

**Minutes of the
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday, September 7th, 2022

Members Present: John Claybon, Amy Harmon, Pete Seldon, Leis Moore, Jamie Henson, Charlie Hansen, David Owen, Laura butler, Charles Harrison, Rob Miles, Marlon James. Jillian Bray, Charles Harrison, Whitney Alvis, Joyce Burch, Kelsey Martin, Ron Cambiano, Amy Ford.

Guests Present: Cass Minx, Joel Dean

1. Welcome and introductions of all members and guests: Pete Selden

The Meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Approval of meeting minutes: Joel Dean

After correcting the attendance to reflect the presence of chair elect Pete Selden the minutes were approved unanimously. Motion by Joyce Burch, Seconded by Marlon James.

3. Voting on new executive committee members: Joel Dean

The nominees and volunteers are

- a. Chair: Pete Selden, Tulsa Community College**
- b. Vice Chair: Marlon James, Langston University**
- c. Two-year members: Jordyn Frazier, Murray State College**
- d. Four-year members: Rob Miles, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma**

The new executive committee was approved unanimously. Motion made by Amy Ford, Seconded by Laura Butler

4. Institutional Designee form: Staff

All EDC members were asked to fill out a new Designee form if their backup contact has changed or if they are new members.

5. Scheduling of FY 2023 meetings: Meeting dates, location and annual training.

The following meeting dates were approved, with an additional meeting just before the RBPEA event in March in person on the same day as the event: Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. and Jan 11 at 2 p.m.

6. Finalize RBPEA plans: Date, time, format and speaker invitations

Later in march was determined to be the best time frame for the event, with roughly the same format as last year. Instead of doing Hors d'oeuvre and "cocktail hour" after the event it will be done before hand in order to facilitate networking and interactions. The time frame is planned for 4-6 with a full EDC meeting prior to the event.

7. After action report of 2019 EDC recommendations: Staff

Attached is the full breakdown of the recommendations prepared and submitted by the 2019 EDC. From the discussions at this meeting the following ideas were highlighted as topics we want to consider for a future or ongoing recommendation to the regents and other committees:

- Branding, one voice consistency across institutions
- Approval process for Short term programs. Right now it takes minimum 1.5 years.
- Continue to advance workforce initiatives in Higher education
- Utilize Business support survey to have a consensus on what can be reported to be comparable to certain CareerTech publications.

8. Employment Outcomes: Cass Minx

9. Business Support Survey: Cass Minx

These two items were covered in the discussion on the previous EDC's recommendations report.

10. Two minute update: Please share about your role at your institution and any current events in relation to economic development and provide updated contact information for your institution

Pete Seldon of TCC began saying that TCC has launched and implemented a new Cyberskills Center. Funding to pilot three years of short-term boot camps has been secured. Those that complete the program will either go straight to employment; continue education with TCC, TU, OSU or NSU; or go into an apprenticeship program. Cox communications and the Small Business leadership academy have partnered with TCC to create a mini-MBA program. This focuses on underrepresented entrepreneurs and business owners. Cox is funding this in order to expand their network and boost their diversity.

Leia Moore from SWOSU said that her office has a relending program that has lent over \$8 million in 65 loans to small businesses in Western Oklahoma. They have recently applied for more funding grants. Their relending loans go up to 20 years and have a 4% fixed rate. This is in league rather than competition with banks they want to partner with their community banks.

Joyce Burch reported that OU was a partner in the central Oklahoma bio-association application for a Build Back Better regional challenge. Last December they were awarded a \$500k phase one grant, and they have just found out that they were also awarded a Phase 2 award of \$36

million. \$24 of that are directly for OU projects. They have 4 out of the 6 approved projects. Oklahoma was 2 of 31 awardees. Tulsa also received one for drone and EV tech.

Ron Cambiano of NSU explained that they are now offering undergrad certificates in Business basics, digital marketing, fundamentals of accounting, project management, quality management, small business, soft skills and tax compliance. They are also offering graduate level certifications in applied digital marketing and program management. They have also responded to industry needs and created a new PR program and in the college of science and health professions they have instituted a new mechanical engineering degree.

Carlie Hansen of Redlands Community College said they have 17 new degree plans in partnerships with Canadian Valley Tech center. Students will be able to get college credit for many of the courses they take at the Tech center. There are several set to finish degrees in may utilizing many of these credits.

Laura Butler of UCO has been partnering with Tinker Air Force Base and have recently been given a \$6 million supercomputer. This collaboration addresses workforce development needs that Tinker has here in the metro. They have also earned the Military Friendly Gold designation due to their large number of veteran students and these partnerships.

John Claybon of OCCC said the colleges is working with Francis Tuttle to create the pipeline to transfer into OCCC's automotive program. The industry is desperate to fulfill demand and they are getting a large increase in these students. As well, they have seen an increased demand and placement of internships and employment especially with the FAA and Tinker Cyber and computer science needs. Four or five graduates went to the FAA immediately upon graduation with substantial salaries.

Jamie Henson of Carl Albert University partnered with Cherokee Nation to create child development centers. This will beef up the child development program. Carl Albert is building new virtual labs in order to enroll more students in those courses. They also opened a state of the art classroom for a new digital media program to serve rural areas.

Whitney Alvis of Rose State announced that they had their drone micro-credential approved so they can start offering those programs. They have a drone first responder program in the works that has received grants. They have partnered with local cities and industry that are worried about a high number of retirees in the water/waste water industry. They created a program consisting of free classes for unemployed or underemployed people to get entry level certification in the field. Of the 15 people who completed this program many were hired on site at a job fair upon the completion of the certifications. This brainchild of industry and college personnel was so successful the city of Norman is planning to adjust its hiring cycle to match the next time they do this program.

Charles Harrison from OSU-IT said they have had a very successful fiber cabling program for the last two years. Building off this they applied for and were awarded a \$750k grant to provide

broadband service to rural communities and underrepresented populations. They are also now offering a advanced fiber broadband degree program specifically to attract students from these areas.

Other members are encouraged to send Economic Development updates to Joel or Cass at Jdean@osrhe.edu or Cminx@osrhe.edu Staff will send out monthly updates for inter-institute collaboration.

11. Other business

Joel gave a preview of the next weeks Interim Studies on Nursing and told members to expect upcoming information on Legislative Tours in their region. There was also an update that moving forward the legislative Agenda and budget asked will be combined into one document.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.