

J. Blake Wade
Chief Executive Officer

J. Blake Wade was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority (NACEA) on December 1, 2011. The NACEA is the state agency responsible for building and developing The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum. Prior to this appointment, Wade served as President of the Oklahoma Business Roundtable, Oklahoma's primary economic development support organization, from 2009.

Wade served as the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society from 1990 to 1999 and the Director of the Oklahoma Capitol Complex and Centennial Commemoration Commission beginning August 1, 1999. He was responsible for overseeing preparations for Oklahoma's centennial commemoration of statehood in 2007. The first three years as Director of the Centennial, the focus was the State Capitol Dome and the Centennial Plaza of the Oklahomans. These projects were completed in 2002. Then the planning began to implement a Centennial Commemoration that recognized the spirit of Oklahoma's people, encouraged pride in the state, and instilled confidence in Oklahoma's future. The vision was to offer a commemoration that encouraged Oklahomans to examine its unique history, experience its rich heritage, explore its promising future and ensure a lasting legacy for future generations.

A master plan was developed to represent the contributions of all peoples and cultures to Oklahoma state history. Projects included, but were not limited to, restoration of historic properties, preservation programs and activities, conferences, lectures, public art that captures the diversity of the Oklahoma experience and spirit, tourism attractions, parades, events, ceremonies and commemorations.

While in the military he received two Bronze Stars, three Vietnam Service Medals and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. A Lawton native, Wade graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BA in journalism. He served 20 years in the U.S. Army, starting as a second lieutenant and retiring as a major.

Wade participates actively in community organizations serving on the board of directors of the Jim Thorpe Association and Hall of Fame, Petroleum Club, Jasmine Moran Children's Museum, Oklahoma Heritage Association, State Fair Board, Friends of the Mansion, Oklahoma Outreach and serves as President of the Oklahoma Association of the U.S. Army. He is the recipient of the 2008 Administrator of the Year Award (Oklahoma Chapter American Society for Public Administration) and an "Emmy" Award for the production of the Oklahoma Centennial's "Spectacular." (Ford Center, November 16, 2007)