



121 NE 52nd Street, Suite 260 * Oklahoma City, OK 73105 * 405-605-2099 * www.opha.net

For Release: April 26, 2011 – Contact Leslea Bennett-Webb, (405) 271-5601

Oklahoma Public Health Association Special Business Award Announced

The Oklahoma Public Health Association (OPHA) recently honored The State Chamber of Oklahoma for its contributions toward achievement in public health activities and issues. At its annual conference last week, OPHA presented its “Special Business Award for Excellence in Public Health” to The State Chamber representatives Matt Robison, who serves as Vice President for Small Business and Workforce Development, and Laura Wheeler, Website Manager and Designer.

“Each year OPHA honors persons and programs that have made noteworthy contributions to public health,” said Tina Johnson, OPHA president. “The State Chamber has truly been a leader in setting a high standard for business involvement in public health issues.”

For several years, The State Chamber of Oklahoma has been one of the sponsors of the Oklahoma Certified Healthy Business program, which recognizes those businesses that are working to improve Oklahoma’s health status by providing health and wellness opportunities for their employees. The State Chamber has also been a partner on the Executive Team for the *Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan*, and has encouraged healthy living for its vast and diverse membership. As part of that effort, The State Chamber assisted in communications for the *Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan* by establishing a Twitter account and Facebook page to promote healthy lifestyle messages. The State Chamber is also a key partner in the “Shape Your Future” initiative and has been vocal about the importance of shaping Oklahoma’s economic health and the cost of poor health habits to Oklahoma’s residents and economy.

Founded in 1939, OPHA is an affiliate of the American Public Health Association and provides a forum for the professional enrichment of more than 1,000 public health professionals.

###