

2012 Agenda: A More Prosperous Oklahoma

Workforce and Education

Under Governor Fallin's leadership, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce has launched a major online initiative called OKJobsMatch.com. The new initiative is centered around an online portal seeking to connect businesses looking for skilled workers with potential employees.

OKJobMatch.com is a currently active site for students and job seekers to find job matches and to utilize other tools available on the site. This spring, the site will also become live for employers to search for workers. The governor is announcing a call to action for those Oklahoman's who are unemployed or looking for new jobs to register and become a member at OKJobMatch.com. This initiative is co-sponsored by the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development and its partner agencies.

Governor Fallin understands that workforce is a key issue for business retention, expansion and attraction. Workforce services are provided across a number of agencies and programs. In addition to launching OKJobMatch.com, the Commerce Department is working to make OKJobMatch.com part of a larger portal where information and access to these workforce services can be provided in an efficient and effective way. Currently, there are already more than 3,000 resumes in the system, and once fully populated, it will be the "go-to" resource for employers. This statewide job matching system focuses on the universal appeal across geographic and socio-economic boundaries, all industries and businesses large and small.

This comprehensive portal, once fully implemented, will include resources from Higher Education, Career Tech, Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, Workforce Boards, Rehabilitative Services and our military who provide a unique skill set that should be captured by our business community.

Returning Military Personnel & Veterans

The encourages returning military personnel and veterans to take advantage of existing resources such as Workforce Oklahoma Centers in their area or by contacting 1-888-980-WORK and/or the National Guard's Employment Coordination Program at (405)-475-1996/1997 for employment and job training assistance.

Commerce is setting up a military/veterans specific Web site along with a workforce portal which is expected to launch later this month. OKMilitaryconnection.com will serve as the landing page for the military portion of the workforce portal. Individuals will be able to reach the military site via OKMilitaryconnection.com and via a link on OKJobMatch.com. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Rita Aragon and a number of state, federal and community groups are organizing a comprehensive reemployment effort to serve those who have so bravely served us.

Complete College America Initiative

A majority of the jobs created in the next decade will require either a college education or a career certificate from one of our Career Technology centers. Additionally, college graduates earn \$1 million more over their lifetime than high school graduates. It's clear that a highly skilled, educated workforce has a strong and direct tie to economic growth and prosperity in Oklahoma.

To promote educational achievement and enhance our workforce, the governor has partnered with higher education officials to launch Oklahoma's Complete College America Initiative – a program which aims to increase the number of college graduates by 67 percent in the next 12 years, bringing Oklahoma from 30,500 degrees and certificates awarded annually to 50,900. This initiative brings together higher education, Career Tech and K-12 to achieve this goal.

Oklahoma has been recognized as a model state for Complete College America because we have made a significant commitment to increasing the number of students successfully completing college and closing the educational attainment gaps for traditionally underserved populations. The plan to increase postsecondary credentials to fuel a strong economy includes a focus on readiness, transforming remediation, building bridges to certificates and degrees, improving adult education and tracking and rewarding progress and completion.

