

## The Oklahoma Academy from 1985 ...

### “Great Thoughts ... reduced to practice become Great Acts”

Invest right here at home by supporting the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals. It's an investment with big dividends for all Oklahomans. The Academy tackles issues that directly affect business and progress in this state: economic development, education, health care, government reform. The Academy's members do more than just talk. They take action. As a direct result of the Academy's annual conferences and year-round efforts, the following has been accomplished for Oklahoma:

#### Education

- Providing state funding of scholarships to Oklahoma colleges and universities for our best and brightest students.
- Creating an endowed chairs and professorships program at state colleges and universities. This program is spurring public/private partnerships by requiring that private funds must match the state funds.
- Increasing funding of Oklahoma's higher education system.
- Increasing funding for scientific and technological research.
- Encouraging school districts to extend their school day and year by offering incentive and pilot programs.
- Enhancing accountability by publicly reporting the Metropolitan Achievement Test scores for each school district.
- Strengthening the education process by taking steps toward criterion-referenced competency testing of students.
- Developing the idea to form “Task Force 2000” to study Oklahoma's educational system. The task force's report, released in late 1989, incorporates most of the recommendations from the 1988 Academy conference.

#### Economic Development

- Passing the Economic Development Act of 1987 (HB 1444). This landmark legislation has gained national attention, and it included these Academy recommendations:
- Completely reorganizing the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to state-of-the-art standards, including a clearly defined mission, functions and goals, and elimination of inappropriate activities.
- Creating Oklahoma Futures to spur state economic development.
- Adopting a target-industries approach to helping existing businesses and attracting new firms to Oklahoma.
- Creating new sources of venture and seed capital.
- Establishing a consolidated data base of economic development research and information (through the Economic Information System.)
- Creating the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST), which is providing increased state funding for research and development at state universities.
- Proposing an “Oklahoma Homecoming” celebration to spur state pride.
- Convening a statewide conference on telecommunications by the Academy Infrastructure/Telecommunications Task Force to set the stage for planning and implementation of a public/private network for telecommunications. This conference took place in December of 1992.

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### Government Reform

- Undertaking extensive reform of the ad valorem tax system.
- Strengthening the state's Ethics Commission to promote openness and honesty in state government.
- Taking steps to promote government reform.
- Taking actions to update and improve Oklahoma's constitution.

### Health Care

- Immunizations for all children by the age of two. This recommendation provided the impetus for other groups to begin the Healthy Futures campaign.
- Heightened awareness and activity in Telemedicine as a necessary vehicle to improve our health care systems and the distribution of its resources.

### Entrepreneurial & Small Business

- Strategies for the 1994 conference recommendations covering technology transfer, capital, an entrepreneurial institute, and workers compensation have been furnished to the legislature, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the state and local chambers, and other businesses and institutions with goals for coordination, collaboration, and implementation. Implementation has been pushed yearly in these areas. Work to pass SQ680 & 681 began as a result of this conference.
- A compendium of national entrepreneurial and small business development programs is produced and annually updated.

### Conference Issues

- |             |                                                                                                 |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1985        | Oklahoma Revenues: Sources and Uses                                                             |
| 1986        | Strategy for Economic Expansion in Oklahoma                                                     |
| 1987        | Oklahoma's Future:<br>Strategy and Policy Options for 2005                                      |
| 1988        | Elementary and Secondary Education:<br>Will Oklahoma Pass or Fail?                              |
| 1989        | Oklahoma's Future:<br>Developing Our Human Potential                                            |
| 1990        | Oklahoma's Future: Choice or Chance?                                                            |
| 1992 -      | Oklahoma: Mind Your Own Policies -<br>What Should Oklahoma's Policies Be?                       |
| 1993        | Today's Budget Decisions,<br>Tomorrow's Priorities                                              |
| 1994        | Entrepreneurial & Small Business<br>Development: Critical Elements to<br>Future Economic Growth |
| 1995        | Reshaping State, County & Local<br>Government                                                   |
| 1996        | Building Safer Communities                                                                      |
| 1997        | Education and Training:<br>The Key to a Richer Oklahoma                                         |
| 1998        | Technology Applications:<br>Accelerating Toward Prosperity                                      |
| 1999        | Technology Applications:<br>Lighting the Fuse                                                   |
| 2000        | The Oklahoma Constitution                                                                       |
| 2001        | Competing in an Innovative World                                                                |
| <b>2002</b> | <b>Oklahoma's Health (planned)</b>                                                              |