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March 2012

Issue 13



Dear Bryan,

We have an exciting March lined up for our members. Please view our calendar of events at www.tahra.org to register for upcoming events. Also, don't forget to get registered for the 2012 Oklahoma HR State Conference and Expo, *The Art of HR* (<http://www.okhrconference.com>). It is scheduled for April 25-27 and will be held at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center.



President's Message

by Chris Wright, Ph.D.

Dave Lopez, Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce & Tourism to Speak at March Program Meeting

I am very, VERY excited about TAHRA's upcoming March program meeting. TAHRA has the honor of welcoming Dave Lopez, Oklahoma's Secretary of Commerce and Tourism to speak at our March program.

I have had the privilege of working with Secretary Lopez on an exciting project for Governor Mary Fallin, the *FallinforBusiness.com Survey of Business Executives*, the largest survey of Oklahoma employers ever conducted. Secretary Lopez, along with Governor Fallin, has worked diligently to bring various economic development organizations across the state together in an effort to create a unified strategy for improving Oklahoma's business climate by creating additional programs, incentives and initiatives to help employers be more successful.

I have truly come to appreciate Secretary Lopez's willingness to tackle tough challenges, and given his business background, he truly understands the issues facing Oklahoma employers. Please join us in March, and **bring other executives** from your company for a unique opportunity to hear an engaging program from Secretary Lopez that will highlight business climate and workforce initiatives in Oklahoma that will benefit all employers. We look forward to seeing you in March!

Chapter 0175

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State HR Conference
April 25-27, 2012
Tulsa, OK



Join us on...

March Program Meeting

Wednesday, March 21 | 11:00am - 1:00pm|
Registration begins at 11:00am
Renaissance Tulsa Hotel & Convention Center
Members - \$20, Guests - \$30

Register today!

Oklahoma Business Climate and Workforce Trends

*Presented by Dave Lopez
Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce & Tourism*



Oklahoma ranks highly on a number of national business and economic indicators. Join TAHRA this month as Secretary Lopez highlights current business climate and workforce trends in Oklahoma.

He will also share information about State programs and initiatives that better enable Oklahoma's employers to select, develop and retain a talented workforce. Secretary Lopez will answer your questions and help you align yourself and your company with Oklahoma business initiatives and strategies, provide information on the Workforce Investment Board and the programs that impact employers and share ways that HR and employers can impact State government. You will not want to miss this event!

Long active in corporate and community leadership positions, Dave Lopez continues to direct his energies to civic and business endeavors as the Secretary of Commerce for the State of Oklahoma.

Governor Mary Fallin appointed Lopez in February of last year to help lead the state's economic development efforts and to serve on the governor's cabinet. Lopez is a retired officer of SBC Communications (now AT&T) and he was most recently president of the American Fidelity Foundation, based in Oklahoma City.

Before concluding a 22-year career with AT&T, Lopez held a variety of executive positions with its predecessor company in Houston, Dallas, St. Louis, San Antonio, Oklahoma City and Austin. Lopez served his last six years as an officer of the corporation, including a four year assignment as its president of Oklahoma and later as president of Texas.

Lopez was born in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and received a Bachelor of Science degree from New Mexico State University in 1974 and a Master of Arts degree from the same institution in 1979. Lopez is married to the former Lana Blakley and they have five children and eight grandchildren.



Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce and Tourism, Dave Lopez To Announce April 25, 2012 as Oklahoma HR Appreciation Day

On March 21, Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce and Tourism Dave Lopez, in partnership with the Oklahoma State Council for Human Resource Management (OKHR), will announce that Governor Mary



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TAHRA Partners

TAHRA Partners are regular supporters of TAHRA and helps our organization continue to develop and present quality continuing education programs, create opportunities for peer networking and enhance our overall contribution to the human resources profession.

For information on becoming a TAHRA Partner [click here.](#)

Meet our TAHRA Partners...

Fallin has proclaimed April 25, 2012, as Human Resource Appreciation Day in Oklahoma.

Human Resource Appreciation Day in Oklahoma (April 25) will coincide with the kickoff of "The Art of HR", the 2012 OKHR State Conference to be held at Renaissance Tulsa Hotel & Convention Center on April 25-27, 2012. The conference is expected to attract 500-700 human resources professionals from around the state.

February Learning Lab

Thursday, March 29 | 2:00pm - 4:00pm |

Location: OSU Tulsa

Members - \$15, Guests - \$25

Beyond "Social Media" - Why a More Social Communication Style Matters

In March TAHRA is bringing in a public relations and marketing pro to help with ways to communicate your ideas more effectively and influence the C-Suite through leveraging the language and communication style most likely to get you, and those you represent, heard.. Mandy Vavrinak will share ways to turn your Big Ideas into Small Soundbites - why it matters and how to do it well so that HR professionals can speak effectively for employees and with employees. Whether you're communicating new benefits, policies, or seeking feedback, using today's social tools and tactics will help you accomplish your goals more efficiently and effectively. She will also share information on how to find the compelling stories within your organization and share them in ways that matter to boost recruiting efforts, retain and engage employees, and positively impact your company's bottom line.

Register Now!

Mandy Vavrinak is a public relations and integrated marketing pro who sums up her mission for clients in just a few words: She finds and tells the stories of people, brands, businesses and places. Socially savvy, bottom-line focused and fueled by lattes and chocolate, this mom of four knows how to dig deep, connect the dots for businesses and media, and use the power of our connected world to its best effect. She owns Crossroads Communications, LLC, an Tulsa-based integrated marketing company she launched in 2003 and she speaks nationally on the topics of Public Relations, Social Media, Integrated Media, and Economic Development.

Meet a Member!

By Jim Martin, VP of Public Relations

TAHRA memberships are driven by the ability to network with other professionals, yet with all there is to do in a day and the little time we have at TAHRA meetings, this can be a real challenge. With this in mind we decided it would be fun to bring members to you with our new monthly feature, Meet a Member! Beginning this month, TAHRA will spotlight a member and share interesting aspects about them in our monthly newsletter. Please take time to review and let us know what you think. Also, be sure to bring a smile with you to all our meetings

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Barbara Ware, CRP
VP Diversity

Heidi Hartman, SPHR
VP Education

Donna Fletcher, PHR, CCP
Treasurer

because you never know, you may be next!

This month our randomly chosen member is Rachel Nolen from Helmerich & Payne, Inc. Rachel graciously answered a few questions about her life and her career as an HR professional.



Where are you employed?

- Helmerich & Payne, Inc., (a contract drilling company)

How long have you been there?

- 6 years

What do you do for them?

- I work in the employment area of our HR Department. I have a variety of duties; employee relations, absence management, HR System data quality, etc.

Why did you join TAHRA?

- To network with other HR professionals and to hear the most up-to-date HR laws and practices.

How has TAHRA benefited you with your work?

- TAHRA gives me pointers and tips to share with our managers to establish good practices within our organization.

What additional functions/events/website information would you like to see from TAHRA?

- It would be interesting to have an "Answers to Your Questions" session at a TAHRA luncheon. TAHRA members could submit questions, a variety could be chosen and either a panel of experts or audience members could provide insight.

What is your favorite aspect of TAHRA?

- Hearing the speakers who are there to motivate us to perform better and inform us of changes or laws we may have not otherwise heard about.

Rachel also shared a funny story about a caller who had her company, Helmerich & Payne...also known as H&P...confused with a printer company. He did not understand why she could not help him repair his printer. It took some convincing to assure him he had called "H&P" a drilling company. A little case of mistaken identity that falls under the "other duties as assigned" category!

Thank you Rachel, and to all of you. Be sure to give Rachel a "High Five" for agreeing to be our first ever, "Meet a Member"!

Diane Hewitt
Golf Tournament Chair

Justice Waidner-Smith
Community Relations Chair

Lisa Johnson
Website/Technology Chair

Vicki Hidde
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Kerry Hope
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Belen Burkhalter, PhD, CRC
Workforce Readiness Chair

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Stanna Brazeel, SPHR
SHRM Foundation Chair

Susan McGinnis, RHU
Fundraising Chair

Denise Reid
Chamber Liaison

Julie Odom
Chapter Management
Professional



Community Events and Resources

by Denise Reid, Chamber Liaison

Tulsa Area Employer Council - March 13th, 8:30a.m. to 10:00 at Doubletree Downtown

Preventing a Wewoka Switch-Managing Leaves of Absence - Presented by: Victor F. Albert, Attorney with Conner & Winters Law Firm to RSVP please call (918) 796-1200

Tulsa World Annual Career Fair at John Q. Hammons Arena at the UMAC
March 22nd 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. for more information call (918) 732-8140 or email careerads@tulsaworld.com

Virtual Job Fair, March 28th - April 2nd - 24 hours a day
For more information email bcrawford@cardaa.org

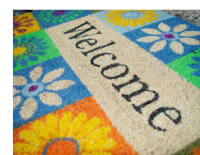
Intern season is fast approaching and the chamber offers a few resources that may help you navigate the season. Our www.InternInTulsa.com website is a free resource provided to area employers for posting internship opportunities. The website includes a Hire Education: Guide For Starting An Internship Program that was recently updated. Our Tulsa Young Professionals (TYPros) group also offers a Summer Intern Series at no cost to you or your intern(s). The goal of the three events is to get your interns engaged in all that our community has to offer from a live, work and play quality of life.

TYPros 2012 Summer Intern Series (3 Events)

- June 7th @ 5:30 - Tulsa Big Wheel Relay Race - Represent your company and make them proud by participating in the Tulsa Big Wheel Relay Race. That's right, "adults" on big wheels! This fundraiser event benefits TYPros' 2012 community partner, YWCA Tulsa.
- June 29th @ 5:30 - Trolley Tour of Tulsa - Come take a one hour tour of Tulsa's hot spots followed by a party in the Blue Dome District with free appetizers and giveaways.
- July 19th @ 6:00 - Tulsa Drillers Game - Enjoy a night under the lights at the ballpark and watch the Tulsa Drillers take on the Springfield Cardinals. The game starts at 7:05pm, but come out early for a free picnic with hamburgers and hotdogs.

If you would like additional information about any of these events or programs please feel free to call me at (918) 560-0255 or email me at denisereid@tulsachamber.com.

Join TAHRA in Welcoming our Newest Members



George Schwenk Blackhawk Industrial

Vickie Stephens RAE Corporation

Chelsea	Dupree	Tactical Electronics	Will (HC)	Williams	World Publishing Company
Carol	Whetzel	Consultant	Carrell	Waugh	Frontier Communications
Ashley	Pile	Pennwell Corporation	Tim	Powell	
Susan	Schulte	Community Food Bank of Eastern OK	June	Post	Panther Energy
Eric	Smothers	Graebel Oklahoma Movers, Inc.	Traci	Wincup	Hilti
Curtis	Huntsinger	American Fidelity Assurance Co.	Thomas	Tomlin	Ceridian
Kendra	Deaton	Osage Casino	James	Naylor	BrightStar Care
Christy	Davis	PremierSource	Connie	Friedl-Wright	Wright & Associates
Erica	Ivey	Urologic Specialists of Oklahoma	Kristin	Williams	Bank of Oklahoma
Matt	Bentz	Loves Travel Stops	Brittne	Thompson	Blackhawk Industrial
Deborah	Chambers	Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma	Sarah	Miller	Cancer Treatment Centers of America
Nathan	Mitchell	Clutch Consulting LLC	Marla	Atkison	JC Penney
Brett	Huckell	National Labor Relations Board	Heather	Penson	Inverness Village
Leigha	Wright	Ruhrpumpen	Miranda	Frye	The Job Guide
Alan	Parker	Alan Parker & Associates	Karen	Kempf	ADP
T. Woody	Wood	Legal Shield	Angela	Kouplan	WPX Energy
Nicole	Millikan	Access Optics	Heather	Mellinger	Primary Services
Melinda	Perry	Morgan Stanley Smith Barney	Evie	Blair	Snergy Benefit Consultants
Kyle	Revard	Osage Casino	Amanda	Davis	Community Action Project
Sharri	Downing	Family & Children's Services	Joyce	Patterson	Auto-Turn Mfg, Inc.
Christy	Ouverson	Hilti	Adriana	Carson	WPX Energy
Michael	Cupp	Tulsa County Court Services	Mrya	Long	WPX Energy
Tara	Collins	ADP	Don	Riker	MIRATECH Corp.
Tracy	Bellew	OneOK	TJ	Cain	Horizon Well Logging, LLC

February 2012 Program Pics



Jim Martin visits with members



Heidi Hartman recruits Volunteer



Randall Snapp gave an excellent presentation

Calendar of Events

March

21 - March Program Meeting - [Oklahoma Business Climate and Workforce Trends](#)

29 - March Learning Lab - [Beyond "Social Media" - Why a More Social Communication Style Matters](#)

April (No Program or Lab in April)

25 - 27 - OK HR State Conference and Expo - [The Art of HR](#)

May

16 - May Program Meeting and Supervisor Training - Legal Updates presented by Kirk Turner - More details available soon.

24 - May Learning Lab

Tulsa Area Human Resources Association
admin@tahra.org
(918) 344-4622

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