

Contact: Lindsay Cunningham Communications and Marketing Manager 918-893-2109(o) 918-810-0405(c) Lindsay.Cunningham@bachamber.com

Broken Arrow, OK, January 18, 2022 – The Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce applauds the leadership of the Broken Arrow City Council and Governor Stitt in doing their part to provide an avenue for government employees and resources to aid in addressing the staffing shortage of our schools. The shutdown of our schools does not only impact our students, but it also puts a continued strain on our businesses, as they struggle to keep their doors open and strive to provide excellent service and products with limited employees. Businesses are experiencing the same strain as our schools, staffing shortages due to illness, limited childcare resources with sick children, and a change to a virtual learning environment.

We encourage Broken Arrow businesses that have sufficient resources to evaluate how they can aid in this crisis as well. Many of our businesses have done their part by allowing their employees to work remotely, accommodating their employees in covering their own childcare challenges exacerbated by the continuing pandemic.

The Chamber also recognizes and thanks Superintendent Chuck Perry and the Broken Arrow Public School Board for their transparency in communicating the challenges. Providing the clear data that led them to the very challenging decision they had to make in moving to virtual learning this week. This transparency allows the community to better understand their decision and assess how we can step up and assist.

We are all in this together. The response of our local and state government as well as the business community is just another example of what makes Oklahoma the best place to live and do business. The Broken Arrow Chamber is available to support businesses that would like guidance on how they can engage and assist our schools.

Jennifer Conway *President & CEO* Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation

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