

## EDGE Innovation and Technology Plan Summary

Oklahoma is not well-positioned for the future because of a lack of integrated strategy for making innovation and technology the cornerstone of its future economic focus. The *Oklahoma Innovation and Technology Plan* is a far-reaching view of our state's future economy that EDGE created to position Oklahoma as a strong player in the global marketplace. The Plan is a call to action that focuses on eight high-impact – yet limited cost – strategies that Oklahoma can use to increase business productivity and raise the prospects for the future.

The *Oklahoma Innovation and Technology Plan* takes a very measured approach to our state's economic future. The Plan requests that the Oklahoma State Legislature establish the Oklahoma Business Innovation Commission. Comprised of seven state leaders, this commission will offer independent advice and recommendations on strengthening Oklahoma's technology-based economy and guide the implementation of The Plan's action items. The first three action items focus on increasing innovation and technology for Oklahoma businesses. The next two action items will strengthen Oklahoma's workforce for an innovation and technology economy. The last three action items target increased investment in Oklahoma's innovation and technology economy.

- 1. Strengthen Oklahoma's key business and industry clusters.**
- 2. Build connections between Oklahoma's research communities – public and private – and the research needs of our state's businesses.**
- 3. Simplify and streamline processes for transferring technology from the research community to the commercial sector.**
- 4. Implement a teacher education program that produces K-12 educators with specialized skills for teaching science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).**
- 5. Create a Professional Science Masters degree program that blends advanced studies in both science and business.**
- 6. Create Public/Private Centers of Research and Business Excellence based on Oklahoma's defined sector priorities.**
- 7. Make research investment a priority.**
- 8. Create enticements that are unique to Oklahoma in order to attract increased investment in our research enterprises and start-up companies.**

Because innovation and technology are the “engines” powering increased economic productivity, Oklahoma must focus on using innovation and technology to produce and export natural resources, products and services. If we don't shift our focus, Oklahoma's economy will slowly deflate as the global, technology-focused marketplace rewards more future-focused states. As the plan is enacted, Oklahomans will soon recognize tangible benefits that will make our state a better place to live and work for our children, our grandchildren and ourselves.