



association of central oklahoma governments

Chair Willa Johnson
Oklahoma County Commissioner

Vice-Chair Kathy Walker
Nichols Hills Mayor

Secretary/Treasurer Mark Sharpton
Logan County Commissioner

Executive Director
John G. Johnson

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2008

University of Oklahoma and Airport Express receive clean fuel awards

The University of Oklahoma and Airport Express garnered regional recognition Tuesday at the 2008 Central Oklahoma Clean Cities Awards luncheon held at the Petroleum Club in downtown Oklahoma City. The awards were given for commitment to strengthening national energy security and supporting regional clean air efforts through reduced petroleum consumption in the transportation sector.

The University of Oklahoma received the Zach D. Taylor Clean Cities Vision Award, Public Sector, for its long-term support of alternative fuels encompassing multiple departments and services. Highlights of that support include the development of a production-capable electric pickup truck more than 13 years ago and the incorporation of light-duty and heavy-duty alternative fuel vehicles in the university fleet and in the Cleveland Area Rapid Transit fleet. The university operates more than 65 on-road vehicles on ethanol, biodiesel, electricity, and compressed natural gas. A new state-of-the-art Transportation Operations Center opened in November 2008 and includes on-site refueling for all its alternative fuel

–continued–

fleet vehicles. Additionally, the university shares its new alternative fuel refueling capacity with the city of Norman. The university will also purchase 100 percent of its electricity from wind-powered generation by 2013. A member of the Chicago Climate Exchange and a signer of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, OU is a recognized leader in commitment to alternative and renewable energy and fuels. Accepting the award on behalf of the university was Theta Dempsey, Director of Parking and Transportation Services.

Accepting the 2008 Zach D. Taylor Clean Cities Vision Award, Private Sector, on behalf of Airport Express was General Manager David Batson. In 1995, Airport Express owner Dr. Larry Lucas and Batson were instrumental in helping to set up and move the Central Oklahoma Clean Cities coalition from its planning stages to official Department of Energy designation. Airport Express began in 1987 with nine vans and 16 operators providing personalized airport transportation. Their first alternative fuel van was obtained in 1992. Today, they operate a total fleet of about 100 vehicles. Approximately 25 percent of those run on compressed natural gas and the company continues to add more. In addition to an airport shuttle service and charter shuttles, Airport Express provides service to Oklahoma City's Metro Transit, the FAA, and more than 200 commercial clients. Additionally, Airport Express operates a rapidly growing MedRide wheelchair and stretcher van service reaching nearly every hospital and nursing home in Central Oklahoma.

Clean Cities is a nationwide government-industry collaborative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Its mission is to reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector by advancing the use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, altfuel blends, idle reduction technologies, hybrid and electric vehicles, and fuel efficient vehicles and driving practices.

Central Oklahoma Clean Cities was formally established by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments in 1995. It received official DOE designation as country's 48th Clean Cities coalition in 1996. It is the country's first regional Clean Cities coalition. Central Oklahoma Clean Cities is locally funded by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, and more than 50 government and industry stakeholder members. Nearly 90 active Clean Cities coalitions representing more than 5,500 stakeholders are located in metropolitan areas across the country.

###