

OKLAHOMA INNOVATIONS - OCAST'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

OCAST >>



Spring 2017 Newsletter

INNOVATIVE OKLAHOMA COMPANIES FEATURED IN THE OKLAHOMAN

- [Humble start at Moore gas station launches career](#)
 - [Bin There, Done That](#)
 - [Texoma Manufacturing founder adopts 'git-er-done' philosophy](#)
 - [Crossroads LED lights the way](#)
 - [At OKC's Phase 2, Big Data leads to big opportunity](#)
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SBIR/STTR WORKSHOP HELD AT MERIDIAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER



Meridian Technology Center collaborated with the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) and the Unmanned Aerial Systems Cluster Initiative to offer a special Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) workshop this month.

The SBIR program, coordinated by the U.S. Small Business Administration, encourages small businesses to engage in federal research that has the potential for commercialization, while the STTR program focuses on the commercialization of

high-tech research and innovation through a joint venture of small business and nonprofit research institutions.

The SBIR and STTR programs are federal initiatives that provide over two billion dollars in grants and contracts each year to small startup companies for development of new or enhanced products and services based on advanced technologies. About 33 percent of the SBIR Phase I awards made each year go to firms with no prior SBIR experience.

Attendees learned the basics of SBIR/STTR and then received instruction on a simple and logical four-step process for preparing a competitive Phase I SBIR/STTR proposal. The day concluded with one-on-one meeting opportunities with federal agency program managers from the USDA and Office of Naval Research. A panel of experts who have written, won and even lost SBIR/STTR funding discussed what they did right and what to avoid when developing an SBIR or STTR proposal.

OKLAHOMA STUDENTS SLATED TO RECEIVE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Science teachers from across the state and OCAST are gearing up for the April 2017 version of Oklahoma Science & Technology Month. Students nominated by their teachers will receive certificates of recognition signed by Governor Mary Fallin and OCAST Executive Director Michael Carolina.

The annual event is designed to showcase Oklahoma's outstanding students who excel in STEM or Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Students from each of Oklahoma's 77 counties have been recognized during the special observance since its inception 24 years ago. For information on science and technology month student recognition awards, visit the OCAST website at stem.ok.gov.



Science and Technology Month is time to begin planning for STEM summer academies sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents. The free academies are offered on 18 college campuses in May, June and July. Learn more at okhighered.org/summeracademies.

OKLAHOMA'S INNOVATION MODEL PRESENTED TO 1 MILLION CUPS OKC



Staff from strategic partners comprising the Oklahoma Innovation Model delivered a presentation in February to the Oklahoma City chapter of 1 Million Cups. Attendees learned what the Innovation Model is as well as what business programs and funding options are available through OCAST.

1 Million Cups is a free, national program designed to educate, engage and connect entrepreneurs. Developed by the Kauffman Foundation, 1MC is based on the notion that

entrepreneurs discover solutions and network over a million cups of coffee.

Future presentations are planned around the state. Follow OCAST on Facebook and Twitter for announcements on upcoming events.

ANNUAL ENGINEERING FAIR THROWS UNEXPECTED OBSTACLES AT STUDENT ENGINEERS

Wearing oil-field hard hats and thick gloves, the oil extraction team from Pawnee Middle School began pumping oil from a canister filled with a vegetable oil and coffee grounds mixture.

While the team looked the part, the bicycle pump contraption the team built to extract the oil proved to be too powerful for the job. The lid exploded off the canister soon after the team began pumping.

That was routine for competitors in the annual Oklahoma Engineering Foundation Engineering Fair held February 22 at the Oklahoma Science Museum. Team after team of junior high and high school competitors ran into unexpected obstacles that foiled their best-laid plans.

“We learned what we need to do next time,” said Logan Buchanan, an eighth-grader at Pawnee Middle School. “The seal needs to be better, and we need to tape the lid on.”

The Engineering Fair is part of a \$400,000 STEM initiative launched by the GE Foundation in partnership with OCAST. The initiative was created to inspire greater interest from high school students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Almost 400 students from around the state competed in one of seven engineering challenges that ranged from oil extraction, Eiffel Tower building, electric motors and rubber band-powered vehicles, to a Rube Goldberg-like Wacky Wonder Works, solar-powered drones and ping pong ball launchers.

[Watch a video](#) of some of the challenges the students faced at this year's event.

ENID’S FUTURE OF FOOD FORUM TO HIGHLIGHT INNOVATION

The Enid Regional Development Alliance and OCAST are presenting the First Annual Future of Food Forum to be held April 13 from 9-1 at the CNB Center in downtown Enid.

This one-day event is being held to highlight the innovations in the production, transportation and consumption of food around the world and how Oklahoma can capitalize on these trends. The event is designed to appeal to those involved in the production of food commodities in Oklahoma and also anyone who wants to learn more about where the food industry is heading.

The Future of Food Forum will include three industry speakers. They are:



- Charles Studer, director for industry relations with John Deere Company from Overland Park, Kansas, will be speaking about trends and innovations in the design of farm equipment and how it will affect the production of food in the future.
- Scott McWilliams, regional training manager for consolidated grain and barge (CGB) from Tulsa will highlight trends and innovations in the transportation of commodities around the world.
- Chris Chanski, vice president of national accounts for AdvancePierre Foods from Maple Grove, Minnesota, will address trends in the consumption of food around the world and how Oklahoma can capitalize on these changes.

“This event will be the first of its kind in our state,” said Brent Kisling, executive director for the Enid Regional Development Alliance. “Our state has a rich history of producing some of the best food commodities in the world, but seldom do we stop and consider our position in this supply chain and how we can better capitalize on it. People will always need food and, therefore, will always need the natural resources of our state. Anyone interested in this part of our Oklahoma economy should attend and be a part of the discussion.”

Michael Carolina, executive director for the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, said, “OCAST works with Oklahoma’s technology based companies every day to identify innovations in the production of products and services. We are pleased to partner with the Enid Regional Development Alliance to turn our attention to the production of food, which is at the heart of Oklahoma’s core competency. You don’t have to be involved in agriculture to appreciate the innovations taking place to bring these products to your dinner table efficiently and safely.”

Those attending the Future of Food Forum need to RSVP and pay a \$15 registration fee for non-ERDA members payable at the door, which includes lunch. RSVPs can be sent to Prescott@growenid.com or by calling 580-233-4232.

MANUFACTURING LUNCHEON HELD IN BROKEN ARROW



Tulsa regional partners recently hosted the fourth annual Manufacturing Networking Luncheon. In attendance was a select contingent of business professionals and resource partners.

The goal of this luncheon was to bring together some of the best in the technology and manufacturing industry to share knowledge and encourage regional business collaboration.

Cornell Cross, associate director of programs for OCAST, said, “During periods of economic downturn, it becomes more important than ever to pool regional resources to obtain a greater result. By networking regional manufacturers and support partners, it allows businesses to combine their efforts in commercializing new products, processes and innovations.”