

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Broken Arrow Chamber to Welcome New CEO

Broken Arrow, OK – September 18, 2024 – The Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation are excited to announce and welcome James Bell as the new President and CEO. The Next Move Group, along with the Chamber’s Search Committee, chaired by Ben Buie of CJ Moloney’s and Greg Graham of First National Bank and Trust Co., worked over the last few months reviewing candidates. Mr. Bell’s start date is September 30, 2024.

A press conference will be held on Thursday, October 10 at 4 p.m. to officially welcome and introduce Mr. Bell to the community. This event will be held at the Main Street Loft, 202 S. Main Street, Broken Arrow, OK.

“On behalf of the Chamber Board and staff, I want to express how thrilled we are to welcome James Bell as the new President and CEO of the Chamber and EDC. We have every confidence that James will lead the Chamber to continued success and growth, and we look forward to seeing his vision and leadership take us to new heights,” stated Ben Buie, 2024 Chamber Board Chair.

James brings diverse experience in economic development and business leadership to Broken Arrow. Throughout his career, he has worked in companies ranging from startups to the Global 200, developing a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by organizations of all sizes. Most recently, he served as Vice President for Economic Development at the Greater Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce, where he collaborated closely with community partners to support the growth of established businesses, helped launch startups, and successfully recruited dozens of early-stage technology companies to the area.

James’s passion for community-driven economic development is evident in his commitment to fostering collaboration among local businesses, government entities, and educational institutions. He stated, “I believe Broken Arrow is uniquely positioned for significant growth, especially with the potential of Arrow Forge and the city’s strong focus on building a thriving business ecosystem.” His experience with similar projects in Bentonville will be invaluable as he

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works closely with partners like the City of Broken Arrow, to attract new businesses and support the expansion of existing ones.

James, his wife Hedieh, their two young children, and his wife's parents, are excited to make Broken Arrow their new home. He said, "We chose Broken Arrow for its vibrant community, excellent schools, and the tremendous opportunity to play a role in its growth and economic vitality. My family and I are looking forward to planting roots here and being part of this wonderful community."

All questions and interview requests can be accommodated after the press conference on October 10.



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*About the Broken Arrow Chamber:*

*With over 850 members, the Broken Arrow Chamber provides the support and resources our business community needs so that together we create an environment in which every business from entrepreneurs to corporations can thrive. The Chamber is the leading voice to advocate for business because when Broken Arrow businesses grow, the entire community thrives.*