

“ Claremore...one of the best towns  
in the world to live in if any of you are  
thinking about making a change. ”

**WILL ROGERS**

**2022**  
grow *Claremore*

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

2022 marks another exciting year for Rogers County. Our community celebrated new industrial attraction and expansion announcements, witnessed transformation across our downtown corridor, and has been at the forefront of innovative talent development initiatives, ensuring a robust workforce pipeline.

As a community, we’ve started expanding into new industries. We are diligently working to ensure Claremore is positioned to partner with film and production crews, providing new opportunities for employment, sales tax growth and tourism attraction. This October, our downtown served as the primary filming location for an exciting television feature film.

Our team found innovative solutions to help businesses better connect with the regional workforce, launching a creative new online job portal. Additionally, the Claremore Industrial Park hosted workforce professionals from across Northeast Oklahoma, showcasing the career pathways available in our local facilities.

We joined together and had serious discussions surrounding childcare limitations. We committed to collaborating to find reasonable solutions to ensure guardians have the services and support needed to actively participate in the workforce.

Downtown continued to transform, and we celebrated the opening of several new small businesses in the Lilac District. Because of our local entrepreneurs’ innovative ideas and dedication, Claremore continues to offer residents and guests unique dining, retail and entertainment options.

The future is bright for Rogers County. I am proud of our community’s progress in 2022 and am confident we are positioned for continued momentum and growth in the coming year. As you flip through the pages of this report, I hope you find the same sense of pride and accomplishment.

Thank you for your partnership in our efforts. Without your support, CIEDA would be unable to achieve its mission of fostering growth, development and opportunities for Rogers County. It is because of you we celebrate this year’s successes.



All my best,

*Brian J. Green*

BRIAN GREEN, CIEDA Chairman



# BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

## Claremore Welcomes Lufkin Industries

Lufkin Industries, a global leader in the production of precision-engineered oilfield equipment, products, and services announced its selection of a new manufacturing campus at 844 W Lowry Rd in Claremore in early 2022. Operating in locations worldwide, its acquired 179,000 square-foot facility will serve as one of its Oklahoma campuses and a manufacturing center for the organization’s rod pumping systems. The company plans to bring more than 70 high-skilled jobs to Claremore and surrounding areas and is actively recruiting for various positions.



CIEDA joined the Claremore Area Chamber of Commerce to host state and local government officials, Claremore-area businesses and community leaders to formally welcome and celebrate Lufkin Industries.

The well-attended ribbon cutting and open house event featured formal remarks from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce Executive Director, Brent Kisling, Lufkin Industries CEO, Saeid Rahimian, and Claremore City Manager John Feary.

To aid Lufkin Industries in hiring for various positions CIEDA partnered with Northeast Tech to host a hiring event, allowing the company to directly connect with interested candidates and conduct onsite interviews. CIEDA assisted heavily with event promotion, logistic coordination and media relations.

*The pro-business atmosphere, access to top-tier talent and strong support from the city and county leadership made Claremore the clear choice as home for our new facility. We look forward to becoming a true community partner and continuing our mission of collaboration, operational excellence and value creation.*

**MIKE PASCHAL, Vice President of Manufacturing  
LUFKIN INDUSTRIES**



## Claremore Celebrates Industrial Sector Growth as Result of Manufacturing Investment

In a move hailed as an economic success, Claremore Industrial and Economic Development Authority (CIEDA) finalized the sale of a 60,000 square-foot manufacturing campus to MST Manufacturing, concluding an incentive agreement set in motion in 2018.

To aid the company in offsetting startup costs, CIEDA purchased an existing manufacturing space, which had been vacant for over one year, and offered MST a lease-to-purchase option. Due to this unique financing and incentive, MST was able to rapidly get its product to market, further enhancing and growing its impressive list of clientele.

After almost five full years of successful operations, MST has doubled in size each year and reached a new milestone, exceeding its sales projections in 2022 with monthly sales of \$1 million and proud to be supporting a contract backlog exceeding \$150 million.

The MST Manufacturing incentive additionally served as a catalyst for economic growth in the Claremore Industrial Park, aiding in quality job growth and capital investment. MST offered to sublease a portion of its facility to another emerging local manufacturing entity, Blue Arc Metal Specialties.

This allowed Blue Arc to expand its existing Claremore operations. The company is in the process of moving to its own newly constructed facility on five acres in the Claremore Industrial Park following this partnership.

*CIEDA's partnerships with MST, Parts by MST and Liberty Forged serve as a prime example of how economic development incentives can create a domino effect resulting in a multitude of wins for a community. We are proud to celebrate the success MST has experienced and appreciate its continued investment and dedication to our community.*

**MEGGIE FROMAN-KNIGHT, Executive Director  
CIEDA**

In addition to the wildly successful aerospace business, Kenny and his son, Steven, launched Liberty Forged, a custom wheel business specializing in wheels for the truck and lifted truck markets. Liberty Forged was founded within the incentivized facility in 2020 and has rapidly elevated to one of the premier wheel companies in the market. At the helm of this endeavor, Steven is emerging as a young leader in the industry, establishing a reputation for creating quality products, growing his workforce and acquiring machines.

MST also serves as a quality job provider, employing 41 positions and actively looking to grow its workforce.





# Blue Arc Metal Specialties Expands Claremore Facilities

Claremore celebrated the expansion of locally owned and operated Blue Arc Metal Specialties. The company expanded operations to a new 36,000 square-foot facility on five acres in the Claremore Industrial Park in April. The announcement will bring an additional 10-20 quality jobs to Claremore and more than \$3 million in capital investment over the next few years.

“As a third generation Claremore resident, I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to celebrate the success Blue Arc has found in Rogers County,” said Blue Arc Vice President Brian O’Dell. “The Claremore business community is unique. Because of the collaboration with our manufacturing partners and the support of city, county, and other non-profit leadership, we have been able to grow and expand into the operation you see today.”



Family and veteran-owned Blue Arc Metal Specialties was founded in 1998 and opened its doors in Claremore in 2005. The company specializes in a variety of fields but has a proud history and passion for the aviation industry. They were designated as a Part 145 FAA Repair Station in 2020. Today, Blue Arc partners and serves a supply chain for numerous operations across the Claremore Industrial Park. The organization specializes in various welding processes, CNC plasma cutting, aircraft repair, research, and development, allowing them to support a variety of business sectors.



# Claremore Manufacturers Awarded OIEP Funding

Across the United States, there is a significant demand for skilled workforce across all industry sectors.

To aid in this effort, Governor Kevin Stitt announced the Oklahoma Innovation Expansion Program (OIEP), launched in 2021, making funding available to qualifying manufacturers across the state. The goal of this program is to support high-impact new capital investment across a broad range of industries to help diversify the state’s economy, lead to new product development or increase capacity at Oklahoma’s existing companies. In addition to encouraging new investment, these awards support both existing jobs and the creation of new employment opportunities.

Two Claremore companies were selected as grant recipients, Pelco Structural and Blue Arc Metal

# Lights, Claremore, Action!

Claremore is no stranger to the film industry, going back to its history with performer and actor, Will Rogers. Over the past 10 years, movie and television productions have spent more than \$300 million in Oklahoma. During these exciting projects, production teams spend money at various businesses, including hotels, antique stores, lumber mills, restaurants, clothing stores, recording studios, and more.

In addition to adding money to Oklahoma’s economy, the film industry has created thousands of part-time and full-time jobs for residents. According to the Oklahoma Film + Music Office (OF+MO), recent figures show approximately \$100 million in total wages for more than 650 production days.

From breathtaking rural landscapes to historic Route 66 scenery and our quaint downtown, Claremore makes the perfect location for feature film projects of all sizes.

CIEDA is joining alongside the City of Claremore and other community organizations to complete the process to become an “Oklahoma Film Friendly Community.” On January 9, 2023 the Claremore City Council is expected to pass the necessary permits and related ordinance to address film and television production in the city.



Specialties. The award of these funds will be used to purchase new machinery and support the addition of new jobs and capital investment in Rogers County.

Pelco Structural will utilize its grant to purchase a pole welding machine. This innovative tool will allow Pelco’s team to increase production on its smaller diameter shafts, allowing for a reduced manufacturing time and ensuring a more uniform final product

To support its growing business and fill its new facility, Blue Arc Metal Specialties will be purchasing a new CNC laser cutting unit. This machine will give the organization the capabilities to cut stainless steel and aluminum and support the expansion of the defense side of the organization’s business.



Photo Credit  
HOLLY KELLEHAN SMITH

In October 2022, Claremore served as the backdrop for the feature film, A Christmas...Present, starring Candace Cameron Bure and Marc Blucas. The movie premiered on the Great American Family network Thanksgiving weekend. Our community served as the movie’s primary filming location and features many notable sites, including the Lilac District, the Belvedere Mansion, First Presbyterian Church, and Barron Law.

The impact provided by the film industry has a ripple effect. It provides revenues across a community and other benefits that will be felt for many years. We are hopeful that this project will serve as a catalyst for future opportunities for our community.



## TALENT DEVELOPMENT

### Rogers County Hosts Inaugural Recognition of Excellence Awards

Business and community leaders celebrated the inaugural Recognition of Excellence Awards in October. Presented by the Rogers County Center for Manufacturing Workforce Excellence led by CIEDA, Rogers County Development, and Tulsa Ports, these awards celebrate Rogers County's thriving industrial sector and the individuals who continue to create, innovate and drive our region forward.

Award nominations were collected in six categories, identifying those leaders who are transforming their organizations, identifying solutions and paving the way for future manufacturing leaders.

AXH air-coolers was also honored as the 2022 Rogers County Manufacturing Company of the Year. The

company was selected for its dedication to workforce development, investment in our community and collaborative approach, which has fostered regional business growth.

The 2022 Recognition of Excellence Awards were celebrated in conjunction with National Manufacturing Month. Launched annually on the first Friday in October, the goal of Manufacturing Month is to show the reality of modern manufacturing careers. The award ceremony was hosted at Northeast Tech's Claremore campus, and presented area tech students with an opportunity to interact with industry leaders while learning more about the companies and employment opportunities available in Rogers County.



### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

#### EXCEPTIONAL HIRE

Brett Sands, *Tristar Glass*

#### CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

Brian O'Dell, *Blue Arc Metal Specialties*

#### SUPPLY CHAIN SOLUTIONS

Veronica Nichols, *Kelvion Inc.*

#### CHAMPION OF CHANGE

Stephen Snyder, *United Axle*

#### INNOVATOR IN MANUFACTURING

Jay Katon, *AXH Air-Coolers*

#### ROGERS COUNTY MANUFACTURING COMPANY OF THE YEAR

*AXH Air-Coolers*





# RoCo Ready Prepares the Next Generation of Workforce



The Rogers County Center for Manufacturing Workforce Excellence, in partnership with Northeast Tech, launched an innovative new workforce development initiative, RoCo Ready. This program provides participants extensive, hands-on job application, resume preparation, and interview training. Attendees also received OSHA 10 and CPR/First Aid certifications upon course completion. This summer, the program proudly graduated two participants.

Activities include tours of the Claremore Industrial Park, the Tulsa Ports, and connection with local employers who were actively hiring. The program was free to individuals 17+ years of age interested in any sector of employment.



# CIEDA Launches Rogers County Career Portal

The Claremore Industrial and Economic Development Authority launched a new and creative platform to connect prospective employees with available positions in Rogers County. The careers portal on [growclaremore.com](https://growclaremore.com) is a centrally located, user-friendly job board allowing Rogers County businesses and job seekers to advertise and search for open positions at no cost.

CIEDA piloted the program with its manufacturing partners in the Claremore Industrial Park. Today the platform highlights over 300 career opportunities monthly in various sectors, including manufacturing, health care, education, food service, banking and government.

The jobs platform was created in conjunction with GetroJobs, an innovator in the fields of recruitment, professional networking and connecting people with careers they love. Utilizing feedback from CIEDA and other clients, GetroJobs recently implemented a job alert



sign up feature that can be filtered by the applicant for company, job function, and industry. Now prospective Rogers County employees can receive new job listing notifications for specific opportunities based on skill-set and areas of interest.

# Claremore Children's Center Opens New Chelsea Facility

Finding accessible and affordable childcare continues to be a challenge for working guardians across the country. This became increasingly true with the multi-faceted fallout following the pandemic. To help alleviate this obstacle in Rogers County, the Claremore Children's Center announced the opening of a second 2,160 square-foot childcare facility located in Chelsea, OK. The new operation Chelsea Children's Center LLC is expected to open in October of 2022 and will have the initial capacity to care for 30 children of various ages.

The expansion of Claremore Children's Center will add an additional 10 jobs to the community and an economic impact expected to exceed \$1,587,267 in the first year.

Claremore Children's Center has served the community for more than 17 years. The organization's mission is to provide exceptional childcare service with a safe, loving, developmentally appropriate, and Godly learning atmosphere. Owned by LaKisha and Bobbie McNair since 2017, the Claremore Children's Center has established a reputation for adhering to the highest education and child development standards, being named the Claremore Chamber's Best of the Best Award in childcare for the past two years.

Access to child care continues to be a primary barrier to employment. The expansion of Claremore Children's Center will increase Chelsea's licensed childcare availability by 156 percent and provide an opportunity for more individuals to participate in our region's workforce.



Accessible, affordable child care is crucial to a robust workforce pipeline. To help combat the growing need for child care services in Rogers County, the Claremore Area Chamber of Commerce completed an important study assessing the state of child care.

In October, the Chamber and CIEDA hosted businesses and community leaders for an important Hot Topic Luncheon unveiling the results of this critical survey. Attendees also heard firsthand from a panel of industry experts highlighting the need for additional child care operations in our community, the impact of the lack of services to our workforce, and educational pathways for those interested in joining the child care industry.



# CIEDA Launches Relocate Rogers County Workforce Initiative

Not unlike a number of communities across the United States, Rogers County is currently experiencing a time of low unemployment. With a rate of just 2.8 percent, several high-wage positions in manufacturing, education and healthcare sectors remain unfilled.

To aid in promoting Rogers County as a prime area to live, work and play, CIEDA debuted Relocate Rogers County. This effort was designed to showcase the many quality-of-life amenities residents can find across the community and showcase why so many have chosen to call Rogers County home. This includes familiarizing new residents with the many dining, shopping, recreation, and other entertainment options across Rogers County, all while supporting local businesses.

Funding for this program provided for 10 families new to Rogers County to receive \$500 relocation packages. These featured items such as tickets to various Rogers State University Activities, passes to one of the many local museums and attractions, gift cards to local retail destinations and membership to the Heritage Hills Golf Course.



# Claremore Careers Highlighted in Preparation for Manufacturing Month

Each October, CIEDA joins communities across the nation in celebrating National Manufacturing Month. Launched annually on the first Friday in October, the goal of Manufacturing Month is to show the reality of modern manufacturing careers by encouraging companies and educational institutions around the nation to open their doors to students, parents, teachers, and community leaders.



In preparation for this exciting event, CIEDA hosted an Industrial Externship in partnership with the Northeast Workforce Development Board. More than 30 workforce professionals from across the region toured local manufacturing facilities and learned more about the amazing opportunities that exist within the Claremore Industrial Park.

A big thank you to AXH air-coolers, Pelco Structural and MST Manufacturing for opening their facilities and being champions for our regional talent pipeline!



# Engaging Tomorrow's Leaders

For the first time in its history, more than 10,000 Oklahoma FFA members gathered in Tulsa for the Oklahoma State FFA Convention. Students, educators, parents, legislators, corporate donors, and more joined together to present scholarships and celebrate accomplishments. These awards are based on students' supervised agriculture experiences, career development events, student-led business operations, work-based experiences and more, earning their place as a valuable and key solution to our state's workforce pipeline.

As our region faces record-low unemployment rates, there are high levels of job demand in Rogers County's industrial and healthcare sectors. CIEDA staff joined more than 125 other exhibitors at the State FFA Convention Expo, for the opportunity to meet, engage, and interact with more than 10,000 high school students highlighting the county's career and quality of life opportunities.



# SMALL BUSINESS



## “With change comes opportunity” Exciting momentum for Downtown Claremore

Downtown Claremore is a destination for residents, visitors and businesses alike. The area was once known for its quality antique stores, making it a collector’s dream. Today, while there are still many fantastic antiques to be found, new stores, restaurants and entertainment venues have opened, serving as a catalyst for additional investment in the district. Many of our community’s most popular establishments can be found originated on Claremore Main Street.

The downtown ecosystem is changing. The cultivation and development of Claremore’s downtown district has been a strategic objective for CIEDA for the last several years. In conjunction with partner organizations, such as Claremore Main Street, the Claremore Collective, the Chamber, the City and others, we are witnessing the area’s ongoing revitalization. Over the past year, through the dedication of these groups and many incredible volunteers, the downtown corridor has celebrated the installation of new signage, décor, entertainment features, and a new playground.

As the old saying goes, “with change comes opportunity.” While there has been a continual momentum and focus behind development in the

Lilac District, the community is truly beginning to witness the fruits of those efforts. There have been many shifts taking place on Claremore Main Street. In 2022, our community celebrated the announcement of several exciting business openings downtown.

ANVIL AXE CO.

CABIN BOYS BREWERY

THE FRECKLED FINCH

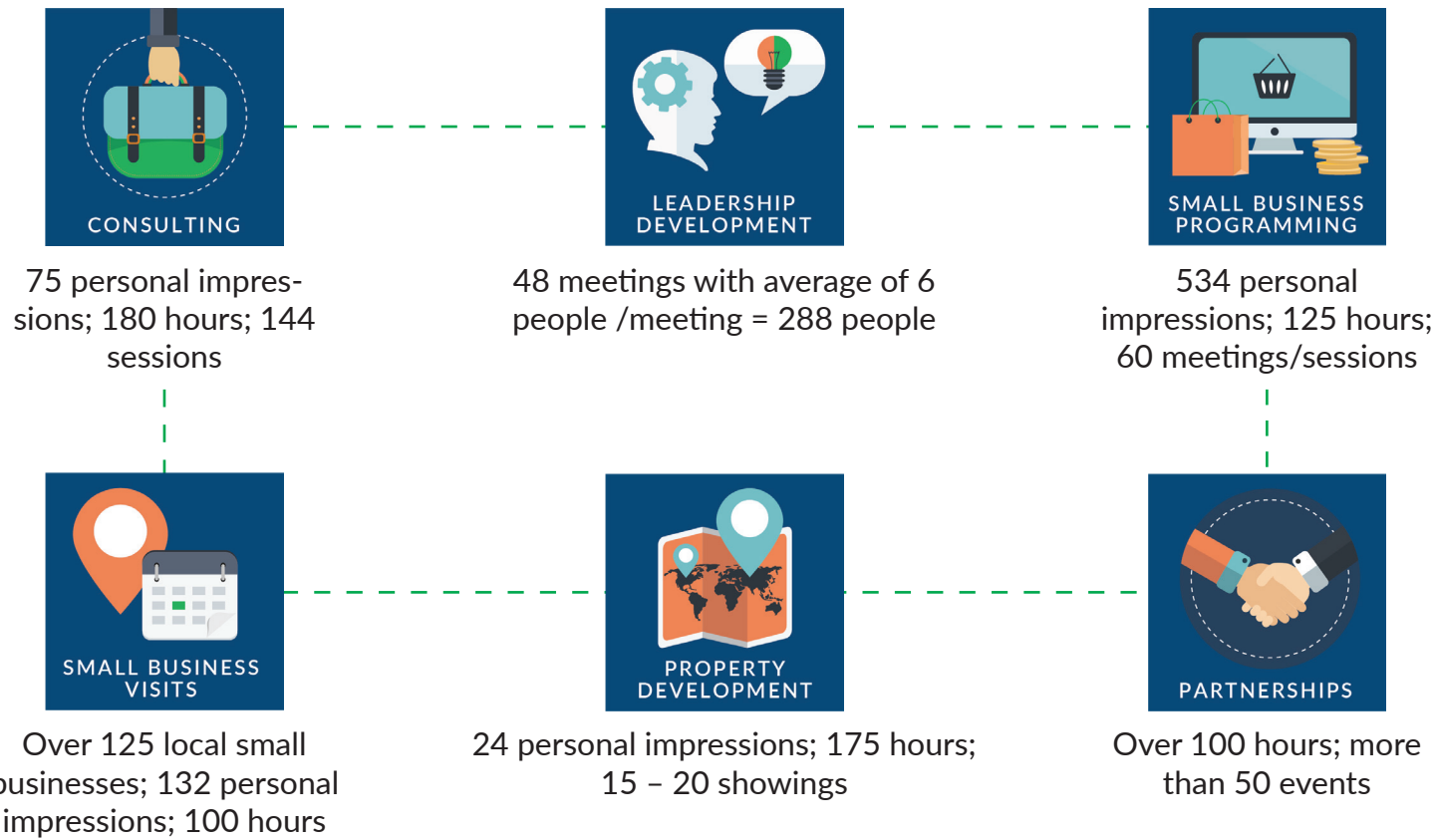
KRACKEN

MARSHALL SIGN

OKLAHOMA PIZZA COMPANY

CIEDA is incredibly grateful to every small business owner who has taken a leap of faith and invested in our community. Our team looks forward to continuing to support each of these new business ventures and celebrating their long-term success in Claremore.

## Claremore Small Business Development By the Number



## Claremore Celebrates the Relaunch of 1 Million Cups

In February, the Claremore entrepreneurial community joined together to celebrate the relaunch of 1 Million Cups Claremore! This unique event highlights community small business owners and entrepreneurs who inspire attendees with stories of business journeys, challenges, and plans for the future. Additionally, 1 Million Cups provides local small business owners a unique opportunity to connect with other like-minded people for the exchange of thoughts and ideas to help take your business to the next level.

In 2022, 1 Million Cups Claremore hosted 12 events attended by more than 200 people. This impactful program is positioned to grow in the coming year and is in the process of forming a leadership committee to ensure its continued long term success.





# CLAREMORE REGIONAL AIRPORT

## Claremore Regional Airport Celebrates Opening of New T-Hangar Facility

The Claremore Regional Airport, Claremore Industrial and Economic Development Authority and Claremore Area Chamber of Commerce joined together to celebrate the opening of a new 10-unit t-hangar building in September. The facility represents a total capital investment of nearly \$800,000 as a direct



result of high regional demand and interest. All spaces within the unit were reserved with cash deposits within an hour of announcing the airport's upcoming t-hangar availability.

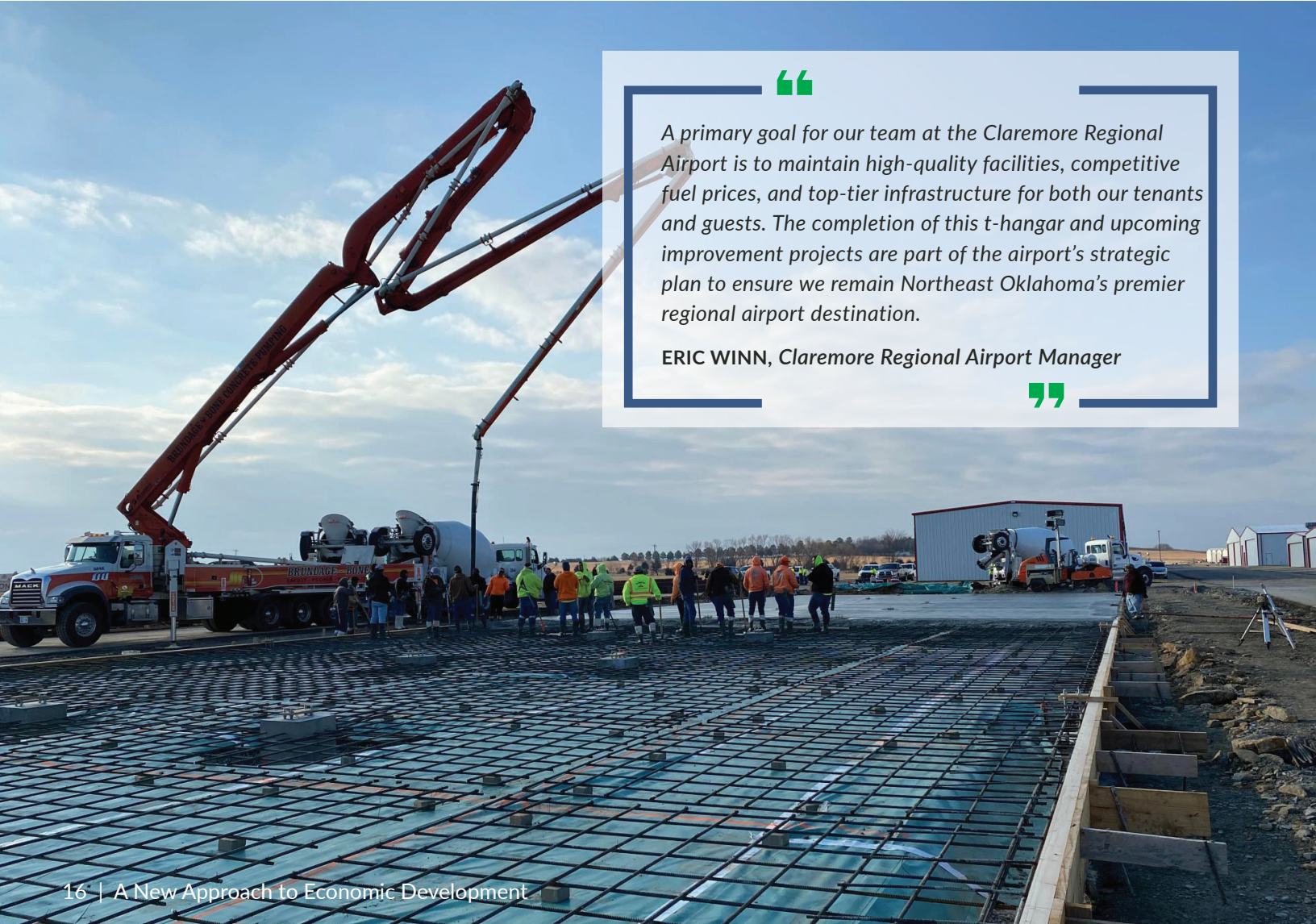
Construction on the project began in late 2021 and is part of the airport's strategic improvement plan.

“

*A primary goal for our team at the Claremore Regional Airport is to maintain high-quality facilities, competitive fuel prices, and top-tier infrastructure for both our tenants and guests. The completion of this t-hangar and upcoming improvement projects are part of the airport's strategic plan to ensure we remain Northeast Oklahoma's premier regional airport destination.*

**ERIC WINN, Claremore Regional Airport Manager**

”



## Grant Funding Propels Growth at the Claremore Regional Airport

In February, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce announced that Claremore was one of 28 communities selected to receive funding to support the development of new industrial sites to market. CIEDA will utilize these funds to strategically determine and drive growth and development at the Claremore Regional Airport.

The financial support provided through this grant will allow Claremore to invest resources promoting future economic development opportunities at the Claremore Regional Airport and continue our efforts to serve as Northeast Oklahoma's premier regional airport destination.

### THE GRANT FUNDS CAN BE USED TO HELP THESE COMMUNITIES

- Identify available sites capabilities;
- Identify what industries sites can support;
- Identify quantified site gaps and limitations;
- Conduct competitive capability assessments; and
- Make recommendations for investment in infrastructure gaps.

This funding was utilized for site analysis services provided by Quest Site Solutions to establish baseline infrastructure challenges and opportunities as the airport will celebrate its 20th anniversary in the next decade. This information aids in establishing how future growth and development of the site can be intentionally data-driven.

## Claremore Regional Airport Serves as Host for Green Country Aerofest

In 2022, the Claremore Regional Airport was honored to serve as the host for the inaugural Green Country Aerofest providing a unique opportunity to showcase our facilities to aviation enthusiasts from across the region. The event boasted a fantastic turnout with over 500 attendees, 120 aircraft, 13 vendors, and three food trucks!

The free community event was sponsored by Aircraft Specialty Services. Look for this Aerofest to make a return in 2023!





# ABOUT US

The Claremore Industrial and Economic Development Authority (CIEDA) is a public trust organization formed in 1948 under Oklahoma state law established to make sufficient use of economic resources and to stimulate economic growth and development for the City of Claremore and Rogers County. CIEDA facilitates the recruitment, retention, and expansion of primary industry jobs and expansion of the sales tax base through the recruitment of new destination retail businesses.

## MISSION

CIEDA drives economic advancements for Rogers County by supporting and recruiting aligned businesses for mutual prosperity

## STAFF



**Meggie Froman-Knight**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Terry May Peters**  
BUSINESS DEVELOPER



**Eric Winn**  
AIRPORT MANAGER



**Caitlyn Ngare**  
TALENT DEVELOPMENT  
COORDINATOR



**Bailey Thompson**  
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**Kaleigh Hossack**  
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

## TRUSTEES



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**Gary Collins, Vice Chairman**  
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**Jeff Jensen, Trustee**  
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**Tim Fleetwood, Trustee**  
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LOVE AIR CONDITIONING, LLC



**Ryan Neely, Trustee**  
FINANCIAL ADVISOR  
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**Amy Stutzman Fortna, Trustee**  
FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR  
WAYMARK ADVISORS



**Jerry Schivally, Trustee**  
PRESIDENT/CEO  
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