

# **Minutes of the Economic Development Council Meeting**

January 14, 2014

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

## Members present:

Arun Tilak, CU; Kathy Harrell, CASC (via-video); Ryan Blanton, CSC; Janet Wansick, EOSC; Cecil Carter, MSC; Sheri Snyder, NOC; Laura Girty, NWOSU (via-video); Diane Murphey, OPSU, (via-video); Arlie Schroder RCC; Jeri Koehler, RSU; Stan Greil, RSC; Kathy Hendrick, SOSU; Doug Misak, SWOSU; Anthony (Tony) Bretti, TCC; Mark Kinder, UCO; Sid Hudson, USAO

## Guests present:

Mackenzie Britt, OU; Larry Wright, SET, GPRCD; Lisa Wade, CSC; Tony Hutchison, Connie Lake Emelia Ross and Renae Brill, OSRHE staff.

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

Vice Chairperson Janet Wansick called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Introductions were made and guests were welcomed.

### **2. Approval of November 12, 2013 EDC meeting minutes**

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

### **3. Main Topic: Stronger Economies Together(SET), Larry Wright, USDA**

Mr. Wright shared with the Council information about the program Stronger Economies Together (SET). The purpose of SET is to help rural communities/counties work together as a regional team in developing and implementing an economic development blueprint that builds on the region's current and emerging economic strengths. Mr. Wright provided the example of the SET goals for the Western Oklahoma I-40 Corridor were 1) Re-establish and expand aerospace industry, 2) Create diversified agriculture and value-added products, 3) Expand energy sector through diversification and recruit administration, 4) Improve healthcare facilities staging and technology and develop amenities that will support strong community lifestyles. Mr. Wright shared with the council a couple websites <http://greatplainsrcd.org/set.html> and <http://srdc.msstate.edu/set/>.

### **4. Best Practice: Muskogee Difference, Ryan Blanton, CSC and Lisa Wade, CSC**

The City of Muskogee Foundation has provided Connors State College \$300,000 in funding to develop the Muskogee Difference Healthcare Scholarship, the largest scholarship gift in the college's history. This program provides students residing within Muskogee County who are studying nursing, pre-nursing, or allied health with full tuition, fees, and books.

With over 3,500 medical professionals, Muskogee is quickly becoming a hub of outstanding medical services. Connors State College's nursing program is one of the largest in the state, boasting a pass rate of the National Council Licensure Examination that exceeds state and national averages. Connors also has several allied health programs through a partnership with Indian Capital Technology Center, such as Radiology Technician, Medical Lab Technician, and Physical Therapy Technician. These Associate Degree programs afford graduates excellent economic opportunities and encourage post-secondary education and employment of the local workforce. Muskogee Difference Healthcare Scholarship recipients are required to sign a two year work commitment, ensuring that all residents have access to quality educational and degree completion opportunities while also encouraging job growth and economic development in the regional healthcare sector.

The partnership between Connors State College and the City of Muskogee Foundation, through the Muskogee Difference Healthcare Scholarship provides the financial resources to develop a localized professional workforce infrastructure and a center for healthcare excellence in Eastern Oklahoma.

## **5. 2013-14 EDC Priorities**

### **a. EDC Internship Program, Rick Wetherill, committee chair**

Mr. Wetherill was not in attendance.

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

Mr. Tilak shared with the council that out of 27 of the institutions only nine had submitted their information. Mr. Tilak put together a consolidated report of the nine institutions. The Council discussed at the meeting that the deadline will be extended to January 24 to allow other institutions to submit their data. Mr. Tilak will get the committee together and they will compile an executive summary to be shared with the council of Presidents at their February meeting.

### **c. Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award ceremony and reception, Sheri Snyder, Committee Chair**

Ms. Snyder shared with the council about the progress of the RBPE planning committee. Chartwells will sponsor again this year and is handling the lunch. We will have Gary Owen as the emcee this year; therefore, giving Deidre Myers and Ric Baser a break. There are still some institutions lacking photos or logos of their partners. Ms. Snyder also shared with the committee about having each institution make a center piece for their table this year. The parameters are for it to be 6-9 inches in diameter and up to 12 inches tall. We will also have a chance to do photos before and after the event. Again this year, there will be a limit of three people on stage during the program.

## **6. OSRHE update by Tony Hutchison**

Mr. Hutchison shared with the council about the State Regents' legislative tour and that they have completed six out of nine. Mr. Hutchison shared that seven out of eleven

awards for Legislative Achievement or Executive Achievement have been handed out. The State Regents has completed the budget hearing with OMES; they still have both the house and senate hearings to go and are focusing on degree completion. Mr. Hutchison wanted to let the council know about some of the changes going on at the State Regents. Michael Yeager has retired and Randy McCrary is now Director of Workforce and Economic Development Projects and Gayle Northrup is the Director of Student Performance Data Project. Also, Mr. Hutchison handed out two articles, one is from Tulsa World where Chancellor Johnson spoke on Oklahoma higher education seeking 7.7 percent funding boost.

**7. Commerce update by Connie Lake**

Ms. Lake shared with the Council that the Department of Commerce has a new Chief of Staff, Jamie Maddy; she will be working on special projects and alignment of individual performance standards with their mission as well as supporting their leadership team and staying focused on goals and accountability. The Department of Commerce has a new mission statement: “To create and deliver high impact solutions that lead to prosperous lives and communities for all Oklahomans.” Ms. Lake shared a few insider notes on Project Socrates (which is the Macy’s project) will bring in 1,500 jobs to the Tulsa area. Department of Commerce received a Workforce Data Quality Grant from the Department of Labor and is moving forward with that and creating Oklahoma Workforce Development Enterprise System. Ms. Lake also shared that the Presidents asked her for talking points and incentives that makes Oklahoma stand out.

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

The Chair, recognizing that they were at the end of the meeting time, asked if anyone had any pressing items they wanted to share with the Council rather than everyone sharing their updates.

- Stan Greil, RSC is now the home of the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism and the ribbon cutting will be on or around the first of March.

**9. New Business**

No new business

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.