



**SCOTT MEACHAM  
OKLAHOMA STATE TREASURER**

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**State Leaders Giving Oklahoma “the EDGE”  
for High-Tech Jobs**

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – State leaders are seeking to diversify Oklahoma’s economy through establishment of the EDGE (Economic Development Generating Excellence) Research Endowment.

State Treasurer Scott Meacham said the state’s strong economy is providing the opportunity to invest for the future.

“Thanks to strong oil and gas prices, Oklahoma’s economy is booming right now with more than \$450 million in excess revenues being produced during the last fiscal year,” said Meacham. “These additional revenues are giving us the opportunity to diversify our economy and lay the foundation for future economic prosperity in our state.”

Meacham assisted in the creation of the original EDGE project in 2003 from which the idea for the EDGE endowment came.

“The establishment of Oklahoma as the ‘Research Capitol of the Plains’ was clearly the boldest idea which arose from Governor Henry’s EDGE project,” said Meacham. “Everyone understands the need for research and investment in commercialization of technology to create future jobs and wealth in our state.”

During the special session last month, the Legislature and the Governor created the permanent EDGE research endowment and provided the first \$150 million deposit towards what is hoped to eventually become a \$1 billion permanent research endowment.

Meacham said the endowment allows Oklahoma leaders to commit significant funds to buy equipment needed for researchers, fund public and private sector research projects and provide seed capital to convert promising inventions into commercial opportunities in Oklahoma.

Greg Main, president of i2E, said the EDGE endowment has the potential to establish Oklahoma as a hub for research and technology in several areas.

**(more)**

“The state has laid a strong foundation for capitalizing on industry clusters such as aerospace, biotechnology and weather technology,” said Main. “If we can continue on the path of setting aside surplus funds with the strict goal of funding research efforts, the result will be the creation of new products and services which will grow current Oklahoma businesses and generate new business which ultimately results in more and higher paying jobs in our state.”

Meacham said other benefits of the EDGE endowment include providing small and rural businesses access to the latest research, technologies and market opportunities and attracting world renowned researchers to Oklahoma’s colleges and universities as well as public and private laboratories.

“If we continue to make these types of deposits to the EDGE endowment fund, we will reach our goal within the next decade,” said Meacham. “It will signal the rest of the nation and the international community that we recognize the importance of research and the commercialization of technology and we are committed to making things happen in Oklahoma.”

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