



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Dr. Krista Ratliff, President and CEO of the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, has been appointed as the new Executive Director of FISTA (Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator).

Lawton, Oklahoma April 19, 2023— Today, the Board of Trustees of FISTA (Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator), a groundbreaking program dedicated to the advancement of science and technology, announced the appointment of Dr. Krista Ratliff as their new Executive Director. Dr. Krista Ratliff currently serves as the President and CEO of the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce and will assume the role at FISTA beginning June 1, 2023.

As the President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Ratliff has played a pivotal role in stimulating economic growth and nurturing strong connections among local businesses. Through her visionary leadership, the Chamber has launched numerous groundbreaking initiatives that have greatly aided the growth and success of small and medium-sized enterprises in the area. Throughout her three-year tenure at the Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Ratliff has effectively encouraged increased community engagement with businesses in Lawton Fort Sill while establishing a more resilient chamber to support the numerous companies in Lawton. Additionally, she currently holds positions on various boards, such as Comanche County Teen Court, Transportation Authority, Lawton Economic Development, Lawton Public School Foundation, AIM Lawton, Holiday in the Park Chairperson and Lawton Youth Sports Authority Founding Trustee.

Appointed by the Governor of Oklahoma as the State Tourism Commissioner, Dr. Ratliff has been acknowledged for her achievements by the community and fellow professionals on many occasions. In the past year alone, she has received the Jerry Orr Outstanding Citizen Award, Fort Sill Hall of Fame- Frontier Friends Inductee, 2021 to the top Winner, and Oklahoma Executive of the Year by her counterparts from Chamber organizations across the state. She is also the recipient of the Molly Pitcher Award. Dr. Ratliff's exceptional leadership, innovation, and ability to promote teamwork have enabled her to secure over 80 million in grants and funding in support of Lawton Fort Sill.

"Dr. Ratliff brings an exceptional track record of success in leading organizations and fostering innovation," said Clarence Fortney, Chairperson of FISTA's Board of Trustees. "We are confident that her Masters Degree in HR, her doctorate in Finance, and her expertise in strategic planning, community engagement, partnership development, combined with her security and cyber background will be invaluable to FISTA as we continue to drive the advancement of the FISTA and Lawton Fort Sill."

"I am honored to be joining FISTA and leading a team that is dedicated to creating transformative solutions to develop technology and programs that will lead the nation in innovation," said Dr. Ratliff. "I am excited to build upon FISTA's strong foundation and forge new partnerships to further accelerate the development and adoption of the FISTA. It is time that Lawton Fort Sill not only lead Oklahoma, but the nation- in innovation and development".

About FISTA (Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator):

FISTA is a pioneering program dedicated to the development and promotion of innovative technology solutions to support the modern warfighter. Through collaborative partnerships with industry leaders, researchers, and governmental agencies, FISTA focuses on fostering a culture of innovation, research, and collaboration. FISTA works to enable the creation of advanced technologies and strategies that save lives, protect our nation, and ensure a more sustainable future and economy for Lawton Fort Sill.

Dr. Ratliff will continue to serve the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce for the foreseeable future.

For more information, please visit the [FISTA.Com](https://www.FISTA.Com), and [lawtonfortsillchamber.com](https://www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com)

Media Contact:

Dr. Krista Ratliff
1 (580) 355-3541