

## MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC Development Council

2:00 PM JULY 16, 2025

### Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

#### 1. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests: Cass Minx

Attendees: Cass Minx, Lucia Dickinson, Joel Dean, Sheri Mauck (OSRHE); Jillian Bray (LU); Dan Maberry (NSU); Krystle Lane (CSC); Amy Goddard (USAO); Macey Scotten (RCC); Michele Campbell (SOSU); Kristen Rowan (OSUOKC); Whitney Alvis (RSC); Daniel Will (OSU); Michael Scott (ECU); Steve Valencia (RSU); Tim Williams (UCPonca); Pete Selden (TCC); John Claybon (OCCC)

#### 2. OSRHE budget update/overview: Sheri Mauck

##### **FY26 Budget Overview**

Budgets have been approved and FY26 officially began, with allocations starting in May.

- Total increase in operations funding: \$23.9 million.
  - The majority earmarked for specific legislative initiatives.

##### **Earmarked Funding Breakdown**

- \$3 million: Intensive math tutoring program at the University of Oklahoma.
- \$20 million: Prosperity funding for rural communities.
  - \$10 million: UCO Forensic Science Program.
  - \$10 million: Cameron University STEM education and cybersecurity.

##### Academic Scholars Program

- \$2 million: Initial increase for the new “Rising Scholars” initiative.
- Funding does not fully meet the program’s needs but is a starting point.

##### Debt Service Adjustment

- Reduction in debt service appropriation due to savings.
- Legislature reduced OSRHE’s appropriation for the 2005 bond issue (debt service continues through 2034).

##### Deferred Maintenance Funding

- No new operational funding, but no cuts either—considered a win.
- Accelerated release of deferred maintenance funds:
  - Originally set for 4 years, now institutions will receive the next 3 years’ worth in FY26.
  - OU and OSU excluded from this funding.
  - Funds not yet received; pending release by the Oklahoma Capital Improvement Authority (expected September).
  - Institutions have been informed of their allocations.

##### Critical Occupations in STEM Funding

- Original \$11.5 million set aside 3 years ago for STEM-related critical occupations.
- Reallocated in FY26 using a new methodology:

- Defined list of STEM programs developed with CASS and the data group.
- 50% of funds allocated based on average graduates from FY22–FY24.
- Also considered credit hour production to support workforce development.
- Resulted in some shifts in institutional funding.

### **3. Economic Impact Study: Cass Minx**

#### **Study Focus Areas**

- Educational attainment trends in Oklahoma, Enrollment and degree conferral trends, Economic and fiscal impact of public colleges and universities, Employment outcomes of graduates.
- New sections:
  - Oklahoma’s Promise impact.
  - Community benefits from student, faculty, and staff engagement (e.g., volunteering, internships).

#### **Key Findings**

- Educational Attainment:
  - Increase from 31% (2014) to 36.1% (2023) of Oklahomans (25+) with an associate degree or higher.
- Median Annual Earnings:
  - Increased across all education levels (based on U.S. Census data).
  - Higher education continues to correlate with higher earnings.
- Inflation-Adjusted Income:
  - Despite earnings growth, real income decreased by ~1.1% annually after inflation adjustment.
- State System Expenditures:
  - Raw numbers increased, but 0.7% decrease after adjusting for inflation.
- State Appropriations:
  - 3.5% decrease year-over-year after inflation adjustment.
  - Some recent increases (2022–2024), though often one-time funds.
- Institutional Employment:
  - 11.4% decrease in full-time equivalent employment over 10 years.
  - Largest drop from 2021–2022, likely due to the “Great Resignation” and COVID-19 disruptions.
- Wages & Benefits:
  - Held steady with a 0.4% decrease after inflation adjustment.
- Oklahoma’s Promise:
  - Decline in enrollment, but degree completion remains stable.
  - 2.4% decrease in funding after inflation adjustment.

#### **Economic Impact (FY2024)**

- Total Economic Output: \$14.61 billion.
- Employment Impact: Over 111,000 jobs.
- Wage Impact: \$7.07 billion.
- Tax Revenue Generated: \$461.82 million (sales + income tax).

- Return on Investment:
  - \$17.48 in economic output for every \$1 in state appropriations (up from \$9 in 2019).

#### Community Engagement Impact

- 53,000+ students participated in experiential/service learning, internships, and clinicals.
- 3.78 million hours contributed statewide.
- Economic value of volunteer hours: \$10.88 million.
- Faculty and staff also contributed significantly.

#### Additional Resources

- A [highlight video](#) is available on the OSRHE website.
- Institution-specific one-pagers have been delivered to presidents.
- An interactive dashboard is in development to allow institutions to filter and view their own economic impact data.

### **4. Economic Development Council Orientation: Lucia Dickinson**

#### Council Overview

- The Economic Development Council (EDC) was established in 2006 by directive of the President's Council.
- Purpose: To maintain ongoing dialogue among economic development professionals across Oklahoma's public higher education institutions.

#### Membership & Structure

- Current Membership: 28 members (recently added Pocket City University Center).
- Members are chief economic development professionals selected by institutional presidents.
- Meeting Frequency: Every other month.
- Executive Committee:
  - Chair: Whitney Alves
  - Includes equal representation from 2-year and 4-year institutions.
  - Responsibilities: Assist with meetings, planning, and event execution.

#### Mission & Goals

- Mission: Create a high-quality environment to:
  - Retain college graduates.
  - Attract and grow businesses in Oklahoma.
  - Develop new businesses through efficient resource use.
- Key Focus Areas:
  - External Partnerships: Foster collaboration between institutions, businesses, and government entities.
  - Workforce Development: Align academic programs with industry needs.
  - Data Collaboration:
    - Work with Lightcast representatives for labor market data and partnership insights.

- Collaborate with Career Services Council to review post-secondary employment data and support statewide workforce development.

#### RBPEA (Regents Business Partnerships Awards)

- Annual award recognizing impactful institutional partnerships.
- Institutions contribute \$500, matched by OSRHE.
- Encouraged to select partnerships early and document progress.
- Potential changes to the RBPEA format are under discussion.

#### Resources & Contacts

- Contact information and photos of council leadership were shared.
- Members encouraged to reach out with questions regarding:
  - Career Services Council contacts.
  - Lightcast representatives.
  - Strategic partnership development.

#### **5. Scheduling of FY 2025 EDC Meeting Dates & preferred format: Lucia Dickinson**

- a. July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – (Reset meeting via Zoom)
- b. September 2025 – Employer tour TBD
- c. November 12, 2025 (regular meeting via Zoom)
- d. January 14, 2026 (regular meeting via Zoom)
- e. March 2026- RBPEA- TBD
- f. May 2026- Annual Training

#### **6. Legislative Update: Joel Dean**

##### **Legislation Overview**

- Approximately half of the higher education-related bills passed during the last session went into effect on July 1, 2025.
- The remaining bills, including those without emergency clauses, will go into effect on November 1, 2025.
- Topics include:
  - Scholarship funding changes.
  - Insurance rate adjustments.
  - Other high-level administrative policies.

#### Clarification on Specific Legislation

- Questions have arisen regarding the maternal leave bill.
  - Although passed, it will not be effective until November 1, 2025.
- Institutions or individuals with questions about specific legislation or implementation guidance should contact Joel Dean directly for clarification or documentation.

#### **Looking Ahead: Legislative Planning**

- Preparations are underway for legislative tours and engagement with new legislators following upcoming elections.

- The format and approach for these events may change, with more details to come.

## **7. Upcoming Interim Studies: Joel Dean**

### Interim Studies

- Senate interim studies have been approved.
- House interim studies are still under review, with over 120 requests submitted.
  - Final approval expected by July 30, 2025.
- Interim studies are used to explore potential or past legislation with expert input.

### Confirmed Interim Study

- OSRHE is collaborating with Senator Hicks on a Senate interim study focused on:
  - Protecting student access and accountability.
  - Closing transcript release loopholes at for-profit colleges.
  - Study expected to take place in September or October (dates TBD).

### Other Proposed House Interim Studies (Pending Approval)

- Topics include:
  - CareerTech and high school grade classification.
  - Concurrent enrollment.
  - Teacher recruitment and retention.
  - Business innovation and workforce development.
  - Return on investment of post-secondary education.

### Next Steps

- Joel will distribute a finalized list of approved interim studies once available.
- Calendar invites and updates will be shared for any studies involving OSRHE.
- Council members may be contacted to contribute expertise to relevant studies.

### Closing Notes

- Currently in a holding pattern until the next legislative session begins.
- For questions about past legislation or upcoming initiatives, members are encouraged to reach out to Joel Dean directly.

## **8. Events: Lucia Dickinson**

- Community Listening Sessions  
July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Lawton Chamber of Commerce- Business, Industry Associations, Education, Nonprofits, General Public, & Service Providers – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC), Oklahoma City from August 10-12, 2025
- Select Oklahoma Conference on Economic Development, August 26-27, 2024, Oklahoma City Convention Center
- IEDC Annual Conference, Detroit, MI, September 14-17
- Rural Economic Outlook Conference, Conoco Phillips Alumni Center - Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

- OU EDI Fort Worth, Texas -October 19 to 23, 2025

9. Slate: Joel Dean

Chair Nomination:

- Whitney Alvis, Rose State College [walvis@rose.edu](mailto:walvis@rose.edu)

Vice-Chair:

- Dan Mabery, Northeastern State University, [mabery@nsuok.edu](mailto:mabery@nsuok.edu)

2-year:

- Macey Scotten, Redlands Community College, [Macey.scotten@redlandsccl.edu](mailto:Macey.scotten@redlandsccl.edu)

4 year:

- Jillian Bray, Langston, [jillibw@langston.edu](mailto:jillibw@langston.edu)

John Claybon - OCCC: Made a motion

Daniel Will- OSU: Second

10. Other Business

N/A

11. Adjournment