

**Minutes of the
Economic Development Council
Meeting**

January 10, 2017

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Members present:

Arun Tilak, CU; Ryan Blanton, CSC; Wendell Godwin, ECU; Kaben Smallwood, EOSC; Dana Hope-Chism, LU; Cecil Carter, MSC; Ron Cambiano, NSU; Sheri Snyder, NOC (via-video); David Hawkins, NWOSU; Sara Hitch, OPSU; David Shideler, OSU; Stan Greil, RSC; Patrick Green, TCC; Mark Kinders, UCO; Chrystal Overton, WOSC (via-video)

Guests present:

Sheryl Hale, OSUIT; Shad Satterthwaite, OU; Darla Heller, NORA; Teresa Huggins, Stigler Health and Wellness Center; Leia Moore, SWOSU; Connie Lake, Cody Ruiz, Randy McCrary and Renae Brill, OSRHE staff.

1. Welcome and Introductions of all members and guests

Chairperson Ryan Blanton called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Introductions were made and guests were welcomed.

2. Approval of November 8, 2016 EDC meeting minutes

Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the November 8, 2016, meeting of the Economic Development Council were approved as presented.

3. Main Topic: “Northeast Oklahoma Regional Alliance, How Collaboration is Impacting NE Oklahoma”, Darla Heller, Executive Director of the Northeast Oklahoma Regional Alliance

Ms. Heller with the Northeast Oklahoma Regional Alliance (NORA) shared that NORA is a 501 C3 corporation dedicated to the growth, prosperity, and vitality of Northeast Oklahoma and its communities, by promoting regionalism throughout the area; leveraging regional resources; recognizing common issues and identifying collaborative solutions; expanding regional networks; and communicating our regional story.

4. Best Practice: “Building Rural Health and Economic Development through College and FQHC Partnership”, Teresa Huggins, CEO of Stigler Health and Wellness Center and Dr. Ryan Blanton, Associate Vice President for External Affairs for Connors State College

Mr. Blanton introduced Ms. Huggins with the Stigler Health and Wellness Center. Ms. Huggins shared that in the spring of 2014, Connors State College (CSC) and The Health and Wellness Center began their partnership to bring much needed healthcare services to the Warner community. The town of Warner had been without a medical provider for

nearly a decade, resulting in significant obstacles to health, wellness, and economic development within the Warner community. To address this challenge, CSC provided the Health and Wellness Center free space on the Warner Campus to hold clinical hours one day a week for students, staff, and the community at large.

The use of clinical space on CSC's campus allowed the Health and Wellness Center to begin serving patients in Muskogee County without large capital expenditures. As their patient base grew and demand for services increased, the Health and Wellness Center purchased and renovated a vacant building in Warner for their seventh eastern Oklahoma clinical facility, which opened in the spring of 2016.

Through their partnership with CSC, the Health and Wellness Center has increased the economic potential in the Warner community by providing accessible and affordable health care, creating several well-paying jobs, and investing heavily in the local and regional economy.

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

Sara Hitch – Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Dean of the School of Business and Technology secured internship commitments from three local businesses to place two students per year. In fall 2016, Oklahoma Panhandle State University had three major conversions: their email system has changed, they switched their online management system to D2L, and their converter is now the Banner Sytem. Finally, Oklahoma Panhandle State University has had a great kick-off to their housing campaign and has raised \$459,000 toward the president's house remodel, which will lead to additional remodels on campus.

Kaben Smallwood - Eastern Oklahoma State College had a Mountaineer Mania Day, where they had a partnership with a gear up grant opportunity to bring students in from rural communities in order to expose them to college life. They offered a 10% discount in housing to any students that expressed interest in attending Eastern Oklahoma State College. Also, Eastern Oklahoma State College will have their Livestock Show in January, and they named Texas Instruments as their Regents Business Award Recipient.

Dana Hope-Chism – Langston University will host a career fair on March 22nd. Enrollment is up and Langston University will be hiring a new Dean of Agriculture.

Arun Tilak – Cameron University's Engineering Program, which was started a year ago, has really taken off from a few students to over 50. The Center for Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurial Studies had one company graduate with nine full-time employees and a salary of \$40,000.

Ryan Blanton – Connors State College has expanded their Bull Test by about 50 slots due to Oklahoma State closing down their Bull Test. The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is up and running and the Physical Therapy Program was accepted by the State

Regents and is in the works for getting accreditation. Connors State College was approached by the City of Muskogee to develop an Employee Education Program.

Cecil Carter – Murray State College’s Nursing and Allied Health Building is almost finished and will be ready to open next fall. Murray State College received a small \$20,000 grant, and it was dedicated to faculty development.

David Shideler – Oklahoma State University just had their highest enrollment ever. Oklahoma State University has had several building projects that have come to completion. They have a new Human Sciences Building that has expanded their Hotel and Administration Program. They also have a new dining facility on campus. Spears School of Business is set to open in one year. The new Engineering Lab is under construction along with a Performing Arts Center, and Oklahoma State University was able to announce a new partnership with the New York Philharmonic, which will create new internship opportunities.

Stan Greil – Rose State College’s Innovation Station will host the Disney Institute on April 5th at the Skirvin Hotel. Rose State College’s My Machine Program, which is made up of their Fab Lab, helped 2nd graders design, invent, and develop actual products. The event occurred in the spring of 2016 and RSC won an international award. Rose State College will launch a digital badge program. Rose State College will also host a Catfish and Crappie University in February.

Pat Green – Tulsa Community College (TCC) partners with the local and regional air carriers for their aviation programs. They were able to get the students a 767 and 777 flight simulator. For the third or fourth year in a row, their STEM Research Challenge class, beginning this spring, will be able to compete to intern at NASA’s JPL (Jet Propulsion Lab) this summer. Tulsa was named a Tech Higher community by the White House this year, one of 20 in the nation, for tech growth. In October, TCC along with most of the comprehensive universities in the region took a group of students to a career fair where they pitched the reasons students need to stay in the Tulsa area, which was organized by the Tulsa Research Partners.

Mark Kinders – The University of Central Oklahoma had the first 66 students complete their Student Transformer of Learning Record Program. Monday, March 6th, the University of Central Oklahoma will have a reception at the UCO Boat House for the Central Oklahoma STEM Alliance, which is a collaboration of PK-16 education partners, businesses, and chambers to advance STEM education for 150,000 K-12 students in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

Wendell Godwin – East Central University has created the OKA’ Institute (OKA means water in the Chickasaw native language). East Central University launched a new Water Policy Master’s Degree Program, and they also launched a Master’s in Management Degree. A gift of \$350,000 was given to East Central University to fund the Math and Science Institute. East Central University was given three health care grants for \$150,000 each. They also have an arts incubator being repurposed.

Sheryl Hale – Oklahoma State University-Institute of Technology is launching phase II of the Department of Defense Grants. Oklahoma State University-Institute of Technology has bought three buildings in downtown Okmulgee; two of the buildings will be turned into dormitories for 75 students. They also launched a capital fund focused on their Culinary Arts Program.

Shad Satterthwaite – The University of Oklahoma, through an FAA grant, is creating an Air Transportation Center of Excellence in which they will partner with a number of higher education institutions such as Oklahoma State University and Tulsa Community College, as well as businesses such as American Airlines, The Chickasaw Nation and The National Weather Center, to name a few, in order to take products to the FAA demonstrating how to make aircrafts safer. In addition, they will also plan to train pilots who will man those aircrafts.

Leia Moore - Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) enrollment is up about 3%. In March, SWOSU is hosting the 104th annual Interscholastic Meet in which they will expect over 70 high schools to participate.

Chrystal Overton – Western Oklahoma State College is working on starting an LPN-RN online bridge program.

David Hawkins – Northwestern Oklahoma State University’s Doctor of Nursing Program was approved. Northwestern Oklahoma State University has finished some capital improvements and completed some practice facilities for their softball, baseball and soccer teams and also completed the basketball court. Northwestern Oklahoma State University’s Math Department received a \$100,000 grant for a math lab.

Sheri Snyder – Northern Oklahoma College was blessed to receive two new scholarships; \$55,000 to endow a scholarship to support northern and northwest Oklahoma students, and the other was a \$50,000 donation to support an endowment they have on the Tonkawa campus. Northern Oklahoma College recently hired their new Native American Student Success Specialist.

6. 2016-17 EDC Priorities

- a. **Update Battelle Report, Ryan Blanton, committee chair**
Ms. Lake shared that there was discussion within the Regent’s office.
- b. **Economic Development Research Committee, all Executive Committee members**
Dr. Blanton shared that this committee meets as requested and that the legislative session is coming up.

c. Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award Ceremony and Reception, John Claybon, committee chair

Ms. Lake shared with the council that all 27 institutions have submitted everything in a timely manner. The committee will meet via phone conference to review some items. The invitations will go out February 1st and the online RSVP will open on that date too. Deadline for RSVP's will be February 13th.

d. ED Training, Doug Misak, committee chair

Mr. Blanton and Ms. Lake shared that the committee met and the training will take place on June 12th -14th. They are in the process of getting the hotel contract, food contract and securing speakers.

7. OSRHE and Legislative update by Tony Hutchison

Mr. Hutchison was unable to attend due to a conflict with his schedule. No update.

8. Commerce update by Connie Lake

Ms. Lake summarized the FY2017 Leadership Report.

9. New Business

Ms. Lake suggested that the Research Committee compile a report of rankings for their institutions that can be a resource during the legislative session to communities as well as included in the Regents' Regional Reports.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.