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Lt. Gov Askins Hosts 11th Annual Small Business Day at the Capitol

OKLAHOMA CITY – Yesterday small business owners, chambers of commerce, state agencies and business leaders from across Oklahoma gathered at the State Capitol for the 11th Annual Small Business Day.

Hosted by Lt. Governor Jari Askins, the event brought together small business owners and economic development experts to provide resources and share information. The program featured several high profile speakers including State Insurance Commissioner Kim Holland, Small Business Advisory Committee Chair Larry Mocha and Sandy Pratt from the Department of Commerce.

OETA anchor and award-winning health reporter Angela Buckelew highlighted the benefits of Insure Oklahoma. Dottie Overal, who serves as Director for the Oklahoma Chapter of the Small Business Administration, provided details about the opportunities and programs available through the stimulus package for small businesses. James Haddock shared his experiences with the crowd as CEO of PreDENT, this year's featured small business success story.

"Yesterday was about connecting the dots between people and resources. In this year of economic uncertainty, it is important that we provide the tools necessary for our small businesses to succeed," Askins said. "Small Business Day showcases their role as the backbone of our state's economy."

In addition to Wednesday's program, representatives from the following organizations were available to answer questions: Insure Oklahoma, Small Business Administration, Greater OKC Chamber of Commerce, The State Chamber of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Higher Education, Career Tech, Department of Central Services and the NFIB.