



## Press Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Report shows Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes had \$261 million economic impact on the Oklahoma economy**

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Concho, Okla. – The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are a major contributor to the state of Oklahoma's economy and a major employer in Northwest Oklahoma. It is important the people of Oklahoma understand our Tribes' contributions go well beyond our casinos and slot machines.

A new report by the Center for Native American and Urban Studies (CNAUS) at Oklahoma City University shows the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes had an economic impact of over \$261 million dollars.

Most of us know that the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have six casinos that vary in size and are branded as Lucky Star Casinos, but not the large numbers the Tribes bring in beyond Canadian, Custer and Blaine counties.

"The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are an indispensably important part of our local communities in northwest Oklahoma and the state of Oklahoma," said Governor Reggie Wassana.

The financial impact includes 1,924 jobs in Oklahoma and almost a \$100 million in wages.

The impacts reported include the direct tribal contribution and the additional economic activity generated by other Oklahoma entities in response to the tribal contribution.

"We directly employ more than 1,400 individuals within the government, gaming and investment operations which are jobs primarily in Canadian, Custer and Blaine counties," said Gov. Wassana.

Our Tribes' contribution goes far beyond jobs but also includes impact on education and healthcare in rural areas and \$3,018,769 went to roads projects in our jurisdictional area that benefit all Oklahomans.

"Without the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, these are improvements that the state of Oklahoma would not have received," said Gov. Wassana.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have shared more than \$50 million with the state and local entities since entering into a gaming compact in 2005. Our Tribes have also contributed several hundred thousands of dollars annually to counties, schools, communities and charitable events in its nine county jurisdiction. Our Tribes' gaming compact distributions to the state from gaming revenue now exceed \$3 million annually.

Gov. Wassana says, "It is important the state legislators and the public know where the Tribes' money is going. The perception being put out there that Oklahoma tribes are not paying their fair share is absolutely false."

For more information, contact the communications office at (405) 422-7928.