



May 17, 2011

Dear Oklahoman:

The Academy 2011 Town Hall focus is one that plays an inherent role in communities of all sizes, regions within the state and its surrounding border states, and the state itself --- economic development! Economic development also is a topic that is inherently related to education and to health. And, as a key leg of that triangle, economic development must be considered seriously and the best of approaches put into play for all Oklahomans to benefit.

The Research Committee and the Town Hall Planning Committee are well underway in putting things together for this Town Hall. It will be held in Southwest Oklahoma at Quartz Mountain Resort and the dates are October 23 – 26 (Sunday evening through Wednesday noon).

As a leader in your community, please consider submitting your name and / or someone else as a nominee for participation in the 2011 Town Hall conference. The success of any Academy Town Hall is dependent upon having a diverse group of participants. From the names we receive for the nominee pool, we select people to participate who are statistically reflective of Oklahoma's diverse population, as well as those who recognize the importance of the topic. Participation in the Town Hall is by invitation only from the pool of nominees. Participants are finalized and notified by the end of July. The time commitment is significant, but talk to those who have participated and they will tell you it is well worth it. Frankly, it is no more than for other major conferences you have attended.

If you are interested, please complete the enclosed Nomination Form and fax or email it back to the Academy by May 30, 2011. It is important we have all nominees identified by this date so we can begin the process of determining invitees. Invitations to participate in the Town Hall will be mailed in mid-July. If you would like to nominate others for consideration, either duplicate the nomination form and share it along with the information below OR you may call or email us to send the information to those you have in mind.

The Town Hall conference process is dynamic; it allows for excellent discussion and, importantly, collaborative development of sound recommendations that can significantly improve the topic under focus. The report and recommendations will be fully developed by the close of the Town Hall Wednesday noon. A nice printed rendition of the work done at Town Hall is provided to all Academy members either by mail or on CD or available on the website, however you wish to receive it. In early December a press conference is held in the Blue Room at the Capitol to formally deliver the Town Hall Findings & Recommendations to the Governor, legislative leadership, media, and to other appropriate entities. A planned implementation process begins immediately!

Again, we hope you will seriously consider completing the nomination form and nominating others you know would be interested participants. Should you have any questions, please call Julie, Jamie or Jennifer at the Academy office.

2011 Town Hall Specifics

Date: October 23 – 26, 2011 (Sunday evening through Wednesday noon)

Location: Quartz Mountain Resort, Lone Wolf, Oklahoma

Topic: Oklahoma Economic Development

Costs: Specific costs to participate will be published on the website by end of May.

Sincerely,

Tom McKeon

Tom McKeon, President Tulsa Community College
Academy Chairman 2011

Julie Knutson

Academy President & CEO