



2026 Board of Directors

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PRESIDENT & CEO

Scott Martin

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Dear America,

As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary this July, Americans have an opportunity to reflect on the ideals, sacrifices, and achievements that have defined the United States since 1776. While we honor the statesmen and patriots whose vision gave birth to our nation, we should also recognize a driving force that has shaped America from its earliest days: business and entrepreneurship.

The story of America is, in many ways, the story of people willing to take risks, pursue opportunity, and build something greater than themselves. Long before independence was declared, merchants, farmers, tradesmen, and entrepreneurs helped establish thriving communities throughout the colonies. Their determination and innovation laid the foundation for economic growth and helped fuel the dream of a more prosperous future.

In fact, many of the issues that led to the American Revolution were rooted in economic freedom. The desire for self-determination was not only political, but it was also about the ability of citizens to pursue their dreams, grow businesses, and benefit from the fruits of their labor. The principles that inspired our founders continue to shape the American economy today.

For 250 years, businesses have played a central role in our nation's progress. They built the railroads that connected the country, powered industrial growth, advanced technological innovation, and created jobs that helped generations of Americans achieve their dreams. From small family-owned enterprises to world-changing corporations, businesses have been engines of prosperity and community development.

Here in Norman, we see those same principles at work every day.

From the earliest days of our city's history, entrepreneurship has been part of Norman's identity. Settlers who arrived during the Land Run of 1889 came seeking possibility and a chance to build a future. They opened stores, established banks, launched businesses, and helped transform a prairie settlement into the vibrant community we know today.

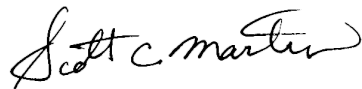
Today, that entrepreneurial spirit remains strong. From long-established local businesses that have served generations of residents to emerging companies born from the University of

Oklahoma's research and innovation ecosystem, Norman's business community continues to shape the city's prosperity and future. Beyond providing goods and services, these businesses invest in our community by supporting local schools, sponsoring youth sports teams, contributing to nonprofit organizations and community events, and volunteering their time and resources. In doing so, they help strengthen the civic fabric that makes Norman one of Oklahoma's most desirable places to live and work.

As the Norman Chamber of Commerce works to advance economic prosperity and support our business community, we are reminded that America's success has always depended on communities like ours. Across 250 years of history, the nation's progress has been built town by town, business by business, and entrepreneur by entrepreneur.

As we celebrate this historic milestone, let us honor both our national heritage and our local legacy. The same spirit of innovation, resilience, and optimism that helped establish America continues to thrive in Norman today. By supporting local businesses, encouraging entrepreneurship, and investing in future generations, we help ensure that the next chapter of America's story and Norman's story will be even stronger than the last.

On behalf of the Norman Chamber of Commerce, happy 250th birthday, America, and here's to the bright future ahead for Norman and our nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Scott C. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Scott Martin
President & CEO
Norman Chamber of Commerce