

## 2010 Officers

### **PRESIDENT**

Janet Yowell

*Edmond Economic Development Authority*

[jy@eeda.com](mailto:jy@eeda.com)

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Judee Snodderly

*Miami Area Economic Development Services*

[judee@miami-ok.org](mailto:judee@miami-ok.org)

### **SECRETARY**

Lyle Roggow, PECD

*Duncan Area Economic Development*

[lyle@ok-duncan.com](mailto:lyle@ok-duncan.com)

### **TREASURER**

Mike Southard

*Ada Jobs Foundation*

[msouthard@adaworks.org](mailto:msouthard@adaworks.org)

### **EXECUTIVE**

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Danna Fowble, IOM

*The State Chamber*

[dfowble@okstatechamber.com](mailto:dfowble@okstatechamber.com)

#### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Richard Cornelison

*OGE Energy Corp.*

[cornerl@oge.com](mailto:cornerl@oge.com)



## Who are we?

The Oklahoma Professional Economic Development Council (OEDC) is an association of 150+ economic development professionals throughout the state of Oklahoma who support efforts to market the State, regions and communities a place where people want to live, work and invest in Oklahoma.

Our members are advocates for a prosperous economy in Oklahoma and strive to be active economic development resources for state elected officials and leaders.

OEDC supports 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 Marketing and International Teams**. We also work closely with The State Chamber lobby team in developing, implementing and educating citizens about legislative issues in order to maintain a profitable business climate.

### **2010 Key Legislative Issues**

# 2010



# Legislative Agenda

**“The Economic  
Development Resource  
for Oklahoma”**

OEDC  
330 NE 10th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

[www.oedc.net](http://www.oedc.net)

# 2010 Legislative Agenda



## "The Economic Development Resource for Oklahoma"

### Economic Development 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.
- Support tax credits for actual billable,; legal and accounting services performed for a certified incubator tenant .
- Support Quality Jobs and Small Quality Jobs to simplify the program, rewarding the creation of better paying jobs and provide high impact incentives for mega projects while maintaining focus on smaller employers.
  - Moving equipment from existing business facilities (in or outside Oklahoma) needs to be applicable for the same investment tax credit that a new business moving to Oklahoma gets.
  - Extend the months to 24 months on the job creation and total sales thresholds to make Small Quality Jobs more applicable to small businesses.
- ? Support strengthening the criteria required for accessing Quality Investment funds.
- Protect the current objectives of Tax Increment Financing as a primary economic development tool.

### Worker's Compensation

- Oklahoma businesses want fairness in the worker's compensation system. A fundamental restructuring of the entire worker's compensation program. Is needed.

### Transportation

- OEDC opposes any attempts to delay /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/Wind

- Oklahoma needs a responsible economic development water plan. Water is a critical business resource and Oklahoma needs to determine how much water we have and how much we will need for the next fifty years.
- Establish a Renewable Energy Standard for Oklahoma

### Education and Workforce

- 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.
- ? Oppose efforts (such as SQ 744) that Constitutionally mandate specific funding levels tied to other state economies.
- 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); Existing Industry Initiative (EII) and Safety and Health Training.
- Supports flexibility for childcare facilities that provide care to working Oklahomans receiving daycare assistance to be reimbursed when a child is absent. Also, have reimbursement rates based on hours for services provided rather than on a per day basis.

### 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.

### Research and Technology

- 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.
- Continue to support 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.
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### State Funding Assistance for Industrial Park

- 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.



For white papers and additional information about these issues visit:

[www.oedc.net](http://www.oedc.net)