

SELECT
OKLAHOMA
CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AUGUST 26-27, 2024

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BUSINESS LEADERSHIP
ADVANCING OKLAHOMA'S ECONOMY

#SelectOK24



BECOME A MEMBER

The purpose of Select Oklahoma is to support a healthy economy for the State of Oklahoma through legislative advocacy, education, training and development, professional collaboration, and supporting statewide efforts to recruit and retain primary jobs and capital investment.

WHY BE A MEMBER?

- Network of Economic Development Professionals
- Training and Education Resources
- Legislative Advocacy
- Regular Meetings
- Membership in Oklahoma's Economic Development Partnership is a statement to your community that you're involved in policy, and actively driving Oklahoma forward.

BE OUR GUEST. We invite you to an upcoming Select Oklahoma meeting! We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m.

FREE MEMBERSHIP. By attending the Select Oklahoma Conference you are eligible to receive your membership at no cost through the end of the year!

JOIN NOW!



SELECTOKLAHOMA.US

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- Port Muskogee
- REI Oklahoma
- Stillwater Chamber of Commerce
- Tulsa Regional Chamber
- Union Pacific Railroad
- University of Oklahoma, Office of Innovation and Corporate Partnerships
- Wagoner County Economic Development

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Oklahoma City Convention Center, 3RD Floor



Sunday, August 25, 2024

5:00p-7:00p Happy Hour
Basin Bar, Omni Lobby
Hosted by *Oklahoma Rural Investment Fund and Retail Attractions*

Monday, August 26, 2024

9:30a 3RDFLR Registration Opens

10:15a-11:30a BLLRM Pre-Conference Legislative Session with **Kim Moore, Site Consultant**

11:45a-1:15p — **OPENING SESSION** —

BLLRM Lunch & Keynote Address **Brian Byrnes, OKC Thunder**

1:30p-2:30p — **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** —

301A Retail Incubation into Downtown Revitalization

301B Innovation in Workforce Development: Upskilling and Work-Based Learning in Oklahoma

301C Why Film Matters: A Community Perspective

301D Leading the Court: CEO Strategies for Slam-Dunking Growth and Innovation

2:45p-3:45p — **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** —

301A TIF'n with a Mission

301B Land a Slam Dunk with Your BR+E Program

301C Technology Based Economic Development: Accelerating Growth and Innovation

301D Centering Community in Economic and Community Development

4:00p-5:00p — **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** —

301A Second Chance Hiring: It's for Everyone!

301B Energy, the Environment, and Economic Development: Fireside Chat with Ken McQueen, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment

301C The Sustainable Impact of Live Music on Communities

301D Building the Next Oklahoma Economy - Lessons on Leveraging Federal Funding for Site Readiness

5:00p-7:00p 3RDFLR Networking Reception

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

7:30a-8:30a 3RDFLR Breakfast and Registration Opens

8:20a-9:30a BLLRM Breakfast Keynote Address **Jim Tull, Negotiation Training**

9:40a-10:30a — **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** —

301A Aerospace and Technology: Charting Oklahoma's Path to Innovation

301B Increasing Your Assist-to-Turnover Ratio with the Latest Tools

301C County Economic Development: Your Project's Assist Leader

301D Breaking Through the Defense: How BRE Programs Power Startup Manufacturers to Thrive in the Community

10:45a-11:45a — **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** —

301A Negotiation Theory in Practice for Economic Development

301B The Economics of Modern Surface Infrastructures

301C Small Business Incubator Panel

301D Next Wave of Innovating Economic Development: Insights from Emerging GenZ Leaders

11:45a-1:00p BLLRM Lunch, Keynote Address & Awards **Lt. Governor Pinnell**

1:15p-2:15p — **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** —

301A Workforce Development Starts with K-12: Invest in the Future Now

301B Border Queen Harvest Hub

301C Public-Private Incentives and Economic Growth Strategies

301D Harnessing Tribal Economic Development for Tourism Growth



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

The Power of Knowledge and Leadership

This event will count as a **Recognized Recertification Event** through the International Economic Development Council for those who are **Certified Economic Developers (CEcD)**. The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,500 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind.

Contact Select Oklahoma to learn how we can support you in becoming a CEcD. More about the CEcD certification at iedconline.org/CEcD.

GET TO KNOW THEM
SPEAKER BIOS



9:30 AM REGISTRATION OPENS | 3RD Floor Convention Center

GRAND BALLROOM 10:15–11:30 AM

PRE-CONFERENCE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Oklahoma's Competitive Edge: Fireside Chat with Global Site Consultant and Oklahoma State Legislators

Examine Oklahoma's position in the competitive landscape of economic development with seasoned site selection expert Kim L. Moore from Newmark's Global Strategy and Consulting Team. With over \$10.5 billion in committed investments and 28,800 new jobs created under her guidance, Kim will present on Oklahoma's current perception in the site selection industry. Gain insights into the factors influencing project decisions, the state's competitive standing, and future strategies. The session will also include a fireside chat with legislative leaders to explore the state's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for enhancing competitiveness.

PANELISTS

Kim Moore, *Site Selector, Newmark Global Strategy and Consulting*

Garrett Wright, *Economic & Business Development Director, Public Service Company of Oklahoma*
Oklahoma State Legislative Panel



11:45 AM LUNCH BUFFET OPENS

GRAND BALLROOM

OPENING SESSION | 12:00–1:15 PM

WELCOME

Charlene Flanery, *2024 Chair, Select Oklahoma*

Executive Director, Blackwell Economic Development Authority & Industrial Authority

SIGNATURE SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

Mark Funke, *President & CEO, Oklahoma Business Roundtable*



KEYNOTE

Brian Byrnes, *Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Oklahoma City Thunder*

Full Court Press: Recruiting, Retaining, and Recharging Oklahoma

The OKC Thunder has made a profound impact on our state. Byrnes will highlight how their community leadership and market expansion initiatives in 2023 have solidified Oklahoma's economic landscape. Discover how these strategic decisions will shape the state's future, extending the Thunder's influence far beyond the basketball court.



BREAK | 1:15–1:30 PM

301A 1:30–2:30 PM

Retail Incubation into Downtown Revitalization

The City of Guthrie stretched the dollars from two small grants to make a big impact in Downtown Guthrie. With the creation of The Shoppes, a downtown retail incubator and community space, Team Guthrie revitalized a space left by a lost historic building and facilitated the opening of seven new small businesses, four of which have already grown and moved into vacant storefronts in Downtown Guthrie.

■ **SPEAKER**

Shawnda Rooney, *Economic Development Director, City of Guthrie*



301B 1:30–2:30 PM

Innovation in Workforce Development: Upskilling and Work-Based Learning in Oklahoma

Dive into two key initiatives shaping Oklahoma's workforce and education. Explore how UpskillOK, a program by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE), offering flexible options for earning micro-credentials and digital badges, is making it easier for Oklahomans to gain new skills. Also covered, Work-Based Learning (WBL), a CareerTech strategy that connects businesses with educational institutions to build focused talent pipelines. This session will provide practical insights into programs available in Oklahoma that meet students where they are.

■ **SPEAKERS**

H.L. Baird, *Statewide Work-Based Learning Liaison,
Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education*

Brad Griffith, *Associate Vice Chancellor of Innovation,
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education*



301C 1:30–2:30 PM

Why Film Matters: A Community Perspective

Amid the excitement generated by Oklahoma-made films like “Twisters” and “Reagan,” this panel will highlight the significance of the film and television industry in Oklahoma. Explore how production can contribute to local workforce development, create business opportunities, and drive economic impact in communities across the state.

■ **PANELISTS**

Yousef Kazemi, *Outreach & Production Manager, Oklahoma Film + Music Office*

Jenna Roberson, *Public Information Officer, City of Yukon*

Robert Coleman, *Economic Development Director, Midwest City*

John Neal, *CEO, Neal's Furniture*

Justin Fortney, *Tourism Director, City of Guthrie*

Talia Bella, *Producer/Partner, Rebellion Films*



301D 1:30–2:30 PM**Leading the Court: CEO Strategies for Slam-Dunking Growth and Innovation**

In today's fiercely competitive business landscape, the role of a CEO is strikingly similar to that of a basketball coach driving a team toward victory. Success on the court—or in the marketplace—requires a strategic vision, the ability to inspire and motivate, and the agility to adapt to constantly shifting circumstances. However, in the world of business, the pathway to victory can be significantly bolstered by collaborating with local economic development teams. Just as a coach crafts a game plan, manages players' strengths, and makes real-time decisions to outmaneuver opponents, a CEO must navigate market complexities, understand the unique dynamics of their community, manage talent, and drive innovation to stay competitive.

■ SPEAKERS

Robert Moskal, *VP and General Manager, L3 Technologies, Aeromet*

**BREAK | 2:30–2:45 PM | Sponsored by Rausch Coleman Homes****BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2 (60MIN)****301A 2:45–3:45 PM****TIF'n with a Mission**

Tax Increment Financing is often assumed to only benefit the developer or project owner. Many Economic Developers think solely about the “development assistance” aspects of TIF while structuring TIF agreements without considering when public benefits can be negotiated in as well. Quite often the public, elected officials, and taxing entities take a negative view towards the “corporate welfare” aspect of TIF structures that divert public revenues solely to the developer. This panel will explore alternate structures for disbursing TIF dollars and highlight case studies from recent and future TIF/TID arrangements with public impacts enacted by PartnerTulsa and others.

■ SPEAKERS

Casey Stowe, *Senior Vice President of Finance and Real Estate, PartnerTulsa*

Emily Pomeroy, *President, Center for Economic Development Law*

**301B 2:45–3:45 PM****Land a Slam Dunk with Your BR+E Program**

This session will focus on strategies for business retention and expansion (BRE) as vital components of economic development. Participants will learn how proactive BR+E initiatives strengthen local economies by supporting existing businesses, fostering job growth, and encouraging reinvestment. This session will provide actionable approaches to identifying business needs, building strong community relationships, and leveraging resources to retain and expand businesses in your own communities.

■ SPEAKERS

Brien Thorstenberg, *Vice President of Economic Development, Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce*

Angie Zaricor, *Senior Director of Economic Development, Tulsa Regional Chamber*



301C 2:45–3:45 PM**Technology Based Economic Development:
Accelerating Growth and Innovation**

With a new technological revolution upon us, Oklahoma stands ready to accelerate its economic growth and innovation through technology-based economic development (TBED). This session will dive into the core tenets of TBED—innovation, knowledge economy, entrepreneurship, and workforce development—and their transformative impacts on Oklahoma. Participants will explore how to implement these principles to attract tech enterprises, support startups, commercialize new technology, and build a skilled workforce ready for a technology-driven economy. The session will detail successful state and local initiatives, research partnerships, and STEM education programs, highlighting opportunities for collaboration and replication.

■ SPEAKERS

Jennifer McGrail, *Executive Director, Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology*
Jennifer Hankins, *Managing Director, Tulsa Innovation Labs*

**301D 2:45–3:45 PM****Centering Community in Economic and Community Development**

Explore two innovative approaches driving land use, wealth building, and the preservation of community history while fostering equitable futures in the Tulsa region. This session highlights strategies for trust building, imaginative design, and community-owned governance in revitalizing historic areas. These award-winning frameworks can serve as models for other communities aiming to balance growth with historical preservation and equitable development.

■ SPEAKERS

Jonathan Butler, *Senior Vice President of Community Development, PartnerTulsa*
Meggie Froman-Knight, *Executive Director, Claremore Economic Development*

**BREAK | 3:45–4:00 PM****BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3 (60MIN)****301A 4:00–5:00 PM****Second Chance Hiring: It's for Everyone!**

Explore the business case for hiring justice-involved individuals and becoming a second-chance employer. This session covers myths and misperceptions, retention benefits, and strategies for gaining support from leadership and staff. Learn about implementing effective processes, deciding on allowable criminal charges, and partnering with community organizations. Bring your questions for an in-depth Q&A session, and discover how integrating justice-involved individuals can positively impact your company culture and success.

■ SPEAKERS

Shelley Cadamy, *Cadamy Business Consulting*



301B 4:00–5:00 PM**Energy, the Environment, and Economic Development: Fireside Chat with Ken McQueen, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment**

This discussion will cover a wide range of topics including Oklahoma's energy landscape of heritage and new energy sources, capacity and transmission, carbon sequestration and the hydrogen ecosystem, and environmental considerations for economic development such as air quality, land protection, and water resources. Following the chat, the floor will open for Q&A.

■ SPEAKERS

Wesley Seaman, *Project Manager, Oklahoma Department of Commerce*
Ken McQueen, *Oklahoma's Cabinet Secretary of Energy and Environment*

**301C 4:00–5:00 PM****The Sustainable Impact of Live Music on Communities**

This panel focuses on the benefits to cities and towns of supporting the live music industry within their communities, and how these events - when sustainably produced - can spur economic activity and added value within these regions.

■ PANELISTS

Jared Deck, *State Representative for House District 44*
Jenn Easley-Maynard, *Film and Music Production Specialist, Oklahoma Film + Music Office*
Matt Stansberry, *Entrepreneur*
K.O., *Musician*
Stacey Harness, *Community Services Director, City of Davis*
Stefanie Brickman, *Marketing and Communications Director, Visit Norman*

**301D 4:00–5:00 PM****Building the Next Oklahoma Economy
Lessons on Leveraging Federal Funding for Site Readiness**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) represent trillion dollar investments in federal economic development support that have been leveraged locally for industrial site readiness. The sites competing and winning are implementing transformative projects to support the growth of key technology areas for the next Oklahoma economy. Area leaders will share lessons from the complex work of site readiness, providing insights on how Oklahoma communities identify and leverage funding for economic growth.

■ PANELISTS

Michelle Barnett, *Senior Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development, PartnerTulsa*
Andrew Ralston, *Director of Economic Development, Tulsa Ports*
Garrett Wright, *Economic & Business Development Director, Public Service Company of Oklahoma*

**NETWORKING RECEPTION | 5:00-7:00 PM****BALLROOM PRE-FUNCTION**

Attendees are cordially invited to a networking reception co-sponsored by the Southern Economic Development Council and Select Oklahoma to celebrate SEDC Hosting their 2025 Conference in OKC!



TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024

7:30 AM REGISTRATION OPENS | 3RD Floor Convention Center
7:30–8:30 AM BREAKFAST

GRAND BALLROOM

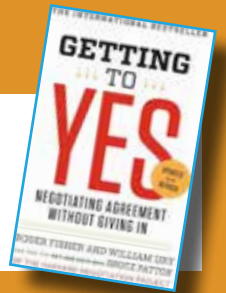
BREAKFAST KEYNOTE | 8:20-9:30 AM

Jim Tull, Partner at CMPartners, Negotiation Specialists

Negotiation: From Theory to Practice

Discover a modern negotiation framework tailored for Oklahoma's economic development landscape. Building on the groundbreaking work of Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation, as outlined in "Getting to Yes," CMPartners has transformed academic theory into practical, real-world dealmaking strategies. This keynote will explore how to refine these approaches to meet the specific needs of Oklahoma's economic development community.

Don't miss this session! The first 400 attendees to the breakfast on Tuesday morning will receive a copy of "Getting to Yes." Sponsored by Blackwell Economic Development Authority & Industrial Authority, Claremore Industrial & Economic Development Authority, and Select Oklahoma.



BREAK | 9:30–9:40 AM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 4 (50MIN)

301A 9:40–10:30 AM

Aerospace and Technology: Charting Oklahoma's Path to Innovation

Explore how Oklahoma's aviation infrastructure and aerospace industry, contributing \$44 billion annually and employing over 200,000 Oklahomans, are driving economic development. With 108 public airports across the state, including regional hubs with prime development opportunities, this session will showcase how aviation and non-aviation industries can coexist in strategic development areas. We'll discuss collaboration between local economic developers and airport professionals to optimize land use, address challenges, and position Oklahoma as a global leader in aerospace technologies. Learn actionable steps to enhance workforce development, innovation, and industrial growth.

SPEAKERS

Grayson Ardies, Executive Director, Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics
Christiana Gurgick, Director of Strategy, Infrastructure, & Economics, Guidehouse



301B 9:40–10:30 AM**Increasing Your Assist-to-Turnover Ratio with the Latest Tools**

Learn about the effective economic development tools tailored to the unique needs of suburban and rural communities. Topics will cover practical strategies and resources, including tourism promotion, retail sales tax generation, and research initiatives. Real-world examples will showcase how these tools have been applied successfully, along with methods for funding these efforts.

PANELISTS

Joe Wuest, *Chief Operations Officer, City of Glenpool*
Marcie Mack, *Executive Director, Enid Regional Development Alliance*
Heather McDowell, *Economic Development Director, Port Muskogee*
Amber Miller, *Vice President of Economic Development, Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation*

**301C 9:40–10:30****County Economic Development: Your Project's Assist Leader**

Discover how Oklahoma counties are developing economic assets and programs, impacting local and municipal efforts. Panelists will discuss strategies for securing funding and building partnerships. Led by Darla Heller from One Wagoner County, the session will cover program development, funding, and justification. Stakeholders and change-makers will gain insights on replicating successful programs. County Commissioners are encouraged to attend for ideas and best practices.

SPEAKERS

Darla Heller, *Director of Economic Development, Wagoner County Economic Development*
Jeremy Zeller, *Economic Development Director, Woods County*
Jordyn Frazier, *Assistant Vice President of External Affairs, Murray State College*

**301D 9:40–10:30 AM****Breaking Through the Defense: How Business Retention and Expansion Programs Power Startup Manufacturers to Thrive in the Community**

Startup manufacturers face challenges like supply chain disruptions, regulatory hurdles, and fierce competition. Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) programs, along with Oklahoma's incentives such as tax credits and workforce development, offer crucial support. By providing financial assistance, technical resources, and networking, these programs help startups overcome barriers, secure funding, and expand. Discover success stories from Oklahoma communities that have effectively leveraged these strategies to drive growth in their manufacturing sectors.

SPEAKERS

Kenneth Statton, *President & CEO, MST Manufacturing*

**BREAK | 10:30–10:45 AM**

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 5 (60MIN)

301A 10:45-11:45 AM

Negotiation Theory in Practice for Economic Development

This interactive panel will delve into the intricacies of Negotiation Theory and its practical application in Oklahoma's economic development landscape. Keynote speaker Jim Tull will initiate the discussion by introducing innovative mental models employed by seasoned negotiators to excel in complex, multi-party negotiations. Attendees will actively participate in exercises to apply these models to their real-world challenges. The panel will then explore concrete examples of negotiation strategies used in successful economic development projects within the state.

■ **SPEAKERS**

Jim Tull, *Partner at CMPartners, Negotiation Specialists*

Kian Kamas, *CEO and Owner, Valorem Public Private*

Garrett Wright, *Economic & Business Development Director,
Public Service Company of Oklahoma*



301B 10:45-11:45 AM

The Economics of Modern Surface Infrastructures

Explore the significant economic development impacts of a modern surface transportation system on a state's economy. By providing a platform for experts, policymakers, and industry leaders, we will delve into how advanced infrastructure fosters business growth, attracts investment, and enhances regional competitiveness. Attendees will gain insights into the economic benefits of efficient transportation networks, including job creation, increased productivity, and the promotion of sustainable development, positioning Oklahoma for long-term prosperity.

■ **SPEAKERS**

John Cox, *Communications Director, TRUST*

Transportation Revenues Used Strictly for Transportation (T.R.U.S.T.) Panel



301C 10:45-11:45 PM

Small Business Incubator Panel – State Certified Incubators

State Certified Incubators provide essential support for startups, offering affordable space, mentoring, and access to expert business advisors in areas like finance, legal, and marketing. Sponsored by various organizations, these incubators foster a collaborative environment, enhancing the success of new businesses. Tenants may benefit from up to 10 years of state income tax exemption. With a proven track record of nurturing viable, job-creating companies, these incubators are vital to economic growth.

■ **PANELISTS**

Cathy Curtis, *Small Business Incubators / Women-owned Business Certifications,
Oklahoma Department of Commerce*

Brad Rickelman, *Assistant Director of Business and Entrepreneurial Services,
Meridian Technology Center*

Cara Evans, *Director of AXIS, Francis Tuttle Technology Center*

Kristin Garcia, *Executive Director, The Verge OKC*



301D 10:45-11:45

Next Wave of Innovating Economic Development: Insights from Emerging GenZ Leaders

A panel of Gen Z economic development professionals will share how their values of inclusion, sustainability, and technology shape their approach. Discover actionable strategies for leveraging digital tools, fostering inclusive ecosystems, and implementing sustainable practices. Aligning with the theme “Shaping the Future of Economic Growth,” this session will provide insights into mentoring, adapting to emerging talent, and encouraging cross-generational collaboration. Learn from real-world examples, audience Q&A, and recent studies on Gen Z priorities in economic development.

■ PANELISTS

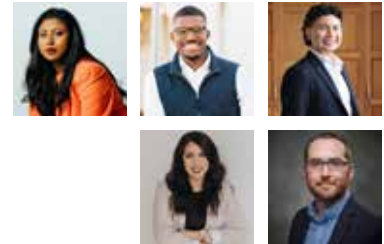
Srijita Ghosh, *Venture Advisor, i2E*

JD Baker, *Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Director, Northeast OKC Renaissance*

Daniel Castañeda, *Economic Development Specialist, Ada Jobs Foundation*

Daisy Muñoz, *Project Manager, Alliance for Economic Development*

Andrew Ralston, *Director of Economic Development, Tulsa Ports*



11:45 AM LUNCH BUFFET OPENS

GRAND BALLROOM

LUNCH KEYNOTE & AWARDS | 12:00-1:00 PM

Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN OKLAHOMA

Join us for an inspiring luncheon keynote from Lt Governor Pinnell on igniting economic growth and innovation in Oklahoma. Discover how we can collectively support our state’s journey forward. Be prepared to leave inspired and equipped to contribute to Oklahoma’s thriving economy.



ROLL OF HONOR AWARDS

Presented to retiring economic developers who have significantly contributed to the State’s economic development efforts during their careers.

BREAK | 1:00–1:15 PM



Conference on Economic Development (CED) HUB

Elevate your conference experience with the CED Hub, your go-to pocket web app. This mobile-friendly site features a comprehensive schedule, detailed speaker bios, powerful networking tools, and much more. Easily install it on your desktop or mobile device today and stay connected wherever you are!



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 6 (45MIN)

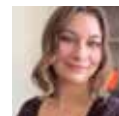
301A 1:15-2:15 PM

Workforce Development Starts with K-12: Invest in the Future Now

To address the increasing demand for college and career readiness, Oklahoma launched the Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) in 2019. The journey continues and our students need your guidance. Learn more about the foundations of ICAP and the core of career exploration, work-based learning. Meaningful work-based learning opportunities cannot exist without the input of industry leaders and local employers. Understand why you should be involved in shaping the success of the next generation of workforce.

■ **SPEAKERS**

Meredith Dennis, *College and Career Readiness Specialist,
Oklahoma State Department of Education*



301B 1:15-2:15 PM

Border Queen Harvest Hub

Discover the Border Queen Harvest Hub, a groundbreaking initiative merging digital and physical systems to enhance sustainable agriculture and local economies. This hub supports local farms, promotes transparency with a digital supply chain map, and builds local pride through its branding. Learn how this model breaks down industry silos, fosters regional collaboration, and revitalizes rural economies. By connecting producers with consumers, the Harvest Hub boosts food security, creates jobs, and strengthens local food systems. Explore how such initiatives drive economic growth and community resilience.

■ **SPEAKERS**

Stacy Davis, *Economic Development Director,
Sumner County Economic Development Commission*
Rick McNary, *Founder, Shop Kansas Farms*



301C 1:15-2:15 PM

Public-Private Incentives and Economic Growth Strategies (ODOC)

The Oklahoma Finance Authorities invite applications for the Public-Private Partnership (P3) program, designed to boost local infrastructure and regional economic growth. This session will cover funding opportunities for critical infrastructure projects, including incentives from the Oklahoma Innovative Expansion Program and Business Expansion Programs. Learn about innovative, collaborative approaches to infrastructure development and explore funding options to advance local economic initiatives. Join us to discover partnership opportunities and support for your community's growth.

■ **SPEAKERS**

Aldwyn Sappleton, *Deputy Director Research & Economic Analysis,
Oklahoma Department of Commerce*
Jeremy Stoner, *Senior Vice President, Oklahoma Finance Authorities*
Jody Harris, *Business Development, Oklahoma Finance Authorities*
Gary Jones, *City Manager, City of Altus*



301D 1:15–2:15 PM**Harnessing Tribal Economic Development for Tourism Growth**

Harnessing tribal economic development is key to boosting tourism growth and has significantly impacted Oklahoma. The Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation have played pivotal roles in this success by leveraging their assets and cultural heritage to drive tourism, enhance community benefits, and foster sustainable economic development. Panelists from these nations will share insights on how their initiatives have contributed to this growth and offer strategies for integrating tribal efforts into broader tourism plans.

SPEAKERS

Travis Owens, *VP of Cultural Tourism, Cherokee Nation Businesses*

Dr. Paige Williams Shepherd, *Director of Corporate Development & Tourism, Chickasaw Nation*

Jo McDaniel, *Tourism Manager, Choctaw Nation*

Andy McMillan, *Director of Economic Development & Special Projects, Cherokee Nation Businesses*

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

SAVE THE DATE
August 10-12, 2025

In place of hosting the Select Oklahoma Conference next year we will be partnering with the Southern Economic Development Council on their 2025 SEDC Conference.

More information to come!



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT 75 YEARS OF *advancing Oklahoma's construction industry*



After 75 years, Nabholz is proud to say our name is still synonymous with integrity. Our company has grown to include over 1,600 team members whose hard work has cemented our reputation in the construction industry.

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