

Economic Development Survey Starting in SW Oklahoma

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Center for Economic and Business Development in Weatherford will initiate a formal follow-up of the e-Synchronist™ Business Information System, which will provide updated economic information for the southwest region of Oklahoma.

The original effort, conducted in 2005, provided an economic portfolio of information. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce assisted with implementation of the basic e-Synchronist™ data management process that launched the Southwest Oklahoma Impact Coalition (SOIC).

Keeping the information current is essential, according to Dr. Marvin Hankins, director of the CEBC.

In the next few weeks, staff at the center will be contacting previously interviewed officials from companies in Beckham, Custer, Roger Mills and Washita counties to update and identify new information about company changes and industry trends.

Hankins said the participation of company executives is critical. Every company executive is encouraged to take this opportunity to meet with the interview staff. The new information collected will enable economic development officials to give community leaders a solid foundation for making future economic development and program decisions and then allocate resources accordingly.

The Southwest Oklahoma Impact Coalition used the results of previous interviews with over 140 manufacturers to formulate a focus for the action items currently in various stages of development by the SOIC partners. Developing a Skilled Workforce; Wireless Connectivity; Quality and Proximity of Medical Care; Quantity and Quality of Water Resources; Child Care for Working Families; Roads, Highways, & Transportation; Electrical Services; and Workers Compensation were initially identified as priorities to improve the region.