

# COMMUNITY TIMES

News Source for the latest  
in Oklahoma's Community Development

# OKLAHOMA

Building Leaders...Building Communities

Volume X Issue I February 2011



## Weatherford Welcomes Citizens Academy

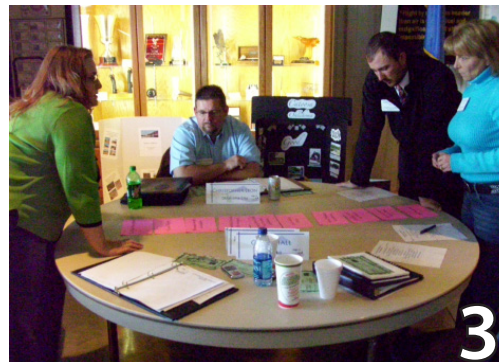
Weatherford, Oklahoma was the gracious host of Session III of Citizens Academy Class VIII on January 6, 2011.

On the evening of January 5, classmates were given a tour of the brand new Weatherford Performing Arts Center and the Stafford Air & Space Museum.



Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown was on hand to welcome CA participants on Thursday, January 6. Steve Kime, OCI Executive Director, was the facilitator for Session III. He focused on Community Assessment and the importance of Leading by Example. Participants worked in teams most of the day focusing on what makes a leader, how to stay "afloat" when you're "Lost at Sea" and the difference between employees and management's job satisfaction needs.

Session IV will meet in Alva on February 10th to focus on Economic Development & Tourism.



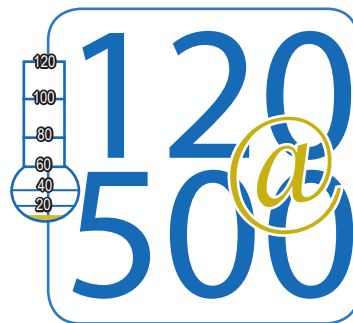
1. Tara Hall, Durant; explains her team's Characteristics of a Leader poster. Each team had to draw a leader by characteristics without using words, number or letters. 2. Cody Erikson, Alva; presents his Visual Community Assessment project. This project focused on the Good, Bad & Ugly of their community. 3. Jennifer Edwards, Catoosa; Chris Leon, OKC; Dakota Cole, Ada and Carla Hall, Anadarko, work on ranking Employee's Job Satisfaction needs during the Minnesota Study exercise.

## Help OCI Build Communities *Block by Block*

In December, OCI kicked off a new fund-raising campaign titled "120@500".

According to Richard Clements, OCI Fund Development Chair and Treasurer, OCI is looking for 120 individuals to donate a \$500 financial gift to assist OCI in its mission. The funds raised will continue to aid OCI in providing planning services to communities and leadership training to citizens across Oklahoma.

If you are interested in becoming one of the 120, please contact Richard Clements, [clemenrd@oge.com](mailto:clemenrd@oge.com) or Rachel Meinke, OCI Director of Development, [rmeinke@ocionline.org](mailto:rmeinke@ocionline.org).



### UPCOMING EVENTS

2.10.11 | Citizens Academy  
Session IV - Alva

3.3.11 | Citizens Academy  
Session V - OKC

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The Oklahoma Community Institute  
is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit  
organization that has been helping  
build leaders and their  
communities since 1995.

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## From the Chairman



Jeff Johnson  
OCI Chairman  
President, First Capital  
Bank, Kingfisher

I like a good quote. To me, they're like little meaty nuggets of wisdom that so often do the job of a 90 minute presentation in one catchy and succinct expression.

At OCI, it is our mission "to be a catalyst that enables and encourages Oklahoma citizens to improve their communities." And at the root of this statement is the overriding necessity for Oklahomans to **PLAN** for the improvement of their communities.

Translated into juicy nuggets of wisdom, I believe that the root of OCI's mission can be summarized in the following ways:

1. "He who fails to plan, plans to fail."
2. "It pays to plan ahead. After all, it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark."
3. "If you're not at the table, chances are you're probably on the menu."
4. "A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow."

Does your community have a plan? If not, please re-read quote #1.

Do you see nothing but clear skies ahead for your community? If so, re-read quote #2.

Is your community leadership content with the status quo? If so, re-read quote #3.

Are you afraid that you don't have the resources necessary to put together an adequate plan for your community? If so, please re-read quote #4...and then call OCI!

## Clinton Sets Goals During Planning Process *Reclaiming the Hub City*

Clinton, Oklahoma held its first community wide planning meeting on December 14th, where they unveiled the name of their community planning project, "CITY Reach 2020." In this title, CITY stands for Clinton In Ten Years.

In January, the steering committee and the community received results of the 30 question survey and Benchmark Study. Armed with this information, the citizens joined groups they are interested in. Each group wrote goals for their area and included: Recreation, Education, Beautification, Economic Development, Housing and Healthcare.



### CLINTON RECREATION COMMITTEE

from left: Jordan Parman, Erin Wheeler, Jared Atha, Jonathan Berrong and Bob Marcy discuss goals and objectives for their committee. Photo by Steve Kime.

## OCI on the Airwaves *Broadcasting our Mission*

During the last few months, Steve Kime, OCI Executive Director, has been busy promoting OCI through radio broadcasting.



In December, Kime was a guest of KTGS - Hobart, where he and host Ryan McMullen, USDA Stillwater and OCI supporter, spoke about OCI services - community-wide strategic planning and Citizens Academy.

In January, Kime was a guest of KCLI - Clinton. During this broadcast, Kime and host Todd Brenner focused on City Reach 2020 and community wide strategic planning. Kime will continue to be a guest of KCLI until the community-wide strategic planning in Clinton is complete.

### CLINTON CONTINUED

The remaining planning meetings will focus on identifying objectives, creating action plans and assigning projects to community volunteers and civic leaders.

All planning meetings have been held at the state-in-the-art Frisco Center, an event center in downtown Clinton, with over 17,650 square feet of meeting space. [www.frisco-center.com](http://www.frisco-center.com)

# OCI Board of Directors

## Who's Who



**Dr. Donnie Nero**, President, Connors State College, attended East Central University, where he received his BS in Social Studies. He received his Masters and Doctorate in Education from Oklahoma State University.

While at Tulsa Community College (Southeast Campus), Nero held many positions: Instructor, Dean of Student Services and Provost. In 2000, he became the President of Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma.

Nero serves on numerous boards, including the Governor's CLASS Task Force and the Oklahoma Council of Presidents.

In 2009, Nero was awarded the Trailblazer award from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. The Muskogee Area Educational Consortium named him Educator of the Year in 2004.



**Dr. Roy Peters** has been President of the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance since 1999. Previously, he served as State Director of the Oklahoma System of Career and Technology Education.

Peters holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Oklahoma and a doctorate from Oklahoma State University.

Peters serves on many boards: Tulsa Development Authority, Oklahoma Academy and Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College

In 1992, Peters received Oklahoma State University Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award and the American Vocational Association's Outstanding Educator in 1996.

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### Staff

**Steve Kime**  
*Executive Director*

**Rachel Meinke**  
*Communications, Development and Programs Director*

## OCI Services

*Tools to help communities grow*



**FIND** out what your neighbors think about your community with this anonymous 30 question on-line survey. Use the results to help identify and set priorities for community improvement.

Fee associated with survey.



**COMPARE** your community to communities of similar size. OCI conducts extensive research during this study and the results provide your community with key information for formulating a plan in building a stronger future. Fee associated with survey.

## OCI Donors

*Thank you to those that contributed to OCI in December and January*

Ann Ackerman  
Annetta Franks  
Brenda Hood  
Carolyn Stager  
Conoco-Phillips

David Seat  
Karen James  
NBC Oklahoma  
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