



**Oklahoma Innovation**  
I N S T I T U T E

***COMMUNITY PARTNERS  
ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW***

***June 2015***

# OKLAHOMA INNOVATION INSTITUTE UPDATE

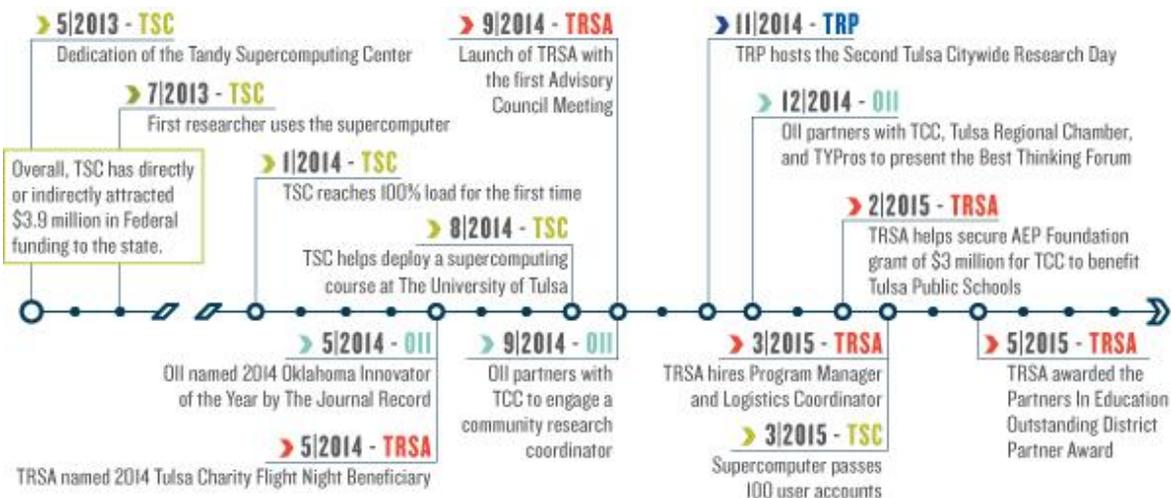
## HISTORY

In late 2006, Tulsa embarked on an innovative, citizen-based bottoms-up planning process called Step Up Tulsa! – a community dialogue resulting in bold goals to improve the Tulsa region in the areas of education, health and economic development. The Tulsa Community Foundation (TCF), in cooperation with local community funders, initiated this citizen-based planning process. As a result of this planning, an economic development taskforce was formed and recommended the establishment of the Oklahoma Innovation Institute (OII) to serve as the home for the creation and implementation of multiple programs to ensure collaborative research and other actions furthering economic development of the region. The unifying objective for this taskforce was the understanding of the importance of this type of forward thinking to the future of Tulsa as the City of Innovation and to assume its position as a leader among 21<sup>st</sup> Century communities.

The Oklahoma Innovation Institute (OII) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation committed to building an innovative economy in the Tulsa region with the central theme of “**Research to High Impact Jobs**”. The Institute fosters collaborative research and development, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education, entrepreneurship, company creation and retention, life-long learning and creative, future-oriented thinking. These objectives are driven by private sector, government, education and philanthropic partnerships through the following OII initiatives: the Tulsa Research Partners, the Tandy Supercomputing Center, the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance, the Best Thinking Forum, the Entrepreneurship Center and the Community Innovation Fund.



Throughout the first two years of operations, the Oklahoma Innovation Institute has continued to grow in both personnel and programmatic support. Since May of 2014, OII and its programs have had approximately 50 media stories. Over 20 stories covering OII have been reported on television or posted to the internet with 20 more stories being printed in multiple papers and magazines across Oklahoma. In recognition of the work that OII and its staff have accomplished, the Oklahoma Innovation Institute was awarded the Journal Record 2014 overall Innovator of the Year Award for its work on the Tandy Supercomputing Center project. In addition, OII’s Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (TRSA) program has enjoyed national exposure as a US2020 Innovative STEM city and was recently awarded the 2015 Partners in Education (PIE) Outstanding District Partner award. These are just a few examples of the progress OII has made over the last year and we will continue to develop and pursue the new and existing programs. The timeline below highlights targeted accomplishments OII and its programs.



## TULSA RESEARCH PARTNERS

Tulsa Research Partners (TRP) is an historic research collaboration and sharing of resources among four major higher education institutions: The University of Tulsa, OSU-Tulsa, OU-Tulsa and Tulsa Community College. The Oklahoma Innovation Institute (OII) will continue to grow staffing and researcher support for grant identification and research matching, technology transfer, commercialization and market identification leading to the creation of capital formation resources for emerging growth companies in the Tulsa region.

### Community Technology Transfer and Commercialization

In alignment with OII's strategic plan, the TRP Community Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization has made progress and is currently working with its members to create an effective community model. OII will continue in its role of convener and facilitator and focus on new ways to accelerate the transfer of technology research from all TRP members in a timely and sophisticated manner. The community transfer office will be designed to help expedite the unusual and dramatic opportunities arising out of TRP and the corporate research base of scientists and entrepreneurs in our region. This technology maturation process will be supplemented by the extraordinary scientific resource tool in the Tandy Community Supercomputer.

### Partnership to Retain New Community Research Coordinator

In September 2014, in concert with Tulsa Community College, the Oklahoma Innovation Institute retained a community research coordinator to help unite Tulsa's research facilities and staff to tackle grand, cross-disciplinary challenges in research, education, and workforce development using resources like the Tandy Community Supercomputer to attract new research funding to Oklahoma.

### Community Project - Oklahoma Health Prediction Center

The Oklahoma Innovation Institute's role as a neutral convener and facilitator of community opportunities for our region has recently led to a unique opportunity for Tulsa. In late 2014, Intel Corporation initiated a conversation with OII regarding a new project: the creation of a community-wide test bed for next generation gene sequencing in healthcare for Tulsa. This community opportunity has evolved into a proposed Oklahoma Health Prediction Center, leveraging the Tulsa Research Partners, Tandy Supercomputing Center, MyHealth Access Network, Laureate Institute for Brain Research, the City of Tulsa and others. The proposal centers on the development of a regional health information exchange that brings cancer risk genomic information to clinician's desktops such that they can predict cancer and modify cancer screening protocols and cancer prevention interventions for those at the highest risk of developing treatable cancers. In doing so, death rates and morbidity from cancer in Oklahoma will improve. At the same time, Oklahoma would become a national leader and position itself for job growth in the rapidly emerging industries of personalized medicine and Big Data. The proposed program is currently chaired by Dr. Gerald Clancy and will be managed by OII's Tulsa Research Partners.

### Tulsa Research Day 2014

To further facilitate collaboration, TRP hosted its annual Tulsa Citywide Research Day in November 2014. Tulsa Research Day is a free, daylong conference for Oklahoma academic and private sector researchers to share their work with others in the Tulsa community. This year's theme was STEMulating Connections, highlighting work in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math and tying into the recently launched Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (TRSA) through their new Tulsa Research Kids program. The conference had over 120 in attendance and featured research presentations and posters by area research faculty, scientists, and graduate students. In addition, through our Tulsa Research Kids program multiple high school students and one elementary school student presented research posters while one high school student presented her research project in the afternoon session.

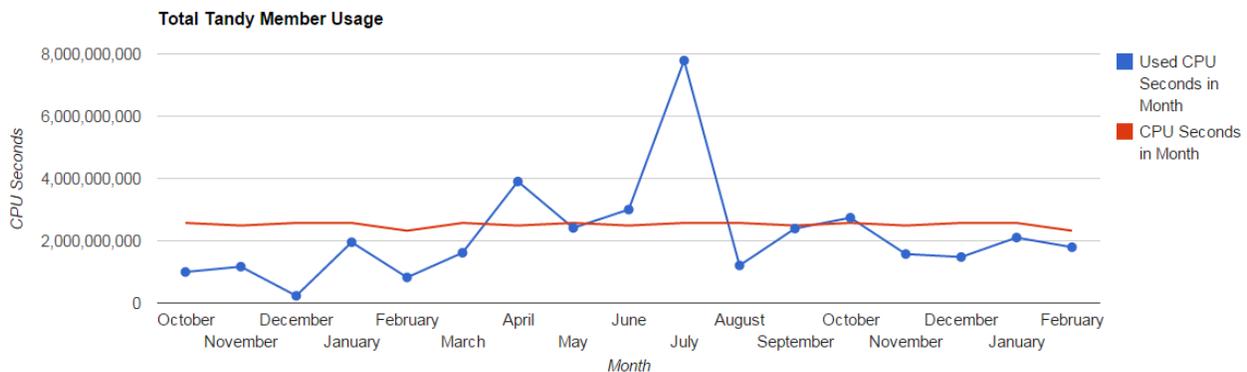
## TANDY SUPERCOMPUTING CENTER

The Tandy Supercomputing Center (TSC) offers the nation's first community supercomputer, providing access to academic, corporate, government and entrepreneurial growth companies needing high performance computational capabilities. High performance computing increases the efficiency of research while decreasing the time it takes to transition products to market. The result is a competitive advantage in the development of new technologies, commercially viable products and new company formations.

Since officially opening its doors in late 2013, the TSC has achieved successes in serving the research, business, and entrepreneurial communities of Tulsa. Through supporting grant proposals, serving as advisors, and directly applying for funding, to date TSC has helped attract over \$3.9 million dollars in grant funding to the State of Oklahoma. By attracting significant federal research dollars, helping recruit new faculty and companies, building shared resources and new collaborations, supporting private R&D, and leveraging other community resources, the Tandy Supercomputing Center's first 2 years of operation have been a success.

### Supercomputer Member Utilization

The Tandy Supercomputing Center's (TSC) activities since opening its doors in late 2013 have served dozens of individual academic users from TU, OSU-Tulsa, OU-Tulsa and TCC, as well as a number of entrepreneurs and small business enterprises. Currently TSC serves approximately 100 individual users from our member organizations, representing at least 20 different faculty members' research groups. More users are added weekly, with at least 2 confirmed new research groups expected to begin use over the next month. We anticipate the user count could pass 150 by the end of the year.



The graph above indicates an approximately 95% average membership node utilization rate of the system during our latest academic year. These statistics have indicated to existing member organizations the immediate need for compute node expansion which led to the University of Tulsa's recent purchase of an additional 10 nodes. With the implementation of the TSC business development plan and the addition of new community members, Tandy's compute node count and usage is projected to increase significantly in 2015-2016.

### Accelerating Research

In its first real world test by an academic researcher from Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, Dr. Brek Wilkins achieved nearly a 100-fold increase in the performance of his research software: from over five hours to less than five minutes for his work in predicting heart attacks.

Since then, TSC has helped improve work from months to weeks and weeks to days at TU, OSU-Tulsa, and OU-Tulsa in a dozen different disciplines, with new users and projects every week. New supercomputer-enabled educational opportunities have begun in manufacturing, computer science, arts, and biotechnology abound at TCC. The University of Tulsa is already using the supercomputer as a recruitment tool to attract high caliber new faculty, most recently in physics.

## Powering Economic Growth

TSC is one of the few centers in the country available to private sector membership, helping Tulsa companies get ahead of the curve in research and development, manufacturing, and data analytics. Companies turn to supercomputers when a problem is too small, too large, too fast, too slow, too dangerous, or too expensive to work on directly – from predicting storms or crash-testing vehicles to developing new drugs.

The supercomputing center has provided free services to 10 companies in the form of advice and technology proofs of concept. TSC is now actively pursuing additional companies interested in pilot programs or proofs of concept with the goal of recruiting private sector members to the center.

Free access to the supercomputer is also available for entrepreneurs and early-stage companies.

*Through a newly-forged collaboration with the Hardesty Center for Fab Lab Tulsa, Tulsa's Fab Lab is poised to be the first lab that offers its members use of a supercomputer to help design and test their projects.*

## Statewide Collaborations

In late 2013, the National Science Foundation awarded OU, OSU, Langston University, OneNet, and OII a \$500,000 grant to construct the OneOklahoma Friction-Free Network (OFFN, pronounced “often”). As one of the first in the country, OFFN is a high-speed research network and “Science DMZ” dedicated to moving large data sets quickly between the supercomputers in the state and enhancing multi-institution collaborations. In partnership with the City of Tulsa, OneNet laid new fiber optic cabling to OII’s site at City Hall. This connectivity has already increased TSC’s connection speeds to its members by a factor of 30, and also provides a new, fast Internet connection to the City of Tulsa at no charge. The deployment of the remainder of the network is expected to take place over summer and fall of 2015.

In November 2014, Oklahoma was well-represented at the SC14 Supercomputing conference. In collaboration with the Great Plains Network, OII/TSC shared a collaborative exhibit space with OU, OSU, Langston University, UCO, OneNet, and the rest of the OneOklahoma Cyberinfrastructure Initiative. Through activities like these, OII is helping support Oklahoma’s growing reputation as a state of strong collaboration.

## New Business Development Capability

In pursuit of the Tandy Supercomputing Center’s business development goals to expand membership, OII hired a new Business Development Executive in the first quarter of 2015. This individual is tasked with attracting a commercial base of users from corporations, public and governmental agencies, the private sector, small business, academia, and emerging growth companies. He is responsible for OII’s overall business development but in 2015 is focused on growing the supercomputing center. In support of these efforts, TSC has developed new subscription based membership agreements for the private sector as well as academic use.

## Building Academic Partnerships

Tulsa Community College has hired a new computing faculty member who is tasked with bringing supercomputer use into his classes. OII is excited to begin this project in the fall semester of 2015. In addition, initial meetings with representatives from Oral Roberts University have proceeded positively, and it is likely that ORU will join the Tandy Supercomputing Center as a member in 2015. TSC continues to support major research projects at OSU-Tulsa, primarily in materials science and aerospace engineering; and at OU-Tulsa in electrical and computer engineering, including a new major study of wireless interference between medical devices in hospital settings.

To support its quickly expanding supercomputing use in growing numbers of departments and labs, The University of Tulsa (TU) significantly expanded its stake in the Tandy Community Supercomputer with a new \$150,000 investment, allowing TU researchers to do more computational work in support of their research. TU also leveraged the Tandy Supercomputing Center to help recruit new faculty, providing dedicated access to a portion of the system as the startup package for a new physics professor. Also at TU, TSC helped a Computer Science professor leverage a donation of servers by the Wikimedia Foundation (Wikipedia) by supporting the development and deployment of a supercomputing class in which students, primarily undergraduates, built and operated their own miniature supercomputers using the same tools in use at TSC.

### **Tandy Supercomputing Center Fellowship**

An important mission of the Oklahoma Innovation Institute is to seed the Tulsa region with technology-based companies, create high impact jobs, expand the depth and breadth of the computational sciences and engineering workforce, and to improve the Tulsa economy. To further that mission, the Oklahoma Innovation Institute has offered research fellowships through the Tandy Supercomputing Center, a division of TRP, to graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in science and engineering fields that have a need for high performance computing to advance research that has the potential for significant commercialization opportunities.

The Tandy Supercomputing Center Fellowship (TSCF) program comprises a graduate program of study, an 8-week practicum in research counseling and entrepreneurial training, and research presentations at the annual Tulsa Research Partners conference and fellowship symposium. A relationship has been created with Stanford University involving a Tulsa student in a research and mentoring program with the plan of commercializing this research based technology in the Tulsa region.

The current recipient of the TSC Fellowship completed his practicum in late summer of 2014 by splitting his time between the Tandy Supercomputing Center, developing research tools on the Tandy Supercomputer, and Peritus Resource Group, an early-stage energy services company, to gain entrepreneurial experience. He recently completed his qualifying exams and is currently pursuing his research interest and is enrolled in a program in inverse methods.

## TULSA REGIONAL STEM ALLIANCE

OII will continue to grow the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (TRSA) which positions OII as a neutral convener and facilitator of a collaborative alliance of over 80 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) organizations throughout the state to share resources and to substantially impact the effective delivery of STEM education and programs throughout our region. TRSA is quickly becoming a local, regional, and even national leader by focusing on effective communication, persistent calculation of impact, relentless collaboration, and tireless cultivation of the STEM ecosystem. The alliance has made remarkable strides in coalition building over the past year and is convinced that a shared vision under the OII umbrella, with a dedicated TRSA staff supporting the mission of the alliance members, will be a successful collaborative role model for the region and beyond.

In March 2015, the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance was fortunate to bring on additional staff to help accomplish the vision and goals of TRSA. Jaisy Myers is working as Program Manager while Michelle Moore is serving as Logistics Coordinator. These two additions are enabling TRSA to effectively scale and support STEM programming in the Tulsa region.

With the wonderful support of the philanthropic and corporate community, TRSA is proud to have two Williams employees co-chair the Advisory Council: Alison Anthony, President of the Williams Foundation and Director of Strategic Outreach, and Cherie Humphries, Vice President and General Manager of NGL Services. As co-chairs, Alison and Cherie will help drive a separate capital campaign for the TRSA backbone organization supported by the philanthropic and corporate community.

### Tulsa Charity Flight Night

The Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (TRSA) was selected as a beneficiary for the Tulsa Charity Flight Night in September 2014 and received approximately \$150,000 in STEM programming support. This funding is empowering TRSA to impact more than 10,000 students in STEM events and over 1,500 students in STEM mentorship during 2015. In addition, more 500 educators will receive STEM professional development during 2015 due to the outstanding support of TRSA partners and Alliance members. Based on this year's success, the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance was again selected as a beneficiary for the 2015 Tulsa Charity Flight Night.

### Harvard Program in Education Afterschool & Resiliency (PEAR)

Thanks to the remarkable progress of TRSA and its Alliance members in STEM education, TRSA was invited, along with STEM communities in Boston, MA and Austin, TX to participate in a pilot with Harvard University's PEAR initiative. This program will provide the opportunity for 10 TRSA programs to measure the impact of STEM outreach in their organization and have those measurements compiled in a national study on the work of various STEM organizations around the country. Dr. Chan Helman with OU-Tulsa is also participating in the PEAR study at the local level and will provide expert analysis to local STEM organizations on the PEAR findings. Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation is generously funding TRSA's participation in the Harvard PEAR study.

*"I don't think you really understand what a difference you are making in our schools. We do not have the time, expertise, or connections to facilitate partnerships like these. You are doing the things that are not in our wheelhouse, like fundraising and navigating business partnerships, to bring us exciting opportunities that would be otherwise out of our reach.*

*We are not used to getting this level of support and engagement from a partner. We now see you as one of us.*

*Your efforts are transforming schools, kids, teachers, and our community. It is the epitome of work worth doing."*

- Dr. Kathy Dodd  
Associate  
Superintendent at  
Union Public Schools

## Me & My Math Mentor

The Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance created a new mentoring program called Me & My Math Mentor (M<sup>4</sup>) that targets increasing student's proficiency in math facts. This year four pilot programs were started at Moore Elementary School, KIPP Tulsa Academy, Sequoyah Elementary School, and Celia Clinton Elementary School. Across these four schools, 74 students were mentored by 35 STEM professional mentors, who came from Williams, Baker Hughes, and OSU Medical Center. By mentoring students just 30 minutes a week before or after school, these heroes changed lives! Currently TRSA is working to formalize a new M<sup>4</sup> partnership between Kendall-Whittier and Tulsa Opera.

## Me & My Math Mentor - Data from Moore Elementary School Pilot Program

### Quantitative

- Total of 18 participated
- 14/15 students had an overall growth in their scaled score on the STAR Math Assessment
  - 3 students did not have a baseline score
- District CRT Tests Results (4 questions focused on fluent multiplication within 100):
  - 18 students mastered their addition and subtraction facts
  - 18 students have mastered some of their multiplication facts
  - 15/18 students increased their overall independent reading level; at least 1 level throughout the time they worked with the Math mentors

### Qualitative

- All students report an overall increase in their confidence in math
- Almost all students show up each week before school to work on their math facts!
- Students in Math Mentors had 100% attendance on M<sup>4</sup> days

## Local, State, and National Partnerships

As the TRSA dynamic mesh network matures, Tulsa is emerging as a leader in STEM education. This work is in large part due to strong partnerships at the national, state, regional, and local levels. On the national front, TRSA is leading the charge as a US2020 City Network member. We are also working with the Orange County STEM Alliance as well as the STEM Funders Network to establish protocols for building STEM ecosystems across the country. TRSA is working with Million Women Mentors and Harvard PEAR, as well as Imagine Science in furthering STEM education and mentorship at the national level. Regionally, TRSA is working with HouSTEM to build its STEM alliance in partnership with Williams, the City of Houston, and Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM. On the state level, TRSA has applied and been recommended for the STEM Community Designation which should come to fruition in the fall of 2015. As part of this statewide work, TRSA is partnering with OKC / Edmond, Shawnee, Lawton, and Duncan to build their STEM alliances. Finally, TRSA is viable because of the strong local partnerships reflected in our 80 Alliance members and 50+ Advisory Council members. Two emerging partnerships that are showing a great deal of promise are with CAP Tulsa and Impact! Tulsa. TRSA is thrilled to partner with such innovative organizations to begin STEM education in pre-school and work together across the region to measure the impact of the work we are about. Tulsa is a city of generous doers and that spirit is alive and well in TRSA.

## Sponsored STEM Workshops and Events

The Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance has established a 2015 goal of providing 20,000 STEM programming hours, 4,000 professional development hours, and 15,000 mentorship hours. As of June 2015, TRSA is over halfway to our goals by providing approximately 14,000 STEM programming hours, 3,000 professional development hours, and 9,000 mentorship hours.

Over the past year, TRSA engaged students and educators in a series of more than 100 high-quality, often multi-session events designed to inspire the next generation of innovators. Some of the highlight events included:

- Builders Club
- STEM Exploratorium
- Citywide Kite Festival
- Tulsa Research Kids
- STEM PD – Pawhuska
- USNA PD – Henryetta
- USNA PD – Tulsa
- Me & My Math Mentor (M<sup>4</sup>)
- Women In STEM
- Engineer Signing Day
- Sonia Kovalevsky Day
- Cookie Construction
- Engineer Games
- USNA STEM Outreach
- TCC Engineering Club
- FIRST Robotics
- Scale Model Gingerbread Contest
- You're Kind of a Big Deal Banquet
- Quadcopter Teacher Institute
- STEMX
- Cardboard & Duct Tape Boat Regatta

### Citywide Kite Festival

Thanks to generous sponsorship of Flight Night, Williams, and Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation as well as passionate partners like Junior Achievement, John Hope Franklin Center, Tulsa City-County Library, NORDAM, American Airlines, Greatest Stories Never Told, Union Public Schools, Broken Arrow Public Schools, Tulsa Public Schools, Tulsa International Airport and the Arts & Humanities Council, TRSA was honored to lead a first of its kind, Citywide Kite Festival. Hundreds of Green Country teachers received a week long lesson plan that empowered them to teach a daily STEM lesson that was based on kites. More than 3,100 students built kites, over 20 classes had three to four visits from aerospace professionals, and approximately 300 students and teachers gathered on Guthrie Green for a community kite flying event.

### USNA STEM Outreach

Leveraging key relationships with faculty at the United States Naval Academy (USNA) in Annapolis, MD, TRSA brought teams of faculty and midshipmen from USNA to do STEM professional development as well as STEM outreach to more than 50 educators and over 300 elementary students through two separate visits this spring. The USNA STEM Outreach Center is continuing to work with TRSA and collaborating on a NOAA USNA SeaPerch Workshop & Event for late October 2015.

### STEM Summer Camps 2015

During the summer of 2015, the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance is hosting 13 STEM camps for students and 3 professional development workshops for educators in the Tulsa area. In all, these summer STEM opportunities will reach 350 students and 120 educators with engaging educational enrichment.

- Builders Camp
- Tech Trek Tulsa
- Camp T-Square
- Co-ed Coding Camp
- Skateboard Camp (2 sessions)
- DNA STEM PD
- OCIC PD (2 sessions)
- CSI Camp
- Quadcopter Camp (2 sessions)
- TCC Aviation Academy
- Girls Coding Camp
- Summer Engineering Camp

## TRSA Advisory Council

The TRSA Advisory Council is made up of approximately 60 members, representing businesses, organizations, education, government and nonprofit organizations. Members are self-identified and serve for a minimum of two years. It is understood that Council members are responsible for maintaining a productive working relationship with the TRSA.

- Ambler Architects
- American Airlines
- Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa
- APSCO
- Baker Hughes
- Bama Companies
- Booker T. Washington High School
- Broken Arrow Public Schools
- Camp Fire Green Country
- Cancer Treatment Centers of America
- Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation
- Forest for the Trees
- Jenks Public Schools
- John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation
- Junior Achievement of Oklahoma
- KIPP Tulsa
- Matrix Service Company
- Miss Helen's Private School
- Muncie Power
- Muscogee Creek Nation
- NORDAM
- Oklahoma Innovation Institute
- Oklahoma State Department of Education
- OSU – Tulsa
- Osage County Interlocal Cooperative
- Osage Nation
- OU – Tulsa
- Project Lead The Way
- Society of Exploration Geophysicists
- Standard Testing and Engineering
- STARBASE Oklahoma
- Tandy Supercomputing Center
- T.D. Williamson
- Teach for America
- The University of Tulsa
- Tulsa Air and Space Museum & Planetarium
- Tulsa Chamber of Commerce
- Tulsa Children's Museums Discovery Lab
- Tulsa City-County Library
- Tulsa Community College
- Tulsa Community Foundation
- Tulsa Engineering Foundation
- Tulsa Opera
- Tulsa Public Schools
- Tulsa Symphony
- Tulsa Technology Center
- Union Public Schools
- Williams Companies
- YMCA Tulsa

## BEST THINKING FORUM

The Best Thinking Forum modeled after the Aspen Institute provides a safe, calm harbor for civil and deliberative dialogue in order to timely confront the pressing issues of the day. Over a period of several years, the discussions of regionalization and the change in demographics of the region have been in the forefront of some of the challenges facing our citizenry.

The Best Thinking Forum has been asked to collaborate with the regional community for a discussion of best thinking on a regional and national basis. Bringing together leaders in business, education, philanthropic foundations, government, religious and social service agencies for a rational and civil discourse on our future. All of these key leaders will be a part of this significant undertaking while our speakers will come from the battle lines of achievement of this type of dream.

The Oklahoma Innovation Institute is pleased to work closely with our community and regional partners in this exciting project. Dr. Gerry Clancy, Phil Dessauer, Larry Wofford, Susan Neal and Lauren Brookey in addition to Tulsa Community College, Tulsa Regional Chamber, INCOG and TYPros have worked together to offer our second OII Best Thinking Forum on December 12, 2014. This forum was attended by over 120 community leaders and facilitated a candid discussion on the changed demographics of the Tulsa region, progress of our regional communities, challenges we face in the future, and the collective action needed to continue our success. It featured a keynote presentation from Carol Coletta with the Knight Foundation who is an expert on the development of cities.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER

The Entrepreneurship Center is part of OII's phase 2 implementation plan and focuses on leveraging existing entrepreneurial resources and filling identified gaps by providing education, training, promotion and networking to the research and entrepreneurial communities, including entrepreneurs, investors and children. The Center's objective is to support, retain and to build emerging growth companies in the Tulsa region and create and encourage a business climate of innovation and entrepreneurial activity. While other community organizations are planning to address many of the needs of Tulsa entrepreneurs, we believe there is still a significant gap for very early stage companies and entrepreneurs needing to receive specific, start-up focused entrepreneur-to-entrepreneur training and mentorship as well as inexpensive (or free) temporary workspace. With this in mind, OII has actively been working toward a contract relationship with an established, successful accelerator program that could fill this gap for Tulsa. Our mission is to eliminate silo driven agencies and ensure collaboration is the byword of the future. As a result, all of our programs will be collaboratively driven with other like-minded service providers.

## COMMUNITY INNOVATION FUND

The Community Innovation Fund is part of OII's phase 2 implementation plan and is designed to be a private investment/angel fund that will focus on providing growth capital for entrepreneurial opportunities generated from the Tulsa region and the State of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Innovation Institute will facilitate the creation of this fund which is designed to provide equity related financing to entrepreneurial ventures and help close the capital gap that currently exists for emerging growth companies. The five-year goals of the Community Innovation Fund are to invest in fifteen to twenty five growing companies and to attract \$200 million in capital to the region.

## CONCLUSION

The Oklahoma Innovation Institute will continue to pursue its mission of building an innovative and entrepreneurial economy in the Tulsa region with the central theme of “**Research to High Impact Jobs**”.

The vision of the Institute is to continue to function as a neutral convener and facilitator that will foster collaborative research and development, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education, entrepreneurship, company creation and retention, capital formation, and creative future-oriented thinking. This vision is driven by private sector, government, education and philanthropic partnerships.

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