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Lieutenant Governor Askins Hosts Small Business Owners

OKLAHOMA CITY – Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins will visit today with small business owners from across the state as host of the Tenth Annual Small Business Day at the State Capitol.

“Today is about benefitting from the experience of others. Small Business Day is a wonderful avenue in which connections are made and opportunities cultivated,” Askins said.

“As Oklahoma’s Small Business Advocate, I know first-hand how important small business is to Oklahoma’s economy and quality of life.”

Business owners will meet peers and state legislators while learning of the many resources at their disposal. Chambers of commerce, state agencies and small business organizations will be on hand to share their challenges and successes with attendees.

“It is our goal to highlight the many benefits small businesses may receive – whether it is from the state’s *Insure Oklahoma* program, human resource management tools or services provided from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce,” Askins said.

As part of this afternoon’s events, Commerce Secretary Natalie Shirley will discuss resources available to business owners.

“Oklahoma’s small businesses are a vital and growing part of the State’s wealth generating economy and they will play a large role in the future economy of Oklahoma,” Shirley said.

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“The Department of Commerce makes it a priority to provide business owners the information about the resources available for starting a new business, or trying to maintain or grow an existing small business.”

In order to better support Oklahoma’s entrepreneurs, the Department of Commerce has created www.OKstartup.com. OKStartUp.com provides a central point of access for entrepreneurs and small businesses so they can easily link to relevant information about starting and running a business, including financing, state licenses and permits, workforce assistance, business incentives, and more.

Others scheduled to speak Rocky Flick, CEO of Blitz, USA; Clayton Clark, owner of DJ Connection and 2007 SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year and Michael Aitken, Director of Governmental Affairs for the Society of Human Resource Management.

Small Business Day will be held from 1 pm to 5 pm on the Second Floor Rotunda inside the State Capitol.