

OK Innovate spurs connection, collaboration among city entrepreneurs

BY PAULA BURKES

April 24, 2018

Q: OK Innovate's mission is to cultivate and energize the places, programs, advisers and capital required to encourage entrepreneurs and companies to start, grow and stay in Oklahoma. Why is entrepreneurship important?

A: Entrepreneurs and new businesses are a major contributor to any economy. Bold ideas and new companies can help diversify Oklahoma's business sector and create thousands of well-paying jobs. The increase in jobs and tax revenue spurs a higher quality of life and creates a more vibrant community for everyone to enjoy.

Q: How do entrepreneurs determine where to start their company?

A: Entrepreneurs looking to start their own business need capital, mentorship and community support. Before entrepreneurs determine where to put down roots, they must be convinced there are resources, talent and support for them to thrive and scale.

Q: What's being done to support entrepreneurs in Oklahoma City?

A: Oklahoma City's entrepreneurial spirit has grown the past few years and it's picking up steam. From co-working spaces to meetups and organizations, innovative leaders have worked tirelessly to develop Oklahoma City's resources and it has spurred an infectious energy. Oklahoma City is an inspiring place to be an entrepreneur because people with great ideas don't need to have a specific last name or have achieved a certain status; they can make a difference based on their ability to work hard and the value of their ideas.

Q: How does OK Innovate help entrepreneurs?

A: Other similar-sized cities have laid the groundwork so Oklahoma City doesn't have to recreate the wheel. Working together and sharing resources is the key to building a successful entrepreneurial ecosystem. OK Innovate's goal is to increase collaboration and better connect like-minded people and organizations throughout our community and region. One example of that is the North American Tech Tour coming to Oklahoma City Wednesday through Friday. Former Silicon Valley venture capitalists, who now invest across the Midwest, will provide functional expertise and explore funding opportunities locally. Learn more at OKInnovate.com/techtour.