



Dear Oklahoma Leader:

The Oklahoma Academy 2022 Town Hall Conference Retreat has a specific and purposeful focus on a very timely and important issue for Oklahoma's future. To be held October 16-19, 2022 at the Choctaw Casino & Resort – Durant, Oklahoma's Human Potential – Enhancing Our Workforce for an Increasingly Innovative Economy will focus on better understanding the new workplace culture, the key industries now in Oklahoma, the educational approaches, and how to optimize our resources, technologies, and behaviors to guide our path for a strong future. The Town Hall Planning Committee, under the leadership of Co-Chairs, Rachel Hutchings, Executive Director, Green Country Workforce, and John Feaver, Ph.D., President, University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma, have been working with the Planning Committee members and the Town Hall Research Committee Chair since February 2022 in identifying the major areas of focus, the necessary data and information, and the plenary session speakers for the Town Hall. Please see the attached piece that describes this important Town Hall focus.

The success of any Oklahoma Academy Town Hall Conference Retreat depends upon having a diverse group of participants. We follow a **nomination process** to secure those who are **interested in participating**. From the nominee pool, we select people to participate who are statistically reflective of Oklahoma's diverse population, as well as those who recognize the importance of the topic. Once we have received all nominees, **invitations to participate are sent to those selected from the nomination pool** thereby allowing us to have a participation group that as much as possible socio-demographically represents Oklahoma's population. **The Town Hall Conference requires full-time attendance from Sunday evening through Wednesday noon; it is not a "come and go" conference.**

If you are interested in being considered as a participant, please complete the attached Nomination Application and email it back to the Oklahoma Academy by the final deadline of June 30, 2022. If you know others who would be interested, please feel free to duplicate the form and topic explanation sheet and share with them or complete it for them, letting them know you have done so. Invitations to participate are mailed by mid-August at the latest.

If you know you are not able to participate in the full three-day conference, you may want to be an **Observer; please contact April Maddy in the Academy office at 405.307.0986 or email her at april@okacademy.org.**

The Town Hall conference process is dynamic; it allows for excellent discussion and collaborative development of sound policy and community action recommendations. The findings report and recommendations are fully developed by the close of the Town Hall Wednesday noon and participants leave knowing what they have created. Once all grammatical and formatting steps are checked, the completed Findings & Recommendations Report is printed and provided to Town Hall participants and Oklahoma Academy members. An official press conference is held in January in the Blue Room at the Capitol to officially release the Town Hall Findings & Recommendations to the Governor, legislative leadership, media, the Academy membership and to other appropriate entities. Planned forums and sharing events are held in communities across the state shortly after the findings are officially released. Implementation work begins!

Should you have any questions, please call the Oklahoma Academy office at 405.307.0986.

2022 Town Hall Specifics

Date: October 16th – October 19th (Sunday evening through Wednesday noon)
Location: Choctaw Casino, Conference Center & Resort, Durant, OK
Topic: Oklahoma's Human Potential-Enhancing Our Workforce for an Increasingly Innovative Economy
Costs: Specifics on registration fee and lodging will be provided upon receipt of the completed nomination form

Sincerely,
Julie Knutson
Oklahoma Academy President/CEO