FOR RELEASE: November 18, 2004

## **AGENCY AWARDS \$1.2 MILLION TO STATE BUSINESSES FOR TRAINING**

Incumbent Worker Training Program Allows Businesses to Focus on Individual Training Needs

OKLAHOMA CITY – Thirty-two Oklahoma businesses have been chosen to receive over \$1 million in training funds through the state's **Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)** program. Administered by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, the four-year-old program provides training money to businesses both small and large across the state. With IWT funding, employers provide their workers with customized training to fit their particular situation, both for the individual and the business. This freedom allows businesses to provide exactly the training employees need to stay competitive in the marketplace of tomorrow.

Over 130 Oklahoma businesses applied for the program this year. Specific training plans and budgets were submitted as proposals, and award decisions were made based on these proposals. A total of \$1,125,638 in funding was awarded for the 2004-2005 period. The following is the list of businesses approved for IWT funds and the amount they will receive.

Amarillo Chittom Airflo, <i>Tulsa</i> \$43,300	Kwikset Corporation, Bristow\$50,000
Anchor Glass Container, Henryetta \$35,455	Lindsay Manufacturing, Ponca City\$30,000
Central Technology Ctr., Drumright \$50,000	Malone's CNC Machining, Grove \$8,433
CNI Manufacturing, Marietta\$21,150	Mercury MerCruiser, Stillwater\$49,900
Contract Manufacturer, Madill \$50,000	Michelin North America, Ardmore \$50,000
Eastman National Bank, Newkirk \$29,250	North American Stone Crafters, Enid\$46,400
Enviro Systems Inc., Seminole \$21,365	Onyx Corporation, Tulsa\$20,000
Flow Boy Manufacturing, Norman \$49,400	OU Medical Center, Okla. City\$45,000
Georgia Pacific, Muskogee \$50,000	Painter & Associates, Okla. City \$17,730
Grace College, Bethany \$50,000	Panhandle Regional Economic
Grace Living Center, Altus \$50,000	Development Coalition, Guymon \$4,938
Goodyear Tire & Rubber, Lawton \$50,000	Pippin Brothers Inc., Lawton\$16,570
Helicomb International, Tulsa \$49,878	Quality Wood Products, Miami\$24,660
Henderson Coffee, Muskogee \$16,155	Quebecor World Inc., Stillwater\$50,000
International Union of Elevator	Republic Paperboard Co., Lawton\$39,360
<b>Constructors,</b> <i>Tulsa</i> \$16,075	Schwan's Bakery, Stilwell\$50,000
Johnson & Johnson Locksmiths, Lawton \$14,619	Searchlight Center, Hobart\$26,000

## **NEWS RELEASE**

The one catch is that all Incumbent Worker Training must lead to improved job skills so workers can earn a living wage in today's Oklahoma economy. Training can take the form of traditional classroom training, on-thejob training, distance learning, workshops, seminars, in-house training and computer-based training. The funding for this program is provided through the federal Workforce Investment Act.

For more information on Incumbent Worker Training, please contact Lydia Johnson at (405) 557-7112 or lydia.johnson@oesc.state.ok.us, or visit the OESC website at www.oesc.state.ok.us.

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