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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Chickasaw Nation Honored with RedBud Awards**

Chickasaw Nation tourism venues recently received a total of seven awards from the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association during the annual RedBud Award gala conducted at the Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City.

Emceed by Oklahoma Lt. Governor Todd Lamb and “Discover Oklahoma” host Jennifer Reynolds, 32 awards were given in 17 categories.

The Chickasaw Cultural Center was honored with a RedBud Award for Outstanding Temporary Exhibit: “Dugout Canoes: Paddling through the Americas” The cultural center also won a redbud for Best Website.

The Chickasaw Visitor Center earned a Merit Award for Outstanding New Attraction. Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby said he is pleased to see the efforts of the tribe recognized by Oklahoma tourism professionals.

“Our congratulations go out to all the hard-working staff at each of these locations and those who work on the supporting projects,” said Gov. Anoatubby. “Everyone involved deserves special recognition for the creativity, hard work and commitment to excellence they bring to their work.”

The Chickasaw Nation’s Artesian Hotel, Casino & Spa was honored with a RedBud Award for “Best Social Media Campaign.” The Artesian Hotel, Casino & Spa also received a Merit Award for Best Overall Marketing Campaign; and the Chickasaw Retreat & Conference Center earned Merit Awards in two categories: Outstanding Media Coverage - Newspaper & Magazine and Outstanding Lodging Property.

The Chickasaw Cultural Center, The Artesian Hotel, Spa & Casino, the Chickasaw

Visitor Center and the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center, all located in the Sulphur, Okla. area, are all part of the tribe's multi-million dollar tourism development in south-central Oklahoma.

A 2012 Best New Attraction RedBud Award winner, the **Chickasaw Cultural Center** tells the story of the unconquered and unconquerable Chickasaw Nation - from the ancient past to the present day.

Hosting more than 350,000 visitors since opening in 2010, the Chickasaw Cultural Center is presenting the world-class exhibit, "Dugout Canoes: Paddling through the Americas" until Sept. 27. This object-rich experience features American dugouts from ancient times to present.

The exhibit 1700s Beadwork of Southeastern Tribes is open from May – November. The beadwork exhibit features 200-year-old artifacts as well as Chickasaw and southeastern tribal beadwork from pre-European contact through today.

**The Artesian Hotel**, Sulphur, offers a broad array of first-class comforts and amenities. The 81-room boutique hotel features a traditional bathhouse, the Springs Restaurant, banquet room, an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, fitness center, the Fountain Club Lounge, full-service spa, and a variety of unique shops.

**The Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center**, located on 1,750 acres in the heart of the Arbuckle Mountains, offers the perfect getaway in a secluded, pristine setting.

The conference center offers meeting space, a full-service wellness center and spa, a large heated pool, hot tub and a gourmet restaurant, along with 43 well-equipped rooms. For more information about Chickasaw Nation properties, visit [ChickasawCountry.com](http://ChickasawCountry.com) or [Chickasaw.net](http://Chickasaw.net).

Open to all Oklahoma tourism entities, the RedBud Awards represent the highest honor given in the Oklahoma tourism industry.

Competition entries must have been produced, published, broadcast or conducted between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2014. All entries were evaluated by a slate of tourism professionals on specific criteria including customer service and experience, marketing effectiveness, media relations, variety of audiences reached, value and overall creativity.