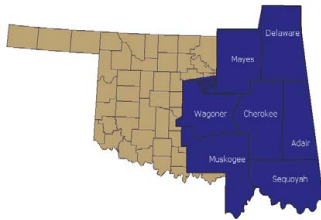


Regional Summit 2009



2009 Regional Summit Introduction

Well over a year ago, three concerned organizations (the Cherokee Nation, Northeastern State University, and SACC-EZ) sat down across from one another and began to plan for a 7-county Economic Summit. These three organizations shared a common belief that a working conference must be planned and implemented so leaders from a multi-county region could cross borders to build the regional economy and our communities. The overall goal for the Regional Economic Summit was to develop a shared regional future; a shared agenda; a shared commitment; and shared leadership.

After much planning from both small and large group planning committees, the first annual Regional Economic Summit was held on November 3rd and 4th, 2009 at Northeastern State University with over 400 individuals attending. Groups represented included state and federal legislators, county governments, city governments, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, chambers of commerce, industrial authorities, economic development organizations, educators, business leaders, non-profit groups, and community members. The planning group worked hard to create a venue to encourage participants to speak about challenges facing communities and businesses so that we can identify common, regional solutions.

The Economic Summit’s interactive agenda provided opportunities for networking and creating partnerships; activities to begin building common ground by identifying common assets and common growth issues; connecting with federal, state, and tribal resources; and employing useful tools to facilitate growth in the region. The primary speakers included the following list of distinguished individuals:

- Bill Millet - Founder and President of Scope View Strategic Advantage
- Steve Shepelwich – Senior Community Affairs Advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank in Oklahoma City.
- Deidra Myers – Director for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce Research and Economic Analysis Division
- Houston Davis – Vice Chancellor of Academics for the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education
- Rick Brinkley – Tulsa Better Business Bureau President and Chief Executive Officer
- Dr. Don Betz – President of Northeastern State University



Participants gather from seven counties



Bill Millet-- Keynote Address



Wilma Mankiller facilitates Asset Mapping

- Jay Hannah – President of Financial Services at BancFirst and the Cherokee Nation Businesses Board of Directors
- Meredith Frailey – Cherokee Nation Council
- Wilma Mankiller – Former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation

Day one of the Summit kicked off with a networking breakfast and business card exchange targeting similar interest groups such as education, local government, businesses, allied health, and chambers of commerce. Later that day, Summit participants worked together in small groups to identify and prioritize local and regional assets through facilitated and recorded sessions and then later repeated a similar process by working in groups to identify growth issues specific to areas such as learning communities, personal mobility, workforce readiness, infrastructure, working with state legislators, and how we tell our story. Day one ended in an amazing way, with Summit participants treated to a networking reception teaming with wonderful food and drinks, great entertainment, and a vast array of nice door prizes.

Day two of the Summit started bright and early with a Legislative Breakfast and a live teleconference from Washington D.C. with U.S. Representatives Dan Boren and John Sullivan followed by a panel discussion. Tools for Success Workshops were then presented two different times to give Summit participants the opportunity to attend two of the following workshops:

- Industry Clusters – What they are and how do we use that information?
- Demographic Information at Your Fingertips
- Regional Collaboration Success – Mobilize Maine Project
- Community Infrastructure – USDA Rural Development
- Funding Opportunities – Resources to fund your economic development projects
- Making Connections – Building sustainable partnerships and networks
- Northwest Arkansas Connection – How do we collaborate with one of the fastest growing economies in the country.

Day two concluded successfully with a report from the working sessions and a call to action by Mr. Jay Hannah. Tourism, natural resources, active civic organizations, a diverse workforce, lower cost of living, and access to higher education were identified as northeastern Oklahoma's top assets by the over 400 regional leaders who gathered at NSU for the region's first economic summit. Barriers to growth included the need for a more skilled workforce, a high level of poverty, communication between the counties and familiarity with assets each has, having a common regional strategy for growth, lack of a legislative agenda, and the need for early childhood services, such as daycare and parenting training.

[2009 Summit Program](#)



Classroom--Marketing Our Region



Discussion: Education with Sandy Garrett and Kay Grant

Summit 2009 Content

[2009 Summit Agenda](#)

[Summit Attendee List](#)

Presentations:

[Regional Data--OK Dept of Commerce](#)

[State of the Region--Myers](#)

[State of the Region--Davis](#)

Report Out:

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Next Steps--Get Involved:

[Workgroup Schedule](#)