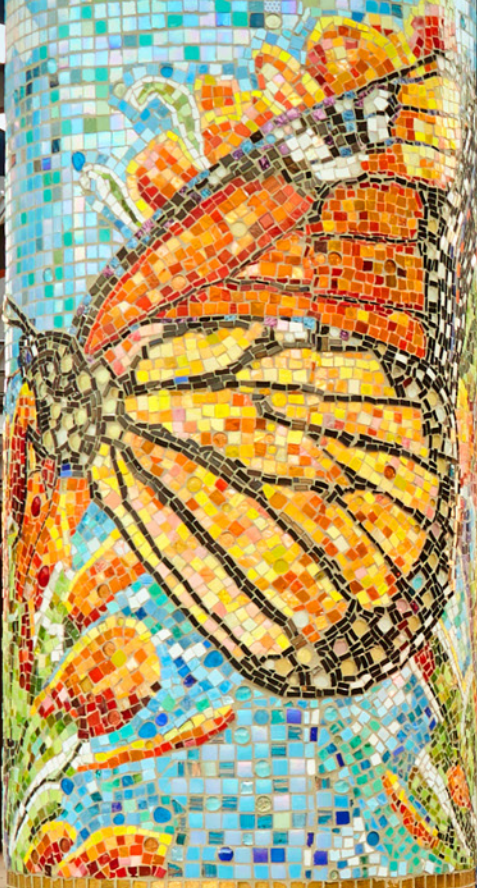




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FOR BUSINESS AND LIFE**



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# THE EVOLUTION OF OKLAHOMA'S MIDAMERICA INDUSTRIAL PARK



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# MIDAMERICA LAUNCHES STEM FISHING PROGRAM

# Letter from Dave Stewart

Recently, I had the privilege of presenting the “State of the Park” address to our local chamber. We have come a long way in 60-plus years. As I shared insight into where we are headed, I felt it important to talk about where we have been.

As you may or may not know, MidAmerica was originally a munitions plant during WWII and has a rich history of reinvention and transformation.

In 1960, our Federal Delegation, along with our state leaders, decided to form a public trust authority through an agreement between the State, the Federal Government, and the City of Pryor with a mission to directly benefit our state through increased employment and through an increased tax base.

Our leaders had the foresight to ensure a continuity of leadership through the trustees and management, and that we will always remain independent and free from bureaucratic influence; and sustainable with an ongoing source of revenue.

Their vision paid off, as today MidAmerica is the eighth largest industrial park in the world, the third largest in the United States and the largest mega site in Oklahoma.

Our evolution into a multi-faceted employment center and our continuous investments in new initiatives have positioned MidAmerica as a mega site for a mega employer. Now we are at a tipping point where a major project will complete the transformation of not only MidAmerica but will also positively impact the region and all of Oklahoma.

There have been challenges as a small but vocal group who want to keep the status quo and therefore have caused some negative impacts. Despite these challenges, our mega site capability has



attracted a lot of attention from the emerging EV industry. In fact, just last month we were chosen over 90 other sites as the number one site to represent the United States versus a site in Canada. We checked every box and passed their test with flying colors.

With that being said, we cannot control the outcome of decisions. There is no one magic formula. It’s our entire package that makes us so attractive.

Our work continues, now at centerstage of the global economic marketplace and we are not finished being in the limelight. Our team, and our regional partners, are still hard at work preparing for the next opportunity.

In closing, I am making this prediction– we will win a mega project. It’s just a matter of time when the stars will align.

Stay tuned!



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# The Evolution of Oklahoma's MidAmerica Industrial Park

Originally a munitions plant during WWII, Oklahoma's MidAmerica Industrial Park has a rich history of re-invention and transformation.

More than 60 years ago, the Oklahoma legislature formed a public trust authority to purchase the land and capitalize on Oklahoma's resources to attract jobs and investment to the State.

Today, MidAmerica Industrial Park is the eighth largest of its kind in the world, the third largest in the United States and the number one largest mega site available in Oklahoma.

"Decades of visionary leaders at the State Capitol and on MidAmerica's Board of Trustees have all contributed to its 60 years of success," said MidAmerica CEO David Stewart. "The continuity of leadership and conservative, strategic investments have laid the groundwork for the growth we are experiencing."

With a considerable critical mass of more than 80 companies and an employment base of more than 4,500 people in different and diverse industry segments, the park generates more than \$732 million in wages and salaries each year. It is home to five Fortune 500 companies, including the second-largest Google Data Center in the world.

MidAmerica is centrally located between Tulsa and NW Arkansas, which is home to the largest concentration of corporate wealth in the U.S. It is within 300 miles of 10 major metropolitan cities and has a next-day service capability to 23% of the U.S. population. MidAmerica's transportation, distribution and logistics boasts access to four interstates, on-site Union Pacific rail and switchyard, the nation's most inland water port, and two international airports.

"Like any business, an organization must continuously evolve, not only to remain relevant, but also to surpass the competition," Stewart said. "For the last 10 years, we have methodically positioned MidAmerica as a mega site for a mega employer."

MidAmerica's considerable competitive advantages are also responsible for explosive prospect interest.

On-site partner, the Grand River Dam Authority provides reliable and cost-effective electricity from a diverse portfolio of power generation. MidAmerica's investment to expand its own water and wastewater treatment plants ensures the Park can be nimble and responsive to a new employers' growth and infrastructure needs.

The evolution of MidAmerica Industrial Park into a multi-faceted employment center is even more evident as it prepares for population growth in anticipation of a new, major employer. MidAmerica is attracting and incentivizing new housing developments, recruiting new retail and entertainment and investing in parks, bike trails and natural resources.

"In recent years, our focus has been on turning innovation into implementation and reducing barriers to our region's economic advancement," Stewart said. "We are at a tipping point where a major project will complete the transformation of not only MidAmerica, but positively impact all of Oklahoma."



# HAPPENING NOW

*Get ready to spend your Saturdays at The District. Every fourth Saturday from 9am to 12pm at The Bunker. MidAmerica hosts a Farmers Market.*



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR »** June 24th      September 30th  
July 29th      October 28th [Fall Fest + Farmers Market]  
August 26th

## WORKFORCE HIGHLIGHT

# MidAmerica hosts third annual STEM Showcase at Mayes County Fairgrounds

MidAmerica hosted its 3rd Annual STEM Showcase at the Mayes County Fairgrounds on March 28, 2023. More than 750 fifth-grade students and educators from Mayes, Wagoner, Delaware and Craig counties attended a day of fun STEM learning through various hands-on activities.

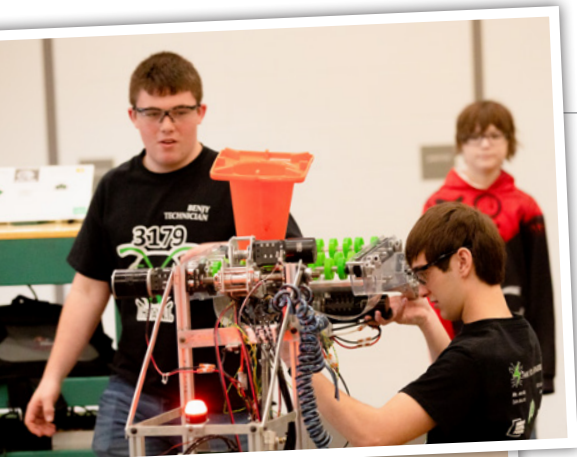
Students had the opportunity to fly drones with help from the RSU AeroCats drone team; design, build and shoot air-rockets provided by Pitsco Education; and see robots in action thanks to the Adair FIRST Robotics Team.

Students also had the chance to interact with MidAmerica school STEM lab students, who demonstrated their year-long projects. One of the highlights was the trebuchet, built by Inola High School students, which could throw a baseball over 100 yards.

"The MidAmerica STEM Showcase is one of my favorite events of the year," said MidAmerica Workforce Development Coordinator Brittany Greer. "I love to see the excitement and learning that takes place as the students complete the different activities and have the chance to interact with our companies who provide hands-on activities that replicate their products and concepts. A special thanks to IFF, RAE Corporation and GRDA who took the time to participate and engage with students and educators."

Emma Landeros, a Pryor graduate and Channel Two's very own, delivered an interactive session on weather awareness in Oklahoma, adding to the day's educational value.

The MidAmerica STEM Showcase is an exceptional event, allowing students to experience STEM learning in a fun and interactive way," said Director of the Pryor Innovation Center David Day. "The enthusiasm and learning that take place during the event are truly remarkable, making it one of the most anticipated events of the year."



## WORKFORCE HIGHLIGHT

# MidAmerica launches STEM fishing program

*Twelve fifth-graders participate in pilot program*

Located in Eastern Oklahoma and in the foothills of the Ozark mountains, MidAmerica boasts a variety of outdoor activities for its residents. Hunting, fishing, biking and watersports are just a few of the popular pastimes in the area. With over 2,500 miles of shoreline from Grand Lake, Hudson Lake and the Grand River, fishing stands out as a favored activity that has been passed down from generation to generation.

The MidAmerica STEM Alliance has always sought opportunities to engage with local youth and utilize STEM programs to provide applied learning opportunities. In 2022, the Park commissioned Mike Duvarney to develop a curriculum focused on fishing, which was recently completed. The curriculum was tested through a pilot program at Pryor Schools' after-school program, where twelve fifth-grade students participated in a six-week program to learn various aspects of fishing, including pole design, line types, knot tying, lure making and bait casting, among others.

Under the guidance of Tate Baumert, a Pryor graduate and current member of the Rogers State University Fishing Team, the students completed a range of projects and tasks aimed at enhancing their fishing knowledge and skills while incorporating STEAM concepts. Additionally, the students participated in GRDA's first annual Trash Art competition, which challenged them to create art using only trash collected from area waterways.

"Fishing is a great sport for kids to learn. It teaches patience, perseverance and a love for nature that they can enjoy life-long," said Baumert.

"It was an indescribable feeling to see the excitement these kids had for learning as they explored the world of fishing for the first time," Duvarney remarked. "We've been working on this program for the past year, not knowing how it would be received. I have to give credit to Tate for raising the bar and redefining what this program could achieve."

The program culminated in a three-day fishing event at Whitaker Park in Pryor, made possible by Westside Freewill Baptist Church. The church's generous donation allowed each student to purchase their fishing pole and tackle, making the event especially memorable.

"This initial pilot program was a tremendous success," said Scott Fry, director of workforce development at MidAmerica. "The students



were enthusiastic and engaged throughout the program, and Tate Baumert and the Pryor School staff provided excellent leadership. We plan to expand the program in the future with the collaboration of GRDA, Cherokee Nation, and our school district partners."

Overall, the MidAmerica STEM Alliance's fishing program demonstrates how STEM programs can be utilized to provide engaging and educational opportunities for area youth while preserving and promoting the region's cultural traditions.

## MAIP COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

# BERRY GLOBAL

Berry Global, a Fortune 500 company that specializes in plastic packaging products, is making significant strides in improving its employee culture. The company recognizes the importance of employee engagement and is actively taking steps to create a positive work environment for its staff.

Over the years, the pay and working conditions at the facility were not ideal but the company is working to change this by making significant investments in community engagement, recognition, activities for employees and their families, and compensation to create a more supportive and inclusive work culture. The company has set a goal to become an employer of choice, and it's taking a methodical approach to achieve that objective.



"We are proud of our commitment to creating a positive and engaging work environment for our employees," said Kevin Bruce, multi-site human resources manager at Berry Global. "We believe our employees are our most important investment and we are always looking for new ways to improve the well-being of our staff."

As part of its commitment to employee culture improvement, Berry Global has committed multi-millions for equipment and facility improvements, as well as employee well-being. This investment has had a significant impact on the company's overall success.

"As the plant manager, I want to create an environment that attracts and retains the absolute best employees," said Jimmy Andrews, plant manager at Berry Global. "That starts with a world-class safety program. We are very proud of the safety culture that we are building at our site. Beyond that, we want our employees to be proud of where they work. This includes investing in the latest equipment and technologies; maintaining a clean and organized workplace; investing in comforts such as climate control, lighting and upgrades; treating each other with mutual respect; and providing opportunities for advancement."

Berry Global operates 290 plants around the world, with more than 46,000 employees. One of its largest facilities is located at MidAmerica Industrial Park, where it employs more than 260 people. The company also operates four plants in Oklahoma: Pryor, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and McAlester.

Established in 1967 in Evansville, Indiana, Berry Global has come a long way in terms of its employee culture. By prioritizing the well-being of its staff and investing in their success, the company is not only improving the lives of its employees, but it's also creating a stronger, more successful business.



## MAIP NEW TEAM MEMBERS

### Jim Caldwell

*Project Manager – Construction*

A former Marine and Firefighter, Jim Caldwell, has now stepped into the Construction Project Manager role at MidAmerica. Along with his experience in selfless hard work serving our country, Jim once worked at Ironworkers Local Union 584 in Tulsa. It is telling that his experience in working hands on in his line of work makes him the perfect fit for this position. A bonus is that he's spent the last 37 years working within the

Park as well as his previous 37 of getting to be a part of the park that he will now be furthering the growth of.

Jim's adventurous spirit and fearlessness goes further than his experience in work, as he enjoys rock crawling in his Jeep, carving "spirit sticks" and blacksmithing.

When he is not out rock crawling, you can find Jim collecting pocket knives, foraging for Morel mushrooms and smoking meat for his friends and family.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE »

## Matt Buck

### *Project Manager – Construction*

Along with the variety of projects he is soon going to embark on, Matt Buck, is most thrilled to be helping bring more jobs to Northeast Oklahoma with his new position as Construction Project Manager. With his experience as Team Leader at Olsson for Construction Administration, Construction Materials Testing, and Geotechnical Engineering, Buck is bringing many assets and knowledge to the team. Matt not only has a BS in Business Management from Oklahoma

State University but also a BS in Civil Engineering from University of Oklahoma. MidAmerica is a great fit given Matt will be able to utilize so much of his experience.

Although Matt might be great at his line of work, he is a family guy at heart. Outside of work Matt enjoys coaching soccer, jigsaw puzzles, and of course- being outdoors. Matt is an adventure guy and one of his favorite things to do is go hiking.

Oklahoma born and bred, it is easy to tell that Matt will thrive in this new position at MidAmerica!

## LIFE IN OUR NECK OF THE WOODS

# Showcasing MidAmerica's regional quality of life assets

MidAmerica's "Life in Our Neck of the Woods" is a campaign to recruit new workers and citizens to the four corners region, or Mayes County. The campaign showcases the regional quality of life assets presented in a "weekends, weekdays and weeknights" theme.

As a part of this investment, the MidAmerica board of trustees felt it was important to assist the surrounding communities—Adair, Chouteau, Langley, Locust Grove, Pryor and Salina—in preparation for MidAmerica landing a big project. After a year of work with the Design Workshop consultants, the communities recently completed a plan for growth and are ready to begin implementation.

MidAmerica's "Life in Our Neck of the Woods" campaign aims to attract new workers and residents to Mayes County, located in the four corners region. To support this initiative, the MidAmerica board of trustees recognized the importance of helping the surrounding communities - Adair, Chouteau, Langley, Locust Grove, Pryor, and Salina - prepare for a major project that MidAmerica is set to undertake. After a year of collaboration with Design Workshop consultants, the communities have now developed a growth plan and are prepared to commence its implementation.

More than 60 people attended the Community Growth meeting held on March 23. Design Workshop presented growth plans and representatives from Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Grand Gateway, as well as MidAmerica staff were present to help address resources for implementation.

MidAmerica and its communities are focusing on building capacity by attracting and incentivizing new housing developments; improving transportation and infrastructure, recruiting investments in commercial and mixed-use development, investing in parks, bike trails,

natural resources, and community assets and contributing to education resources for higher education, tech training and K-12 schools.

With a \$16 million investment in education, workforce training and recruitment, MidAmerica is providing a direct path from high school to a career with any of its current and future employers. These investments include: best-in-class STEM Labs in 18 school districts; MidAmerica's Center of Excellence, an on-site career and training center; and training partners Rogers State University and NE Oklahoma Tech.

MidAmerica's quality of life investments are just one part of the overall growth initiative. As community leaders and citizens finalize their vision for their community, MidAmerica is working to stay ahead of the growing residential demands for new, quality housing options.





Join more than 4,500 workers among 80+ employers. *Find your new life today.*

*Life in*  
OUR NECK OF THE WOODS

### FINDING YOUR NEW EMPLOYER

- More than 80 existing employers in diverse fields
- 5 Fortune 500 companies
- 2nd largest Google Data Center in the world
- Scan the QR Code below for the MidAmerica career page

### TRAINING FOR YOUR NEW JOB

- Visit MidAmerica’s on-site Career Center and apply for jobs
- Train for specific available jobs and get hired
- On-site training partners include
  - » *Rogers State University*
  - » *Oklahoma CareerTech-NE Technology Center*
  - » *MidAmerica’s Center of Excellence*

### CHOOSING YOUR NEW LIFE

- Consider ‘Life in Our Neck of the Woods’
- MidAmerica is investing in quality-of-life improvements
  - » *Attracting and incentivizing new housing developments*
  - » *Improving transportation to MidAmerica and surrounding communities*
  - » *Recruiting investments in retail and entertainment*
  - » *Investing in parks, bike trails, and natural resources*
  - » *Contributing resources for higher education, tech training and K-12 schools*



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