

# EXPLORATIONS

OKLAHOMA'S OIL & NATURAL GAS  
PRODUCERS & ROYALTY OWNERS. **OERB**

Fall 2011



**TELLING A NEW STORY**  
*OERB focuses on new message*



**OIPA**  
*Future Leaders*

Do you have an interest in becoming politically active on behalf of the crude oil and natural gas industry? As the representative organization for over 2,100 members, the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association is actively seeking future leaders who have a serious interest in learning about the legislative and regulatory processes which shape our industry. The OIPA also offers many great networking and relationship building events throughout the year. For more information or to find out how you can be a part of this exciting movement, please contact Natalie Kinmonth at (405) 942-2334, ext. 209 or by e-mail at [nkinmonth@oipa.com](mailto:nkinmonth@oipa.com).

# SURVEY SAYS

Every couple years the OERB conducts public opinion research to gain insight on whether the organization is fulfilling its mission of educating the public about the industry.

The latest research reveals Oklahomans do understand quite well how beneficial the oil and natural gas industry is to our state and its economic welfare.

A little more than 800 Oklahomans from varying ages and backgrounds were polled in June and July. They were asked about the oil and natural gas industry, as well as other prominent business sectors in our state and how each affect our local economy.

**97%**  
say oil & natural gas  
is a vital industry

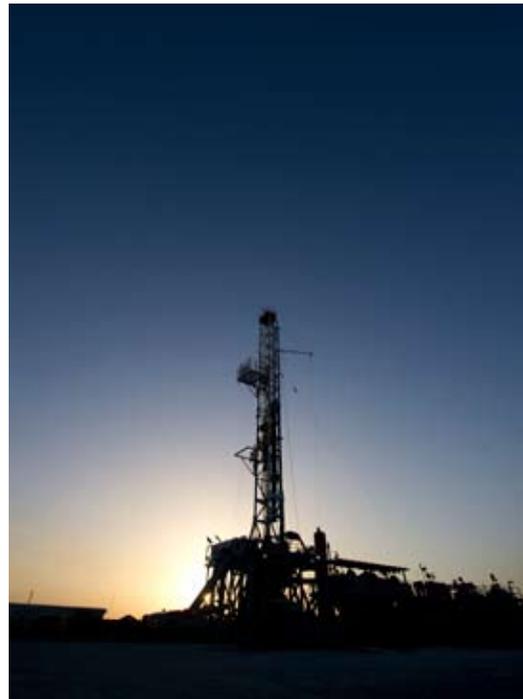
Nearly every person polled said Oklahoma's economy relies on oil and natural gas. So much so, 97.1 percent say oil and natural gas is a vital industry for Oklahoma's economy. When asked what is the single most important industry to the economy, 46.9 percent said oil and natural gas. The next closest was healthcare with 23.3 percent.

When asked about the issue of energy, respondents were asked whether they believe energy is a national security issue, an economic issue or an environmental issue. More than 50 percent felt it was an economic issue, meaning there is a need for our country to find less expensive ways of meeting our energy needs. Nearly 27 percent said national security and 20 percent said environmental.

With those numbers in mind, Oklahomans seem to be well-informed about the global energy picture. In fact, 80.4 percent said they believe the world's energy demands are substantially increasing, and we will face an energy crisis in the next 10 to 20 years.

Overall, most Oklahomans are supportive of the oil and natural gas industry in our state. An overwhelming number, 83.1 percent, reported they have a positive image of the industry.

Those pollsters also said they would be proud if their children found careers in the industry. When asked if they'd encourage their child to consider a job in the oil and natural gas industry, 78.4 percent said they would. That's an increase from 63.2 percent in 2009.



**83%**  
have a positive image  
of oil and natural gas  
industry



# NEW CAMPAIGN

## *telling the OERB education story*

Sweeping landscapes, lush greenery and proud landowners. It's often not difficult to spot an OERB television commercial. The message is simple. We clean up abandoned well sites, and we've done it well for more than 15 years.

Most Oklahomans are familiar with our restoration program. In fact, after more than 11,000 restorations, many know someone who has had a well site cleaned up somewhere in the state.

However, as honored as the OERB is to better the environment of Oklahoma, it is only half of the mission we've been diligently undertaking for nearly two decades.

The OERB is embarking on a new message campaign that introduces the public to the other side of what the industry is providing the state, through the OERB. Come November, the sweeping scenes you will see in OERB's newest public information campaign, will be ones of classrooms, science labs and museums. It has been those places where the OERB has carried out the other part of its mission – student education.

**“There was a time when the restoration program was the OERB story,” said Pete Brown, OERB Public Education Committee Chairman. “But, the organization has grown dramatically**

**over the last few years. Our student education efforts are making a major impact across the state.”**

OERB began its student education efforts in 1996 with the development of a grade school science and energy curriculum and a well site safety program. Since then, scholastic outreach has grown to encompass students from kindergarten through college, and includes eight curricula, a volunteer speakers' bureau, scholarships, a technical certification program and more.

“We looked at textbooks years ago and realized Oklahoma students were not going to learn very much about our industry and their state's oil and natural gas heritage if we didn't do something,” said Brown. “Now, they begin to learn about geology and earth science much earlier thanks to the OERB.”

New television, radio, Internet and print advertising will begin to share with the public the student education story of the OERB. The public will begin to hear about the \$21 million investment the industry, through the OERB, has dedicated to student education. Oklahomans will find out more about the OERB's continued commitment to more than 12,000 teachers to provide free curricula, classroom supplies and field trips, as well as investing in the futures of hundreds of college students as they equip themselves to be the world's next leaders in energy.

“What we have been able to do over the past two decades is build a student education program that is first class in Oklahoma and is a model for other states to follow,” said Brown.

These ads are in the production phase now and are expected to be released in late November.

## **The Oklahoma Energy Resources Board has selected Taylor Todd to serve as its education coordinator.**

As the education coordinator, Todd will help coordinate OERB's energy and science curricula, and oversee the OERB's Petro Pros programs.

“I'm grateful for the chance to be a part of this organization,” said Todd. “The OERB is an invaluable resource for Oklahoma teachers, and I am looking forward to working with each of them.”

Todd is a recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma, having finished her bachelor's degree in visual communications in May 2010. Her previous work includes marketing and sales at Noble Pharmacy.

“Taylor's eagerness and enthusiasm will be one of her strongest assets,” said Carla Schaeperkoetter, OERB education director. “She is new to the oil and natural gas industry, and we look forward to hearing what fresh ideas she has to help us make our student education programs stronger and more valuable for our teachers and students.”





# OERB® Job Line is Hopping

Some Oklahoma oil and natural gas companies are in the market for a few good workers, and they're turning to the OERB Job Line for help. The free online job search helps fill Oklahoma's need for energy industry employees, both skilled labor and professionals.

**"When Oklahoma sees increases in drilling and leasing activity, the demand for a trained workforce grows as well," said OERB Executive Director Mindy Stitt. "The job line serves as a way to connect companies with the people looking for those jobs."**

Stitt encourages producers, service companies and other energy-related companies or organizations to post job openings on the OERB Job Line.

"The job line is free and easy," Stitt said. "We expect many openings in the coming months across the state, and we hope to play a role in matching the right jobs with the right candidates."

The oil and natural gas industry provides more than 71,000 jobs in Oklahoma. Companies can email [careers@oerb.com](mailto:careers@oerb.com) to learn more about posting job openings. If you're looking for a job just visit [oerb.com/jobline](http://oerb.com/jobline) for a full list of available positions in your area.



## PETRO PROS reaching a new audience

A little volunteering from industry professionals could be the key that unlocks an Oklahoma child's future in the oil and natural gas industry. The OERB has revamped its Petro Pros program and added a section geared toward kindergarten through second grade students.

Petro Pros are industry professionals who volunteer their time to visit classrooms across the state. A Petro Pro delivers a hands-on, interactive presentation that focuses on science, the discovery of petroleum, well site safety and careers in the oil and natural gas industry.

Until now, the presentation was too advanced for students younger than third grade. New activities and simplified language in a special K-2 Petro Pros presentation, however, will make it possible for volunteers to reach the youngest students.

Several Petro Pros gathered at an OERB-hosted luncheon recently to learn about the new K-2 presentation. The volunteers are excited for the chance to talk with students.

"I'm very excited to participate in such a great program for the kids in our community," said Jennifer James who works at DCP Midstream. "As the mother of a 4-year-old, I know just how eager young minds can be to learn. I think the positive impressions and lessons that kids remember for a lifetime begin at a very young age."

Clark Whisenant works for Devon Energy and was inspired by his second grade son to volunteer.

"His grandpa and great-grandpa are both geologists," said Whisenant. "He loves learning about science, and I hope to provide the same excitement about learning to other kids. I'm looking forward to sharing with students the science behind many items they see every day."

If you are interested in becoming a Petro Pro, or if you would like to schedule a presentation, call Taylor Todd at 1-800-664-1301 or sign up online at [www.oerb.com](http://www.oerb.com).

## OERB WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### SAMUEL LANGFORD



Sam Langford is General Manager of Newfield Exploration Mid-Continent. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Auburn.

### GARRETT PHELAN



Garrett Phelan serves as Senior Crude Marketing Representative for Sunoco Logistics Partners, located in Tulsa. Phelan is a Tulsa native and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting. He also earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Arizona State University.

### DALE MALODY



Dale Malody is Operations Manager for Marathon Oil Company in Oklahoma City. Dale graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and then attended several semesters of graduate school before beginning his career with Marathon Oil Company, formerly known as Casper, in 1980.

*The OERB thanks outgoing board members Lee Boothby of Newfield, Jim Medico of Sunoco Logistics and Michael Wiskofske of Marathon for their dedication and service to the organization.*



# Reaching New Milestones

**While another school year is well underway across Oklahoma, the Education Department at the OERB is looking back on the past school year and calling it a success.**

At a banquet in May, the OERB staff celebrated its student education volunteers.

The banquet shed light on important student education milestones reached by the OERB during the 2010-2011 school year. These accomplishments include surpassing \$20 million spent on student education efforts across the state and launching a fourth children's book.

From 2010-2011, the OERB staff and master teachers trained 1,455 Oklahoma teachers in one of OERB's eight energy and science curricula.

Through generous funding from oil and natural gas producers and royalty owners, the OERB also sponsored 1,500 field trips for 32,550 students to seven of Oklahoma's museums around the state. The OERB also awarded 109 scholarships to students at OU, OSU and TU.

The OERB is grateful for the many volunteers who help it achieve its student education goals across the state. Many of those volunteers are Petro Pros – industry professionals who deliver one-hour presentations in classrooms across the state to teach students about the oil and natural gas industry.



OERB Scholastic Outreach Chairman Tim Munson with Chuck Henkes



This past school year, 150 petro pro presentations reached 5,000 students.

Phil Valois with Pacer Energy was honored as the Outstanding Petro Pro for traveling across eastern Oklahoma to deliver 16 presentations during the 2010-2011 school year. Valois has been a petro pro for three years and has completed a total of 63 presentations in that time.

In 2009, the OERB expanded the PetroTech program from Oklahoma City to Tulsa. Since then, Tulsa Technology Center has done an excellent job making this program available to area students. To recognize this significant contribution to OERB's Energy Education program, the OERB recognized Tulsa Technology Center with its 2011 Petro Partner Award.



Scholastic Outreach Chairman Tim Munson with Tami Smith from Tulsa Tech

The banquet festivities wrapped up by honoring one volunteer with the organization's most prestigious education award – the Randy Foutch Award. This award is named in honor of the former OERB board member who championed the OERB's scholastic outreach programs. Chuck Henkes of Weatherford Drilling received this award.

Henkes has been a Petro Pro volunteer for 10 years, reaching more than 2,000 students through presentations around the state. Henkes has also donated numerous drill bits to the OERB to add to the demonstration kits Petro Pros use in their presentations. The

OERB is grateful for his dedication to our programs and to all of our volunteers who have made student education so successful at the OERB.

**2010-2011**

- \$20 Million Spent**
- 1,455 Teachers Trained**
- 1,500 Field Trips**
- 32,500 Students**
- 109 Scholarships**
- 150 Petro Pro Presentations**



# OERB Scholars Ready to Answer the Call

Students are prepping for finals across Oklahoma's college campuses. At the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma, OERB's petroleum scholars took a short study break to talk about their futures.

The OERB is supporting 109 scholars this year. These are students studying petroleum-related majors at TU, OSU and OU.

The job prospects for these students are high. Many OERB petroleum scholars have a job lined up before they graduate.

The industry is seeking highly-skilled workers to reinforce their staffs. Right now, the average age in the oil and natural gas industry hovers around 50 years old, and those looming close to retirement promise to create a gap that energy companies must fill.

An opportunity that isn't lost on these OERB scholars.

**"I want to be in the oil and natural gas industry because of the opportunities it provides students," said Eric Weidemann, TU energy management senior. "We have bright career prospects in just about any area we want."**

Fellow Hurricane, Oliver Wilson, agrees.

"Oil and natural gas is a very attractive industry, and it's growing with a lot of potential and a lot of room for new employees," said Wilson, a TU petroleum engineering junior. "I'd like to go overseas and work in offshore reservoir engineering to find new and advanced ways to recover oil."

Still, for some joining the industry is not only about opportunity, but also about following in family footsteps.

"I have family in the oilfield, and it's just always been a way of life," said Zach Caraway, OSU geosciences junior. "I really feel the oilfield is the last place a guy can make his fortune just by working hard, doing what he does and knowing what he knows."

What you hear most often from OERB petroleum scholars, however, is how thankful they are to have both financial and professional support from the industry.

"This scholarship has not only helped me, but it's also helped my family," said Jon Fields, an OSU geosciences junior. "I don't have to worry about my mom trying to pay my tuition."

Fellow Oklahoma State scholar, Mary Niles, agrees and recognizes this scholarship is just the beginning of a long and successful career in the industry.

"The OERB scholarship has helped me not only financially, but also through networking opportunities," said Niles, an OSU geosciences junior. "I know that in this industry, networking is a big part, and OERB is helping us make those connections that will last a lifetime."

The OERB awards up to \$500,000 to students annually. A student can receive as much as \$10,500 over four years. The application period for 2012-2013 scholarships is now open. Deadline to apply is March 1, 2012. Visit the Careers page at [oerb.com](http://oerb.com) to apply. 7

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