

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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IT IS ALL ABOUT HOPE

Commission, energy industry work on plan to offer new future to GM workers, others

(Oklahoma City) Calling it a chance to provide new opportunities, Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Denise Bode today announced work is underway to offer an event geared toward helping those impacted by the closing of the Oklahoma City General Motors plant, while at the same time meeting a critical need in Oklahoma's energy industry.

"We are laying the groundwork for an event that will offer a new start," said Bode. It is a cooperative effort involving the Commission, the energy industry, vocational trainers in both the public and private sectors, and others in state government."

Bode said the event will bring energy industry employers and job seekers together, but shouldn't be confused with a "basic job fair."

"This won't be just folks handing out brochures," Bode said. "This event will bring the decision makers – the people who do the hiring – together with those who are interested in a new career in the energy industry. The event will also feature those in both the public and private sectors who offer the job training needed.

"We currently have a situation in which thousands of skilled, hard-working Oklahomans are facing a very grim holiday season in the wake of GM's decision to close its Oklahoma City plant. At the same time there are thousands of jobs in the domestic energy industry going unfilled right now," added Bode. "With the right training, many who are questioning their future right now can find the new year will bring new hope and new opportunity." Commission Chairman Jeff Cloud called the cooperative effort "in the spirit of Oklahoma."

"Oklahoma has successfully faced adversity in the past because Oklahomans come together," noted Cloud. "While I have always been a firm believer in the old adage that 'when one door closes, another opens', I also know that it often takes many working together to realize the promise. This is yet another example of Oklahomans doing that."

Commissioner Bob Anthony said what Oklahomans want is a chance to be self-sufficient.

"Oklahoma was founded with the state motto 'Labor Conquers All Things'. The employees of the Oklahoma City General Motors plant and associated businesses have already demonstrated their commitment to that work ethic. What they need now is an opportunity to use their skills and determination in new areas. Events such as this that will match workers with available jobs can help provide just such opportunities," Anthony said.

Further details concerning the event will be announced shortly.

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