



Champions For Effective Local Government

OKLAHOMA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, INC.
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Citizens Academy of Leadership Training Holds Fourth Graduation In Stillwater



(February 16, 2016) – Twenty-one individuals from cities around the state graduated from the Citizens Academy Leadership Training (CALT) in a special ceremony in Stillwater last week. The Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) is proud to announce the 2015-2016 graduating class of CALT: Jennifer Smith, Clerk-Treasurer, City of Piedmont; Catherine Bentley, Account Technician, City of Altus; Janet Smith, City Manager, Town of Crescent; Debbie Davis, City Clerk-Treasurer, City of Altus; Melissa McGinty, Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Valley Brook; Dana Shelburne, Legal Assistant to City Attorney, City of Shawnee; Elesia Church, Treasury Clerk, City of Elk City; Martha Stalker, Librarian Director, City of Sapulpa; Cindy Lewis, Councilmember, Town of Wynnewood; Tom McCurdy III, Senior Regulatory Affairs Representative, OG&E; Louis Smitherman, City Manager, City of Yale; Robert Plummer, Mayor, City of Cordell; Tim Thompson, Community Affairs Manager, OG&E; Charles de Coune, Lending Manager, Oklahoma Water Resources Board; Lee Litterell, City Manager, City of Elk City; Michael Stamp, Chief of Police, Town of Valley Brook; Lewis Nieman, Vice Mayor, Town of Valley Brook; Mark Lewis, Business Owner and Chamber Member, Town of Wynnewood; and Christopher Gdanski, Director of Engineering, City of Enid.

The Citizens Academy Leadership Training program is a 12 month leadership development program designed to engage citizens to become community leaders by learning valuable skills in the areas of teamwork, community assessment and planning, economic development and tourism, and community renewal.

Executive Director Carolyn Stager has this to say about the CALT IV Class, “This year’s class was an amazing group of leaders from around the state. They bonded throughout the year and worked hard on their final class projects. Their dedication and commitment made this year’s CALT a great success!”

The Citizens Academy Leadership Training program represents the next level of training for Certified Municipal Officials and also gives elected officials, municipal employees, and citizens the opportunity to learn and grow as community leaders. Previous graduates discovered the connection they made, both on a personal and business level, with their fellow classmates is something they will hold onto for a very long time. According to recent graduate Charles de Coune “The knowledge you will acquire – and the friendships you will build along the way – will follow you for years to come.”

The CALT Class IV would not be possible without the generous support of community partners, including Oklahoma Gas and Electric, Oklahoma Natural Gas, Public Service Company of Oklahoma and Phillips 66.

CALT’s Class V is forming now. For more information and to apply for CALT Class V, visit www.oml.org or contact Cheryl Adams at (405) 528-7515, cadams@oml.org.

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#### **About Oklahoma Municipal League**

The mission of the OML is to provide services and programs required by municipal officials to assist them in better serving their citizens, and to act as the representative of Oklahoma municipalities in interactions requiring a united voice. Since 1913, the League has served as the individual and collective voice of local officials on the state and national level.