

**Minutes of the
Economic Development Council
Meeting**

October 8, 2013

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Members present:

Arun Tilak, CU; Kathy Harrell, CASC; Ryan Blanton, CSC; Rick Wetherill, ECU; Cecil Carter, MSC; Sheri Snyder, NOC; Diane Murphey, OPSU, (via-video); Doug Misak, SWOSU; Tony Bretti, TCC; Mark Kinder, UCO

Guests present:

Heather Kay, OSU-OKC; James Deaton, OneNet; Sonja Wall, OneNet; Kyle Rogers, Southwest Fit Kids of Oklahoma; Emelia Ross, Connie Lake and Renae Brill, OSRHE staff.

1. Welcome and Introductions of all members and guests

Chairperson Rick Wetherill called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Introductions were made and guests were welcomed.

2. Approval of September 10, 2013 EDC meeting minutes

Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the September 10, 2013, meeting of the Economic Development Council were approved as presented.

3. Main Topic: OCAN Presentation, by James Deaton and Sonja Wall, OneNet

Ms. Wall shared with the Council information about the Oklahoma Community Anchor Network (OCAN). OCAN is the product of a collaborative project among three state agencies – Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education/OneNet, Office of Management and Enterprise Services, and Oklahoma Department of Transportation. The project was awarded a grant in August 2010 by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to construct over 1,000 miles of fiber infrastructure for middle-mile services. It connects 33 community anchor institutions and provides lit and unlit services to improve broadband services throughout Oklahoma. OCAN was funded by a federal award of \$73,998,268 and \$18,909,548 of state cash and in-kind match and was completed in July 2013.

The 33 community anchor institutions that are connected by OCAN are public schools, libraries, hospitals, public safety facilities, higher education institutions and state agencies. These initial connections enable increased services to hundreds of additional anchors. OCAN impacts 89% of Oklahoma's population. OCAN is reliant on partnerships with local telecos to provide last-mile service and these partnerships allow for increased connectivity and services to communities.

4. Best Practice: Fit Kids, Arun Tilak Cameron University

Mr. Tilak introduced Kyle Rogers with Fit Kids to share with the Council information about the Fit Kids initiative. Fit Kids is the quality of life and healthy living, both are huge drivers of economic development. Communities with a good quality of life and a healthy workforce attract business startups and relocations.

Universities, especially in semi urban and rural communities, can play a vital role in creating a destination for residents to engage in quality activities, bring resources to community partners to help create and develop community opportunities. Cameron University has proactively engaged with Fit Kids of Southwest Oklahoma, a community coalition, in driving economic development from a quality of life perspective through:

- “Healthier CU in Century II”
 - Smoking Cessation
 - Healthier Eating Options in dining facilities
 - Community Gardens
 - Aggie Mile Walking Trail
 - Expanded recreational facilities/activities, wellness center, on-campus recreation
- Coaches University – “A Healthy Lifestyle Through Athletics”
- Multi-Media Resources to Community Partnership
- Health & PE Department Student Opportunities

5. 2013-14 EDC Priorities

a. EDC Internship Program, Rick Wetherill, committee chair

Mr. Wetherill stated that the internship program committee did not meet and will have something for the next EDC meeting.

b. Economic Development Reporting Template, Arun Tilak, committee chair

Mr. Tilak shared with the council that his committee met and he will be sending out a survey on Workforce and Economic Development to the Council for feedback.

c. Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award ceremony and reception, Sheri Snyder, committee chair

Ms. Snyder shared with the council that the Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award (REPEA) will be held on March 11, 2014. Tentatively we are trying to host it at the Oklahoma History Center and it will be a luncheon from 11a.m. to 1p.m. The due date will be December 11, 2013 for partnership submission summaries. Ms. Snyder asked the council for some assistant in getting a photographer.

6. Commerce update by Connie Lake

Ms. Lake shared with the Council that at the Economic Development Training in September had 28 attendees representing 21 institutions. Ms. Lake also shared with the council some of the results of the participant evaluations. Ms. Lake went with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) on a call trip to New York City. During the

three day visit, the Oklahoma team met with about 20 key corporate real estate and site consultant members, many of whom have brought numerous projects to Oklahoma. Ms. Lake is working on a project with the ODOC that could bring 200 jobs to the state.

7. Bring Successes! Be prepared to share in two minutes what is happening at your institution

Arun Tilak, CU, shared with the Council that Lawton will have a new company come in to town. The company is called Circo and will create 500 jobs for administering the Affordable Healthcare Act. CU held an oil and gas symposium and had the commissioner, Dana Murphy, as a speaker. Additionally, CU was in the U.S. News and World Report for low debt rate for students. The GI Jobs Magazine has ranked CU a military friendly school for the fourth year running. For the first time, CU held an Ethics Bowl competition.

Mark Kinders, UCO's Forensic Science Institute just signed an agreement to create a national consortium with a dozen other institutions. The long term component is to get designated as a national center for excellence and to have a national curriculum. The Medical Examiner building was approved by the State Supreme Court ruling. UCO's enrollment held steady at just under 17,000.

Ryan Blanton, CSC received an \$80,000 gift that will go toward their Presidential Scholar's award. CSC is moving forward with the construction of their new nursing and allied health facility at CSC port campus in Muskogee as well as the renovation going on at the student union.

Doug Misak, SWOSU, During the Leadership Weatherford program, SWOSU has taken the lead role and will host an entire day on November 12, 2013 to talk about what SWOSU does for the both local and state economy.

Diane Murphey, OPSU Business Club recently participated in the national contest and came home with five top ten finishes. OPSU has assisted with the opening of the new wing added to the No Man's Land Museum.

Rick Wetherill, ECU received an \$88,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for ECU's Child Care Center. ECU has their Boswell Lecture with Maria Moraes Ollila and she gave a lecture on using social media in business.

Cecil Cater, MSC; Mr. Cater shared that Johnston County had a record sales tax year. Johnston County's per capital income has increased 50% in ten years.

Sheri Snyder, NOC has a presidential leadership class on both campuses and the class is supposed to go to Washington D.C. next week, but that is uncertain because of the government shutdown. NOC finished their big NOC/Enid campaign by raising \$250,000 for scholarships.

Kathy Harrell, CASC had a trustees meeting last week and approved CASC for \$150,000 for equipment. CASC will host Domestic Abuse Awareness on campus.

Tony Bretti, TCC has opened up a new presence at the Owasso Tech campus. TCC just received a million dollar check from a donor for their Health and Human Services program.

8. New Business

Mr. Kinders shared with the Council the Higher Education Government Relations Conference in San Francisco, CA on December 11-13, 2013.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.