THE 2020 POWER LIST

POWER 25

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Editor’s Note

About The Journal Record’s ‘Power 25’

When The Journal Record’s staff members were asked to say what makes manufacturing exceptional in Oklahoma, there was general agreement on these points:

1. We have a wide range of world-class manufacturing enterprises that sell their products all over the globe.
2. There is a highly trained and educated workforce here that can build anything, and
3. The Sooner State is poised for more growth and economic expansion when the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us.

That’s why the newspaper set out two months ago to produce this special section. We wanted to recognize the “Power 25” leaders in manufacturing from our state. We wanted a better understanding of those leading their brands, what drives them, and how these business titans lead their companies into the future.

What we found were fascinating stories of determination and the will to grow and succeed, despite long odds. Their stories and profiles of the companies they lead are contained in this special section, coordinated by journalist Chip Minty, with production leadership from the JR’s Jessica Mitchell.

We learned about the products and philosophies of some of Oklahoma’s most well-known companies. Some are part of global enterprises and are household names like Goodyear, Halliburton and Boeing. Others are smaller and focus on regional goals, like Cosmetic Specialty Labs and Service King Manufacturing. Still, these entrepreneurs share the broad visions of the giants.

You can argue, as the state’s Commerce Department does, that the Sooner State is at the “crossroads of North America.” Oklahoma has two international airports and a world-class transportation system that can ensure efficient delivery to all points of the nation and the world.

In addition to its skilled manufacturing workforce, some 20 Oklahoma colleges and universities are expected to produce 10,000 graduates holding manufacturing-related degrees over the next five years. Many of these graduates want to stay here in Oklahoma and are ready to work.

The cost of electricity is low here. The cost of living is reasonable. It’s a place where people believe in the future. There’s a lot going for Oklahoma, and more to come when the COVID crisis comes to an end.

Of the 4,200 manufacturing concerns statewide, we had some decisions to make and focused on our general region of the state. We also had to determine the order for our Power 25. The newsroom made its decision based on a range of factors, including number of employees, which is why some of the numbers are not the same as your data.

We urge you not to get hung up on the numbers but read with fascination, as we did, about the leaders behind the companies. It’s safe to say that all of our “Power 25” truly belong on this list.

And we hope to hear more great things about them as we move into the post-pandemic era. We’d be happy to tell their stories.

Joe Dowd
Journal Record Interim Editor
Bama CEO sets tone of integrity for international concern

As Bama’s chief executive, Paula Marshall provides strategic leadership and direction to the entire organization. Her vision stands as a beacon for Bama team members, inspiring the organization to achieve the Bama mission – “People Helping People Be Successful.”

As CEO, Marshall assumed responsibility of the Bama Companies in 1984. It now includes Bama Pie, Bama Foods, Bama Frozen Dough, Beijing Bama and Bama Europa.

Under her leadership, Bama has expanded to provide a wide variety of frozen desserts and baked goods to fast-food chains and casual and family dining restaurants.

Marshall received her bachelor’s degree in business from Oklahoma City University in 1982 and her doctorate in commercial science, also from OCU, in 1993.

About Bama Companies

Tulsa-based Bama Companies began as a small bakery nearly a century ago in Dallas, Texas, and eventually established itself as an international name through its introduction of handheld pies in 1967.

Today, its factories make 2 million biscuits a day, as well as handheld pies, buns, pie shells, and pizza crusts for markets all over the world.

Bama Chief Executive Officer Paula Marshall says the company has grown tremendously since it was founded in 1927, but its fundamentals have not changed much.

“Bama has come a long way from that soda fountain in Texas. But one timeless principle endures from then until now: consistent quality.

No matter how much we grow and evolve, that’s one part of the Bama story that will never change,” she said.

Bama has achieved B Corp certification as a business that meets the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose.
Kimray CEO brings broad perspective to family business

As the grandson of Kimray founder Garman Kimmell, Thomas Hill III manages the family-owned company with a sense of stewardship and heritage.

Hill, who earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Oklahoma State University, grew up around the company. He has worked in virtually every department, which has given him an intimate knowledge of the people and processes from start to finish. As Kimray’s chief executive officer, Hill also serves on the company’s board of directors.

Hill also is active in communities outside of his company, authoring the book *Recovering Leadership: Musings of an Addict Leader*, which tells the story of his rise to leadership, personal failure and road to recovery. Thomas currently serves on the board of Salt and Light Leadership Training, and he is vice chair for Hope Is Alive ministry, where he personally mentors a group of men recovering from addiction. You can read his “Monday Musings” on life and leadership at recoveringleadership.com.

As an advocate for healthy living, Hill has contributed to Oklahoma’s fitness community as co-founder of several athletic events, including the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon and the Redman Triathlon. He also co-founded the Mother Road 100, an ultramarathon running event following Oklahoma’s segment of U.S. Highway 66.

Hill and his wife, Rebecca, have been married more than 30 years and have six children.

About Kimray

Kimray is a world-class manufacturer of oil and gas control equipment based in Oklahoma City. Trusted for generations, Kimray has been creating simple, effective products for temperature, level, flow, and pressure control since 1948.

The company’s mission is “Making a difference in the lives of those we serve.”

This includes serving customers by meeting their needs, serving team members because they care about one another, and serving its communities by being good neighbors and citizens.

Kimray products are known for being reliable, easy to operate, and low maintenance. Common applications include compression, gas dehydration, gas sweetening, separation, heaters, artificial lift, gas regulation skids, measurement stations and more.

The company’s culture recognizes good character and leaves the door open for every idea and concern. It also shares business information so everyone on the team understands Kimray’s direction and the company’s health. Kimray is a company with built-in opportunities for employees to develop personally and professionally.

A three-time recipient of the Oklahoma Ethics Consortium’s Compass Award, Kimray believes in doing the right thing, even when no one is watching, which is demonstrated in recognition the company has received in financial stewardship, environmental excellence, and API and ISO quality certifications.
Weber enjoys nearly 50 years of achievement at Webco

Dana Weber started working at Webco in 1971, beginning her full-time career in 1977, and has held various positions in accounting, finance, production planning, industrial engineering and IT. She was appointed chief financial officer and vice chairman of the board in 1986, executive vice president and chief operating officer in 1989, president in 1995, and chief executive officer in 2011. Weber became chairman of the board in 2018.

Weber is currently chair of the board for Teri Inc. and has been on the board since 2007, and she also has been on the board of Phillips & Johnston, a subsidiary of Webco, since 1998.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting and a juris doctorate from the University of Tulsa and a project management diploma from Harvard Business School. She studied industrial engineering at Oklahoma State University.

Weber is currently chair of the University of Tulsa Board and serves on the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority Board, Board of the Oklahoma City Branch of the Kansas City Federal Reserve, the Tulsa Regional Chamber Board and the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma State Chamber Board.

She has previously served many other organizations, including YPO, Oklahoma Center for Public Affairs, Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women, the Oklahoma Innovation Institute, E Foundation, Women’s Energy Network of Oklahoma, Chi Omega Alumni Association, Rotary Club, Sand Springs Chamber, Oklahoma Business Round Table, Salvation Army, Tulsa Ballet Theater, Summit Club, Tulsa Library, Junior Achievement, American Heart Association and Junior League.

Weber’s awards and recognition include among The Journal Record’s Most Admired CEOs in 2019, the 2018 University of Tulsa Collin’s College of Business Outstanding Alumna Award, 2016 Sandite Spirit Award, 2012 Sand Springs Chamber Business Person of the Year Award, 2011 Journal Record Woman of the Year Award and the 2011 Tulsa Area Panhellenic Woman of the Year (Chi Omega) Award.

About Webco Manufacturing

Webco Industries manufactures high-quality carbon, stainless steel, and other high-alloy specialty tubing products designed and produced to exacting industry and customer specifications. Founded in 1969 and still headquartered in Sand Springs, Webco became a public company in 1994, and it has achieved ISO-9001, which is international certification recognizing for quality management.

Webco’s long-term strategy includes the pursuit of niche markets within the specialty tubing industry through the design and deployment of leading-edge manufacturing and information technology.

Webco’s mission is to “Continuously build on our strengths as we create a vibrant company for the ages” with the belief that successful companies are more about people than products and that a company’s human assets are its most important resource.

The company has more than 1,000 employees and more than 2 million square feet of facility space. Webco’s teams serve more than 1,100 customers throughout North America with an attitude that has transformed the business into North America’s most dynamic network of tube manufacturing and distribution facilities.

Webco tubing applications include stainless steel tubing, pressure tubing, coiled tubing, boiler tubing, mechanical tubing, heat exchanger, air cooler, air heater and others. Every day, Webco’s employees live out commitments to sound and ethical business practices, safety first, quality always, exemplary customer service, teamwork, minimizing environmental impact and ensuring support for local communities.
Graf brings strong credentials to ClimateMaster

Todd Graf joined ClimateMaster in 2016 as president, responsible for all business activities. He works to continuously drive improvements in operations, product development and sales.

Graf has more than 25 years of leadership experience in industrial manufacturing businesses, and he has served as director of operations at Xylem, where he successfully strengthened safety, quality, delivery and productivity, while growing sales year over year. Prior to joining Xylem, he held a variety of leadership and general management positions at Trane and Ingersoll-Rand, where he worked with water-source heat pump operations, large commercial rooftop businesses and others.

Graf has a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University and an M.B.A. from Ball State University. He also is a Six Sigma Black Belt, which is a certification of training associated with techniques and tools for industrial process improvement.

About ClimateMaster

ClimateMaster’s role as a domestic energy and geothermal heating and cooling leader extends back to the late 1950s when the company was first established in Florida.

The company was later relocated to New York, where it started manufacturing water loop heat pump systems, and finally moved its headquarters to Oklahoma City, where it continues to operate today.

For more than 50 years, ClimateMaster has been developing and producing innovative and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems.

Through its history, ClimateMaster has continued to invest in the value of its U.S.-patented technologies, expanding its American manufacturing facilities and growing its national network of distributors, while training its domestic employees. Today, the company remains committed to its engineered-and-assembled-in-the-USA heritage by operating a 510,000-square-foot plant in Oklahoma City, which employs more than 600 workers and supports more than 1,200 independent dealers.
Drake finds successful career in her own backyard

Angie Drake has traveled a long path to get where she is today. Professionally speaking, that is. Physically, Drake is less than 20 miles from where she began. Brought up in Covington, Oklahoma, the vice president of construction for Charles Machine Works (CMW) offices in Perry – a quick drive from her hometown.

Drake originally joined CMW in 1997 as a staff accountant, where her hardworking nature and knack for leadership drove her career forward. Since then, she has served in a variety of roles, including corporate controller and treasurer. Later, she served as chief financial officer and secretary-treasurer from 2011 to 2019, when CMW was acquired by The Toro Company.

Throughout her tenure, Drake has been a leading player in the mergers and acquisitions that have formed CMW into the family of businesses that it is today. As vice president of construction, Drake oversees executive operations for Ditch Witch, American Augers, Trencor, Subsite, Hammerhead, Radius and DWTXS.

Outside of work, Drake serves as chairwoman of Main Street Perry, treasurer of the Perry Education Foundation, board member of First Bank & Trust Co. in Perry, and a member of the State Chamber of Oklahoma.

About Charles Machine Works

When Ed Malzahn invented the Model DWP Service Line Trencher in 1949, he laid the innovative groundwork for Ditch Witch, and he grounded his company in family values. Those beliefs are still at the heart of what has driven Charles Machine Works to become the international manufacturing powerhouse that it is today.

Stemming from his realization that there was no equipment to assist workers installing residential utilities, Malzahn’s Model DWP was the world’s first utility trencher. Twice named as one of the 100 best products manufactured in the United States, the trencher’s invention spurred Malzahn to start Ditch Witch in 1959. Over the next 60 years, Ditch Witch built a reputation for excellence with its industry-altering innovations and first-class dealership network, which spans the globe.

Now a part of The Toro Company, the Charles Machine Works companies include American Augers, Trencor, Subsite, Hammerhead, Radius, MTI Equipment and DW/TXS, and they are viewed as authorities in all aspects of underground construction.

The brands within the Charles Machine Works family design, manufacture and sell a range of products, including horizontal directional drills, stand-on skid steers, trenchers, vacuum exactors, asset locators, pipe-rehabilitation solutions and after-market tools. The goal of Charles Machine Works is to provide equipment for the full life cycle of the pipe and underground construction projects.

The Charles Machine Works family of companies is based in Perry, Oklahoma, and employs more than 1,600 workers worldwide.
Long aero-manufacturing career leads Brown to Spirit

William Brown is senior vice president and general manager of Spirit AeroSystem’s Oklahoma operations.

He has served in Tulsa since 2014, and he is responsible for Spirit’s Oklahoma operations, where he oversees programs at the Tulsa and McAlester facilities. Spirit’s Tulsa facility is its largest in the state and the location employs about 1,400 people, supporting programs associated with Boeing, Gulfstream and AWACS.

Prior to joining Spirit, Brown served as executive vice president, Global Operations and president of Global Customer Service and Support at Beechcraft. Prior to joining Beechcraft, he was president and general manager of AAR Aircraft Services in Oklahoma and held senior-level positions with Independence Air, Avborne Inc. and Midwest Airlines.

In a recent media interview, Brown said he is proud of his Tulsa workforce.

They are seasoned, he said. Many of them started at the facility when it was working on NASA programs, such as the Saturn Rocket and the Space shuttle. They also worked on the B-1 bomber.

About Spirit AeroSystems

Based in Wichita, Kansas, Spirit AeroSystems is one of the world’s largest non-original equipment designers and manufacturers of aerostructures for commercial and defense aircraft.

In addition to its facilities in Wichita, Spirit has locations in Tulsa and McAlester, as well as several other locations across the U.S. and around the globe. The company’s core products include fuselages, pylons, nacelles and wing components. The company also provides maintenance, repair and overhaul services.

Spirit is a $7 billion company with a worldwide workforce of about 13,000 and a Tulsa workforce of about 1,400.

Spirit’s Tulsa facility is its largest in Oklahoma, and the other is in McAlester. The Tulsa operation employs about 1,400 people, supporting programs of Boeing, Triumph/Gulfstream and AWACS.

In general, Spirit is an aerostructures company that focuses on building the skeleton of an aircraft, parts such as wings and fuselages. In particularly, Tulsa serves as the Boeing flight control surface Center of Excellence.
Pelco co-founder continues to grow family business

Steve Parduhn, co-founder, president and chief executive officer of Pelco Products Inc., is an experienced business leader with a demonstrated history of starting and growing all aspects of manufacturing businesses. Parduhn is a strong business development professional focused on growing and developing company leaders through high integrity, work ethic and trust.

Parduhn attended Oklahoma State University, majoring in business management and minoring in marketing, accounting and finance. After graduation, he and his father Phil Parduhn started Pelco Products Inc. in 1985. Their goal was to become the leading manufacturer of the most innovative and highest-quality line of traffic signal mounting hardware in the industry.

Parduhn has been a member of the International Municipal Signal Association since 1985 and has been a director on the Educational Founders Board since 2008.

He has been a director of Pelco Industries since 1992. He co-founded Pelco Structural LLC in 2005 and he became Pelco’s CEO in 2019.

Parduhn is also a director for the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, serving since 2018, and he’s been a director for Jetta Corp. since 2019.

About Pelco Products Inc.

Pelco Products Inc. is an Edmond-based, family-owned business specializing in designing, engineering, manufacturing and distributing traffic hardware, utility products and decorative outdoor lighting. With more than 180 employees in Edmond alone, it is among the largest traffic hardware manufacturers in the nation.

Pelco was co-founded by Phil Parduhn and his son Steve. A few years later, Phil’s son Jeff joined the company and their sister, Diana, also maintains an active role. The company’s foundation was built around a single product: the Astro-Brac. In 1968, Phil Parduhn created a quicker and easier way to universally attach traffic signals to the mast arm, and the Parduhns have been involved in the traffic control business ever since.

When Pelco was formed in January 1985, the company had six employees manufacturing their anchor product, which was an updated and newly patented version of Astro-Brac. From the onset, they had a goal of becoming the leading manufacturer of the most innovative and highest-quality line of traffic signal mounting hardware in the industry. The company has a continual history of innovation and holds numerous patents.

Pelco has grown its product line to include utility hardware and decorative lighting as well as ornamental products. Pelco’s decorative lighting, street lighting and signage can be seen in cities throughout the United States.

The company began operations in 2,500 feet of space near Wilshire Boulevard and Broadway Extension in Oklahoma City. By 1987, Pelco had expanded into 7,500 square feet of space, with plans to construct a new building in Edmond. By the end of its third year, Pelco had grown to 25 people. Today, Pelco’s Edmond operations and affiliated Pelco Structural LLC of Claremore combine to employ more than 325 workers in four facilities, totaling more than 310,000 square feet on 53 acres.

Striving to be at the forefront of technology, Pelco is constantly providing new products to help customers solve problems. Pelco’s manufacturing technology is world-class, utilizing the latest in machining techniques. With an integrated powder coating facility and customized product finishes, Pelco can provide customized product finishes on parts as small as a bolt and ranging all the way to a 40-foot pole.

The company has adopted the disciplines of lean manufacturing in which continuous improvement throughout the organization provides rapid customer responses, shortened lead times and improved product quality.
Nordam CEO brings diverse background to role

Meredith Siegfried Madden was appointed chief executive officer of Nordam in 2011. Headquartered in Tulsa, Nordam is one of the world’s premier family-owned providers of aerospace composite structures and engineered solutions, and the company employs 2,500 people around the globe.

Madden joined the company in 1999 and progressed through a series of roles in both operations and sales. Previous positions have included: manager of strategic market planning; vice president of Global Sales and Marketing; vice president of the Repair Group; chief operating officer, overseeing all repair and manufacturing operations in the United States, Europe and Asia; and president of Nordam.

Prior to her Nordam career, Madden was a senior consultant on mergers and acquisitions, corporate recovery services and financial advisory with Arthur Andersen’s Global Corporate Finance Group.

Madden serves on the boards of several industry organizations, including SkyWest Inc., one of the largest regional airlines in North America, and the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum. She is a member of the University of Notre Dame’s Advisory Council for Student Athletes and a founding board member of Tulsa Flight Night, a nonprofit created by her father, late Nordam founder Ray Siegfried. The summertime air show and gala supports science, technology, engineering and math education for Oklahoma K-12 students. Under her leadership, Nordam and the Siegfried family continue their long-standing support of and partnership with the Tulsa Area United Way.

She is an alumna of the Aspen Institute’s two-year Henry Crown Fellowship program for accomplished entrepreneurial leaders under 45 and a past member of the Young Presidents’ Organization. Madden holds an MBA from the University of Chicago and a bachelor’s degree in business administration and finance from the University of Notre Dame.

About Nordam

Founded in 1969 on family values and with multiple, strategically located operations and customer support facilities around the world, Tulsa-based Nordam is a leading, independently owned aerospace company.

The firm designs, certifies and manufactures integrated propulsion systems, nacelles and thrust reversers for business jets. It also builds composite aircraft structures, interior shells, custom cabinetry and radomes.

Other products include aircraft transparencies, such as cabin windows, wing-tip lens assemblies and flight deck windows. Nordam is a major third-party provider of maintenance, repair and overhaul services to the military as well as commercial airline and air freight markets.
Brooks leads Goodyear’s consumer tire plant in Lawton

Lester Brooks is manufacturing director of the Goodyear-Lawton tire manufacturing plant in Lawton.

A 30-year veteran of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Brooks has amassed immense knowledge of the company’s manufacturing systems and processes, and he also has a proven record for leading teams to the highest levels of operational performance. His driving leadership principle is to engage, empower and enable associates with the tools, processes and information they need to deliver on Goodyear’s No. 1 strategic imperative: safely making more of the right tires for customers, when and where they need them.

Brooks joined the company in 1990 as a maintenance technician at the Napanee tire plant, in Ontario, Canada, and he progressed through a series of increasingly complex and demanding roles before serving as the plant’s managing director. His experience includes shift operations manager, business center auditor, business leader in manufacturing, business center manager, operations manager and production manager.

Prior to joining Goodyear, Brooks worked at Campbell Soup Co. and was owner and operator of a Second Cup Coffee Co. franchise.

A native of Bloomfield, Ontario, Canada, Brooks earned a bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics with honors from the University of Guelph, Ontario. He has fueled his passion for continuous improvement by completing myriad advanced-level courses in Plant Optimization, such as ISO 14001, Personal Attributes Training and Six Sigma.

Brooks, who has been in Lawton since 2014, is honored to be working with the Good year-Lawton team of more than 2,000 associates, and he is honored to be part of one of the company’s largest consumer-tire manufacturing facilities.

About Goodyear-Lawton

Goodyear-Lawton has embraced a team culture, built on the principles of Plant Optimization, which continually focuses on improving safety, quality, customer service and operational efficiency. The plant has won numerous customer awards and contributes significantly to the local economy and community organizations. Lawton associates last year contributed more than $523,000 to the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma.

As one of the world’s largest tire companies, Goodyear enables movement so people can meet challenges, realize opportunities and unleash new possibilities.

Founded on a commitment to innovation, Goodyear’s two Innovation Centers in Akron, Ohio, and Colmar-Berg, Luxembourg, set the industry standard for technology and performance with state-of-the-art products and services.

Fueled by the passion and talent of about 62,000 professionals in 46 facilities in 21 countries around the world, Goodyear develops, manufactures, markets and distributes consumer, commercial and specialty tires for most applications. The company also manufactures and market rubber-related chemicals for various applications.

For consumers, Goodyear produces a wide range of tires. Across its brands, the company offers all of the benefits today’s drivers are looking for, from innovative technology and performance handling to all-weather reliability and affordable quality. The company is also one of the world’s largest commercial truck service operators and tire retreading centers. Goodyear also operates about 1,100 tire and auto service centers.

Rooted in more than 120 years of history, Goodyear’s brand is one of the most recognized. Goodyear is the official tire and exclusive tire provider for NASCAR and the National Hot Rod Association, and, since 1917, the Goodyear Blimp has been a beloved aerial ambassador around the globe.
Why Choose Lawton?

- Abundant land on which to build
- ODOC Certified Industrial Site available
- Ongoing workforce training opportunities, ensuring quality manpower for your business
- Access to diverse and constant workforce via Cameron University, Great Plains Technology Center and Fort Sill Military Installation
Michelin plant manager brings worldview to Ardmore facility

Nicholas Walker has served as the plant manager of Michelin’s manufacturing facility in Ardmore since 2017.

His career with Michelin spans four decades and includes assignments across Europe and Southeast Asia. A native of Bridgewater, U.K., Walker began his career in 1980 at Michelin’s facility in Stoke, where he learned the tire manufacturing business from the ground up. He then moved to Michelin’s global headquarters in Clermont Ferrand, France, where he joined the company’s tire design team.

From there, he became quality manager at Michelin’s facility in Ballymena, Northern Ireland and then production manager at the company’s Burnley facility in the U.K.

Following his assignments in Europe, Walker spent nearly a decade in Southeast Asia, first in Bangkok, Thailand, supporting several manufacturing operations before moving in 2010 to become plant manager of Michelin’s Leam Chabang plant in Thailand, leading production for more than seven years.

Finally, Walker assumed his current role in the United States, leading Michelin’s Ardmore facility, which employs more than 1,800 people.

Walker holds a master’s degree in engineering, and the global influence of Walker’s professional career is also evident in his personal life. In 1986, he married a French national. Their two adult children are currently pursuing degrees in the United Kingdom.

His professional mantra is, “Leading teams to sustained greatness beyond their expectations.”

About Michelin-Ardmore

Michelin’s Ardmore plant has been operating since 1970. The facility comprises 1.5 million square feet of manufacturing operations, where some of the world’s most technologically advanced passenger car and light truck tires are made.

The plant employs more than 1,800 people, more than any other Michelin manufacturing facility in the country.

Built in 1969, the plant was operated by Uniroyal Goodrich Tire Co. for 20 years before the facility was purchased by Michelin in 1990. Five years later, the building was hit by a tornado. After two months and a $45 million rebuilding investment, the plant was back up and running.

Michelin has demonstrated its commitment to the plant and the Ardmore community through hundreds of millions of dollars in investments made in the facility since its 1990 acquisition.
Family, career go hand-in-hand for D&L Tool CEO

Lee Eslicker is founder, president and chief executive officer of D&L Oil Tools, a Tulsa company that provides downhole equipment for the oil and gas industry.

Like many employees at D&L, Eslicker started with Arrow Oil Tools, a company his family owned while he was growing up. He started working in the shop when he was just 13, then came back after graduating from Oklahoma State University in 1975 and joined the company full time, working in all aspects of the manufacturing operation.

The company was sold in 1981, and he continued working there until he founded D&L in 1999 and named it for his children, Dan and Lauren.

About D&L Tool

D&L Oil Tools designs, manufactures and assembles downhole equipment for customers in domestic and international markets. Based in Tulsa, the company has a tradition of quality, affordability, customer service and community investment.

D&L produces and sells packers, valves, retrieval tools and plugs, among other oil-field service products, and the company does all of its manufacturing at its plant in west Tulsa. In addition, D&L has a nickel-plating operation in Cleveland and an affiliated company that makes custom-molded rubber components.

The company’s Quality Management System has been granted API Q1 certification from the American Petroleum Institute. D&L also has received a 11D1 Monogram License for Packers and Bridge Plugs, certifying high standards in quality management and manufacturing.

Anderson travels long road back to lead Boeing’s OKC operations

Nancy Anderson, Boeing’s vice president of Aircraft Modernization & Modification, leads operations at Boeing in Oklahoma City, where she began her career with the company more than two decades ago.

She has risen rapidly through the ranks, from her position as an engineer working on programming for B-1 bombers to her current role as chief engineer of Boeing operations in Oklahoma City.

Anderson has served in lead engineering roles involving F/A-18 and F-15 aircraft and she has worked in logistics, managing programs, people and budgets. She has also spent time at Boeing facilities in Everett, Washington, where she served as executive program manager, upgrading commercial factories needed to build Boeing’s 777 and 777X air frames.

Then, she became Boeing’s executive program director for its Airborne Surveillance Command and Control program. Prior to moving back to Oklahoma City in 2019, Anderson was a deputy program manager for Boeing’s Commercial Crew Program in Florida.

About Boeing in OKC

The Boeing OKC campus is just outside Tinker Air Force Base at Air Depot Boulevard and SE 59th Street, where the majority of work performed is engineering for the company’s defense portfolio. The facility serves the U.S. Air Force as well as other Boeing customers from around the world.

The company believes Oklahoma is a great place to do business because the location helps the company better manage numerous programs needed to support thousands of Boeing aircraft that have been flying for decades. In particular, Boeing’s engineering capability center next to Tinker Air Force Base is important for its work with the U.S. military’s E-3 AWACS fleet.

The center also handles sustainment activities, modifications and upgrades for the B-52, the B-1 and some aspects of Northrup Grumman’s B-2 bombers. It also works with various types of aircraft used to transport top-level military and diplomatic brass for both the U.S. and other countries.
Cosmetic specialty labs CEO undaunted by COVID-19 adversity

When the COVID-19 crisis hit the nation, Jennifer Krebs-Ellis didn’t just keep her Cosmetic Specialty Labs Inc. of Lawton open, she was able to hire 17 people who had lost their jobs because of the virus.

“My team and I rapidly worked to retool our firm, secure raw materials in a disrupted supply chain, and create a hand sanitizer product that we would be able to supply to consumers, particularly the citizens of the state of Oklahoma,” said Krebs-Ellis. “Currently, our hand sanitizers are being sold nationwide under many labels.”

Cosmetic Specialty Labs is a custom, turnkey, private-label, cosmetic and over-the-counter drug manufacturer with distribution in stores such as Target, Walgreens, CVS, Walmart, Sephora and Ulta, as well as exports to 40 different countries.

Krebs-Ellis was born in Frankfurt, Germany, to a military father and a mother who was a Lawton native. After moving to Lawton while in high school, she later traveled the U.S. with the Army, both as a spouse and a soldier. Upon exiting the military, she moved her family to Medicine Park, where she serves as mayor and as a member of the Medicine Park Planning and Preservation Commission. She is also the president of the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma. Krebs-Ellis is married to Mark Ellis and has three adult sons – Zachary, Joshua and Peter.

About Cosmetic Specialty Labs

Cosmetic Specialty Labs is skilled in developing high-end, prestige skin care products, as well as customer formulated over-the-counter drugs. The company’s capabilities include art and layout development, creative packaging solutions and sourcing, custom product formulation, an internal and independent quality control unit and a product innovation and development laboratory.

CSL produces custom formulations and finished products for many U.S. and International distributions. Further, the company is well-versed in the customs, shipping and security regulations associated with cosmetic export.

CSL believes in the healing power of aloe vera and is a contract manufacturer of private-label skin care, cosmetics, and health products that contain aloe vera, supplying clients in the U.S. and internationally.
Neill leads Baker Hughes’ artificial lift equipment manufacturing plants

Ron Neill is director of Global Supply Chain Manufacturing, Artificial Lift Systems, for Baker Hughes. With offices in Claremore and Tulsa, Neill is responsible for the global Baker Hughes artificial lift systems manufacturing organization, encompassing strategy, budgeting, planning and manufacturing execution.

He oversees a network of manufacturing plants in Claremore, Tulsa and Oklahoma City, where Baker Hughes assembles, tests, and delivers industry-leading artificial lift equipment. Products include electric submersible pumping systems, variable speed drives, sensors, and horizontal surface pumping systems. Born in Nagoya, Japan, Neill attended Rogers State University in Claremore and has 30 years of experience working for Baker Hughes. Previous positions with the company include operations manager in the Permian Basin, operations manager for the company’s U.S. Mid-Continent business unit, and North American director for assembly, maintenance and overhaul, a position that covered all oil-field services product lines at Baker Hughes. Neill has received three Mosaic awards from the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce for diversity and inclusion.

About Baker Hughes

Baker Hughes is a U.S.-based industrial service company and one of the world’s largest oil-field service companies, providing the oil and gas industry with products and services for oil drilling, formation evaluation, completion, production and reservoir consulting. Built on a century of experience and with operations in more than 120 countries, Baker Hughes’ innovative technologies and services are designed to make the industry safer, cleaner and more efficient for people and the planet.

A subsidiary of GE, Baker Hughes maintains its artificial lift manufacturing business in Oklahoma, with facilities in Claremore, Oklahoma City and Tulsa. In total, Baker Hughes has about 800,000 square feet of manufacturing space dedicated to artificial lift product production, and it has about 700 manufacturing employees. Most of the company’s artificial lift manufacturing operations are in Claremore, where it has three plants.

Baker Hughes is also known for its monthly rig count reports, documenting the number of drilling rigs actively exploring for or developing oil or natural gas in the U.S., Canada and international markets.

Plotkin continues growth of historic OKC manufacturer

Loren Plotkin is president, chief executive officer and majority shareholder of M-D Building Products, a company that originated as Macklanburg-Duncan, a family-owned business founded in 1920.

Plotkin, who graduated from the University of Florida’s Warrington College of Business in 1980, served as CEO of Oklahoma City-based Macklanburg-Duncan from 1983 to 2009. Ultimately, he transitioned to his current role of leading the company as M-D Building Products.

Led by Plotkin, the management team has continued to grow and expand the company’s product lines and upgrade manufacturing and distribution capabilities and facilities.

About M-D Building Products

M-D Building Products designs, manufactures, and markets a range of residential and commercial weatherproofing products, including weather-stripping, pipe insulation and caulk. The company also manufactures aluminum and wood flooring.

Based in Oklahoma City, the company operates seven additional manufacturing and distribution sites across the U.S. and Canada. M-D sells its products through numerous retailers and professional channels to consumers, contractors, wholesalers and community agencies across the nation.

The company originated as Macklanburg-Duncan, an Oklahoma City-based building supply innovator and manufacturer founded in 1920. In 2000, General Electric bought Macklanburg-Duncan, absorbed the adhesives and coatings division, and reorganized the rest of the company under the name M-D Building Products.

In 2007, the current management team, led by Macklanburg-Duncan CEO and majority shareholder Loren Plotkin, bought out the business. Since then, Plotkin and his management team have continued to grow and expand M-D’s product lines and upgraded manufacturing and distribution capabilities and facilities.
Goodwin brings 30 years of military experience to FlightSafety

FlightSafety Vice President Scott Goodwin has overall responsibility for the design, manufacture and support of FlightSafety’s full-flight simulators and other advanced technology training devices.

He joined FlightSafety in 2014 as deputy director, Special Projects, and was promoted to executive director, and then to general manager, Simulation.

Scott served in the U.S. Air Force for more than 30 years and retired with the rank of brigadier general in 2013 as the director of operations for Air Mobility Command. He is a highly experienced pilot with more than 3,500 hours in a wide variety of aircraft.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical engineering from the United States Air Force Academy, a master’s degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Princeton University and a master’s degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

About FlightSafety

FlightSafety is a leader in the design, manufacture and support of full-flight simulators and other advanced technology training devices. They are used throughout FlightSafety’s worldwide network of Learning Centers and by government and military agencies and commercial aircraft operators around the world.

FlightSafety International is the world’s premier professional aviation training company and supplier of flight simulators, visual systems and displays to commercial, government and military organizations. The company provides more than a million hours of training each year to pilots, technicians and other aviation professionals from 167 countries and independent territories.

The company operates the world’s largest fleet of advanced full-flight simulators at learning centers and training locations in the United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

Halliburton is three-generation tradition for Gray family

Mike Gray is manufacturing director for Halliburton Energy Services. A Duncan native, Gray is a third-generation Halliburton employee and veteran of more than 40 years with the company.

Gray, along with his twin brother, Mark Gray, follows his grandfather and father, working for Halliburton.

In a recent newspaper interview, Gray said his family members have worked for more than 145 years for Halliburton.

“We’re very proud of that,” he said.

About Halliburton

Founded in 1919, Halliburton is one of the world’s largest providers of products and services to the energy industry.

With more than 40,000 employees, representing 140 nationalities in more than 80 countries, Halliburton helps its customers maximize value throughout the life cycle of the reservoir—from locating hydrocarbons and managing geological data, to drilling and formation evaluation.

The company also specializes in well construction, completion and optimizing production. Halliburton serves independents, majors and national oil companies.
Service King founded on four decades of oil-field experience

Robert Gordon is president of Service King Manufacturing, a company he founded in 2005, after spending a 40-year career in the oil-field service industry.

Gordan is a native Oklahoman, and he began working in Oklahoma’s oil fields after graduating from high school in 1965.

About Service King

Located in Stroud, Service King Manufacturing Inc. is a family-owned company operated by people with years of experience in all areas of the oil industry.

The company’s operations are housed in almost 500,000 square feet of shop facilities amid 180 acres of yard. Approximately 140 skilled employees work in these facilities to produce rigs and components for oil-field operations. Service King has its own machine shop and two warehouses stocked with replacement parts as well as derricks and substructure facilities that support the assembly plant.

Service King provides a variety of rigs and equipment designed for fast rig-up and versatility, and the company meets the needs of customers with special requirements while continuing to meet industry standards.

Dupree used financial skills to grow with Bar-S

Danny Dupree is vice president of operations with Clinton-based Bar-S Foods Co., a subsidiary of Sigma. He joined Bar-S as an accountant at age 22. The new college graduate worked his way through the ranks at Bar-S, which in 1982, was still a startup company.

Much has changed in the industry and within Bar-S, and now, three decades later, he fondly remembers his early days with the company and the production teams and leaders he has worked with. Through his career, his roles with the company have evolved as Bar-S has grown to become a leading hot dog, sliced meat and bacon-processing company.

Timothy Day, founder of Bar-S, said Dupree’s knowledge of finance has served him well in his current role.

“Danny has a background in accounting and quickly grasped the financial elements of a manufacturing operation. He was able to use this knowledge to isolate and address areas that were not in control or were excessively expensive. Bar-S is blessed to have Danny as our senior officer overseeing operations,” Day said in an interview with MEAT+POULTRY, an industry newsletter.

About Bar-S

Founded in 1981, Bar-S is the surviving successor to the Cudahy Company, which was a branded packaged food business founded in Seattle, Washington. Cudahy was a full-time meatpacker with a history dating back to 1890.

In August 2010, Bar-S merged with Sigma Alimentos, which is a subsidiary of Alfa, one of Mexico’s leading industrial companies.

Bar-S is in the portfolio of brands owned by Sigma, a global food company dedicated to bringing local favorite foods to communities in the U.S. and 17 other countries. Based in Phoenix, Sigma has 4,500 employees and markets more than 350 meat and dairy products under eight brands, including Bar-S.
Retired U.S. Air Force general leads key post for AAR Oklahoma

Gen. Donald Wetekam, a former deputy chief of staff for installations and logistics with the U.S. Air Force, is now president of AAR Aircraft Services – Oklahoma, managing AAR’s 300,000-square-foot maintenance facility at Will Rogers World Airport.

For the Air Force, Wetekam directed operations at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center in Georgia and played key leadership roles at the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base. As deputy chief of staff for installations and logistics, he was a staunch advocate for the adoption of commercial process improvement techniques, such as Lean and Six Sigma, within the U.S. Air Force.

Wetekam also serves as the first Brock Executive in Residence for the University of Oklahoma’s Jerry Holmes Leadership Program for Engineers and Scientists. He provides students with a practical, executive-level prospective on leadership and related topics.

About AAR Aircraft Services-Oklahoma

AAR is a leading provider of products and value-added services to the worldwide aerospace and defense industry. With facilities and sales locations around the world, AAR uses its close-to-the-customer business model to serve aviation and defense customers through four operating segments: Aviation Supply Chain; Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul; Structures & Systems and Aircraft Sales & Leasing.

With locations in Oklahoma City; Indianapolis; Hot Springs, Arkansas; and Roswell, New Mexico, AAR Aircraft Services provides major maintenance inspections, line maintenance, aircraft modifications and upgrades to the world’s major, regional and cargo airline fleets, and for the U.S. military and government agencies.

Additional capabilities include avionic service and installations; structural repair; exterior and interior refurbishment; aircraft storage and tear-down; and complete engineering services and support.
W&W-AFCO Steel CEO grows company with father

W&W-AFCO Steel President and CEO Rick Cooper is the son of William Bert Cooper, longtime company CEO. Together, the father and son acquired W&W Steel in the 1990s, and in 2002 they purchased AFCO Steel, creating one of largest structural steel companies in the United States.

Bert Cooper was a nationally recognized leader in the industry and was respected and loved by customers, competitors, and employees alike. He died in 2012, and son, Rick Cooper, has taken over as the company’s chief executive.

Rick Cooper, 65, is married to his wife, Lerri, and they have two sons. He enjoys spending time with his family, friends, playing golf and spending time at the lake.

About W&W-AFCO STEEL

Oklahoma City-based W&W Steel has been operating since 1945 and its subsidiary AFCO Steel has been in business since 1909, combining 186 years of combined experience to serve its customers.

The company applies longstanding, industry-leading experience to produce quality service and an unmatched product. W&W-AFCO Steel provides services to fit any project, no matter the size or complexity, offering complete turnkey design, fabrication and erection capabilities. With abilities and experience that are unparalleled within the construction industry, W&W-AFCO Steel is positioned and equipped to offer construction solutions to its customers.

W&W-AFCO Steel’s reputation, coupled with a focus on customer satisfaction, has made the company one of the largest steel fabricating companies in the United States. Successful in the marketplace, the company is privately owned, community oriented, and built on a solid, ethical foundation.

W&W-AFCO Steel has more than 1,000 employees, six state-of-the-art fabrication facilities, and nearly 2 million square feet under roof.

Falk leads L-3 Comm AMI in Broken Arrow

Ron Falk is vice president and general manager of L-3 Comm AMI in Broken Arrow, a position he has held since 2012.

L3 AMI makes various simulators for military and private sector clients. The machines the company manufactures help pilots learn how to fly different aircraft or even help truck drivers brush up on their skills.

Prior to taking over at L-3 Comm AMI, Falk served as general manager at Ducommun LaBarge Inc., a position he held from 2003 to 2012. Falk is a 2003 graduate of Seton Hill University.

About L-3 Com AMI

Since 1981 AMI has specialized in the design and production of electro-mechanical simulated instruments and integrated training system hardware. Whether an aviation, maritime or custom-related application, AMI can duplicate any type of cockpit, workstation or control console to a high level of fidelity and deliver it to prime government contractors for final system integration.

L3Harris is an agile global aerospace and defense technology innovator, delivering end-to-end solutions that meet customers’ mission-critical needs. The company provides advanced defense and commercial technologies across air, land, sea, space and cyber domains, and bring speed, innovation and flawless execution together with a commitment to making the world more secure.
Cory Welscher is president and general manager of Accurus Aerospace Tulsa and vice president for Accurus Aerospace Corp. With more than 10 years of aerospace manufacturing industry experience, Welscher has held several leadership positions in engineering, program management, and business operations. Most recently he served as vice president and general manager of Walden’s Machine and OMAA International, which was formally known as Profab, where he successfully drove rapid improvements in a short time.

Welscher has a reputation for leading organizations to improved financial results through goal-setting, teamwork, and accountability from the top down. He received his associate degree in design technology from Rochester Community College and his bachelor’s degree in business management from the University of Phoenix.

About Tulsa’s Accurus Aerospace

Accurus Aerospace takes pride in making things ready for flight, and it delivers high-quality aerstructure products to customers on time and according to their needs.

The company specializes in machining aluminum alloys as well as hard and exotic metals. It also fabricates sub-assemblies, provides processing services and more.

Since 1974, Accurus Aerospace Tulsa has delivered machining, programming, inspection technologies and processing capabilities to its customers.
Photo: CMP Corporation in Oklahoma City; One of 3,500 manufacturers creating economic prosperity across the Sooner State.

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