

August 27, 2024  
Select Oklahoma Conference

# State Certified Incubators



OKLAHOMA  
Commerce



# Panelists

- **Cara Evans**  
AXIS at Francis Tuttle Incubator  
Edmond, Okla.
- **Kristin Garcia**  
The VERGE Entrepreneurship Hub  
Oklahoma City, Okla.
- **Brad Rickelman**  
Meridian Technology Center Business Incubator  
Stillwater, Okla. and Guthrie, Okla.
- **Cathy Curtis**  
Oklahoma Department of Commerce  
State Certified Incubator Program

# Characteristics of Model Business Incubation Programs

## Commit

to business incubation's two core principles

## Obtain

consensus on a mission that defines the incubator's role in the community, then develop a strategic plan containing quantifiable objectives to achieve that mission

## Structure

the program for financial sustainability by developing and implementing a realistic business plan

## Recruit

and appropriately compensate management capable of achieving the incubator's mission and helping companies grow

## Build

an effective board of directors committed to the incubator's mission and to maximizing management's role in developing successful companies

## Prioritize

management time to place the greatest emphasis on client assistance, including proactive advising and guidance that results in company success and wealth creation

## Develop

an incubator facility, resources, methods and tools that contribute to the effective delivery of business assistance to client firms, as well as address each company's developmental needs

## Develop

stakeholder support, including a resource network, that helps the incubation program's client companies and supports the incubator's mission and operations

## Maintain

a management information system and collect statistics and other information necessary for ongoing program evaluation, thus improving effectiveness and allowing the program to evolve with clients' needs

# The Best Incubators Provide:

- **Flexible space and leases**
- **Office services and equipment**
- **An on-side incubator manager as a resource for business advice**
- **Exposure to a network of outside business and technical consultants, often providing accounting, marketing, engineering and legal advice**
- **Assistance with marketing**
- **Assistance with financing**

# Oklahoma Certified Incubators Map

 Number of incubators in the area



# State Certified Incubator Locations List

## **Bartlesville**

Tri-County Tech

## **Cushing**

Central Oklahoma Business &  
Job Development Corp

## **Duncan**

Duncan Center for Business Development

## **Drumright (2)**

Central Oklahoma Business &  
Job Development Corp

## **Edmond**

AXIS at Francis Tuttle

## **Enid**

Strate Center for Business Development

## **Guthrie**

Meridian Technology Center –  
The Peak

## **Guymon**

Artist Incubation, Inc.

## **Lawton**

Great Plains Technology Center

## **Midwest City**

Rose State College Aerospace  
and Cybersecurity Incubator

## **Norman**

Startup 405

## **Oklahoma City (5)**

Acorn Growth Companies

Project 3810

The Verge

LX Studio Business Incubator

Sailor & The Dock

## **Pawhuska**

Pawhuska Business Development Center

## **Ponca City**

Pioneer Technology Center Business  
Incubator

## **Sand Springs**

The LINK

## **Seminole**

Seminole Business Development Center

## **Stillwater (2)**

Meridian Technology Center for Business  
Development

Riata Startup Experience (OSU)

## **Tonkawa**

Tonkawa Business Incubator

## **Tulsa (3)**

Hemphill Create

The Forge

36 Degrees North

# Oklahoma Incubator Program Growth 2023 Report



**405**

full time jobs, 107 part time jobs and 25 interns are provided by incubator tenants



**25**

certified incubators are operating in Oklahoma



**147**

small businesses are currently leasing space in Oklahoma's certified incubators



**1,000+**

More than 1,000 small businesses have located in small business incubators



**300+**

More than 300 small businesses have graduated from the program



**1,080**

people currently employed by 246 of the graduated businesses in the state



**\$27,890,810**

Incubator managers reported the total payroll for 2023 tenants at \$27,890,810 with additional payments of \$11,115,266 to subcontractors.

# Thank You!

For more information, visit:  
[OKcommerce.gov/incubators](http://OKcommerce.gov/incubators)



Contact:

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Small Business Incubators / Women-owned

Business Certifications

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