

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chamber's business retention, expansion program honored

(TULSA, Okla.) — Business Retention and Expansion International (BREI) recognized Tulsa Metro Chamber's new Business Retention and Expansion program at the BREI/Southern Economic Development Council Joint Conference, Aug. 14-17 in New Orleans. The Chamber accepted the Multi-Community/Regional award for a population of more than 100,000, an award given annual to recognize innovative, effective and exemplary BRE programs.

“It is a tremendous honor for the Chamber to receive this level of recognition for a program still in its infancy,” said Stuart Solomon, president and COO of the Public Service Company of Oklahoma and the Chamber's vice chairman of the board for economic development. “The Chamber's expanded BRE program was launched just last year as a key economic development strategy to help Tulsa-area businesses grow and succeed. The Chamber's BRE efforts have been very well-received by companies in our region, and it is great to see organizations such as Business Retention and Expansion International acknowledge the BRE program's successes and accomplishments.”

The Chamber launched its peer-to-peer outreach BRE program in September 2009 in an effort to spur job creation and assist Tulsa-area businesses with both opportunities and challenges. The program is made possible with the assistance of more than 115 trained volunteer business leaders who accompany Chamber staff during on-site visits to area companies. More than 250 on-site visits have been completed in the first half of 2010, resulting in at least 10 local expansion projects, 350 new jobs and an economic impact of more than \$66 million.

“The Chamber's team of professionals is working to improve the economic vitality and quality

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Tulsa Chamber/BRE

of life for its members and the Tulsa region,” said Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Metro Chamber. “I commend our economic division for implementing such a highly successful program and one that is truly a community effort involving volunteers representing hundreds of area companies.”

Through its BRE program, the Chamber offers support in a variety of areas, including barriers to growth, expansion, regulatory processes, mergers and workforce issues. Since the inception of the program, the Chamber has assisted a number of companies with enrolling in state incentive programs, educated businesses about the Chamber’s recruiting tools, helped resolve workforce issues such as employee training, and more.

For information about the Business Retention and Expansion program at Tulsa Metro Chamber, contact Danielle Runyan at daniellerunyan@tulsachamber.com or 918.560.0265.

Editor’s Note:

Established in 1903, the Tulsa Metro Chamber’s mission is to serve as the principal business-driven leadership organization improving the quality of community life through the development of regional economic prosperity. The Chamber represents more than 3,000 member organizations, approximately 175,000 area employees and utilizes 3,400 volunteers to accomplish its programs and services.