



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

Foundation Surgery Affiliates Affiliate Themselves With New Employees

OKC-based Foundation Surgery Affiliates has just completed adding 150 new employees to their headquarters / administration center. In addition, the company has leased a 7,000-square-foot warehouse and distribution facility for a new nutraceutical business unit, and expects to invest \$3 million, adding 10-20 new employees to this additional unit over the next few years.



Foundation Surgery Affiliates specializes in the design, construction, and operation of ambulatory surgery centers as well as surgical hospital development, design, partner recruitment, and operations. In addition, FSA offers facility management and operations services for ambulatory surgery centers, medical office buildings, imaging centers, surgical hospitals, bariatric centers and Healthplexes.

High Mount Exploration & Production Producing More Jobs

Formerly part of Dominion Energy, Oklahoma City-based High Mount Exploration & Production LLC recently announced they will be adding 100 new employees over the next 2 years.

New Alarm Company Not Alarmed to Call OKC Home

InnovAlarm, Inc. (dba Lifetone Technology) is a new-to-market start-up that develops and sells emergency alarms for people with hearing impairments and / or sleep disorders. The company currently employs seven people.

Sara Lee Smelling the Sweet Smells of New Equipment

Existing Oklahoma City-based manufacturer Sara Lee Bakery recently announced an investment of \$750,000 in new plant equipment and even better aroma for that morning / late evening drive up I-235.

Neighbors Coffee to get New Equipment: "Shazam!"

Food processing company Neighbors Coffee of OKC has added \$500,000 in new machinery and equipment. It's a beautiful day to have a neighbor just like Neighbors.

New Machines Being Applied at Applied Industrial Machining

Oklahoma City-based Applied Industrial Machining has announced an investment of \$200,000 in new equipment. The company manufactures a variety of tools and equipment used in the horizontal drilling industry, as well as contract manufacturing and prototype machining.

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

B-town Turns It Up to 11: UCO Announces Creation of New Academy of Contemporary Music in Bricktown

The new Academy of Contemporary Music (ACM@UCO), a venture born out of the University of Central Oklahoma through the original ACM in Guilford, England (just outside of London), aims to grow the music industry in Greater OKC Region. This will provide a means of capturing the hundreds of millions of dollars that is exported out of the region annually not just in terms of performers and their record sales, but also in engineers, songwriters, managers, promoters, and all the ancillary jobs and accompanying economic development opportunities that go with them. Located in Bricktown next to Chelino's and Maker's on the 4th floor, the school will open in August 2009 and will begin admitting students shortly thereafter. Certificate programs, Associate's, Bachelor's, and even Master's Degrees will be offered. The school will be the first of its kind in the United States and will be unique in that it will focus on complete vertical integration of the music / recording industry. Not only will contemporary songwriting, performing, and instrumentation be taught, but also recording, management, finance, legal issues, etc. – at a price more affordable than the norm (current projections for tuition are less than \$7500 / year, as opposed to \$35,000 a year elsewhere and for a much less diverse experience). In addition, the school will be able to leverage UCO's other programs to provide Marketing / Advertising / Design support for students' projects. Growing the music industry and the Creative Class that accompanies it is a priority of the school, and of the Greater Oklahoma City Partnership. For information contact UCO's Steve Kreidler at (405)974-2251.



Milken Institute: OKC Metro Bringing It in 2008

The Oklahoma City MSA jumped a whopping 58 places on the Milken Institute's "2008 Best-Performing Cities List." The list identifies where "America's Jobs are Created and Sustained" by using job, salary, technology and wage growth, among other factors. The increase in ranking places OKC at number eight on the list of biggest gainers over 2007 in the nation.

IEDC Survey Reports Slower Activity, Lack of Confidence in Congress Pre-Bailout

A survey of nearly 500 economic developers conducted by IEDC formally confirmed what many knew to be true: a majority of economic development professionals from all over the nation said that their communities are suffering as a result of the recent financial crisis, with 71% affirming they are seeing halted or delayed real estate development projects, and 70% reporting a reduction in perceived consumer spending.

The study, conducted September 30 – October 1, assessed attitudes toward Congress in the days immediately before the bailout package was passed. 52% of economic developers reported "little or no confidence" that Congress understood the impact of the financial fallout on the businesses in their communities, and an even greater number (56%) predicted a significant negative impact on economic growth if Congress was unable to pass a bailout plan. No post-bailout findings have yet been reported, but anecdotally, optimism remains in some areas, especially in Oklahoma and the Midwest. For more information on the survey, contact Erin Way at IEDC at (202)942-9474 or eway@ideconline.org, or see http://www.iedconline.org/index.php?p=ED_Study.

Dec. Partnership Holiday Luncheon

Contact your pal and mine, Aimee Schones (aschones@okcchamber.com), for details on the tasty treats and the luncheon location. Please note the December meeting will be cancelled in lieu of this party!

Event Info: December 3, 11:30 AM, Petroleum Club North in Edmond

Please be sure to contact Aimee Schones if you plan to bring / invite any elected officials or Board Members as your guest. See you there!



Bethany / Warr Acres / NW OKC

Northwest Chamber says "Hello, Goodbye" to McCartney, Key; Prepares to Install Officers

The Northwest Chamber named Jill McCartney its new President/CEO this week. McCartney, a native of

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the Northwest Oklahoma City area has a background in public affairs, media relations, fundraising, non-profit management and event planning. She worked in Washington D.C., Dallas, and Atlanta before returning to Oklahoma in 2003, and has worked with the Oklahoma House of Representatives for the last five years. Her contact information is: 405-789-1256 and email is jmc@thenorthwestchamber.com

McCartney replaces Wally Key, who accepted a similar position in the Fort Worth area to be near family. He served as the Northwest Chamber President since 2003 and was recognized by the OCCE in 2005 as Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executive of the Year

The Northwest Chamber held a Power-Networking Lunch in November and will create the 2009 Program of Work at a board planning retreat in December. On January 29 they will hold their Annual Awards Banquet and Officer Installation at the Oklahoma History Center.

Edmond

Watch Out Ebert! 2009 Edmond Economic PREVIEW Approved for ALL AUDIENCES, Coming Your Way Jan. 29



The Edmond Economic Development Authority presents a forum of 2008 highlights and 2009 projections from a panel of local and statewide economic and real estate experts.

[First Fidelity Bank](#), will take place January 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the University of Central Oklahoma, Ballrooms B & C. This year's Preview includes a CD launch, luncheon and an expert panel. The new digital format will include all reports, as well as a short video of Edmond that will be previewed at this annual event.

Look for upcoming notices from the EEDA with more details and information about the Preview and how to register. For questions and info, call 405-340-0116 or email info@eeda.com. "Two Thumbs Up!"

Hospital Breaks Ground, Edmond Birth Moratorium Ends

Construction on Integris' new 151,000 square-foot, 40-bed hospital and office building in Edmond east of I-35 on 15th street has begun. Slated to open in Fall of 2010, jobs at the facility could number up to 300. The hospital will allow women to give birth in Edmond for the first time in years, provide full diagnostic and treatment capabilities, and significantly impact Edmond's economy.

Lowe's Makes Grand Entrance at Grand Opening, Other Retail / Restaurants Ready to Receive Shoppers, Eaters

The new Lowe's held a grand opening at Kelly Avenue and Covell for more than 5,000 invitees! Total employees at the new 120,000 square-foot store are expected to number 134. Other new retail in Edmond includes Edmond Summit Company downtown, where shoppers can find popular adventure gear and apparel, Kabuki Steakhouse (steak and sushi), Tuscan Loggia (gifts / furniture), and Scruples (gifts). Also returning after a two-year absence is the Rib Crib (tasty goodness)!

Titan Developments Looming Large, Firing Out Buildings Left and Right with Partners

Two of the six planned buildings are already open at Highwater Business Park, Titan Development Partners' and JBM Parters LLC's new commercial business park north of Waterloo Road between Coltrane and Sooner Roads. Titan also announced plans for an office park at 307 E. Danforth Road to begin construction early in 2009. The development, called Windsor Park, will consist of three buildings with 11 suites with sizes ranging from 1,100 to 2,400 square feet.

Midwest City

Midwest Regional Medical Center Earns Ratings Fit For a 5-Star General

(Via The Oklahoman)

Midwest Regional Medical Center has earned five-star ratings for the quality of its cardiac, orthopedic and gastrointestinal care by HealthGrades, an independent healthcare ratings company. Midwest Regional is also a recipient of the 2009 Gastrointestinal Surgery Excellence Award, ranking it among the top 10 percent nationally for gastrointestinal surgery. The honors are the latest in a long list of accolades the hospital has recently earned. The findings were included in the eleventh annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study, which analyzed more than 41 million Medicare hospitalization records from 2005 to 2007 at the nation's about 5,000 non-federal hospitals.

Moore

Convergys to Hire 150 by December 1st

Convergys in Moore (on Broadway off of I-35 and 19th Street) has announced a new project that requires 150 positions to be added by Dec. 1st. For info see www.convergys.greatjob.net.

Piedmont

Infrastructure and Schools and Retail, Oh My!

Piedmont just completed a \$4.2 million waterline connection to Oklahoma City, and work has started on a connection to the Oklahoma City sewer system. The Piedmont School District has started work on a new elementary school west of the Highway 3 / Highway 4 intersection. Business-wise, a new strip mall located near Edmond Road and Piedmont Road has been completed and all space has been leased.

PARTNERSHIP RESOURCES

IEDC Strategic Planning Course Coming Your Way in 2009

It's never too early to start marking your calendars for IEDC courses. Plan on attending the IEDC Strategic Planning Course, being held Aug. 27 – 28, 2009, in an as-yet-to-be-determined-but-sure-to-be-fantastic location in Greater OKC. IEDC sets the standard for Economic Development training, so be there or risk being a square economic developer.

Increase Your Internet Involvement

Edmond-based Main Street Enterprises is holding a one-day eBusiness Expo Thursday, November 20 at UCO to discuss how companies can use effective Internet communication to increase business at little-to-no cost. Topics will include using the ever popular social networking sites, search engines, blogging, podcasting, amazing email newsletters like your bimonthly Partnership update, and micro-advertising.

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 and see you there!

Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Business, Thursday, November 20, 2008

Where: **South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Training at Chamber site. Consulting at our office in Downtown Oklahoma City., Oklahoma City**

When: *Thursday, November 20, 2008 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, to getting set up to take credit cards, insurance needs, employees, and so much more!

Speaker: Larry Siebert

please be there by 6:15 to sign in, cost \$20

Website Building Workshop, Thursday, December 04, 2008

Where: **Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, Oklahoma City**

When: *Thursday, December 04, 2008 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM*

Topic: Start-up Assistance Get your business online by building your own website. In this hands-on workshop you will build and launch a professional-looking website. Upon completion of the workshop you will set your new website live! Upon registering, we will send you a template for information and ask that you bring any digital images or photos on a jump drive so that we can use them after the workshop. Fee is \$25. \$5 discount to Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Members.

Speaker: Susan Urbach

Co-Sponsor: Greater Oklahoma City Chamber

How to Get Money for Your Business, Thursday, December 04, 2008

Where: **Edmond Chamber of Commerce, Training at Chamber site. Consulting at our office in Downtown Oklahoma City., Edmond**

When: *Thursday, December 04, 2008 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM*

Topic: Start-up Assistance Getting a business loan is entirely different from buying a house or car. We'll go over why that is, what options there are, what a business plan is, and how to get started on yours.

Speaker: Carlos Amaya

please be there by 6:15 to sign in, cost \$20

Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Business, Thursday, December 11, 2008

Where: **Norman Chamber of Commerce, Training at Chamber site. Consulting at our office in**

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Downtown Oklahoma City., Norman

When: *Thursday, December 11, 2008 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, to getting set up to take credit cards, insurance needs, employees, and so much more!

Speaker: Susan Urbach

please be there by 6:15 to sign in, cost \$20

How to Get Money for Your Business, Thursday, December 18, 2008

Where: **South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Training at Chamber site. Consulting at our office in Downtown Oklahoma City., Oklahoma City**

When: *Thursday, December 18, 2008 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM*

Topic: Start-up Assistance Getting a business loan is entirely different from buying a house or car. We'll go over why that is, what options there are, what a business plan is, and how to get started on yours

Speaker: Larry Siebert

please be there by 6:15 to sign in, cost \$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.

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