



This is a bi-monthly newsletter e-mailed to the Greater Oklahoma City Partnership to highlight economic development successes throughout the region. Please forward to your key stakeholders to keep them informed of the benefits of our partnership.

RECENT PARTNERSHIP RESULTS

No Need to Dig Around: Project Flower Pot Planting Seeds of Success

Project Flower Pot, a distributor of landscaping materials, has recently located in Harrah. This project was released to the Partnership in the Spring of 2008, and we are pleased to announce that they now have a growing operation in the Harrah Industrial Park. Green Country Soils packages and distributes soil, mulch and other landscaping materials to Lowe's and other retailers from North Texas to Kansas.



PARTNERSHIP NEWS



Don't Miss the Next Two Greater Oklahoma City Partnership Meetings

Contact Aimee Schones (aschones@okcchamber.com) for the details.

- Thursday, April 2 -- Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 10:30 AM -- noon -- Food & Ag Products Center presentation by Jim Brooks of OSU
- Thursday, May 7 -- Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 10:30 AM -- noon

Way To Go, Dudes: Oklahoma City Named 3rd "Manliest" City in U.S., Other Accolades Received



Oklahoma City easily beat out such cities as Los Angeles and San Francisco as well as other "tough" locales like Chicago and New York on Combos' "America's Manliest Cities List." OKC placed third, just behind Nashville and Charlotte. Cities



gained points for characteristics such as number of professional major-league sports teams, popularity of tools and hardware, bowling alleys, concentration of BBQ restaurants, and sports bars per capita. Locations lost points for "emasculating characteristics like the abundance of home furnishings stores, high minivan sales and subscription rates to beauty magazines." The survey was completed with the help of Bert Sperling of "Best Places to Live" study fame.

Oklahoma City also ranked #8 out of the 100 largest metros in the "Best Places to Start a Small Business" list (Bizjournals), made Forbes' list of "America's 25 Strongest Housing Markets," and placed three OKC-HQ'd companies in the Fortune "100 Best Companies to Work For" list (Devon Energy, American Fidelity Assurance, and Chesapeake Energy).

New Office Buildings Planned for Covell and I-35

Developer Derek Turner announced the start of construction of a new office park at I-35 and Covell at the Edmond Economic Preview in late January. Two buildings at 40,000 -- 50,000 square feet each are planned.

Oklahoma officials in France seeking to lure wind power companies to state

By RON JENKINS

17 March 2009

Associated Press Newswires

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Oklahoma officials are in Marseilles, France, trying to interest wind power companies to bring "green collar" jobs to the state.

They are attending the 2009 European Wind Energy Conference, which began Monday and runs through Thursday.

Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce and Tourism Natalie Shirley says officials are positioning the state to become a hub of wind activity, focusing production of wind generating equipment and research.

Commerce expects the state's emerging wind industry to create 7,000 jobs over the next five years and up to 18,000 jobs within 10 years. That translates to \$1.48 billion in total personal income to be created from the wind industry cluster alone.

The Oklahoma delegation includes commerce officials and representatives of the Ardmore Development Authority, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, the Tulsa Metro Chamber of Commerce and OG&E Electric Services.

Beth Schmidt, director of marketing at the commerce agency, said members of the delegation left Thursday and Friday. Agency officials on the trip are Sandy Pratt, deputy director for business services, and Charles Kimbrough, Director of Business Recruitment.

"This is the largest wind show in Europe. This is about attracting these European-based manufacturers to Oklahoma so we can recruit jobs in this industry," Schmidt said.

Shirley said the advance of wind energy and renewable power in Oklahoma means the state can capitalize on one of its most abundant resources to create green collar jobs.

Oklahoma has more than 700 megawatts of wind generation online. The Southwest Power Pool, a regional transmission organization, expects its nine-state area to produce 8,500 megawatts, with more

than half of that coming from Oklahoma between 2020 and 2025.

Oklahoma officials have a goal to make the state the second-largest generator of wind power in the nation by 2030, generating 9 percent of the nation's electricity.

The Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative, a research and resource partnership between the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University, says the state has about 2.3 times more wind energy potential per square mile than Texas.

"Oklahoma is very appealing to international investors because of our centralized location and position in the heart of the wind corridor," Pratt said in a statement before leaving on the trip.

She said several major wind-related companies from Europe and Asia are currently considering Oklahoma as a place to locate.

PARTNERSHIP RESOURCES

Strategically Plan to Attend the IEDC Strategic Planning Course in August

Hey everyone, pull out the agendas, sharpies, and Outlook calendars! It's never too early to start marking your various scheduling systems for IEDC courses. Plan on attending the IEDC Strategic Planning Course, being held Aug. 27 -- 28, 2009 at the Skirvin Hilton downtown. IEDC sets the standard for Economic Development training, so be there or risk being a square economic developer. Partnership members will attend free of charge, with the Partnership covering registration costs.



Upcoming Oklahoma Small Business Development Center Seminars

OSBDC hosts a great series of seminars in convenient locations all over the region for those interested in entrepreneurship and starting / running a small business. See www.oklahomasmallbusiness.org for more info.

Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Business, Thursday, March 26, 2009

Where: **Edmond Chamber of Commerce, 825 E 2nd, Edmond**

When: *Thursday, March 26, 2009 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM*

Topic: Start-up Assistance

This is all the "stuff" that you need to know, from legal structures (every business has one), to permits, getting set up to take credit cards, insurance needs, and much more!

Speaker: Carlos Amaya

please be there by 6:15 to sign in Fee is \$20

Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Business, Thursday, April 09, 2009

Where: **South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, 701 SW 74, Oklahoma City**

When: *Thursday, April 09, 2009 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM*

Topic: Start-up Assistance

This is all the "stuff" that you need to know, from legal structures (every business has one), to permits, getting set up to take credit cards, insurance needs, and much more!

Speaker: Larry Siebert

please be there by 6:15 to sign in Fee is \$20

Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Business, Thursday, April 23, 2009

4/29/2009

Greater OKC Partnership - March 2009

Where: **Norman Chamber of Commerce, 115 E Gray, Norman**

When: *Thursday, April 23, 2009 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM*

Topic: Start-up Assistance

This is all the "stuff" that you need to know, from legal structure (every business has one), to permits, getting set to take credit cards, insurance needs, and much more!

Speaker: Susan Urbach

please be there by 6:15 to sign in Fee is \$20

Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Business, Thursday, May 07, 2009

Where: **Edmond Chamber of Commerce, 825 E 2nd, Edmond**

When: *Thursday, May 07, 2009 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM*

Topic: Start-up Assistance

This is all the "stuff" that you need to know, from legal structures (every business has one), to permits, getting set up to take credit cards, insurance needs, and much more!

Speaker: Carlos Amaya

please be there by 6:15 to sign in Fee is \$20

Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Business, Thursday, May 21, 2009

Where: **South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, 701 SW 74, Oklahoma City**

When: *Thursday, May 21, 2009 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM*

Topic: Start-up Assistance

This is all the "stuff" that you need to know, from legal structures (every business has one), to permits, getting set up to take credit cards, insurance needs, and much more!

Speaker: Larry Siebert

please be there by 6:15 to sign in Fee is \$20

Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Business, Thursday, June 04, 2009

Where: **Norman Chamber of Commerce, 115 E Gray, Norman**

When: *Thursday, June 04, 2009 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM*

Topic: Start-up Assistance

This is all the "stuff" that you need to know, from legal structure (every business has one), to permits, getting set to take credit cards, insurance needs, and much more!

Speaker: Susan Urbach

please be there by 6:15 to sign in Fee is \$20

About the Partnership

No matter where a primary job employer locates, everyone in the region "wins." The 10-county Greater Oklahoma City Partnership was established in 2003 for strategic economic development. Together, we are working to secure regional corporate locations, business retention and expansions and develop tools for local economic development professionals. Our cities, counties and governmental entities are co-dependent on each other. The Greater Oklahoma City Partnership looks forward to leveraging resources, uniting leadership, marketing our region and increasing our competitiveness.

Future Issues

If you have announcements to be included in future issues of this newsletter, please e-mail Ruby Rahill at rrahill@okcchamber.com to submit information.

You have received this e-mail because you are a member of the Greater Oklahoma City Partnership and we consider you a valuable part of the economic development process of the Greater Oklahoma City region.

4/29/2009

Greater OKC Partnership - March 2009

This email was sent by:
The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
123 Park Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
405-297-8900

www.greateroklahomacity.com

If you would like to be removed from this list, [unsubscribe](#).
Thank you for your continued participation in the Partnership.