



RON ARMSTRONG, ConocoPhillips refinery manager, is congratulated by Mayor Homer Nicholson, on the "Industry of the Year Award," from the Chamber of Commerce. Armstrong accepted the award on behalf of the company and the employees. (News Photo by Rolf Clements)

ConocoPhillips Earns Industry Honor

Mayor Homer Nicholson presented the Industry of the Year Award to Ron Armstrong, refinery manager, who accepted for ConocoPhillips. The award recognized ConocoPhillips for the support of the OSU Multi Spectral Sensor Lab.

Accepting the award Armstrong said, "I just happen to be the guy in town when we get this recognition. I'm just one of a long line of people managing this site. So in behalf of all of them and all of the employees I accept this award. One thing that makes Ponca City great is that community family feel."

Making the presentation Nicholson said, "The Industry of the Year Award is one given by the Chamber of Commerce to a business that has done something exceptional either in business or community support.

"Our honoree this year has certainly done both. But it is their community support that we focus on this year. Their Generosity was

so exceptional, in fact, that it earned them international recognition. More importantly their actions will significantly benefit Ponca City for years to come by introducing a new industry into our local economy."

He added, "Community support is nothing new for our honoree. Indeed their level of community support has been so consistent that we often take it for granted. Year after year they continue to be there for us. Whether it is United Way, the Chamber of Commerce, the arts and so many other community needs, this company has consistently stepped up year after year.

"This ongoing support of Ponca City touched so many lives again this year and for this alone Ponca City says 'thank you'.

"Last year however they went a step further to make sure that the future of Ponca City will be secure economically.

"The donation of Research East and a contribution

of \$2 million for the new Oklahoma State University Multispectral Lab or UML was truly extraordinary and without precedence in this nation. Their actions are allowing Ponca City to begin to build a new knowledge base industry and to continue to diversify our local economy."

Nicholson continued, "We may not fully appreciate how unique this support is. The world however has recognized how exceptional this company's commitment to Ponca City really is."

World Recognition

On September 18th of last year in Phoenix, AZ., the International Economic Development Council presented ConocoPhillips along with the Oklahoma State University and the Ponca City Development Authority with the highest honor they bestow The partnership Award.

This international organization called the UML a true international model for how economies will be built in

the future and said it was the finest example of an economic development project and an economic development partnership anywhere in the world.

Nicholson commented, "It is not an exaggeration to say that the UML, which is under development but already operating on these very premises could not have happened without the support of our honoree.

"Stop for a moment however and understand that while this company has changed and will continue to change, they continue to be a part of the fabric of who Ponca City was, who we are today and who we will become.

"We often view our honoree in one dimension. But it's a new world and our honoree has changed with it. It's now been six years since this local company joined with another to become a truly global one. Much has changed in Ponca City but their commitment to our community has not."