

# ADA, OKLAHOMA

## SMALL TOWN, BIG OPPORTUNITY



## Community

Ada, Oklahoma is a community of **17,140 people** approximately 80 miles south-east of Oklahoma City. Ada is home to East Central University and the headquarters of the Chickasaw Nation. Ada has a diverse manufacturing base as well as a long history of supporting nationally successful home-grown companies.

There has been steady growth in Ada's workforce and **2,500 people are employed in manufacturing jobs** around the community. Ada has one of the highest rates of college graduates in the state, and free, on the job training is offered through the Pontotoc Technology Center.

## Kerr Lab

The Robert S. Kerr Environmental Research Center is a **national EPA facility** which specializes in groundwater research. The facility houses the **Ground Water and Ecosystems Restoration Division (GWERD)** of the National Risk Management Laboratory (NRMRL). This lab has been at the forefront of studying the relationship between groundwater and oil and gas drilling techniques such as fracking and utilizes some of the latest chemistry and field testing equipment technology. Kerr Lab recently celebrated a 50 year anniversary, and it continues to be a hub of applied research and innovation.

## Water Cluster

An industrial cluster is being developed around water. The Chickasaw Nation, East Central University, and the City of Ada have all invested in the creation of the **Oka' Institute**, which will help tie environmental research and water policy with water-related technology and economic development efforts. Other industrial companies in the area are a natural fit for water technology, and we have a specialization in concrete and plastics manufacturing. There are also opportunities to work with nationally recognized food producers nearby, such as Prairie Artisan Ales and Lovera's Cheese.

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