

# OKLAHOMA ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

JUNE 15-16, 2026

METROTECH TECHNOLOGY CENTER

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

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## MEET OUR SPEAKERS

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**Aruna D. Abhayagoonawardhana** is the Operations Division Chief for the 72



Air Base Wing's Civil Engineering at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. His directorate provides management and oversight of Operational Engineering, Requirements and optimization, Contract Surveillance, Service Contracts and Base Maintenance Contractors. Mr. Abhayagoonawardhana began his career in 2000 as a mechanical and design engineer. He was part of various designs and construction projects totaling \$50 million. He has been serving Civil engineering in various

capacities such as maintenance engineer where he and his team built a periodic Maintenance program from ground zero. As operations engineer and lead operations engineer, he and his team developed and executed a predictive maintenance program for CSAG totaling 1900 critical assets. Additionally, he oversees CE Base Maintenance contractor who maintains 55,000 assets and 27,000 are on the preventative maintenance program. He manages \$7 million Contractor Acquire Parts program and assigns work priorities to SRM, corrective maintenance work tasks. He is a member of two professional Engineering organizations (ASHRAE, ASME) and served two presidential terms. He is currently serving as City of Midwest City Tree board Chairperson and serving as a technical committee member in an ASHRAE.

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**David Adcock** David has served as the Chief Executive Officer and Administrator of



the Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Commission (OUBCC) since March of 2023. The agency's mission and vision are to establish minimum statewide codes affecting or relating to the built environment for the protection of life and property. Prior to his employment with the State of Oklahoma, David held the position of Development Center Manager for 13 years with the City of Oklahoma City, where he directed the coordination of operational and technical functions of staff engaged in the review, evaluation, and coordination of the land development process. He is

certified as a Master Code Professional with the International Codes Council (ICC) and serves on several national boards and committees for the construction industry.

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**Jason Angolano** is a research and policy leader focused on the intersection of energy systems, emerging technologies, and infrastructure development. At the Hamm Institute for American Energy, he leads initiatives spanning energy demand, water use, and the integration of artificial intelligence into large-scale industrial systems.



His work centers on translating complex technical and economic challenges—such as data center energy demand, produced water management, and critical minerals—into actionable strategies for policymakers, industry, and research institutions. Jason regularly collaborates with government leaders, corporate partners, and academic institutions to advance projects that strengthen U.S. energy security and technological competitiveness.

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**Todd Barber** is a JPL senior propulsion engineer, spending two decades as lead propulsion engineer on the Cassini mission to Saturn, following part-time work on the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) mission, Deep Impact mission, and the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) mission, which landed the large rover Curiosity on the red planet on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Cassini was launched on October 15, 1997 on its two-billion-mile, seven-year journey to the ringed planet. It “took the plunge” into Saturn’s atmosphere in 2017 after thirteen years in orbit around Saturn. The



MER team launched twin rovers to the red planet in June and July of 2003, and Spirit and Opportunity lasted six years and fourteen years, respectively, into their three-month missions. Todd also worked as the lead impactor propulsion engineer on Deep Impact, which successfully crashed into Comet Tempel-1 on Independence Day, 2005, at twenty-three-thousand miles per hour. Todd recently completed working on the Dawn mission, an ion propulsion mission to the two largest main-belt asteroids, Vesta and Ceres. He also recently began supporting the Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) mission and was the Mars2020 propulsion lead engineer for operations. Much to Todd’s delight, he is now supporting the Voyager mission as well, more than forty years after launch.

Mr. Barber worked on the Galileo project for over seven years and his primary responsibility was getting Galileo into Jupiter orbit on December 7, 1995. Todd also worked part-time on the Space Infra-Red Telescope Facility (SIRTF) mission and on the Stardust mission, as well as the Mars Sample Return mission and a Mars airplane study. Todd received NASA’s Exceptional Achievement Award in 1996 for his work on Galileo. In 2018, Mr. Barber was also honored to receive NASA’s Exceptional Public Service Medal for heading up Cassini’s propulsion team for nearly two decades.

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Mr. Barber is a native of Wichita, Kansas, and attended MIT between 1984 and 1990, obtaining B.S. and M.S. degrees in aerospace engineering, with a humanities concentration in music. He is also a composer of church choral music, with two pieces published to date. His hobbies include singing charitably and professionally, playing the piano, snagging degree confluences (exact integer latitude/longitude intersections), visiting all the U.S. tri-state corners and national parks, playing basketball (though it's been a while), and amateur astronomy.

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**William “Bo” Bohannon** has a background in a variety of education programs, who recently, began working with OKIE811 as an Education & Outreach Liaison. He is passionate about people’s success in thriving in their role, and safety practices.



**Geoff Covalt, P.E.** is a seasoned professional with over 29 years of experience in transportation, land development, and municipal projects. His diverse career spans roles from design project engineer to construction engineering and inspection to owner of a construction company. Geoff’s extensive experience encompasses a wide range of projects, including notable projects such as the Turner Turnpike widening, Gilcrease Expressway, and the Purcell-Lexington bridge rehabilitation. With a robust background in strategic planning and operations, Geoff has a proven track record of driving growth and enhancing operational efficiency for various organizations. His leadership skills are complemented by his ability to foster collaborative team environments and his keen insight into market trends. Geoff’s dedication to excellence and innovation has established him as a respected figure in his industry, consistently delivering results that exceed expectations.



On a personal level, Geoff has been married to his wife, Shana, for over 29 years. They have three children—Reagan, Cooper, and Cade—and one grandchild, Creek. Geoff is deeply committed to his church, family, and community. In addition to his service to the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers and other industry organizations, he serves in various capacities within his church and community, including his role as Mayor of Kingfisher. His hobbies include spending time with family, hunting, attending sporting events, golfing, and enjoying various other activities.

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**T.J. Dill** was named as the Chief Engineer of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in December 2024. In this senior position, he oversees all statewide engineering and operations activities.



A native Oklahoman, Dill earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Oklahoma State University in 2011. While attending school he worked part time for ODOT as a drafting technician from 2009 to 2011. Upon graduation, he began working full time for ODOT as an Engineer in Training. In 2013, Dill became the Resident Engineer in Enid and later in 2015 the Resident Engineer in Yukon. During this time frame Dill worked on several projects including the I-40 Crosstown reconstruction and led the team overseeing the emergency rehabilitation of the Belle Isle Bridge in Oklahoma City. In 2017, Dill was named the Assistant District Engineer for District 4 overseeing maintenance and construction activities in the Oklahoma City metro area. Dill also worked from 2018 to 2020 in the private sector as the Regional Director for a civil engineering consultant firm. Dill worked at the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority as the Director of Construction, Chief Engineer and as the Deputy Director for the Authority before his employment at ODOT. Dill is originally from El Reno, where he currently lives with his wife and three children.

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**Joe Echelle, P.E., MBA** is the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. He began his career with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation as an engineer in training in 2001, then as a draftsman, a construction surveyor, the Resident Engineer in Stillwater and subsequently advanced to be the Construction Engineer for ODOT's Division 4. He was instrumental in the construction of the Interstate 40 Crosstown project in Oklahoma City along with the deconstruction and bridge beam recycling project of the old crosstown expressway bridge. In 2016, Echelle began work at the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority as the Director of Construction to manage the Turnpike Authority's annual capital improvement construction projects and the Driving Forward Turnpike Improvement Program.

Echelle earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Oklahoma State University in 2005 and is a registered Professional Engineer. In 2010 he completed his graduate degree at OSU and received a Master of Business Administration. He has received several awards for highway construction and design from the American Concrete Paving Association and the Asphalt Paving Association. He is a member of the Governors Highway Construction Materials Technician Certification Board and the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association. He resides in Stroud, Oklahoma with his wife Lacey, son Grant, and daughter Taryn.

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**Tim Gatz** was reappointed Secretary of Transportation by Governor Kevin Stitt in February 2026. He was also appointed as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) in 2019 and subsequently reappointed in 2024. Prior to these designations, Gatz served as Secretary of Transportation and held the position of Executive Director for both the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) and ODOT. Gatz has devoted more than thirty years to the field of transportation. He began his career at ODOT in 1990 as a drafting technician.



His dedication led him to the ODOT Executive Team in 2006 as the Director of Administration and then accepting additional organizational responsibilities as the Director of Capital Programs. Gatz was instrumental in establishing ODOT's Project Management Methodologies and the Eight-Year Construction Work Plan. He is recognized for streamlining numerous project-delivery processes at ODOT during his transportation career. Under his leadership, Oklahoma rose to fourth in the nation for good bridge conditions, with only a small percentage of the state's nearly 6,800 bridges classified as structurally deficient. Gatz also served as ODOT Deputy Director from 2013 until beginning his service as the Executive Director of the OTA in 2016.

**Blane Gee, P.E.** is a Project Manager in Freese and Nichol's Central Plains Region and brings a diverse background of roadway geometrics, drainage and signal design. His expertise includes rural, highway, and municipal projects, with a strong foundation in traffic engineering, pavement design, ADA requirements and project management.



**Matt George** is the Practice Leader at CEC and has experience in project management and client management through working with various clients in the utility industry including municipalities, cooperatives, and investor-owned utilities. Mr. George has experience inspecting, designing, and relocating overhead and underground distribution facilities in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Working as the Department Manager, he supervises engineers, designers, and inspectors performing distribution field assessments, analysis and evaluation, and design including both new service and rebuild projects. Mr. George has coordinated with Oncor, Pedernales Electric Cooperative, OG&E, Baker Hughes, GE, AT&T, Atmos, and City of Cedar Hill.

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**Zac Grinnell** has served as an Industrial Hygienist with the OSHA Oklahoma City Area Office for the past 13 years. Prior to joining OSHA, Zac spent four years with the



Indian Health Service. Over his career, he has conducted more than 800 OSHA inspections and investigated over 100 fatalities and serious incidents across general industry, construction, and oil and gas. He holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health Science from East Central University.

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**Scott Haney** is an Accident Reconstructionist and Practice Leader in Rapid Response



for Rimkus. Rimkus has over 1400 employees and more than 110 offices worldwide. Scott retired from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol in 2001 after 22 years of service. Scott has a combined 44 years of Traffic Accident investigation knowledge and experience. Scott is headquartered in Oklahoma City and generally responds to collisions that occur in Oklahoma and states that touch Oklahoma. Scott is ACTAR accredited and has a strong commercial vehicle background. The combination of CVSA commercial vehicle safety inspector and the expertise of an accident reconstructionist allow Mr. Haney to provide answers to questions on a bad day.

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**Jeff Kindschuh, P.E., F.SAME** joined the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace



and Aeronautics (ODAA) in July 2025. In his position as one of the two state airport engineers for ODAA, Jeff supports various airport projects throughout the state, ensuring that design and construction projects progress in a timely manner and meet high quality standards. He routinely conducts various airport inspections to support new hangars, new terminals, runway repairs, taxiway repairs, apron repairs and a few new air traffic control towers in support of 108 public airports in the state.

Before coming to ODAA, Jeff worked in multiple engineering positions for the federal government over several decades, with federal retirement in 2025. Jeff previously worked in base civil engineering organizations at Tinker AFB, Altus AFB, and Vance AFB in Oklahoma, as well as at several other Air Force installations outside the state, plus at several private-sector engineering firms in Oklahoma. Jeff's educational background includes a BS in Civil Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy and an MS in Construction Engineering and Management from the University of Michigan.

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Jeff is an active member of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), serving as a Board Member for many years and is a past president of two different SAME posts in Oklahoma. Jeff is a past Northwest Oklahoma Chapter President of the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) and has been previously active in several other professional and technical societies in Oklahoma. Jeff was selected and recognized as a SAME Fellow in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in 2012. Jeff is a licensed Professional Engineer in Oklahoma, having previously been licensed in various other states as well.

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**Evan C. Lemley, Ph.D.** is the Dean of the College of Mathematics and Science at



the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), having officially assumed the permanent role on June 1, 2026. A faculty member in engineering and physics since 1998, he has played a pivotal role in advancing UCO's technical programs, previously serving as the inaugural Director of the UCO School of Engineering (2022–2025), Assistant Dean (2011–2025), and the inaugural Director of the Center for Research and Education in

Interdisciplinary Computation (CREIC). Before entering academia, Dr. Lemley worked as a power engineer at Black & Veatch and interned at the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory.

An avid grantsman and architect of UCO's cyberinfrastructure, Dr. Lemley has successfully secured major federal and corporate resources to empower student-centered research. His funding successes include a \$304,745 NSF grant for UCO's "Buddy" supercomputer, a \$1.13 million NSF collaborative grant to upgrade campus research networks to 100 Gigabits per second, and a recent \$370,000 NSF EPIIC grant focused on strengthening industry partnerships. He also served as the primary liaison for an Educational Partnership Agreement with Tinker Air Force Base, facilitating the donation of the \$6 million "Haise" supercomputer cluster. Dr. Lemley holds a B.A. in Physics from Hendrix College, and an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering and Ph.D. in Engineering - Thermal-Fluid and Nuclear Systems from the University of Arkansas.

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**Barry Lodge, P.E.** currently serves as the Assistant City Engineer for the City of Oklahoma City. He has approximately 35 years of engineering experience with private engineering firms prior to joining the City of OKC Public Works Department in 2020.



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**Jennifer McCollum, APR**, is the executive director of the Oklahoma Engineering Foundation. She has a bachelor's degree in political science and speech communication and 40 hours of graduate work in history and English. She has served as the spokesperson for several government agencies and as the inaugural executive director of two advocacy nonprofits. She holds accreditation in public relations. She lives in Oklahoma City with her husband and three children. In her free time, she enjoys writing and photography.

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**Dr. Ardeshir Moftakhari** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Oklahoma State University. His research focuses on advanced cooling technologies and HVAC systems, with an emphasis on high-performance and sustainable thermal management. His current work, supported by the National Science Foundation, centers on the innovative design and control of next-generation data center cooling systems.




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**Devin Oglesby** has served as a designer for Transmission, as well as designer and senior designer for Distribution. He has experience designing and relocating overhead and underground power distribution and transmission lines in Oklahoma and Arkansas, for many investor-owned utilities, cooperatives and municipalities.

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**Bruce A. Pitts, P.L.S.** is a licensed land surveyor and served for 15 years as Director of Enforcement for the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and presently serves of its Principal Assistant. Prior to his engagement with the State Board, Mr. Pitts practiced land surveying for in Oklahoma City for 30 years, most recently with Smith Roberts Baldischwiler. He received his B.S. degree in Engineering Technology from Oklahoma State University. Mr. Pitts served as a member of the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors from 1991-2000 and is an associate member of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) where he has served on the Engineering Mobility Task Force, Surveying Exam Committee and chaired the Law Enforcement Committee.



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**Paul Riess** has served as Department Manager for Power Distribution at CEC since 2023. He has over 45 years of utility experience, including 18 years directly related to T&D engineering design with 13 years of managing and providing support to a team of over 75 utility design personnel and contract engineering resources that offered a wide range of

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engineering design services for projects, including the connection of new load, capacity upgrades, forced utility relocations, and technology enhancements to the utility distribution grid. With responsibilities for direct supervision and technical oversight of engineering analysis and design for construction, maintenance, and operation of the electrical distribution system, he has provided technical expertise in the field of engineering design, including compliance with Engineering Guides, Construction Standards, and National Electric Safety Code, and all matters related to distribution engineering for system programs/projects, priority customers, and critical infrastructure.

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**John R Storms** serves as the Airport Director of Planning and Development, Oklahoma City Department of Airports where he has served since 2012. Prior to Oklahoma City Department of Airports, Storms worked for various engineering firms.

In addition, he has worked on many airport projects both national and internationally.

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**David Todd, P.E.** serves as the Program Manager for MAPS, the City of Oklahoma's transformational capital improvement program, which is currently in its fourth initiative. MAPS 4 is a voter-approved sales tax program that includes \$1.1 billion to benefit OKC residents through 16 quality-of-life projects. He also leads the design and construction of the highly-anticipated new Oklahoma City Arena.



David's passion for his city is also reflected in his work with the community. He actively contributes to civic life as a member of the boards of directors for the South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and the Greenbriar YMCA. He has also served as chairman of the board for the Oklahoma City Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Oklahoma Section of ASCE.

A lifelong resident of Oklahoma City, David holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He began his career with the City's Public Works Department before transitioning into the private sector. In 1994, he founded Todd Engineering, a civil engineering firm specializing in roadway, utility, and storm sewer design, as well as subdivision and commercial site development. Over 17 successful years, he built a reputation for delivering high-quality, practical engineering solutions. After selling the firm's assets, David returned to the City of Oklahoma City, continuing his career in public service and reaffirming his dedication to improving the community that shaped him.

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**Breck Washam, PE, F.NSPE**, is senior vice president and Midwest regional manager for Burns & McDonnell. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology in 1990, Washam joined Burns & McDonnell and has held positions of increasing responsibility throughout his nearly 36-year career.



Since being selected to lead the St. Louis region in 2007, he has grown operations from 100 to more than 525 employee-owners in St. Louis and in Columbus and Akron, Ohio. His leadership has focused on delivering solutions for clients across the Central and Upper Midwest. Under his direction, Burns & McDonnell has consistently been recognized in St. Louis as a top workplace, a healthiest employer, a leading philanthropic firm and one of the largest engineering firms.

Washam is a licensed professional engineer in Missouri and is currently the NSPE president-elect. He has served as past president of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers at both the state level and the St. Louis Chapter.

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**Richard Willoughby P.E., F.NSPE** graduated from Sarcoxie High School in 1993. He then went on to NEO A&M College, graduating with an Associate of Arts in Pre-Engineering in 1995. He then went to Oklahoma State University, receiving a Bachelor's of Science in Biosystems Engineering in 1998, and a Master's of Science in Biosystems Engineering in 2001.



While at OSU, he worked as a research engineer working with precision farming and specialty crop harvesting. He then started his career at The Charles Machine Works (CMW), manufacturer of the Ditch Witch product line in 2000. Richard began working as a Design Engineer in the Trencher Design Group, focusing primarily on trenching attachments from product from creation of design specs, through prototyping, testing, production start-up, and market introduction. In 2010, Richard was promoted to Senior Design Engineer, continuing to work on trenchers, vibratory plows, rock saws, backhoes, compact utility equipment, and a variety of other attachments. Richard additionally supports CAD software update testing, custom products development, electronic BOM process work, risk assessment, FEA, and standards compliance. In 2003, Richard passed his Professional Engineer's exam in Mechanical Engineering, then in 2010 he passed the exam for Agricultural Engineering.

In addition to his work at CMW, Richard has been active in the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers, and the National Society of Professional Engineers serving in numerous committees and board positions. In 2009-2010, he served as President of OSPE and has served as Vice President of Education for OSPE from 2013-2020. In 2017, he was elected as a Fellow

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member of NSPE. Through NCEES, he is active on the EPE committee of NCEES, as well as the Agricultural PE Exam. Since June of 2020, Richard has served on the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors. Richard starts his second term on the board starting in July.

Richard resides in Guthrie with his wife Shellie, and son Andrew. He is currently serving as adjutant of Squadron #58 of the Sons of the American Legion. Richard serves as a Merit Badge Counselor and Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop #850 of Boy Scouts and is an adult member of the Order of the Arrow. He is also involved with the Guthrie JROTC Booster Club, Soccer Booster Club, Band Booster, and Wreaths Across America.