

# Newsletter



## *Who we are!*

NABIP OKC is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the public by promoting the activities and ethical conduct of insurance professionals through communication, continuing education and increasing industry knowledge and influencing legislation.

## *Annual Symposium*

The NABIP Oklahoma City Annual Symposium features a full day of educational sessions, networking, and sponsor engagement. Starting with check-in and coffee, the day includes keynote speeches, legislative and ethics CE presentations, and a panel on "Access to Care" featuring health industry experts. There will be breaks for sponsor ads, a lunch break, and a session on decoding insurance captives. The event concludes with closing ceremonies, prize giveaways, and a happy hour for attendees to network and unwind.

## *Future Leaders Summit 2025*

The Future Leaders Summit, hosted by the NABIP Tulsa and OKC Chapters, will take place on April 14th at OSU-Tulsa from 3:00 to 7:30 PM. Focused on diversity in the Health Insurance Industry, the event will feature Jessica Brooks-Woods, NABIP's first Black female CEO, and keynote speaker Emeka Nnaka. It will include a career fair for students to explore various industry roles, followed by presentations and a diverse panel. The summit aims to highlight rewarding career opportunities in Health Insurance. View an article on NABIP National's Website [here on page 38!](#)

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Spring is here! The first day has come and gone, and the March winds are standing true to their name. For those who had the opportunity to do a little spring breakin', I hope you're well-rested and rejuvenated.

CapCon last month did not disappoint, nor did our Day at the Capitol on March 11th. We experienced a great turnout at both events. We had a lot of first-timers at both events, and that is so exciting. To be able to have a voice on Capitol Hill and at our State Capitol is so valuable, thank you to everyone who participated. The spring session isn't over yet, and we have a lot more legislative updates to come. Special thanks to our legislative team who work so hard to read all of the bills and stay abreast of pertinent items that impact on our industry.

We have upcoming on the horizon the following events:

■ April 10, 2025 – Annual Symposium

o Jessica Brooks-Woods, NABIP's CEO will be in attendance at some point during the day. She is very approachable, feel free to introduce yourself.

■ April 14, 2025 – Future Leaders Summit

o All pertinent information about the day is on the agenda

■ June 28, 2025 – July 1, 2025 – NABIP's Annual Convention in Miami, FL

o Any members interested in attending, please reach out

I hope to see everyone at our Symposium next month. A lot of work by our professional development chair has poured into it, and it will show. It is packed with a fantastic line-up of presenters, panelists, vendors and annual sponsors. Registration is open on our website at [www.nabipoklahomacity.org](http://www.nabipoklahomacity.org).

“As important as it is to have a plan for doing work, it is perhaps more important to have a plan for rest, relaxation, self-care, and sleep.” —Akiroq Brost

Be well!

Jodi Cooper

President, NABIP Oklahoma City

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Monthly Meetings:

For the month of April, our Annual Symposium will be taking place of our monthly member meeting. There will be an opportunity to get 5 hours of CE credit at the Annual Symposium! Register [Here](#)

### ACCESS TO CARE

At our Symposium, we are excited to host a panel of experts discussing "Access to Care". Each panelist brings knowledge of the pros / cons / insights from their sector of the healthcare industry. It will be a fun, informative session!

We highly encourage you to use this link to submit questions or topics you'd like the panelists to address:

<https://nabipoklahomacity.org/survey.php?id=9>

### SNEAK PEEK



April 10th - Annual Symposium  
April 14th - DEIB Event - Jessica Brooks-Woods, NABIP CEO will be presenting!  
June 28th - [Annual Convention in Miami, Florida](#)

### MEMBERSHIP



For more information on how to become a member or an Annual Partner you can visit our website for details!

Click here for: [Membership](#)

Click here for: [Annual Partner](#)

# SCHOLARSHIP NOTICE

## **PHILLIPS SCHOLARSHIP**

**Deadline to apply is April 15th - Click [here](#) to apply!**

The Robert J. Phillips, RHU Memorial Scholarship was established in honor of Bob Phillips after he passed away from cancer in 2004. Bob was a founding member of NABIP and NABIP Oklahoma, playing a key role in their early development and serving as the second president of both organizations. He was passionate about education and started multiple scholarships to support students.

This \$1,000 academic scholarship is awarded to a high-achieving student who is the child or stepchild of an Oklahoma NABIP OK member in good standing. The recipient must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited college/university. The award is given at the NABIP OK Annual Business Meeting in June and is a one-time award.  
Application Deadline: April 15th.

# UPCOMING AWARDS

## **MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Deadline to nominate is April 15th - Click [here](#) to find the form!**

## **OKC PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Deadline to nominate is May 1st - Click [here](#) to find the form!**

The Oklahoma NABIP Member of the Year Award is a prestigious recognition given to an outstanding member of the National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals Oklahoma (NABIP OK). This award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to the association, the insurance and benefits industry, and their community.

The recipient is typically someone who has:

- Demonstrated exceptional leadership within NABIP OK
- Advocated for industry advancements and policy improvements
- Actively participated in NABIP OK events, committees, or initiatives
- Contributed to the professional development of peers
- Supported the growth and success of NABIP OK

The OKC NABIP Person of the Year Award is a prestigious recognition given by the Oklahoma City chapter of the National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals (NABIP). It honors an outstanding member who has demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and contributions to the chapter, the industry, and the broader community



# NABIP OKC Spring Symposium Agenda

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Check-in, Danish & Coffee	7:30am – 8:15am
Opening Ceremonies Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance Prayer / Thank Sponsors Ace of Spades	8:15am – 8:45am
Platinum Sponsor Ad	8:45am – 8:50am
1) 1st Hour of General CE by “Keynote” Kevin Trokey, NABIP RVP Region VI	8:50am – 9:40am
Gold Sponsor Ad	9:40am – 9:45am
2) 2nd Hour of Legislative CE presented by Estela Hernandez, Senator Lankford’s Office	9:45am – 10:35am
BREAK Sponsor Ad	10:35am – 10:55am 10:55am – 11:00am
3) 3rd Hour of Ethics CE titled Good Ethics presented by Jodi Cooper, NABIP OKC Chapter President	11:00am – 11:50m
LUNCH Sponsor Ad	11:50am – 12:50pm 12:50pm – 11:55pm
4) 4th & 5th Hour of General CE, “Access to Care” Panel Chris Skillings, Director of Health Services, CPN Dr. David Wilson, Private Practice, Mercy Jeanean Yanish, Health Alliance For the Uninsured Sue Chimento, Healthcare.gov Navigator Christina Foss, Oklahoma Health Care Authority	12:55pm – 2:35pm
BREAK – LAST CHANCE TO VISIT SPONSORS Sponsor Ad	2:35pm – 2:55pm 2:55pm – 3:00pm
5) 6th Hour of General CE from John Kirke On Decoding Insurance Captives	3:00pm – 3:50pm
Closing Ceremonies & Prize Give-Aways	3:50pm – 4:40pm
Happy Hour	4:40pm – 6:00pm

# DAY AT THE CAPITOL



## Summary of the Event

### James Ashford State Chapter Legislative Chair

The "Day at the Capital" event was a tremendous success, with a packed room of engaged attendees. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, all participants were able to earn 2 hours of Legislative Continuing Education (CE) and enjoyed a complimentary lunch.

Our speakers included Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner Glen Mulready, Representative Mark Tedford, Senator Mark Mann, and Haley Faulkenberry from the Oklahoma Association of Health Plans. Together, they provided valuable insights on various pieces of legislation, which we encouraged attendees to discuss with their legislators.

After the presentations, the group participated in an interactive session where they contacted their representatives to discuss the bills. A notable moment was when Carrie Cox met with Senator Carri Hicks, the author of a bill we opposed. Through her efforts, she was able to secure a follow-up meeting for the following Monday to further address the bill's potential unintended consequences. This conversation exemplified the importance of working collaboratively with legislators to help them understand how well-intentioned policies can inadvertently raise healthcare costs for both employers and employees.

The event provided a platform for meaningful dialogue and advocacy, and we look forward to continuing these efforts in the future.

# FUTURE LEADERS SUMMIT

**When? April 14, 2025  
3:00PM - 7:30 PM**

**How Much? Free to all  
Attendees**

**Where? Oklahoma State  
University - Tulsa Campus  
700 N Greenwood Ave,  
Conference Center  
Tulsa, OK 74106**

## Agenda

The NABIP Tulsa and OKC Chapters are thrilled to announce the Future Leaders Summit, set to take place at OSU-Tulsa on April 14th from 3:00 - 7:30 PM. This event was created to address the industry's need for a more diverse pool of talent and leadership within the Health Insurance Industry. Hosted in the historic heart of Black Wall Street, this DEIB-focused summit will feature Jessica Brooks-Woods, NABIP's first Black female CEO, alongside Keynote Speaker Emeka Nnaka.

The summit will begin with a career fair, offering sponsors the opportunity to connect with current college students and showcase a variety of career paths within the Health Insurance Industry, including IT, Legal, Political, HR, Administration, and Sales. Following the career fair, attendees will hear from Jessica Brooks-Woods and Emeka Nnaka through impactful presentations. The event will conclude with a diverse industry panel featuring leaders from across the sector.

The goal of the Future Leaders Summit is to educate college students and those who may be interested about the lucrative and meaningful career opportunities in the Health Insurance Industry—careers that not only offer financial rewards but also allow individuals to make a significant impact by serving others in their health care needs.



# NABIP Oklahoma's NABIP Future Leaders Summit Agenda

**Date: April 14, 2025**

**Location: Oklahoma State University - Tulsa Campus**

**Duration: 3:00 PM- 7:30 PM**

## Agenda

**2:30 PM:** Vendor Set-Up

**3:00 PM:** Registration Opens

**3:00 PM – 4:45 PM:** Networking/Job Fair

Food and drinks out in the hall for grazing around 4:15 PM

**5:00 PM:** Welcome & Event Overview

- Event Host/Emcee- Kelley Harmon- NABIP OK President.

**5:10 PM:** Jessica Brooks-Woods NABIP CEO

- Details: Diversity in the workplace.

**5:30 PM:** Industry Sponsor Panel

**5:45 PM:** Break 10 Minutes

**6:00 PM:** Keynote Speaker - Emeka Nnaka- Introduced by James Ashford

- Speaker: Emeka Nnaka- Motivational Speaker

**6:30 PM:** Industry Landscape Panel- Introduced by Kelley Harmon/ Emcee

- Panelists: Diverse leaders in healthcare insurance (including a mix of roles from carriers, technology vendor, Jennifer Brittain - Brown and Brown Agency, Jimmy Jenkins Agent Rep, Legal, Teresita Cowen - Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises, Nick Ristau MedalistRX, Marche Ashford – Verus-Strategies),
- Moderator: Emcee, Chapter NABIP Tulsa Chapter President - Jennifer Helms
- Details: Discuss career paths, challenges, and growth opportunities within the industry, focusing on DEI initiatives.

**7:00 PM - 7:30 PM:** Closing Remarks & Networking Reception

- Speaker: Event Host
- Details: Closing words thanking participants, highlighting key takeaways, and inviting students to stay connected with NABIP. Raffle Winners and Scholarships Announced.



## Capitol Conference First Time Attendee Testimonies

**“My time in DC was extremely knowledgeable. Not only did I get to network but I have a clear understanding of Policy Changes, Industry Trends as well as focus items for the future. I want to thank the NABIP Board for the opportunity to be a part of a great organization. I was able to sit with Membership Chairs from all over and hear ideas from them to help me with the journey as the Oklahoma City Membership Chair.”**

**Tonda Robinson - Oklahoma City Member**

**“The NABIP Cap Con, held in Washington, D.C., was an eye-opening and transformative experience for a first-time attendee, bringing together the Tulsa and OKC NABIP chapters. This event provided an invaluable opportunity to explore new avenues within the healthcare industry and deepen understanding of NABIP’s role in shaping the future of the sector. The attendee found it especially rewarding to spend time with both chapters simultaneously, strengthening connections and gaining fresh perspectives. Throughout the event, each session was rich with insightful information on the current state of the industry. Topics covered the latest healthcare trends, legislative updates, and best practices that are crucial for staying ahead in the field. The experience not only enhanced knowledge but also sparked new ideas on how to navigate the evolving landscape of healthcare. On the final day, attendees traveled to Capitol Hill to meet with Oklahoma legislators. During these meetings, the group educated lawmakers on the status of healthcare within Oklahoma and the broader national context. This face-to-face interaction underscored the importance of advocacy and fostering strong relationships with lawmakers to influence policies that impact the healthcare industry. As a first-time attendee, the experience was deeply impactful and provided an invaluable learning opportunity. The event is highly recommended for both new and existing NABIP members, offering the chance to expand knowledge, connect with industry peers, and actively engage in advocacy efforts that shape the future of healthcare.”**

**Marche Ashford - Oklahoma City Member**



# NABIP PAC

**The NABIP PAC (National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals Political Action Committee) is a bipartisan fundraising and advocacy organization that supports congressional candidates who align with NABIP's mission to advance sound health policy. Funded by voluntary contributions from NABIP members, the PAC works to influence legislation that impacts health insurance professionals, brokers, and consumers. By engaging with policymakers, NABIP PAC ensures that the voices of industry professionals are heard in shaping healthcare regulations and policies that promote market stability and consumer choice.**

**Donating to both the NABIP PAC and the local PAC is essential for protecting and advancing the interests of health insurance professionals at all levels of government. The NABIP PAC supports congressional candidates who advocate for fair and effective healthcare policies, ensuring that lawmakers in Washington, D.C., understand the challenges faced by brokers, agents, and consumers. Meanwhile, the local PAC focuses on state and local legislation, where critical decisions on licensing, state-based exchanges, Medicaid expansion, and insurance regulations are made. By contributing to both, donors help strengthen the industry's voice, influence policies that promote market stability and affordable healthcare options, and safeguard their profession from harmful legislation. Without financial support, key decisions affecting the industry could be made without input from those who know it best.**

# CHAPTER PHOTOS

HERE ARE SOME IMAGES FROM OUR CHAPTER RECENTLY!



**DAY AT THE CAPITOL - OKC**



**STEPHANIE BICE'S OFFICE**



**MARK WAYNE MULLINS  
OFFICE**



**U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING**



**U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING**



**OKLAHOMA DINNER NIGHT -  
DC**



**GROUP PICTURE WITH IC  
GLENN MULREADY**



**TULSA AND OKC GROUP  
PICTURE - DC**



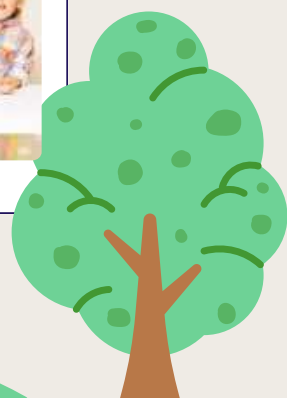
**JAMES LANKFORDS OFFICE**

# OK KIDS KORRAL



Real stories of joy and growth  
from our community

OK Kids Korral is a facility in Oklahoma City that provides free lodging and support services for children battling cancer and their families. Operated by the Toby Keith Foundation, it offers a home-like environment for families traveling to Oklahoma City for pediatric cancer treatments, helping to reduce the financial and emotional burdens during their care. The facility includes private suites, playrooms, kitchens, and other amenities to make families' stays more comfortable.



# ANNUAL PARTNERS

## PLATINUM PARTNER



**Vision Care Direct:** Vision Care Direct of Oklahoma is a provider-owned vision insurance company offering affordable plans for individuals, families, and businesses. It partners with local optometrists to provide comprehensive eye care, including exams, glasses, contact lenses, and discounts on procedures like LASIK.

## GOLD SPONSOR

Sponsorships  
Available!!

## SILVER SPONSORS

- Manhattan Life
- Taber Brokerage
- United Healthcare
- The Standard
- NueSynergy

## BRONZE SPONSORS

- Emerson Rogers
- Delta Dental
- Sue Wilson Brokerage