



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Oklahoma State Fair President & CEO Announces Retirement Plans

Oklahoma City, OK – Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. President & CEO Timothy J. O’Toole announced his plans to retire May 31, 2022 at the organization’s annual Board of Director’s meeting today. O’Toole has served in his position since January 2004. Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. produces the annual Oklahoma State Fair and manages the 435-acre Oklahoma City owned OKC Fairgrounds on a year-round basis.



Under O’Toole’s leadership, the OKC Fairgrounds has undergone over \$150 million dollars of renovations to their trade show, equine and livestock facilities, evolving the property into a 21st Century Tourism Destination. O’Toole has also worked closely with the City of Oklahoma City on these improvements and MAPS projects at the OKC Fairgrounds, including the MAPS 3 Bennett Event Center which opened in January 2017. He has similarly been involved in the advance planning for the upcoming MAPS 4 Fairgrounds Coliseum.

Additionally, during this time, the Oklahoma State Fair has continued to prosper and be recognized as one of America’s premier State Fairs.

“There is a time and a place for things in life and it is time for me to start the process of stepping aside and work with my successor to further position this great organization.” stated O’Toole. “I have been honored to work with two very supportive Chairman; Clay Bennett and Ron Norick during my 17-year tenure. I have also been fortunate to work with an incredible group of Board Members and fellow staff members that are extremely dedicated to our mission. I look forward to working with the board, staff and Chairman Norick during this transition year as the organization continues to move forward.”

“As Chairman of the Board of Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. since 2012, it has been my pleasure to have Tim as our President & CEO,” said Norick. “Tim is a wonderful friend of mine and over the seventeen years that he has managed, protected, and developed the OKC Fairgrounds, he has always been a true professional and gentleman. He is respected by the many trade show and equine customers that he has worked with and will truly be missed by all.”

“I could not be prouder of Tim and his remarkable career of success and achievement,” stated Clay Bennett. “I have been blessed to have been associated with Tim beginning with the Olympic Festival, through our time together with the Oklahoma City 89ers/RedHawks, and through these last years at the Oklahoma State Fair. Tim has exhibited extraordinary dedication, consistency and an ever-growing skill set required to manage these unique business models. Tim is thoughtful and careful in his decision making, always considering what is best for the organization and for Oklahoma City. He and the professional staff have built a world-class entertainment complex, anchored by the most important horse show facility in the country. And he leaves us with exciting plans for future expansion and growth.”

On a personal note, I am honored by our friendship and partnership and wish he and Kathy much love and all the best in the days ahead – some of them hopefully with me on the golf course!”

Chairman Norick has announced that a search committee has been formed to find O’Toole’s replacement and details regarding the search will be announced in the near future.

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