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Governor Announces Minority Business Council

OKLAHOMA CITY – Governor Kevin Stitt has assembled the first-ever Governor’s Minority Business Council to help make Oklahoma a more inclusive and attractive business environment for people of all ethnicities and backgrounds.

The council, which is chaired by David Castillo of the Greater OKC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, held its first meeting on Wednesday, April 24th at the Oklahoma State Capitol and will meet quarterly to provide advice and feedback to Governor Stitt regarding Oklahoma’s minority business environment. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor both attended the inaugural meeting and were very excited by the council’s passion and drive.

“Part of becoming a Top Ten state is ensuring that our state welcomes and seeks input from every entrepreneur, innovator and business owner, regardless of ethnicity or background,” said Governor Kevin Stitt. “The purpose of this council is to discuss how Oklahoma can play a role in helping every person have access to opportunities for growth and job creation in a modern economy and remove barriers that are unnecessarily holding back the best talent in our state.”

The first of its kind in Oklahoma, the Governor’s Minority Business Council is currently comprised of over 20 minority business leaders from across the state. In the initial meeting, the group discussed some of the barriers to success that minority business owners face, particularly with financing and contracting. Committees are being formed to aggressively pursue several statewide initiatives including government contracting, access to capital, legislative issues, a central database for minority-owned businesses, and a statewide Governor’s minority business conference.

“The first meeting of this group was truly inspiring. Our goal is to do a better job of showcasing our minority business community and making sure they always have a seat at the table,” said Sean Kouplen, Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce and Workforce Development. “The Oklahoma spirit extends to everyone, and we want our minority business community to grow and thrive right here.”

Members of the Governor’s Minority Business Council are as follows:



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David Castillo (Chairman), President & CEO, Greater OKC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Siamak Ahmady, Owner, Ahmady's Persian Rugs

Amada Alvidriz, President, Equity Bank of Guymon

James Arati, Cleveland County Cooperative Extension

Layla Bokhari, Consultant, Steople Group

Angela Chambers, Owner, LasTop Lawn Maintenance & Landscaping Inc.

Eran Harrill, CEO, Black Chamber of Commerce

Jennifer Jezek, Owner, York Electronic Systems

Dr. Sada Joshi, Founder & CEO, Joshi Technologies

Sabih Kalidy, Owner, Kalidy Homes

Scarlet Le Cao, Owner, Modern Touch by Omega

Charity Marcus, Founder & CEO, Avenue PR

Fred Mendoza, Business & Civic Leader

Dr. Sanjay Meshri, Managing Director & Executive Vice President, Advance Research Chemicals

Wes Mitchell, Principal Consultant, Digital Convergence Consulting

Tiffany Nguyen, Director, Open Arms Clinic

Pete Patel, President & CEO, Promise Hotels

Deemah Ramadon, Owner, DBG Construction

Gee Rios, General Manager, Hilton Garden Hotel

Eric Sanders, President & Producer, Intent Productions

Ed Sanchez, President/CEO, Lopez Foods

James Sanchez, Chairman, Tulsa Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Director of Hispanic Banking Division, Regent Bank

John Patrick Sanchez, COO, Lopez Foods

Wendy Williams, Co-Founder, A New Direction Healthcare

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