

Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education

Monday Memo 2013-04-29

Quote

"If you must begin then go all the way, because if you begin and quit, the unfinished business you have left behind begins to haunt you all the time." – Chögyam Trungpa

Strategic purposes – youth

Strategic purposes are a clear definition of what good we seek to do for whom as we offer programs and services. Strategic purposes do not include any reference to how we deliver programs and services to achieve the purpose. They simply define what change we hope to achieve for our customers.

The following is our **first draft** of CareerTech strategic purposes for youth. Future Monday Memos will cover strategic purposes for adults and companies.

1. Career development – Assure students have the knowledge and skills to make informed career choices and to create education plans to be prepared for those careers.
2. Career readiness – Assure students know how to think outside the box, analyze issues, resolve problems, work with others and adapt to complex workplaces. Creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills are examples of the skills embodied by career readiness.
3. Work and family studies – Provide students with the knowledge and skills required to balance work and family life through personal resource management, health and wellness, and time management.
4. Career preparation – Develop students' technical skills required for success in postsecondary education and a career.
5. Academic enhancement – Develop academic knowledge and skills required by college and careers, including the talent to apply academic knowledge to real world problems.

Your feedback on these strategic purposes is sought and welcome.

Meetings with the agriculture community

I had a series of great meetings with leaders of the agriculture community last week. The meetings began with Jamie Longacre, who works with agricultural educators. She is also a past FFA member. The meetings continued with a luncheon with leaders of several agricultural commodities and interest groups. Finally, a meeting with Agriculture Secretary Jim Reese. Everyone involved in the meetings was very supportive of CareerTech, especially agricultural education.

Tech Center superintendents' meeting

It was a pleasure to spend time with the tech center superintendents last week at Metro Tech. Their staff provided an update on several key initiatives they have underway. The superintendents provided input on what the department can do to help them succeed with their customers.

Additionally, the group spent time with representatives from teacher education departments responsible for CareerTech teacher licensing. The conversation focused on streamlining the processes and assuring high-quality teachers. The department will facilitate the work. It will be a great opportunity to assure CareerTech teachers are prepared to provide high-level instruction in a full range of learning environments including digitally enhanced options.

Vietnam seeks help from Oklahoma

Meridian Technology Center has been approached by representatives from Vietnam who are interested in jump starting their career tech system. Meridian staff has engaged the department to assist with the effort. Initial focus of this project will include the distribution of instructional materials and providing training on how to use these materials. The project will not only allow our state to assist a country revitalizing their economy but provide a new market for our existing resources. Win-Win!

FFA convention this week

The state FFA convention is this week. This is a major CareerTech youth organization event, and top students will be showcased. The quality of the programming is a tribute to Kent Boggs and his state officer team. I continue to be amazed by the talent of young people involved in CareerTech youth organizations.

Firefighter II assessment

The CareerTech Testing Center launched the Firefighter II exam this week. This is the second exam offered in partnership with OSU-Fire Safety Training.

Student Services Endorsement Program

Twenty-three participants from 13 technology centers recently completed the 2012-2013 Student Services Endorsement Program. The Student Services Endorsement Program provides a support system for learning a body of philosophy, knowledge and skills unique to Oklahoma's Career and Technology Education System. The program also promotes a strong culture of ethical, professional student services staff in the Oklahoma area technology centers. The participants apply and are selected and participate in 62 plus hours of instruction during five sessions that are held at different technology centers across the state. The five sessions cover:

- Orientation to Oklahoma's Career & Technology Education System
- Ethical and Legal Issues
- Student Services Components
- Services to Members of Special Populations
- Workforce Development: Job Placement/Job Development

(Contributed by Becki Foster)

Science, technology and space day

NASA will come to Great Plains Technology Center on Thursday, May 2. NASA's famous Drive To Explore mobile exhibit features 3 billion-year-old moon rocks that can be touched, space food, interactive multimedia presentations and museum quality wall displays about space exploration. Great Plains Science, Technology and Space Day event is intended to elevate attention to academically rigorous Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education. Additional information can be found <http://www.greatplains.edu/2013/04/nasa-comes/> (Contributed by Becki Foster)

Rising Star Award

Dustin Devers, program specialist, Business Marketing and Information Technology Education Division, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, has been named the 2013 Oklahoma State University College of Education Rising Star Award winner. This award is given annually to a recent graduate and recognizes College of Education alumni whose lives and achievements demonstrate promise of future leadership and bring distinction to the college. Dustin will be honored at the Hall of Fame reception in June. (contributed by Greg Dewald)

Oklahoma Horizon programs

Oklahoma Horizon covers the economic impact our wild weather has on the state, as well as training programs for disabled Americans, on a show that begins airing at 3 p.m. May 5 on OETA. A family-owned business in Perry, Ground Zero, builds shelters to protect families from harm's way. A welding instructor at Kiamichi Technology Center in McAlester is learning sign language from one of his students, while teaching the student what it takes to become a pipeline welder. Moore Norman Tech helps hearing impaired students acquire technical skills to aid them in their chosen career fields. (contributed by Karen Hart)

Region IV awards received

Oklahoma Adult Educators received regional recognition this week at the Region IV Adult Career and Technical Education Conference. CareerTech's Skills Centers employee Barrett Richardson was honored with the ACTE Career Guidance Award for his work with incarcerated individuals. Fiona McAlister of Southern Technology Center was recognized as the ACTE Region IV Teacher of the Year for her work in the Bio Technology program and the innovative internship program she developed. (contributed by Matt Litterell)

Communications experts share ideas

Paula Bowles, chief communications and marketing officer, and Bill Kramer, communications and marketing coordinator, Canadian Valley Technology Center, El Reno, were panelists Thursday in a webinar hosted by the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium. The webinar, titled CTE Centers: Conquering the Skills Gap through Business-Industry Collaboration, explored some of the ways technology centers provide a link between the knowledge and skills students learn and those demanded by local businesses. Bowles provided an overview of Oklahoma's system of technology centers, and Kramer focused on Canadian Valley's wind energy technician program. Other panelists were Steve Gratz, Ph.D.,

director, Office of Career-Technical Education, Ohio Department of Education; and Harold Niehaus, director of instructional development, Miami Valley Career Technology Center, Clayton, Ohio.

Program preps leaders for the future

Participants in the Technology Center Administrator Program, commonly called TechCAP, on April 24 focused on the importance of understanding the political process at the state Capitol. The next day, participants met at Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center and learned about maximizing impact with the news media. Joe Senat, associate professor, Oklahoma State University, and one of the state's leading authorities on open records/open meetings, provided great insight on open government. Participants also practiced their skills in crisis management by acting out several scenarios on camera and critiquing their performances. TechCap is one of the professional development opportunities for ODCTE and field staff who aspire to be leaders in the CareerTech System.

Charles Page High School receives technical assistance visit

The visit was designed to determine the extent to which a school is implementing key research-based practices and has put into place key conditions that support improved student achievement as defined by the SREB-designed High Schools That Work model. The model is well known for improving student performance.

During the two-day visit, the team observed classrooms; reviewed school data; and held in-depth interviews with teachers, administrators, students and parents. These activities enabled the team to identify promising practices, pinpoint priority improvement areas and suggest related actions.

The school will receive a report with actionable information. The report also includes an extensive list of personal contacts and materials the schools can use in developing a school improvement plan. (contributed by Joe Robinson)

Oklahoma CareerTech on Twitter

You can join more than 940 CareerTech supporters on Twitter by following our agency at <http://twitter.com/okcareertech> or searching for @okcareertech and clicking Follow. You can follow Robert Sommers at @rdsommers. You can also find all of the CareerTech System Tweepsters by going to <http://www.okcareertech.org/news/social-media>. (contributed by Jeremy L Zweiacker)

Schedule for the week

This schedule is subject to change without notice:

Monday

Meeting with Paula Bowles
Common Core meeting
Statewide initiatives meeting

Tuesday

State FFA Convention

Wednesday

Senate meeting

Rural Caucus meeting

State FFA Convention

Thursday

General office work

Meeting with Rob McClendon

Meeting with Greg Dewald

Meeting with Jim Aulgur

Meeting with Johnna Kirschner and Dave Lopez, Dept of Commerce

Meeting with Norma Noble, Dept of Commerce

Friday

Senior staff meeting

Legislative update

General office work

See you around!