

Perspective



The Cost of Inadequate Domestic Preparedness

OSU delivers training in the National Incident Management System

STEVE GEORGE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OSU FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

The past few months, hundreds of emergency responders from across the country have joined Oklahoma firefighters to combat state wildfires. Together they are doing a remarkable job of limiting the loss of life and property in our state during this crisis, in no small part due to the efficient coordination of their activity from the statewide command center in Shawnee.

The framework for the organization of people in this undertaking is what we in the fire service call an incident command system. Their use dates to the early 1970s when the suburban sprawl of Los Angeles into surrounding hills led to the nation's first, highly publicized wild-land/urban interface brushfires. Cooperation was difficult for city, suburban and county fire departments even though blazes were too massive for any one firehouse to battle, and departments involved in the firefighting eventually formed the first incident command systems.

As our nation has had to respond repeatedly to natural disasters and terrorist acts that overwhelm local and state agencies, the federal government has mandated the adoption of a national incident command system, known as the National Incident Management System.

Established under 2003's Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5, NIMS is the standard organizational and procedural hierarchy for emergency response. It was conceived to support interoperability between professionals – no matter their specialty, rank or locale – during a domestic incident.

The Oklahoma City bombing was, perhaps, the first disaster where this need was recognized, but NIMS came about in the wake of the unprecedented rescue and recovery on 9/11. The mobilization of thousands of volunteers and fire and emergency response, civil defense, public

health, law enforcement and military professionals from all levels of local, state and federal government that converged on New York City was a lesson in both how things should, and should not, be done.

The directive not only requires personnel within all federal agencies involved in any aspect of emergency response to be trained in NIMS, it also extends to local governments. HSPD-5 requires federal departments and agencies to make the adoption of NIMS by municipal, county, tribal and state organizations a condition of eligibility for federal preparedness grants, contracts and other activities by federal fiscal year 2007.

Organizations will no longer qualify for funding from, for instance, the Department of Homeland Security and its agencies, such as FEMA, unless staffers have completed NIMS training and the system has been implemented into their emergency response plans and administrative operating procedures.

Consequently, incident command system courses have become some of the most sought-after training for fire service, emergency medical service, civil defense, public health and law enforcement personnel throughout the country. In Oklahoma, OSU Fire Service Training is designated as the primary provider of NIMS training.

As the state's chief source of emergency response training and educational materials, OSU Fire Service Training has always existed to help ensure that state jurisdictions and their staffers never have to assess the cost of inadequate preparation. With every bit as much, and more, at stake today, our mission is as vital as ever.



Right: ConocoPhillips Vice President George Paczkowski, Ponca City Mayor Dick Stone and OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly joined other officials in Ponca City Monday to announce a major gift from ConocoPhillips. The funding and facilities will enable OSU to establish the University Multispectral Laboratory, a national sensor testing center.

ConocoPhillips' gift creates OSU sensor facility, boosts Ponca City economy

New laboratory will provide leading-edge, national sensor work

Oklahoma State University and the City of Ponca City announced Monday a gift of a research building and up to \$2 million from ConocoPhillips that will create a national sensor testing center in north central Oklahoma.

The leadership gift of funding and facilities will enable OSU to establish the University Multispectral Laboratory (UML) in a 70,000 square-foot building located at the ConocoPhillips complex in Ponca City. The laboratory will provide services to federal, state, local and commercial organizations and provide a significant economic boost to this part of the state.

"We're delighted to contribute to this important OSU testing facility, which will also provide significant economic benefits to the community," said George Paczkowski, ConocoPhillips vice president of Downstream Technology. "This laboratory will not only benefit OSU and support our nation's defense and security efforts, but will also have

a significant economic development impact on Ponca City and north central Oklahoma."

Oklahoma State University System CEO and President David J. Schmidly said, "ConocoPhillips continues to raise the bar with this gift that will strengthen OSU's position as a leader in the critical area of sensor and sensor-related technology research. This is a tremendous boost to our efforts as a research institution, as well as the regional and statewide economy. ConocoPhillips is OSU's largest corporate donor and we appreciate all they have done for our university."

When fully operational, UML will employ 80 scientists, engineers and support personnel with an annual payroll of approximately \$13.8 million. According to the Ponca City Development Authority, the projected economic impact on the surrounding area will be \$120 million over ten years.

"This is an extraordinary gift that will elevate our work and opportunities," said Dr. Ste-

phen McKeever, vice president for Research and Technology Transfer. "The UML will fulfill a national need for a single sensor testing and evaluation facility by enabling the rapid transfer of innovative technologies from the laboratory to the end user."

"And, it opens the door to secure future federal funding," he said.

OSU's leading-edge researchers already collaborate with government, industry and other universities to develop innovative sensor and sensor-related technologies for commercialization.

Developments at OSU include bacterial sensors, biomedical sensors, environmental sensors, optical sensors and sensors for homeland security and defense applications. The new OSU University Multispectral Laboratory will create additional interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students working on sensor and sensor-related research projects.

Tech issues subject of 2006 Kamm higher-ed lecture



Mark Milliron

Dr. Mark D. Milliron, SAS vice president for Education Practice, will give the 14th Robert B. Kamm Distinguished Lecture in Higher Education on Feb. 23 at OSU.

Milliron will present, "Insight Expectations: Technology Issues and Implications for Higher Education," at 9 a.m. in the Willard Lecture Hall. His talk is free and open to the public.

SAS is the world's largest privately held software company. The Education Practice area brings the power of SAS to K-12, lifelong learning and workforce development arenas with software solutions, academic programs and strategic services.

A panel of educators will convene to lead a discussion following Milliron's speech. Panelists included Dr. Lynna Ausburn, OSU School of Teaching and Curriculum Leadership; Bill Elliott, manager of faculty development, OSU Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence; Marion Tucker, vice president of information technology, Northern Oklahoma College; and Dr. Andrea Kelly, superintendent/CEO of Meridian Technology Center in Stillwater.

Milliron is on the board of trustees for Western Governors University, is a member of the Council for Academic Management for eArmyU and is an adjunct faculty member in educational leadership at the University of Texas at Austin. In 2005, PBS Adult Learning Service named him the recipient of the O'Banion Prize for transformational work in support of teaching and learning.

He is the author of numerous books, monographs and articles, has spoken at colleges, corporations and conferences around the world and has served as a key resource for local, state, and national government programs.

The Kamm Lecture is a policy-impacting lecture/symposium that fills a major void in higher education policy-making. It brings private and public sector leaders together to discuss critical, cutting-edge issues that will shape the future of Oklahoma in general and state higher education in particular.

Kamm, OSU president from 1966-77, spent more than 45 years at the university and is an emeriti faculty member of the College of Education. In addition to the lecture series, the Robert B. Kamm Fund of the OSU Foundation supports the Robert B. and Maxine Kamm Fellowship Program for doctoral students in higher education administration.

Dr. Pamela Fry, OSU College of Education dean, and Dr. Marlene Strathe, OSU provost and senior vice president, will welcome visitors. Dr. Ric Baser, vice president for Academic Affairs at Rose State College and a former Kamm Fellow, will introduce the speaker.

Chairing this year's lecture is Dr. Kerri Kearney, assistant professor in the School of Educational Studies.

Women's leadership program to feature tips for turbulent times



Valerie Lemmie

Former Cincinnati city manager Valerie Lemmie will be among five female leaders from across the United States to offer insights and advice during the 15th annual Women's Business Leadership Program Wednesday, March 1 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tulsa.

Lemmie, who now works for a research firm and chairs the National Academy of Public Administration board of directors, will present, "Overcoming the Dark Energy: The Challenge of Leading Organizations During Turbulent Times."

According to Lemmie, women chosen to lead large organizations are often expected to right all wrongs of the past. She will detail methods to ensure professional health and emotional well-being during the worst of times.

The 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. program will begin with an interactive session led by Janelle Shubert, associate director for the Center for Women's Leadership at Babson College, involving the five most important issues facing talented women today. She precedes Lemmie and Susan Koehler, president and CEO of Apparate Business Consulting, who will present, "The ABC's of Success."

A luncheon featuring special table topics will be moderated by Lou C. Kerr, chair of the Oklahoma International Women's Forum and president and chairman of the Kerr Foundation Inc.

Gwen Kaplan, one of the country's foremost authorities on direct marketing, will lead off the afternoon sessions and present, "The Importance of Being Relevant: The Key to Sustainable Growth." Former Oklahoma Commerce Secretary Kathryn L. Taylor will discuss the unique and wonderful things that make Oklahoma special, from its natural beauty to its business climate.

Dr. Jeretta Horn Nord, associate dean for undergraduate programs at the Spears School of Business at OSU, will serve as facilitator for the day and offer the program wrap-up. MGW Enterprises of Muskogee owner Martha Griffin, president of the Oklahoma International Women's Forum, will also address the conference.

The annual program is sponsored by the International Women's Forum Leadership Foundation, the Oklahoma International Women's Forum and the Center for Executive and Professional Development in OSU's William S. Spears School of Business. Cost to attend the program is \$125 per person.

For more information, call 1-800-678-3933 or e-mail vickie.karns@okstate.edu.



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