

2009 Officers

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Who are we?

The Oklahoma Professional Economic Development Council (OEDC) is an association of 150+ economic development professionals throughout the state of Oklahoma. In addition to our 2008 legislative agenda, OEDC supports The State Chamber's 2008 pro-jobs Legislative Agenda.

Our members are advocates for a prosperous economy in Oklahoma and strive to be active economic development resources for state leaders. We accomplish this through:

- **Legislative Advocacy Committee**

Responsible for identifying legislative issues related to the economic development profession in which OEDC members can take an active role in assisting as the Economic Development Resource for Oklahoma. This committee will work closely with the Training and Education Committee to provide the OEDC membership opportunities to interact with legislative leadership and state elected officials and will oversee the selection of our Legislative Advocate of the Year.

- **Training & Education Committee**

Responsible for interacting with the OEDC Executive Committee to ensure monthly membership programs include educational and/or informational programs utilizing state, regional and national association partners such as IEDC, SEDC. This committee will also oversee the OEDC scholarship program and will ensure that an Awards Task Force is formed to recognize an Economic Development Professional of the Year.

- **Workforce Committee**

Responsible for ensuring membership involvement in workforce related issues. This is a new committee implemented in 2007 so responsibilities will further develop.

- **Membership Committee**

Responsible for recruitment and retention of OEDC membership to ensure the mission of the organization is met with a strong focus on capturing any and all practicing economic development professionals across the State of Oklahoma.

- **Marketing Committee**

Responsible for positioning the organization to be the Economic Development Resource for the State of Oklahoma by interacting with all OEDC committees to ensure recognition of OEDC as a professional organization.

2009



Legislative Agenda

“The Economic
Development Resource
for Oklahoma”

OEDC

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Incentives

Oppose attempts to sunset or eliminate necessary economic development incentives that are designed to create jobs and attract/retain businesses in Oklahoma in order to remain competitive with other states.

Research

Maintain OCAST funding with support of an appropriations request to fund a \$5 million Research Equipment Program, as well as designated funding for a seed capital fund.

Worker’s Compensation

Reforms passed in 2005 are not being fully implemented, and Oklahoma’s courts have overturned some key reform provisions. OEDC believes we must pass judicial reforms before we will ever see significant changes in our workers’ compensation system.

Lawsuit Reform

Oklahoma must have broad-based lawsuit reform legislation in order for our companies to be globally competitive.

Transportation

OEDC opposes any attempts to delay or unravel the transportation and bond program passed in 2008 as well as legislation or constitutional initiatives that would re-direct funds from essential state functions and erode the legislature’s ability to craft a reasonable balanced budget.

Water

Water as a critical business resource and Oklahoma needs to determine how much water we have and how much we need for the next fifty years. We need a responsible economic development water plan.

Quality Investment Act

Support strengthening the criteria required for accessing Quality Investment funds.

Education

Support merit pay for educators and encourage the incorporation of career awareness programs into the common education system while lengthening the school year.

Support post secondary education designed to enhance and improve Oklahoma’s workforce.

Workforce Development

OEDC supports the development of a strong workforce by ensuring that Oklahoma’s workforce delivery and training programs are the best in the nation.

Support ongoing efforts of the entire education system (common education; institutions of higher learning; and, career technology centers) and the business community to assure that what is taught in the classroom is relevant to Oklahoma’s current and future workforce needs. Programs include but are not limited to Training for Industry Programs (TIP); Training for Existing Industry Program (TEII) and Safety and Health Training.

Talent Attraction & Retention

Support efforts to market the State, regions and communities to encourage people to live, work and invest in Oklahoma.

Aerospace Initiative

Support funding authorization for the Oklahoma Aerospace Institute which was signed into law without funding in 2007.

EDGE Fund

Continue support toward a billion dollar Oklahoma Enterprise Research and Investment Endowment to fund and match grants for technology investments in leading edge technologies to help transform Oklahoma’s economy.

Closing Fund

Support increased funding for a closing fund (Opportunity Fund) which would allow influential added incentives for companies which provide significant new employment in targeted industry sectors.

State Funding Assistance for Industrial Park

OEDC supports legislation to assist community owned industrial parks with short term loans for infrastructure construction and/or expansion. This loan fund would be available only to entities such as cities, counties, development trust authorities, and community owned economic development corporations. Lending limits would be set by the entities ability to make debt service, with a five year maximum term.

Quality Jobs

Support Quality Jobs to simplify the program, rewarding the creation of better paying jobs and provide high impact incentives for mega projects.

Recruitment

Support the efforts of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce as the leading recruitment organization for the state of Oklahoma as well as the activities of the Governor’s Economic Development and International Teams.

Tax Increment Financing

Protect the current objectives of Tax Increment Financing as a primary economic development tool.

Incubator Tax Credits

Support tax credits for actual billable,; legal and accounting services performed for a certified incubator tenant.

**For white papers and additional
information about these issues visit
www.oedc.net**