

Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education

Monday Memo 2013-05-20

Quote

"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will." – Vincent Lombardi

Board discusses strategic purposes

Senior leadership presented their latest draft of the CareerTech System's strategic purposes. These purposes define what good our programs will provide and for whom they will be provided. These purposes will guide future program and process choices. These purposes are highly aligned to the overall Oklahoma workforce and economic strategy.

The board provided input into the eight strategic purposes and recommended ranking them and being fully cognizant of the challenges of assessment processing. The senior leadership will review the final strategic purposes and bring a final set for board consideration and vote in June.

The strategic purposes have been previously shared in the Monday Memo are again presented here in title form:

- Career development
- Career readiness
- Work and family studies
- Academic enhancement
- Career preparation
- Career enhancement
- Customized training and consulting
- Curriculum and assessment services

State director time focus

Being the new state director is both exciting and challenging. There is lots to learn and lots of people to meet. Of course, the challenge of prioritizing meetings is one of the most important. From day one, the focus has been on the legislature and governor's office as we closed in on policy and budget decisions. This intense time is coming to an end this month.

Additionally, the state director position is uniquely positioned to maintain top level partner communications. Meeting with key leaders of other agencies, field stakeholder groups and business leaders has been a top priority.

Finally, engaging with the senior leadership has been time intense. Senior leadership is the direct link between the state director and daily operations. Operations are rightfully focused on stakeholder service to assure our CareerTech System is functioning well and is supported.

Time allocation will adjust in the coming weeks as more attention is diverted to finishing the system assessment and developing continuous improvement strategies moving forward.

Meeting with Fred Morgan, Oklahoma State Chamber

I had the pleasure to meet with the CEO of the state chamber last week. The chamber is ramping up its efforts to connect with the education community, and its members are excited about the contributions CareerTech can make to the discussion. Morgan is very aware of the disruptive innovations occurring in the education industry and looks forward to seeing how we in CareerTech take advantage of these new resources. Stay tuned for possible ventures.

Technology Center leaders graduate

Twenty seven CareerTech leaders graduated from the fifth Technology Center Administrator Program on May 10. The celebration completed an intensive administrator preparation program.

In addition to sharpening their leadership skills, members of the TechCAP V class explored a wide range of technology center administrator topics during their eight months together. The content for each of the sessions was created and delivered by the state's subject matter experts, the majority of whom are technology center administrators and TechCAP alumni.

A favorite agenda item of participants was the *Superintendent's Leadership Philosophy*. Host technology center superintendents opened each month's agenda by sharing some insight into how they lead and the lessons learned through their years of experience. Additional benefits of the program include networking with administrators and other content experts across the state, hands-on experiences in the different functions of our technology centers and opportunities to experience other technology centers around the state.

Who works for whom?

While there are human resource and management organizational charts that define who supervises whom, the question of who works for whom is a bit different. Let's begin with the customer, students and companies.

The faculty and business coordinators work for our customers. They are on the front lines of service and support. As such, they need to maximize their focus and efforts to our customers. As such, supervisors and administrators at the schools that provide CareerTech services work for the faculty and coordinators. Frontline supervisors must always be finding ways to support faculty and assure they are providing our customers with great service. Lead administrators in the schools then work for the supervisors.

The frontline team at the department logically works for the school administrators and staff. Our work must be focused on helping school-based people with great support and minimal interference for those being successful. Following this logic, senior leadership works for our frontline staff, and I work for the senior leadership.

It may sound strange, but if we all consider this approach to the system, we will put the customer as the rightful focus of all our efforts. We will also be less concerned about paying attention to our superiors' needs and more to our customers' needs. This, in turn, will assure their and our success.

Common core discussion

The common core is a set of state- and educator-developed standards in math and English that are aligned with the needs of the workplace and college. There has been some speculation they are being driven by the federal government or are designed to undermine the professional freedom of schools and teachers to choose the best instructional methods for their children. These claims are studied and refuted by the attached conservative blogger.

<http://philvalentineblog.blogspot.com/2013/05/common-core-good-or-evil.html>

The common core is very consistent with the academic needs of most living wage careers. In fact, the academic standards set forth by the common core may be the most honest explanation so far developed to assure our youth and adults are prepared for careers. Feel free to send me your questions or concerns about the common core academic standards. I would appreciate knowing what you are hearing or reading.

Staff dialogue sessions

There will be an informal staff dialogue session on Wednesday morning in the senior leader office (Admin) area from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. I will be available to meet with anyone interested in discussing the agency and the future of CareerTech. There will be no formal presentation or agenda. Just come with your questions. This is a purely volunteer event.

Competition highlights students with talents and disabilities

Tech Now's state competition was held at Norman North High School on May 7. Tech Now Inc. is a program designed to encourage students with disabilities to explore post-secondary education and careers related to technology. Students from 36 sites across the state competed for cash awards and scholarships. David Salcedo and Ronnie Thompson from Norman High School and Sean Alford from MacArthur High School received CareerTech scholarships. (contributed by Becki Foster)

CareerTech Foundation fundraiser – don't miss it!!

Send me a note if you are planning to field a golf team for this great event. I want to start telling others who is going to be there. I've got my team assembled! Let's fill the course for the cause.

Coffee Creek Golf Course

4000 North Kelly • Edmond, OK 73003

405.340.4653 • Tee Time – 8 a.m.

- Format: Four-Person Scramble — Shotgun Start
- Each team must have a minimum handicap of 50 (25 will be the maximum allowed per player)
- Cost: \$90 Per Player (Payment must be received by July 25, 2013)
- Includes: Lunch, Green Fee, Cart and Mulligans (2)
\$5 Per Player Split the Pot (Closest to the Pin) Contest.
- Prizes: 1st Place Team/flight • Hole-in-One • 2nd Place Team/flight • Longest Drive (Men's and Women's)
- Tournament will be flighted based on team participation
- Note: Soft spikes and collared shirt required.

This tournament is a fundraising event for the Oklahoma CareerTech Foundation. It is also a great opportunity for CareerTech golfers from around the state to play together in a tournament prior to Summer Conference. You do not need to be an avid golfer to play; just be ready to have a great time and support a worthy cause.

Western Tech Center visit

I had the pleasure to visit with the great folks at Western Tech Center in Burns Flat. The meeting included a discussion with staff regarding the future of CareerTech. It also included a tour of programs and a learning experience in a biotech program. I met some very dedicated staff members including administrators and faculty. I even observed effective use of blended and digital learning innovations that are leading to incredible academic success.

While my school visits have been limited because of legislative work, I look forward to visiting all tech centers early next fall.

Teens leave CareerTech with jobs and no debt

The following is an interesting article from USA Today. It speaks volumes to the power of high quality career and technology programming to assure students are career and college ready. The article is about tech centers in Massachusetts. The governor in this top education state says everyone has to rethink the value of career and technology schools. Read on.

<http://lifeinc.today.com/news/2013/04/26/17928955-teens-enter-vocational-school-come-out-with-jobs-no-debt?lite>

FCCLA a part of what makes this a “cool school”

On KOKH Fox 25 News, Amber-Pocasset Schools were featured as a “cool school.” One of the segments highlighted family and consumer sciences and FCCLA. Stetson Clawson, state FCCLA officer, represented us well in his red jacket. This is the link to the news segment:

http://www.okcfox.com/newsroom/morning_news/videos/vid_3127.shtml.

(contributed by Denise Morris, State FCCLA Adviser)

Career Development contest winners

Oklahoma participates in the National Career Poster and Poetry Contest that is sponsored by the National Career Development Association. This contest takes place in November. The national winners were announced in early April. Oklahoma had two national winners, both from Southern Oklahoma Technology Center. The winners are:

Category 1 Poster: Adult – 1st place – Melissa Meyer

Category 2 Poster: Senior HS 9-12 grades – 2nd place – Julian Ng

You can view their winning entries on the NCDA website,

<http://www.ncda.org/aws/NCDA/pt/sp/ncdmonth>.

Agency provides instructional resources

CIMC is offering a free collection of resources to help build skills in communication, teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving, leadership, interpersonal relationships and professionalism, among others. They are great to use with any CareerTech program or student organization. Download your document here:

<http://www.okcareertech.org/educators/cimc/resources/downloads-1/soft-skills-some-suggested-resources/view> (contributed by Kimberly Sadler)

Schedule for the week

This schedule is subject to change without notice:

Monday

Meeting with Tinker Air Force Base leadership

General office work

Meeting with David Rose

Meeting with John Kraman (P20 Council)

Tuesday

Recording of conference presentation

General office work

Meeting with New Teacher Institute group

Conference call with Anthony Kim

General office work

Wednesday

Staff dialogue session

Meeting with Matt Litterell

Meeting with Robin Schott

Meeting with communications work group

Meeting with Joe Robinson

General office work

Thursday

Meeting with Dom Garrison

Meeting with Edgenuity

Meeting with Kimberly Sadler

General office work

Dinner with new state FFA officers

Friday

Senior leadership work

General office work

See you around!