

## TULSA ELECTRONICS FIRM RECEIVES EXPORTING AWARD

From Okla. Dept. of Commerce

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Governor Frank Keating announced Wednesday that Lowrance Electronics, Inc. is the recipient of the 1996 Governor's Award for Excellence in Exporting. The governor made the announcement at the 13th annual Oklahoma World Trade Conference held at the Doubletree Downtown Hotel in Tulsa.

In making the presentation, Governor Keating commented, "Lowrance has long been a world leader in marine electronics. By offering their customers the latest state-of-the-art products along with the best possible customer service, Lowrance Electronics sets the pace for markets of the future." Darrell Lowrance, president of the 40-year-old Tulsa based firm, accepted the award.

Lowrance Electronics, Inc. designs and manufactures sonar and orbital satellite navigation receivers, plotters and mapping systems using the Global Positioning System (GPS) under the brand names "Lowrance," "Eagle" and "Sea" Electronics. The company currently sells products in the U.S. and to more than 45 foreign countries.

The primary applications for Lowrance products are for sport fishing, recreational boating markets and aviation, as well as hunting, hiking and other outdoor markets. The company's common stock is listed on the National Market and trades in the Over-the-Counter Market under the NASDAQ symbol "LEIX."

According to Steve Schneider, Sr., Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Lowrance's substantial growth in international sales can be attributed in part to its expanding product lines and new technologies. Schneider also attributed the company's growth to its effective penetration of new international markets and its recent focus on strategically increasing sales and service to Lowrance's long term international customers. Two years ago Schneider restructured the company's international sales department.

The 1996 Governor's Award is the 13th award presented to Oklahoma firms since the Oklahoma World Trade Conference began in 1983.

The annual Oklahoma World Trade Conference is sponsored by the Oklahoma District Export Council in coordination with the U.S. and Oklahoma Departments of Commerce.

## EDUCATION SECRETARY SAYS OEA FLYER CLAIMS FALSE CREDIT FOR KEATING VICTORIES

From the Governor's Office

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Secretary of Education Floyd Coppedge said Wednesday he is "astonished" that a flyer distributed by the Oklahoma Education Association this week apparently claims OEA credit for two vital pieces of school legislation that originated with the Keating administration.

"I was really astonished to see the OEA trying to take credit for the midterm school funding solution and our efforts to save the teacher retirement fund from insolvency," Dr. Coppedge said. "They know very well those were central parts of the Governor's education agenda from day one of the legislative session."

In his State of the State message and budget presented on February 5, Governor Keating asked for \$40 million in additional funding to strengthen the common education portion of the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System. He also pressed for a permanent solution to the annual midterm funding crisis faced by growing school districts. On Wednesday, the Governor signed a midterm

bill, HB2055, that included most of his original proposals, and funding for teacher retirement is expected to emerge from the Legislature during final budget votes.

The OEA flyer, headlined "Here's what we've done," claims OEA efforts led to the midterm bill. It also claims that "OEA has secured an additional \$45 million" for teacher retirement.

"As I recall, Governor Keating was out front on these two issues long before the OEA, and the OEA played very minimal roles in winning legislative passage," Dr. Coppedge said. "In fact, the midterm problem has been with us for 30 years and I never heard OEA say much about it. It was Senator Charles Ford and Representative Don Weese and the other Republicans in the House and Senate who joined the Governor in insisting that midterm funding be addressed once and for all this year."

The education secretary said OEA, which claims to represent Oklahoma's teachers, "ought to insist on higher standards of honesty than this."

## FHWA IDENTIFIES NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM CONNECTIONS TO INTERMODAL TERMINALS IN ALL STATES

From US Dept. of Transportation

■(WASHINGTON) Rodney E. Slater, Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Tuesday announced that National Highway System (NHS) connections to major passenger and freight intermodal terminals have been identified for all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

"This is another important step toward reaching President Clinton's and Transportation Secretary Federico Pena's goal to establish the seamless transportation network necessary to meet America's growing transportation needs," Slater said, while participating in a regional forum on reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) in Chicago. "Once we submitted our proposed NHS map to Congress, the department embarked on additional work to ensure that the system would include important highway linkages with all major passenger and freight intermodal terminals."

The National Highway System Designation Act of 1995, signed by President Clinton

last November, includes 161,108 miles of important rural and urban roads, including some connections to major intermodal terminals. Congressional approval is needed to modify the NHS to include the additional 1,925 miles of rural and urban roads that will provide the connections to other major intermodal terminals.

