

Web Sites and Information for Counselors and Teachers

CAREER Choose Your Path to Success

<http://www.okcareertech.org/GUIDANCE/Career%20Path/okcareertech/student/home.htm>
<http://www.okcareertech.org/guidance/Career%20Path/okcareertech/counselor/index.htm>

Students can create their own career path while using this prepaid Internet site. Junior high and high school students follow the menu to view career-planning steps, plans of study, the 16 Career Clusters, career knowledge and skills, occupational information, and more career information. Students can download and print out the worksheets to use with their top three Career Clusters determined by the results from their interest inventory. Their next step is to decide what education or training they will need to meet their career goal. Then they develop a plan to reach their goal using the plans of study.

Students can view, customize, and print the plan of study. The cluster plan of study is a template that should be used as a tool to help choose appropriate course work to prepare for a career and advanced educational opportunities. This template can be customized to reflect the school's current course offerings as well as those at your local technology center and colleges.

When students make the right plans for their future during high school, it saves time and money. Many of the steps followed in this program can be used again as they explore other occupations.

WorkKeys Initiative and KeyTrain Information

The WorkKeys initiative and the KeyTrain pilot project are well underway, and positive results are being reported across the state. It is easy to confuse or intertwine the two, but they are

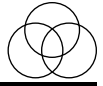
actually two separate undertakings that we hope will work together for the good of our students.

WorkKeys is a test, an ACT product, and the three sections receiving the emphasis in this project are Applied Math, Reading for Information, and Locating Information.

This effort is being rolled out with the collaboration of the Department of Commerce, Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission, and the regional Workforce Investment Boards. If clients or students pass the tests at certain levels, they will receive a Career Ready Certificate that informs potential employers of validated skills in these three areas. Level 5 scores earn a Gold Certificate, Level 4 a Silver, and Level 3 a Bronze. Businesses and industries throughout the state are being educated as to the information provided through this credential and its usefulness in developing an academically competent workforce.

KeyTrain is an instructional system that is structured to develop the skills that WorkKeys measures. To help develop the competencies of students who cannot yet earn a Career Ready Certificate, the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (ODCTE) is providing access to KeyTrain for the CareerTech system this calendar year. Students pretest to determine their instructional levels and then work through a series of lessons related to skills they have not yet mastered. After successfully completing their selected lessons, the students are much more likely to be successful when they sit down to validate their skills through WorkKeys. Please call if you have questions or need more information on WorkKeys or KeyTrain.

Camilla Riley, Academic Integration and Assessment Specialist, ODCTE, 405-743-5524



ABCs of Career Awareness and Career Exploration, Exemplary Program Award

The ABCs Awards Recognition Program is designed to recognize national exemplary career awareness and exploration programs at the elementary and middle school levels. The ABCs will help identify, promote, and share the content and concepts of successful career awareness and exploration programs that operate across the nation.

Please consider applying. All districts, schools, institutions, businesses, or agencies that serve students at the elementary and middle school levels (K-8) are eligible to participate. Each participant must submit a nine-page application in order to be eligible for recognition. The program must be in operation at the time the application is considered. The application is due the last week of February each year. For an application or for more information, please contact Janet Hawkins, 405-743-5123 or jhawk@okcareertech.org.

Teen Brains Under the Microscope — Why Teenagers Need Adults' Help in Decision-Making

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?dist=newsfinder&siteid=mktw&guid=%7B0A7E5364-8876-48C5-AAC6-7EB50E2D6EA9%7D&link=&keyword=Teens%20brains%20still%20growing>

This article explains in simple terms why the middle and late adolescence brain gets sidetracked. This age group can provide you the beginning of a plan and the end of a plan but cannot connect the two together. For example, they want to be a lawyer, but they're getting Cs and Ds.

By Kristen Gerencher, CBS MarketWatch

The ABCs of Credit and Finance — Essential Facts for Students

<http://www.dfi.ca.gov/abcscreditcard/default.asp>
Free credit card literacy program for high school seniors, which includes a student booklet, trainer's guide, and PowerPoint presentation.

Prop Boxes

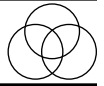
<http://www.childcarelounge.com/Caregivers/propbox.htm>
http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/profdev/profdev101.shtml

This site provides suggestions for prop boxes, dramatic play materials, that are organized around specific themes. Many of the themes relate to careers and hobbies. Introduce themes that are related to the students' experiences to promote imagination, oral language, and role-playing.

Counselor Blog

The purpose of a blog is to keep students and parents updated on deadlines, events, the admissions process, and to answer frequently asked questions about postsecondary education.

Set-up an "ask the expert" blog approach by inviting experts to be guests along side or with a counselor. Each week counselors can choose a different theme — financial aid, course selection, college majors. Many of these topics can be located at www.act.com or www.ed.gov. The students and parents will join in on the discussion and pass ideas back and forth while learning from one another. Use this Web site to learn how to get started. http://fordlog.com/wp-content/uploads/2006/04/Coming_of_age_v1-2.pdf



Oklahoma CareerTech Foundation Minority Scholarship Task Force

The Oklahoma CareerTech Foundation is providing five to ten \$1,000 college scholarships for 2007 to ethnic minorities who want to become CareerTech instructors.

Eligibility/Criteria

This award will be given to an individual who has been a member of a CareerTech Student Organization (CTSO) in secondary or post-secondary education.

Utilization of Scholarship Funds

The scholarship funds may be used for the following allowable expenses: tuition, books and school supplies, gasoline, and education-related registration fees. Examples of expenses not allowed include clothing, rent, and food.

Applicants must meet the following specific criteria:

- Be a high school graduate or possess a GED.
- Meet the residency requirements of Oklahoma postsecondary institutions and technology centers.
- Must be able to meet college admission requirements.
- Be a current member or former CTSO member and planning to pursue an education to become an educator in a CareerTech program.
- Be currently enrolled in a full-time CTE program at an Oklahoma technology center or high school or a full-time student in an accredited institution of higher learning for the fall and spring semester of the ensuing school year.

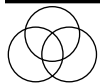
To receive a scholarship packet and additional information, please contact Barbara Miller, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, at (405) 717-4174 or email bmiller@francistuttle.com.

Work Ethic Program Guide

The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and Education Alliance of Northern Kentucky created the K-8 Work Ethic Program to expand the successful high school program into elementary and middle schools. The committee created this guidebook as a resource for parents and schools to promote the development of a strong work ethic in grades K-8. The guidebook includes:

- Age-appropriate descriptions of each standard at the end of elementary and the end of middle school.
- Suggestions for ways that parents and schools can support and encourage development within each standard.
- Ideas for how schools can recognize students who demonstrate growth and achievement within each standard.

The program is designed to reflect an assortment of skills and to define them developmentally based on what is demonstrated at the end of elementary and middle school. The 10 standards of a good work ethic include Discipline, Attendance, Absence, Tardiness, Service Learning/Community Service, Academic Performance, Work Habits, Punctuality and Preparedness, Respect, and Cooperation. Download a complete guide by going to <http://www.nkychamber.com>. Select from the menu – Education Initiatives.



Cooperative Alliance

Since 1988, colleges have been awarding college credit to technology center students through Cooperative Agreements. More than 300 cooperative agreements involving 123 associate in applied science (AAS) programs are offered through 18 colleges and 29 technology centers in Oklahoma. These agreements are between one college and one technology center.

Now, there's a new way for students to earn college credit with more flexibility and greater benefits to the student. It's called Cooperative Alliance Agreements.

High school and adult students at participating technology centers ⁽¹⁾ can earn college credit from state colleges and universities through Alliance Agreements. Benefits of the Alliance model include:

- Allows students to begin working on a degree while still in high school.
- College credit is awarded immediately upon successful completion of the course.
- Admissible students may enroll in any state college or university and transfer courses depending on the degree program.⁽²⁾

(1) As of June 2006, 26 technology centers are participating in the Alliance project. Several more are working on Alliance agreements. The remaining technology centers are offering courses through Cooperative Agreements with community colleges.

(2) It should be noted that the receiving college or university has the authority to determine the eligibility of those courses as applied toward the desired degree plan.

Frequently Asked Questions About Cooperative Alliance

Who is eligible to participate?

- Adult students
- High school students in 11th and 12th grades
 - at an accredited high school
 - who are at least 16 years old receiving high-school-level instruction at home or from an accredited high school

- High school students must also have
 - ACT score of 19, PLAN score of 15, or high school GPA of 2.5
 - Letter of support from high school counselor
 - Written permission from a parent or legal guardian

Once admitted, students must maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average in their college-level courses to remain in good standing.

What degrees and certificates are included?

Cooperative Alliance Agreements include the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees and college-level Certificates of Mastery.

Is my degree or certificate transferable to another college or university?

The receiving college or university to which a student transfers has the authority to determine the eligibility of those courses as applied toward your desired degree plan.

How much credit can students earn?

Each program varies in the number of courses and college credit that are available. For example, a student enrolled in a Network Technology Program can earn up to 41 college credit hours while a student enrolled in an Automotive Technology Program can earn up to 57 college credit hours.

When is the college credit granted?

Credit is earned as soon as the course is successfully completed.

Who awards the college credit?

The colleges and universities award the college credit for courses taught at the technology center.

How do students apply for college credit NOW?

A process to enroll students has been established at each participating technology center. Please see the counselor or student services staff for more information.

To find out more about opportunities available for students at technology centers to earn college credit now, please contact your local technology center.