



# local labor market update for **TULSA AREA**



a publication from the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission and the Tulsa Eastgate Workforce Center

## Covering 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2011

The **Tulsa Local Labor Market (LLM)**, located in northeastern Oklahoma, covers Creek, Osage, Pawnee and Tulsa counties.

During second quarter 2011, the **Tulsa Eastgate Workforce Center** held a variety of employer-initiated hiring events at the **Center**. **Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC)** staff helped coordinate hiring events for Spirit Aero and American Airlines, both sponsored by the Tulsa Mayor's office. Hundreds of applicants attended the events, and the employers were onsite to conduct on-the-spot interviews. **OESC** joined with Spirit Aero, American Airlines, the Mayors office, Workforce Tulsa and ResCare, the WIA service provider, to staff these hiring events.

**OESC** continues to sponsor the monthly, employer-led Tulsa Area Employer Council meetings, providing timely and informative presentations for HR professionals.

The **Tulsa Eastgate Workforce Center** manager, Karen Baskerville, retired during the quarter after 32 years of service with OESC. Carla Hight was named to replace Karen at this very busy workforce center.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

### WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT

The **Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)** program provides tax incentives to employers who hire from targeted groups that traditionally face significant barriers to employment. Depending on the certified target group to which a new hire belongs, an employer can receive a tax credit of \$2,400, \$4,800 or \$9,000 for each WOTC-eligible worker hired. Groups targeted by WOTC include recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Family (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food stamps, Supplement Security Income (SSI), long-term family assistance, and vocational rehabilitation as well as summer youth employees, designated community residents, ex-felons, disabled veterans, unemployed veterans and disconnected youth. Most workers who don't qualify for the maximum tax credit can receive a partial credit. There is no limit to the number of workers for whom an employer can claim the tax credit. For more information on the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, please call (405) 557-7128.

### TULSA EASTGATE WORKFORCE CENTER

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## OKLAHOMA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION (OESC)

In 2010, OESC

- served **172,028 job seekers** through workforce centers
- assisted **65,199 customers** enter employment
- listed **106,497 job openings**
- processed **199,195 unemployment insurance (UI) claims**
- injected **just over \$1.0 billion** in UI benefits into Oklahoma's economy

### EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT

June 2011	LLM	State
Labor force	344,970	1,730,411
Employment	322,289	1,637,924
Unemployment	22,681	92,487
Unemployment rate	6.6%	5.3%

Source: OESC Economic Research & Analysis

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

2Q 2011	LLM	State
Initial claims	15,241	64,836
Continued claims	161,219	648,931

Source: OESC Unemployment Insurance Division

### EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

#### Tulsa Eastgate Workforce Center

2Q 2011	Center	State
Registrations	1,991	40,396
Entered employment	3,923	65,071
Employer contacts	270	4,564
Job openings	1,799	16,755

Source: OESC Workforce Integrated Programs