

Meeting of the
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
2:00 pm July 22, 2026

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: DAN MABERY

Dan Mabery, NSU; Rachel Kirk, NOC; Michele Hockersmith, SE; Pete Selden, TCC; Kim Pringle, SSC; Amy Goddard, USAO; John Spradling, EOSC; Daniel Will, OSU; Whitney Alvis, RSC; Kyle Foster, RSC; Kelsey Martin, NWOSU; Kristen Rowan, OSUOKC; Tim Williams, University Center; Macey Scotten, RCC; John Claybon, OCCC; Jamie Henson, CASC; Jillian Bray, Langston; Michael Scott, ECU; Lucia Dickinson, OSRHE

2. SURVEY RESULTS REVIEW: LUCIA DICKINSON

Lucia Dickinson reviewed the results of the recent Economic Development Council engagement survey. Overall, members expressed a strong desire for meetings that provide greater opportunities for peer interaction, sharing best practices, workforce-focused discussions, direct engagement with employers and industry representatives, intentional networking, and actionable outcomes implementable at their respective institutions. Members agreed that these themes should serve as the foundation.

3. REVISITING THE ROLE OF EDC: LUCIA DICKINSON

Lucia Dickinson provided an overview of the role and purpose of the Economic Development Council (EDC). She shared that the EDC serves as a statewide network of higher education leaders who collaborate to strengthen Oklahoma's workforce, support economic growth, engage employers, and advance workforce development initiatives. As an advisory council to the Chancellor, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) staff, the Council of Presidents, and other state officials, the EDC identifies opportunities to align higher education with Oklahoma's workforce and economic priorities. The council supports collaboration among institutions, fosters partnerships with business and industry, promotes the sharing of best practices, and works to identify strategies that contribute to talent development, business growth, and the state's long-term economic competitiveness.

4. PILLARS OF EDC AND REIMAGINING ENGAGEMENT: LUCIA DICKINSON

Pillar 1: Collaboration & Advocacy Serving as an institutional connector and statewide voice

Pillar 2: Employer Engagement- Building meaningful employer partnerships.

Pillar 3: Workforce Development - Ensuring Oklahoma has the talent employers need.

Pillar 4: Economic Growth & Innovation- Supporting business growth and economic competitiveness.

Please see attachment for supplemental information and examples.

5. HIGHLIGHT ACTIVITY: LUCIA DICKINSON

As part of the council's refresh and revitalization efforts, members participated in a facilitated small-group discussion centered on the EDC's four pillars: Collaboration & Advocacy, Employer Engagement, Workforce Development, and Economic Growth & Innovation. Members were divided into groups and asked to evaluate each pillar through the lens of their own institution by identifying institutional strengths, successful practices, challenges, and opportunities for growth. Following the small-group discussions, each group shared key themes with the full council. Members then completed an individual reflection exercise to identify priority pillar(s) for their institution during the 2026–2027 academic year, outline a goal or initiative they plan to advance, and identify actions they and their teams will take to support those priorities. The feedback gathered during the activity will be used to inform the council's strategic priorities and work plan for the academic year.

6. FY 2027 EDC MEETING FORMAT UPDATE AND DATES AND TIMES: DAN MABERY

The council discussed and approved a refreshed meeting format designed to increase engagement, strengthen relationships with business and industry, and provide greater opportunities for members to learn from one another. Beginning this academic year, EDC meetings will rotate among host institutions across the state, allowing members to experience each institution's workforce and economic development initiatives firsthand. The council agreed that meetings will generally follow a consistent format consisting of: (1) a Business and Industry Roundtable featuring regional employers and workforce partners, (2) an Institutional Spotlight highlighting the host institution's workforce and economic development initiatives, employer partnerships, and innovative practices, (3) special presentations on topics relevant to workforce and economic development, and (4) council discussion and other business. This new meeting structure is intended to foster collaboration, encourage the sharing of best practices, and strengthen connections between higher education, employers, and Oklahoma's economic development partners.

NSU -September 30th - 10 am – 12 pm - (lunch networking opportunity after, place TBD)

TBD- November 18th - 10 am – 12 pm (lunch networking meeting opportunity after, place TBD)

TBD-January 27th - 10 am – 12 pm (lunch networking meeting opportunity after, place TBD)

TBD-March 24th- 10 am – 12 pm (lunch networking meeting opportunity after, place TBD)

TBD- May 26th - 10 am – 12 pm (lunch networking meeting opportunity after, place TBD)

7. EVENTS: LUCIA DICKINSON

Aug 2-4

[Select Oklahoma Conference on Economic Development](#)

The Select Oklahoma Conference on Economic Development is the state's premier gathering of economic developers, business leaders, site selectors, policymakers, and community champions – all united around one goal: driving Oklahoma's next era of growth.

Aug 5

[State of Education & Workforce](#)

Join the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber for the 2026 State of Education & Workforce as we explore the launch of the region's new five-year education and workforce strategic planning initiative in partnership with CivicLab.

Aug 13

[State of the State](#)

Tulsa Regional Chamber's **State of the State** will feature a Gubernatorial Candidate Forum with the Republican and Democrat candidates who advance from June 16's primary to the August runoff and/or November general election. This luncheon draws an audience of more than 1,000 business and community leaders, as well as elected officials from the local, state and national level and receives extensive media coverage.

Aug 16

[Southern Economic Development Council Annual Conference](#)

The Southern Economic Development Council, North America's oldest and largest regional economic development association, will gather in beautiful Bonita Springs, Florida at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point.

Sep 1

[State of the Region](#)

Focusing on central Oklahoma's development and collaboration The Chamber's State of the Region event will highlight the progress and development happening across the central Oklahoma 10-county region.

Sep 21-23

[Washington D.C. Fly-in](#)

The Washington D.C. Fly-In is your opportunity to discuss issues, rules and regulations affecting Oklahoma businesses today, hearing from our Congressional delegation, federal agencies, and national associations directly. The event also provides valuable networking opportunities with peer business, state, and federal leaders.

Oct 18 -22

[OU EDI](#) – Park City, Utah

Oct 25-28

[International Economic Development Council Annual Conference](#)

Join thousands of economic development professionals and thought leaders from around the world as we gather in a city that embodies resilience and reinvention. Together, we'll explore bold strategies, celebrate community transformation, and accelerate the future of economic development.

Nov 17

[State of Business Forum](#)

@ National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

8. SLATE: LUCIA DICKINSON & DAN MABERY

Lucia Dickinson presented the recommended Executive Committee slate for the 2026–2027 academic year. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The Executive Committee for the 2026–2027 academic year is as follows:

- **Chair:** Dan Mabery, Northeastern State University
- **Vice Chair:** Kim Pringle, Seminole State College
- **Two-Year Institution Representative:** Kristen Rowan, OSUOKC
- **Four-Year Institution Representative:** Amy Goddard, University of Sciences & Arts of Oklahoma

9. OTHER BUSINESS: DAN MABERY

Lucia Dickinson provided an update on the State Regents Workforce Ready Scholarship, noting that the application remains open and that 28 applications have been received to date. Members were encouraged to continue promoting the scholarship. Dickinson also called for volunteers to serve as blind reviewers for the application review process.

10. ADJOURNMENT: DAN MABERY

The meeting concluded with final remarks and appreciation for participants' engagement. Attendees were encouraged to host an EDC meeting this academic year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (EDC)

Focus: Statewide economic growth and workforce development

CAREER SERVICES COUNCIL

Focus: Student career success and talent connections



1. COLLABORATION & ADVOCACY

Serve as a statewide voice, share best practices, coordinate initiatives, and advise state leaders and partners.



2. EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

Strengthen employer and industry partnerships and connect institutions with business and industry to meet workforce needs.



3. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Identify and address workforce needs and build a strong talent pipeline across Oklahoma.



4. ECONOMIC GROWTH & INNOVATION

Support business recruitment, expansion, entrepreneurship, innovation, and regional economic development.



OUR SHARED FOCUS

Align higher education with workforce and economic needs across Oklahoma



Strengthen partnerships with employers, industry, workforce partners, and communities



Prepare, attract, and retain talent for Oklahoma



Support innovation, entrepreneurship, and business growth



Use data and labor market insights to inform decisions and drive impact



Collaborate across institutions, regions, and state agencies



Advance Oklahoma's economic prosperity and quality of life



1. WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT

Ensure students are prepared for current and future workforce needs.



2. ASSESSMENT / CAREER DISCOVERY

Help students identify their interests, strengths, and career goals.



3. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Encourage students to actively participate in career development throughout their educational journey.



4. WORK-BASED LEARNING

Connect classroom learning with real-world experiences.



5. EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS

Build meaningful relationships with employers to support student success and workforce needs.



6. TALENT CONNECTIONS

Help students successfully transition from education to employment and support talent retention in Oklahoma.



Lightcast
LICENSEE

POWERING DATA-INFORMED DECISIONS ACROSS BOTH COUNCILS

As the statewide Lightcast licensee, we provide labor market intelligence and data tools that support both councils in advancing their priorities and driving outcomes.



Labor market data and industry insights



Program and occupational demand analysis



Regional and industry benchmarking and mapping



Student outcomes and talent pipeline insights



Data dashboards and tools to inform strategy and measure impact



TOGETHER, DRIVING OPPORTUNITY AND PROSPERITY FOR OKLAHOMA

Aligning education, workforce, and economic development to build a stronger future for our students, businesses, and communities.

