: How to Thrive as a First-Time People Leader

Speaker: Matthew Palmer, Heartland Payment Systems

The Seven Secrets of Effective Coaching

Speaker: Michael Shellabarger, Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores

IMPROVING YOUR SKILLS

Building Small Habits That Lead to Extraordinary Results

Speaker: Boone Ellis, Express Employment Professionals

Cybersecurity for Small to Medium-Sized Businesses

Speaker: Curtis Coleman, Oklahoma Christian University

STARTING YOUR CAREER

Choose to Be Extraordinary

Speaker: Tammy Overholt, American Fidelity Assurance Company

Show Me the Way: How Finding the Right Mentor Can Move Your Career Forward

Speaker: Rhonda Y. Thompson, OGE Energy Corp.

Starting from the Bottom: Strategies Towards Advancing Upwards

Speaker: J.D. Baker, Cortado Ventures

*See the most updated list of sessions and speakers at okcelebrate.com.



REGISTRATION OPTIONS

The Elevate experience is open to everyone, but Chamber members get a discounted conference registration for \$250 per person or \$200 per person for groups of three or more within the same company. An all-day conference registration includes breakfast, lunch, all keynote speakers, four breakout sessions, morning and afternoon refreshments, and a drink ticket to the Elevate closing reception. Chamber members that are nonprofit organizations will also receive a discounted rate of \$200 per person or \$160 per person for groups of three or more within the same organization. To purchase tickets to Elevate, view the schedule or access additional information about the event, visit okcelebrate.com.

Businesses can also elevate their workforce with several ticket package options, including the Boost Package for \$2,500 (10 tickets and sponsorship recognition), Uplift10 Sponsor package for \$3,000 (10 tickets plus additional sponsorship recognition) or the Uplift20 Sponsor package for \$4,000 (20 tickets and even more sponsorship recognition). Learn more by visiting okcchamber.com/elevate2022 or email register@okcchamber.com to secure your organization's ticket package.

Special thanks to Aspiration Sponsor OG&E.



InternOKC provides soft skills enhancement and professional development opportunities to the region's young professionals.

INTERNOKC TO RETURN AS IN-PERSON EVENT THIS SUMMER

Most human resource experts will tell you that internships are great ways for college students or graduates to gain valuable experience in a job that can eventually help jumpstart their professional careers.

One way the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber has helped Oklahoma City business and industry develop their interns is through its annual InternOKC program. Created in 2006 to recruit and retain young talent in Oklahoma City, InternOKC provides soft skills enhancement and professional development opportunities to the region's young professionals, qualities most employers deem indispensable.

Lee Copeland, director of talent and business growth for the Chamber's Economic Development division, said much like last year's event, the 2022 edition of InternOKC will help participants develop core competencies employers look for in today's business professionals.

During the first session, which is scheduled for June 14 at the downtown Oklahoma City Convention Center, the core competency will center on developing positive habits and practices that will impact interns' career development. Session two, which will be held June 28 at

Champion Convention Center on S. Meridian Ave., will be about navigating and benefiting from relationships in the workplace, while mindsets and perspectives that help you grow professionally are core competencies to be discussed in session three July 12 at the First Americans Museum. All three sessions will be held from 2 to 5 p.m.

"We have two primary objectives: keep great talent here in Oklahoma City and help employers train to those gaps of young talent entering the workplace that they need to help them thrive professionally," Copeland said.

He said he and other Chamber staff visit with human resource leaders from the city's key employers throughout the year to determine what core competencies they will highlight as part of InternOKC.

Providing employers with a value add that will entice them to participate in InternOKC is something that the Chamber takes very seriously. Additional training and resources that help keep their talent here as well as help them coach their interns are the big draws the Chamber uses to attract their partners in the business community. To the individual intern, it is a similar value proposition.

"What we offer them are opportunities to network with other interns their age and be exposed to voices outside their internship that helped them in their professional development, and then to provide a recognized credential that they can pin on their LinkedIn profile as a differentiator for their future employers," Copeland said.

For a second year in a row, the Chamber is partnering with the University of Central Oklahoma who will issue a micro-badge credential in professional development to each participating intern who completes the program's requirements with the goal of making them more marketable to employers. The Chamber works in partnership with UCO by providing the content and learning outcomes, as well as the material to show evidence of learning. UCO holds and subsequently issues the micro-badge through their digital credential framework, Copeland said.

Employers interested in enrolling their interns for this summer's InternOKC program can do so by visiting abetterlifeokc.com/summerintern. The registration fee per intern is \$150 for Chamber member companies or \$250 for nonmembers.

If you have questions or would like additional information about InternOKC, please contact Copeland at lcopeland@okcchamber.com.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc.

"We have two primary objectives: keep great talent here in Oklahoma City and help employers train to those gaps of young talent entering the workplace that they need to help them thrive professionally,"

- Lee Copeland

200+ OPEN POSITIONS!

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- Nurses
- School Psychologists
- Speech Pathologists
- Financial Accountants
- Financial Analysts
- Data Strategists
- Researchers
- Human Resource Partners
- Nutrition Specialists
- Other: Paraprofessionals

www.okcps.org/JoinOKCPS



HEALTH CARE CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES TO SURGE AROUND OKC METRO

Above right: Integris Health recently broke ground on a \$200 million project that will include a heart and intensive care unit expansion at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center on Northwest Expressway. (Rendering courtesy INTEGRIS Health)

Driving around Oklahoma City the last couple of years, you may have noticed new health care facilities popping up throughout the metro. These projects range from urgent care centers located in what seems like every corner shopping center or strip mall all the way up to larger construction projects and expansions at the more comprehensive hospital systems.

This should come as no surprise if you have been following recent news that Oklahoma City's population grew by more than 170,000 people between 2010 and 2020. It makes sense that as more people move into the Oklahoma City region, the demand for more health care options and facilities grows as well.

"It is interesting that the metro area population grew by 14% over the past decade, and very similarly, the number of health care jobs increased by 13%. So, it is almost on a parallel trend to overall population growth," said Eric Long, research economist with the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.

Long continued by saying that over the past decade, the number of health care jobs has grown four times faster than the state as a whole. More than 82,000 people are employed in the sector, which accounts for 11% of all jobs in the Greater Oklahoma City area.

Between 2010 and 2020, the largest growth of health care jobs (4,600) has occurred in general medical and surgical hospitals, he said. Not surprisingly, jobs in freestanding ambulatory surgical and emergency centers jumped by a whopping 175%, although the total growth over that same time frame was 1,200 jobs. Nursing

occupations, including registered nurses, nursing assistants and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, account for more than 22,000 health care sector jobs in OKC.

"I think anyone that drives down the street, you've seen a lot of these emergency clinics pop up, especially in areas where you have large population density through multifamily housing, younger populations. That's where they're trying to open up those facilities to be closer to those locations," Long said.

The health care building boom is never more apparent than what is taking place or has taken place with several of OKC's larger health care providers. Below is a quick snapshot or update of some of those recent construction or expansion projects from Oklahoma's City's largest health care providers.

INTEGRIS HEALTH

On March 3, 2022, Integris Health broke ground on a \$200 million project that will include a heart and intensive care unit expansion at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center on Northwest Expressway. This state-of-the-art, 206,000-square-foot expansion is expected to be completed in 2024 and will consist of 64 ICU beds, multiple cardiac catheterization labs, cardiovascular operating rooms, hybrid operating room, electrophysiology heart labs and cardiac diagnostic testing. Hospital officials said the new facility is being built in response to a dire need for intensive care in our state.

INTEGRIS Health also recently celebrated the opening of its second of three INTEGRIS Urgent Care

centers in north Oklahoma City. INTEGRIS' first urgent care center opened in Moore Dec. 13, while its third facility in Norman is expected to open in April. The urgent care facilities will provide care for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions and will be equipped with x-ray equipment as well as lab capabilities.

MERCY HOSPITAL OKLAHOMA CITY

Construction is underway at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City on a new, four-story building that will house the Love Family Women's Center. This new \$98 million, 175,000-square-foot facility, which is expected to be completed in fall 2023, will include 73 additional patient rooms and feature an obstetrics emergency department staffed by obstetricians and the state's only hospital-based low intervention birthing center. Each floor will provide a variety of health care services for women such as a caesarean unit, a labor and delivery suite and antepartum unit, postpartum rooms and the neonatal intensive care unit. A large conference center is also planned, which will host support groups and various classes for childbirth, infant care and CPR.



Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City will soon welcome the new Love Family Women's Center to its campus. (Rendering courtesy Mercy Hospital)

The Love Family Women's Center continues Mercy's commitment to providing its patients with quality health care and treatment. In 2020, Mercy opened its south location at Sooner Road and I-240 that features more than 200,000 square feet of space and 36 additional beds, enough room for an entire care team to provide specialty services, including oncology, imaging, and inpatient and outpatient surgery.

SSM HEALTH

SSM Health continues to expand its presence across the Oklahoma City metro area with the recent additions of the SSM Health Medical Group office building in

northeast Edmond and an expansion of the Frank C. Love Cancer Institute at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital. The Edmond facility opened early in 2021, providing 13,000 square feet of space for urgent care services as well as primary care, pediatrics and specialty care provider offices.

The Frank C. Love Cancer Institute expansion opened in early 2020 and has provided St. Anthony Hospital with 16,000 square feet of additional clinic space designed to enhance exceptional care for cancer patients. The cancer institute program was formerly housed on the first floor of the hospital but is now located on the third floor where patients and their families receive the utmost care and treatment.

NORMAN REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

The Norman Regional Health System is in the midst of several expansion projects across the city of Norman. The most expansive work is taking place at its HealthPlex site at I-35 and Tecumseh. There, construction crews are busy building a new patient bed tower that will include 96 new patient hospital rooms, a new roundabout entrance and a new 750-car parking garage, all part of the Norman Regional Health System's Inspire Health plan to consolidate all acute care services at the HealthPlex. Phase two of the plan will include construction of a cancer center and an ambulatory care center.

Across town, a few miles southeast of the University of Oklahoma campus, construction on Norman Regional Nine, a new freestanding emergency plus facility continues, another Inspire Health project. This project is designed to offer health care services to people living in Norman and other surrounding communities.

OU HEALTH

OU Health's most recent large-scale construction project was the new eight-story North Tower at OU Health University of Oklahoma Medical Center. That facility has provided its patients with the most advanced treatments and technology since it opened in fall 2020. The 450,000-square-foot North Tower houses a new medical intensive care and provides 144 additional beds and 32 new operating rooms. It was the largest hospital expansion in state history as well as one of the nation's largest. Not only does the new North Tower include a new ICU but also additional space for hematology-oncology, bone marrow transplant and stem cell therapy.

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.

ADVISOR

Metro Mark Real Estate
Real Estate
Ms. Amanda Kirkpatrick-Lawler(405) 848-8818
6501 Avondale Drive
Nichols Hills, OK 73116-6406
www.metrorealestate.com

ADVISOR

Stetson Bentley
Real Estate
Mrs. Sherry Stetson.....(405) 200-0822
3117 N. Sooner Road, Suite 100
Edmond, OK 73034-8333
www.stetsonbentley.com

ASSOCIATE

Black Rifle Coffee Company / RST Coffee, LLC
Restaurants
Mr. Chris Oldham.....(405) 930-3740
14215 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73134-6096
www.blackriflecoffee.com

ASSOCIATE

Sana Benefits
Insurance - Health
Mr. Blake McCammon.....(918) 213-9973
310 Comal St.
Building A, Suite 200, #242
Austin, TX 78702-4597
www.sanabenefits.com

CORE

Rosette M. Elghossain, Psy.D., PLLC
Mental Health Services
Dr. Rosette Elghossain.....
1501 Andover Court
The Village, OK 73120-1313
www.drrossette.com

CORE

Oak Street Health
Medical Clinics
Mr. Larry Stanbrough.....(405) 453-8000
1918 NE 23rd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73111-3328
www.oakstreethealth.com

CORE

Rothman PPC
Advertising Agencies
Mr. Jason Rothman.....(405) 757-4337
4608 Sherburne Road
Norman, OK 73072-4458
www.rothmanppc.com

CORE

Venn Pizza on Britton
Restaurants
Mr. Christopher Gomez.....(405) 849-5973
915 W. Britton Road
P.O. Box 8395
Edmond, OK 73083-9395
www.vennpizza.com

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

OKC RANKS NO. 13 IN 2022 FOR BEST PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK AS A MOVIEMAKER

TOP 15 BIG CITIES FOR MOVIEMAKERS IN NORTH AMERICA

OVERALL RANK	CITY
1	ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.
2	TORONTO, CANADA
3	ATLANTA, GA.
4	MONTREAL, CANADA
5	BOSTON, MASS.
6	VANCOUVER, CANADA
7	CHICAGO, ILL.
8	AUSTIN, TEXAS
9	PHILADELPHIA, PA.
10	CALGARY, CANADA
11	CINCINNATI, OHIO
12	CLEVELAND, OHIO
13	OKLAHOMA CITY
14	BALTIMORE, MD.
15	DALLAS, TEXAS

- MovieMaker's annual list of "Best Places to Live and Work as a Moviemaker" included Oklahoma City at No. 13 on the big cities list.
- OKC outpaced cities such as San Diego, Dallas, Kansas City, Portland and San Francisco.
- MovieMaker highlighted not only the passage of the Filmed in Oklahoma Act, which increased the incentives cap from \$8 million to \$30 million of the state's film rebate program (20% to 38%), but also the talent of local crews.
- The article states that Oklahoma's central location, diverse landscapes, distinct eco-regions, camera-ready workforce, and low costs for living and business make it a formidable partner for the film and television industry.

Source: moviemaker.com, 2022

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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+

E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation
Foundations
Ms. Christy Everest.....(405) 607-6301
6305 Waterford Blvd., Suite 350
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
www.gaylordfoundation.org

PARTNER+

VI Marketing and Branding
Advertising - Communications
Mr. Tim Berney.....(405) 525-0055
125 Park Ave., Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-9110
www.vimarketingandbranding.com

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and regional data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division at greateroklahomacity.com or contact Eric Long, Research Economist at 405-297-8976 or email him at 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.



→ V E L O C I T Y ←

Periodicals
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LOOK INSIDE!

- 4** State of Health event planned for May
- 8** Elevate professional development event almost here
- 10** InternOKC to return as in-person event this summer
- 12** Health care construction continues to surge around OKC metro-

G R E A T E R
O K L A H O M A C I T Y
C H A M B E R

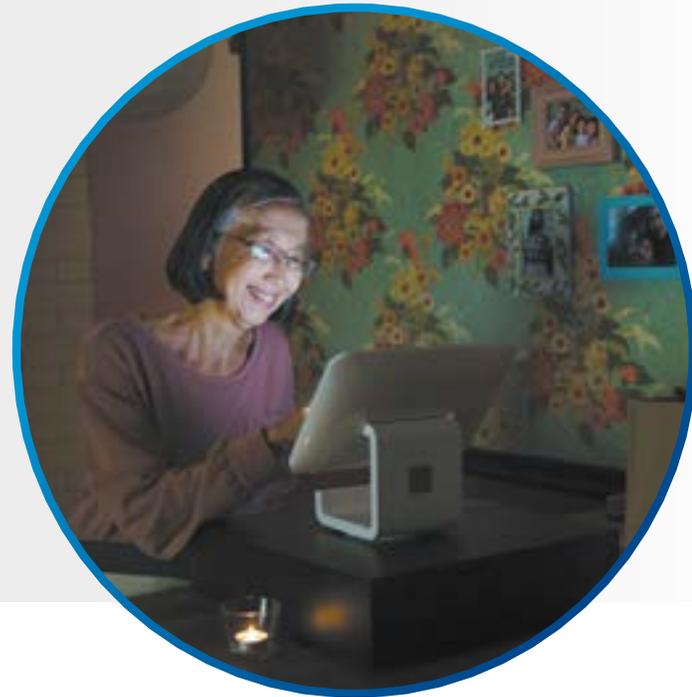


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