

**Minutes of the
Economic Development Council
Meeting**

May 13, 2014

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Members present:

Kathy Harrell, CASC (via video); Ryan Blanton, CSC; Rick Wetherill, ECU; Janet Wansick, EOSC; Steven Bloomberg, OCCC; Diane Murphey, OPSU (via-video); Jill Worthington, RCC; Stan Greil, RSC; Doug Misak, SWOSU; Mark Kinders, UCO

Guests present:

Heather Kay, OSU; Susan Urbach, SBDC, UC; Carlos Amyla, SBDC, UCO; , Emelia Ross, Connie Lake, Randy McCrary, and Renae Brill, OSRHE staff.

1. Welcome and Introductions of all members and guests

Chairperson, Rick Wetherill, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Introductions were made and guests were welcomed.

2. Approval of April 8, 2014 EDC meeting minutes

Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the April 8, 2014, meeting of the Economic Development Council were approved as presented.

3. Best Practice Presentation: “Growing Main Street” presented by Susan Urbach, Regional Director, SBDC, UCO

Ms. Urbach shared with the Council information about how the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center (OKSBDC) has been helping Oklahoma companies start, grow and succeed for 30 years through grassroots economic development, delivered through college and university partners. A summary of the program as a whole statewide was given, but speaking specifically to the University of Central Oklahoma Center’s outreach to the Hispanic community for the last 14 years and it’s large Hispanic client base. The Hispanic population nationwide, and also in Oklahoma, is the fastest growing population segment. Ms. Urbach talked about entering this market, characteristics of successfully reaching this market, and even the shift occurring from new immigrants from their native country, to the migration of a long standing immigrant population coming from another part of the U.S. into Oklahoma, and the opportunities that brings. Ms. Urbach shared best practices on working with Hispanic owned businesses, attracting Hispanic customers, and new markets for educational opportunities.

4. Election of Officers for the 2014-15 executive committee (two from each of the two-year and four-year)

The chair sought and received a number of nominations. The nominations were Mark Kinders, Doug Misak and Kathy Hendricks for the four-year institutions and Kathy Harrell and Sheri Snyder for the two-year institutions. Nominations ceased.

5. Nomination of the Vice Chairperson from the four-year tier for the 2014-15 academic year (confirmation by a majority vote of the Council will be at the June meeting)

The chair sought nominations for the vice chairperson for the 2014-15 year. Arun Tilak was nominated by Doug Misak of Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the nomination was seconded by Mark Kinders of University of Central Oklahoma. Nominations ceased. The council as a whole will vote on the Vice Chairperson at the June meeting.

6. Form 2015 Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award ceremony and reception planning committee

The chair sought nominations for the chair of the planning committee for the 2015 Partnership program and ceremony. Janet Wansick asked that Sheri Snyder and Kathy Harrell co-chair this committee.

7. 2013-14 EDC Priorities

a) EDC Internship Program, Rick Wetherill, committee chair
No Activity

b) Economic Development Reporting Template, Arun Tilak, committee chair
Ms. Lake handed out a draft that will be put in an online survey format. The Council discussed the handout and made some changes. Ms. Lake shared that the survey should be ready by Friday to go out to the committee to review and test the following week. When the survey is complete and ready, it will go to the full council and to your president.

8. OSRHE update by Tony Hutchison

Ms. Lake shared with the Council the Chancellors presentation that he presented at the Workforce Oklahoma Partners Conference last week.

9. ODOC update by Connie Lake

Ms. Lake shared with the Council about getting higher education information in some of the Department of Commerce publications. Commerce will be producing an E-Magazine and Ms. Lake asked if higher education stories could be included. The E-Magazine will be distributed outside of the state to Commerce's clients. Ms. Lake is working with the Communicators Council through Ms. Ross and wanted the EDC to know that if they have a story to please send it to her and she will get it to Commerce. Ms. Lake attended the Alternative Clean Transportation Convention in Long beach, CA. Ms. Lake also reminded the Council that they should have received a couple emails for the Business Services updates from their institution.

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

Kathy Harrell, CASC had 525 graduates this year—the most they have ever had. Dr. Harrell has tentatively scheduled a STEM fair for some time at the end of April or first part of May for all 7th, 8th, and 9th graders in Sequoyah as well as 7th, 8th, and 9th graders in Stilwell, Adair County. The date will be confirmed before school starts in August. Corporate support was secured from a local manufacturing company, SLW which builds auto parts, and a second company, Cookson Hills Electric, has also indicated interest in sponsoring the event. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three contestants and three others will receive honorable mentions. In addition, CASC is working with Wes Warner at

the OK STEM Foundation and he is giving them some great ideas to complement the student activities.

Janet Wansick - Eastern received a DLT grant for \$455,000 which will allow them to upgrade the technology at their McAlester Campus. The upgrade should take place this summer.

Eastern recently held an Aquaponics/Horticulture Field Day in their new Greenhouse. The event was to highlight their aquaponics program. Aquaponics is a new farming technology which combines the century-old method of hydroponics with aquaculture in a closed-in water system. It is a sustainable agriculture technique in which fish and plants grow together in the same environment. The recirculating water system produces all-natural plants without the use of soil and eliminates the need for additives, fertilizers and other chemicals. Eastern is considering offering continuing education related to this in the future.

Steven Bloomberg - OCCC's graduation will be held Friday, May 16th at the Cox Convention Center. Over 1,500 students will have earned degrees and certificates. Governor Mary Fallin is the commencement speaker.

11. New Business

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Next meeting: June 10, 2014, Business tour TBD.