

**2018 ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARD**  
**Presented by Chelsea Levo Feary**

Good afternoon, I'm Chelsea Levo Feary, Director of Economic Development for the City of Owasso and I have the privilege of presenting the 2018 Economic Impact Award.

Oklahoma has an incredible economic engine that is home to nearly 70 businesses that employ just under 4000 workers. We know where it is located, but perhaps, we've never visited. We know it's productive, but we may not know the numbers. We may know it covers a large area, but we may not know the actual size. Well, allow me to tell you a little more about Oklahoma's economic engine that I am referring to, it is the Tulsa Port of Catoosa.

Just five minutes east of Owasso, sits the nation's most inland port that is open year-round. The Tulsa Port of Catoosa is a 2,000-acre industrial park located on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation system. The 445-mile mile system connects the central plains to the Mississippi River, then on to the Gulf of Mexico, then on to the entire world.

Speaking of great public/private partnership, voters passed a \$21.2 million bond in 1967 to fund the construction of the port. The first shipment arrived in 1971. President Nixon attended the opening ceremony. Since then, more than 82 million tons of freight has been shipped to or from the port. The port handles about 1,000 barges a year, which is the equivalent to 60,000 truckloads of materials. That would be a continues line of semi's stretching nearly 700 miles. Early last year, we celebrated with port and state officials and corporate leaders as the historic 50,000th-barge passed through the channel.

Congratulation to Port Director David Yarbrough, his board of directors, and his professional staff for managing such an important economic engine for all of Oklahoma.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to present the 2018 Economic Impact Award, to the Director of the Tulsa Port of Catoosa, David Yarbrough.