

**Minutes of the  
Economic Development Council  
Meeting**

May 14, 2013

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Members present:

Arun Tilak, CU; Ryan Blanton, CSC; Rick Wetherill, ECU; Janet Wansick, EOSC; Linda Tillman, LU; Cecil Carter, MSC; Sheri Snyder, NOC; Laura Girty, NWOSU; Diane Murphey, OPSU (via-video); Jeri Koehler, RSU (via-phone); Stan Greil, RSC; Doug Misak, SWOSU; Kevin Clayton, TCC (via-video)

Guests present:

Anita Gordy-Watkins, OSUIT; Heather Kay, OSU; Mark Hays, OSUIT; Vikki Dearing, ODOC; Tony Hutchison, Emelia Ross, Connie Lake and Renae Brill, OSRHE staff.

**1. Welcome and Introductions of all members and guests**

Chairperson, Greg Gardner, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Introductions were made and guests were welcomed.

**2. Approval of March 12, 2013 EDC meeting minutes**

Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the March 12, 2013, meeting of the Economic Development Council were approved as presented.

**3. Best Practice Presentation: “Incumbent worker training utilizing the OSUIT Online Video Campus” presented by Mark Hays, Director of Workforce and Economic Development, OSUIT**

Mr. Hayes shared with the EDC that most business owners and managers across the nation understand the value of training for their workforce, but often cringe at the cost and inconvenience. To stay competitive, the workforce must stay on top of the latest information – not only for technical skills – but also for issues in safety, workplace compliance, leadership, customer service, supervision, and other areas. OSUIT has developed a series of more than 600 video topics that workers can access on the World Wide Web that provide relevant, timely information in many areas that are critical for successful business operation. The OSUIT Online Video Campus is revolutionizing the way training is delivered to the incumbent workforce, all at a fraction of the cost of traditional training methods.

**4. Dream Big competition presented by Jeri Koehler, RSU**

RSU successfully completed an entrepreneur ideas competition in Bartlesville, called Build Bartlesville, and won a national award for it. RSU partnered with their economic development organization in Bartlesville, which they gave RSU money to give away to budding dreams for entrepreneurs or existing businesses that were looking to grow a product.

Ms. Koehler shared with the council that RSU will be hosting a Dream Big, Grow Here entrepreneurial ideas competition for Oklahoma. The purpose of the contest is to

encourage people who want to create or upgrade a new business, products, or service. Each region will be available to a host for a \$1,000 annual license. Ms. Koehler provided a handout with more information and promised to email everyone the specifics about the program.

**5. Statewide Entrepreneurship Conference presented by Jeri Koehler, RSU**

Ms. Koehler shared with the council that she is purposing a statewide entrepreneurship conference. This conference would be a platform for a statewide pitch-off so that the winner of Dream Big, Grow Here from every region would come to the state conference and pitch their idea to get a little bit more money. Ms. Koehler is reaching out to other entities to help with funding. She is proposing the conference is held next spring.

**6. Presentation of Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award Ceremony and reception evaluation results, Janet Wansick, committee chair**

Ms. Wansick passed out the surveys on the online submission process for the RBPEA and asked for members to return them to Connie as soon as possible. Also, Ms. Wansick passed around the table cards from this year's event. Ms. Wansick shared with the committee the survey results regarding the event. Out of 200 attendees, only 35 completed and returned surveys. Areas to consider next year are the time of year, possibly changing to the end of March, and where to hold the event next year. Overall it was a great event. Ms. Wansick thanked Sheri Snyder for the autographed book.

Ms. Lake asked Sheri Mauck to share with the council about the distribution of the \$500 grant fund. There are three funds that the money can go into - 430 fund, which is your grant account, 700 fund, which is your agency special account fund, or a 290 fund, which is your general revolving operating fund. There is one other way to receive your funds which is a WIR EFT payment which is essentially an electronic version of a check. Please let Connie Lake know to which account you would like your grant fund transferred.

**7. Selection of the 2013-14 executive committee members (two from each of the two-year and four-year)**

The chair sought nominations and there was a flurry of nominations. It was finally narrowed down to Doug Misak, Jeri Koehler and Arun Tilak for the four-year institutions and Sheri Snyder and Ryan Blanton for the two-year institutions. Nominations ceased. The council as a whole will vote on the executive committee at the June meeting.

**8. Confirmation Vote of the Vice Chairperson form the two-year tier for the 2013-14 academic year**

The chair sought nominations for the vice chairperson for the 2013-14 year. Janet Wansick was nominated by Stan Greil of Rose State College and the nomination was seconded by Rick Wetherill of East Central University. It was a unanimous decision by the Council member's from the two-year institutions that Janet Wansick of Eastern Oklahoma State College serves as the vice chairperson for 2013-14.

**9. Form 2014 Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award ceremony and reception planning committee**

The chair sought nominations for the chair of the planning committee for the 2014 Partnership program and ceremony. Sheri Snyder was nominated by unanimous decision of the council.

**10. OSRHE update by Tony Hutchison**

Mr. Hutchison shared with the council that Chancellor wants to do the Economic Development Institute again and provide the same funding as last year. The State Regents will pay for one person per institution. Also, please let Connie Lake know who would like to be on the committee for planning the EDI training. Mr. Hutchison spoke about the budget and stated that we got a tenth of what we asked for and well below where we were in 2008.

**11. ODOC update by Connie Lake**

Ms. Lake passed around the agenda for The Future of Workforce Development, Building Education and Industry Partnership conference on June 12, 2013. Ms. Lake would like to encourage the EDC members to attend the conference and share with their community and business partners. Ms. Lake also shared with the council that she attended the 2013 BIO conference in Chicago with the Department of Commerce as well as a large delegation from Oklahoma. She stated that there were about 10,000 people in attendance and that was down about 5,000 from the previous year which was held in Atlanta.

While Ms. Lake was in Chicago, she attended site consulting firm meetings with Christi Myers from the ODOC to share with them what is going on in Oklahoma and Oklahoma's higher education system. Here is some feedback from them; one firm is seeing an increase in manufacturing projects in the auto, steel and oil/gas industries. The other firm is seeing an increase in manufacturing projects as well and an increase in back office, shared services, food packing, and customer center/call centers.

Ms. Lake shared with the council some of the projects she is working with at the ODOC. One project ODOC lost went to Chattanooga, TN, because they thought Oklahoma would not have the workforce they needed. Ms. Lake gave a little more information on the EDI training that Mr. Hutchison had mentioned. Ms. Lake would like some volunteers for to help plan the training. Lastly, she asked for council members to please take some of the OKJobMatch.com marketing materials with them and hand them out to their local businesses.

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

Rick Wetherill – ECU - Oklahoma Green Jobs is over. The state of Oklahoma met our targets. Compared to all the other states, Oklahoma came in sixth overall. ECU's return on investment is 7.7%, and higher if you add financial aid - it's 10.4%. ECU has a new camp counselor certification. It is a two-day training to earn the camp counselor certificate and CPR certification. Mr. Wetherill handed out flyers.

Doug Misak – SWOSU has been receiving the EDA grant since 2004 and is currently working on the grant, which is due June 17

Janet Wansick – EOSC - Ms. Wansick has taken on more duties at the Wilburton campus in institutional research and will now be at both campuses.

Ryan Blanton – CSC has endowed two new scholarships, one for rodeo and equine program students, and one for livestock judging team program students. CSC has added a new degree program, health informatics, which was approved by the OSU A&M Board of Regents. This will directly impact the medical service sector, which is a very large industry in eastern Oklahoma by providing a localized health information technology workforce pipeline.

Anita Gordy-Watkins – OSUIT will be implementing an integrity pipeline that will start in the fall. OSUIT will be opening their new Chesapeake center this fall. Mr. Hays shared with the council that OSUIT is wrapping up the Oklahoma Green grant.

Linda Tillman – LU broke ground on their Making Place Matter for a community garden. LU is also putting in a garden on 23<sup>rd</sup> street for “Pick and Eat” food for the community.

Stan Greil – RSC will be bringing back the 18 year old entrepreneur from June 16-20. RSC is also bringing back the Disney Institute on September 18.

Arun Tilak – CU - In March, CU had an Innovation-Based Economic Development forum. CU will be hosting another Innovation-Based Economic Development forum in Duncan, sometime in June.

Sheri Snyder – NOC’s program engineering industrial technology main partnership is with ConocoPhillips. NOC has received a notification that their team of students, who went to the national process technology competition, won second place. Also, NOC is close to making a public announcement in NOC’s area connected with a business in Enid. It will be a two-year commitment with Coke to fund \$112,000 to the foundation to support the scholarship.

Laura Girty – NWOSU - In the Enid area, NWOSU has a business model competition and there is a \$15,000 prize.

Cecil Carter – MSC - Mr. Carter stated that MSC has a building that became vacant and now has it leased to an existing company in Tishomingo.

Greg Gardner – OCCC - Mr. Gardner shared with the Council that Steve Bloomberg will be the new representative for OCCC starting in June.

### **13. New Business**

Mr. Gardner opened discussion to the Council on where to go for next month’s EDC meeting. During the discussion it was a unanimous discussion to find a place close to the OKC metro.

### **14. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.