



Notes from the Chief

What I'm working on for You

Osiyo -

Creating jobs and economic opportunities for our citizens in northeast Oklahoma is critical to Cherokee Nation's continued success. We are creating Cherokee Nation jobs as we expand our businesses and reach into new markets and new industries. But equally important is our growing tendency to partner with the Oklahoma governor's office and department of commerce to position the 14 counties of the Cherokee Nation as an ideal place to grow, expand and relocate.

Recently, the tribe's career services department hosted a job fair for the Macy's fulfillment center in Owasso. While Macy's has announced some of its U.S. stores will close due to increasing online sales, more Americans shopping online is actually good news for the fulfillment center. The center has the capacity to stock, pack and ship as many as 250,000 packages a day for shoppers all over the United States during the peak holiday shopping season and they've asked our staff to help find more than 3,500 workers to meet that increased demand. That's up from the 2,500 employees we helped recruit last holiday season. Those new jobs are in addition to the 1,000 full-time positions created when Macy's opened its 2.1 million-square-foot facility last year.

The company has made hiring Cherokees a priority, which is why we worked so hard to recruit Macy's to Oklahoma. This success story was the result of a partnership between Cherokee Nation, the city of Owasso, Tulsa County and the state of Oklahoma. Without Cherokee Nation at the negotiating table, the deal would not have worked out and the center may have gone to Texas. It speaks volumes that a respected 100-year-old retailer has come to understand the value of working with a Native American tribe, and has put faith in us that we'll deliver. The Macy's partnership has been transformative for Oklahoma, our communities and families.

We recently announced similar good news in Nowata County. With the help of Cherokee Nation, 260 new jobs will soon be coming to South Coffeyville.

Star Pipe Products, a Texas-based company that specializes in manufacturing, casting, machining, metal fabrication, assembly and production of customized cast iron and ductile iron products, will grow its workforce from its current staff of 88 current workers to nearly 350. The company's direct investment will be more than \$40 million into the local community and we will play our role in ensuring their new staff is trained and prepared to fulfill the opportunity.

Like Macy's, Cherokee Nation's career services department help Star Pipe recruit and train a quality workforce so that many of those new hires will be Cherokee. Star Pipe will infuse critical payroll and infrastructure dollars into South Coffeyville and all of Nowata County. That will improve the lives of area families for years to come.

Star Pipe and the new jobs coming with it is again directly attributable to the collaborative efforts between the Cherokee Nation, state and local governments. We have proven our willingness to play our role in training or helping with infrastructure needs if it will help grow the area's economy. Together, we all play a role in making economic opportunities possible.

Attracting new business, industry and investments in the region remains a priority for the tribe. Good, quality jobs make our families, our schools and the entire Cherokee Nation stronger. Securing the Macy's and Star Pipe expansions are both big wins for the Cherokee Nation and our communities. It shows that with the power of partnerships anything is possible in Oklahoma's effort to expand economic development. Every job created in our 14 counties doesn't have to be a Cherokee Nation job. As long as Cherokees are gainfully employed, that's a step in the right direction.

For more information on career services programs or to find out about job fairs in your area, call (918) 453-5555 or email career-services-dept@cherokee.org.

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