

IT executive named new state director

Peter J. Buswell, who has an extensive background in information technology, was recently selected as state director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education by the State Board of Career and Technology Education. Buswell was one of 126 candidates for the position.

"I'm very proud to be joining an organization that is world class," Buswell said, who will take office Jan. 1.

He is replacing Dr. Ann Benson, outgoing state director, who is retiring in December.

During his career, Buswell has developed global training for several major companies including

IBM, Data General, Digital Equipment, Drake International and Global Knowledge Network.

Michelle Stephens, chair of the search committee, cited Buswell's knowledge of career and technology education nationally, his expertise in e-learning content and curriculum development, and his proven ability to lead and improve the effectiveness of complex organizations as primary reasons for his selection. The search was conducted by Joy Reed Belt Search Consultants, Inc.

Buswell is credited with being the driving force in helping the state of Michigan establish an on-line university. Co-workers

describe him as "a collaborative leader, a great leader, a visionary, and an individual who understands both business and education and is effective in both areas."

Buswell graduated from Lesley College in Cambridge, Mass., Magna cum Laude, with a master of science degree in training and development. He also has a bachelor of science degree in education from Northeastern University in Boston. Buswell and his wife will move to Stillwater from the Boston area where he served as president of the U.S. division of Education Multimedia Corporation.

Oklahoma ranks eighth in national certification

Seventeen Oklahoma career and technology education instructors recently received the teaching profession's highest credential — national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

They are Sherrie Bellamy, Great Plains, Frederick; Brenda Chapman, Francis Tuttle; Mona Cunningham, Ardmore; Rita Durrett, Bartlesville; Carol Dvorak, Meridian; Terry Houck, Union; Terri Huddleston, Sapulpa; Melissa Hula, Autry; Juanita Lamb, Tri-County; Barbara Leathers, Autry; Marry Pippis-Cloos, Oklahoma City; Beverly Roden, Tri-County; Burl Spears, Kiamichi; Stacy Fike, Norman; Sabrina Nault, Kingfisher; Julie Sherwood, Stroud; Debra Terronez, Chandler.

According to figures provided by the NBPTS, Oklahoma has the eighth highest number of new

national board certified teachers in the United States. A total of 241 Oklahomans received national certification in 2002.

Through the assessment process, teachers document their subject matter knowledge, provide evidence that they know how to teach their subject effectively, and demonstrate their ability to manage and measure student learning, explained Dr. Phil Berkenbile, associate director at the Oklahoma Department of CareerTech.

Berkenbile said the CareerTech agency's Instructional Services division hosted several conferences, led by teachers who have gone through national certification,

to help prepare educators for the process.

"Research shows that teachers earning certification are better teachers in the classroom and leaders in their professional fields," he said. "They are our champions for today and the role models for our CareerTech teachers of the future."

Berkenbile said 24 Oklahoma CareerTech teachers are candidates for national board certification in the 2003-04 school year.

For more information about CareerTech-sponsored national board certification workshops, go to http://www.okcareertech.org/pd/National_Board_Certification.htm or call 405-743-5478.

Due to budget cutbacks, we will no longer print Expressions after this issue. If you would like to receive Expressions via e-mail, please contact motik@okcareertech.org

CIMC develops 'toolbox' for substitutes

If Oklahoma's current budget crisis continues to worsen, school administrators may be faced with the problem of thrusting volunteers, who have little or no classroom experience, into the state's classrooms as substitute teachers.

A product just launched by the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education's Curriculum and Instructional Materials Center (CIMC) could help alleviate this looming classroom crisis.

The *CareerTech* CIMC designs competency-based instructional materials for customers in all 50 states as well as international markets.

The new *Substitute Teacher Toolbox* is a collection of materials, guidelines, classroom tips and activities for replacement teachers, said Kimberly Sadler, CIMC coordinator.

"The toolbox includes a workbook and a CD, with a collection of Web site links and resources," Sadler said. "It also features more than 200 activities and covers areas such

as careers, citizenship/government, communications, basic math and ecology."

"This toolbox is designed to help administrators who are left with an unexpected void in the classroom," said Connie Romans, one of those who helped develop the innovative tool. "It helps substitutes who have been called to help in an unfamiliar area or in a situation where lesson plans were unavailable."

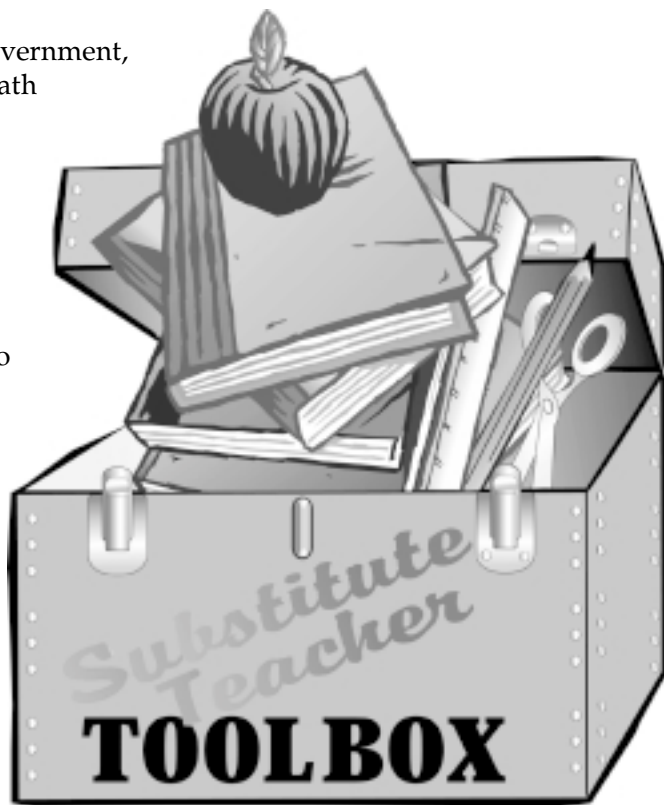
"The Tips and Tools section offers teachers, administrators and substitutes guidance on classroom management, items to include in a substitute survival kit, and feedback forms, as well as other 'subbing' advice," Romans said.

Sadler said CIMC decided to create the toolbox about three months ago because of constant requests for instructional materials for substitute teachers. She said substitute teachers spend a significant amount of time with students.

"An average of 14 days per year are taught by a substitute," she said. "Over a student's school career, the student will be taught about 187 days by a substitute. That's almost a full school year."

Romans said future budget cuts could require more schools to use substitute teachers who do not have an educational background.

"More and more subs are not professional teachers," she said. "There are enough resource materials in the toolbox for anyone to teach one of the 15 subject areas."



The subject areas are careers, citizenship/government, communication, critical thinking/creativity, ecology, etiquette, geography, interpersonal skills, leadership, mathematics, money management, self-discovery, study skills, time management and volunteerism.

Substitute Teacher Toolbox is being marketed nationwide to school districts, administrators, state education departments and freelance teachers.

"Nationwide many people make a living 'subbing,'" Romans said. "This product combines the best materials from several resources into one product."

For more information on *Substitute Teacher Toolbox*, call 800-654-4502 or go to: <http://www.okcareertech.org/cimc/sample.htm>

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OBAN coordinators help Oklahoma firms prepare to bid on federal contracts

Every year federal government agencies award billions of dollars in contracts to small and medium-sized businesses. Through the help of the Oklahoma Bid Assistance Network (OBAN), hundreds of Oklahoma firms are getting their share of those federal dollars.

According to figures provided by OBAN, 1,902 businesses were served in fiscal year 2002.

"That includes 795 companies who began OBAN services this year," said Shelley Dawson, OBAN program specialist. "More than \$250 million in government contracts were awarded to OBAN clients in 2002. Also, 125 subcontracts were awarded that were worth an additional \$27 million. These contracts helped create or maintain about 7,000 Oklahoma jobs."

Program Coordinator Carter Merkle said OBAN, which is based at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education in Stillwater, is funded jointly by state and federal dollars.

Fifteen OBAN coordinators at 14 technology centers around the state help inform and prepare local companies to bid on contracts with the Department of Defense and several other federal agencies. Those technology centers are Autry, Enid; Francis Tuttle, Oklahoma City; Gordon Cooper, Shawnee; Great Plains, Lawton; Pioneer, Ponca City; High Plains, Woodward; Indian Capital, Muskogee; Kiamichi Tech, McAlester; Metro Tech, Oklahoma City; Mid-America, Wayne; Mid-Del, Midwest City; Red River, Duncan;

Southwest, Altus and Tri County, Bartlesville.

"The local coordinators help companies improve their chances of winning a contract," he said. "They help cut through the red tape."



From left are Sherry Schatz and Sheree Lewis of Schatz Publishing Group. The Blackwell, Okla., firm has worked with Teresa Smith, Bid Assistance coordinator at Pioneer Technology Center, Ponca City, to win contracts for several government publications.

Dawson said federal agencies contract a wide variety of services such as office supplies, publishing, fence-building, aircraft maintenance and part manufacturing and grounds keeping.

OBAN field coordinators inform local clients through a variety of services that include seminars and networking at local chambers of commerce.

"They do a lot of one-on-one counseling, letter-writing and research to help Oklahoma companies prepare bids for government contracts," Dawson said. "Their job is to help a client become successful on a project."

OBAN also provides services such as bid matching, information

on past government purchases and access to specifications and plans.

Bill Brown, president of Disan Engineering Corp. of Nowata, said his firm has handled about 1,400 prime contracts (contracts directly with a government agency) for the military since 1968. Disan Engineering Corp., which designs and repairs equipment for the Department of Defense and the Federal Aviation Administration, works closely with Pat Young, bid assistance coordinator at Tri County Technology Center, Bartlesville, during the bid process.

"We rely heavily on OBAN's history of procurements," he said. "It lets us know what the marketplace price on an item has been."

Brown said the firm also relies on OBAN to provide military specifications and standards when working on bids.

"OBAN has furnished those from their vast library," Brown said. "We have found Tri County staff to be very reliable and helpful. We could not have operated without them."

Merkle added that partnering with OBAN is a way for Oklahoma companies to tap into a wider network of businesses handling government contracts.

OBAN is also a great marketing tool for the Oklahoma CareerTech system, he said.

For more information about the Oklahoma Bid Assistance Network, go to: www.okcareertech.org/business/oban/oban.htm or call 405-743-5571.

Four Oklahomans serve as national officers

The Oklahoma career and technology education system has a reputation for being one of the best in the nation. And Oklahoma *CareerTech* students are also showing they are leaders in national career and technology student organizations (CTSOs).

Four students were recently elected to serve as national CTSO officers.

• **Katrina Harper**, a student at Byng High School, is national Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) president. FCCLA is the student organization associated with family and consumer sciences education programs.

• **Matthew Tiner**, a student at Central Technology Center, Drumright, is the national SkillsUSA-VICA secondary vice president for Region IV.



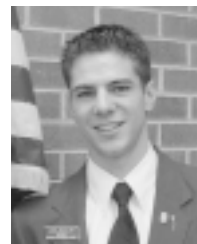
Harper



Tiner



Ward



Wetzler

• **Michael Ward**, a student at Ninnekah High School, is national president of the Technology Student Association (TSA). TSA is the student organization associated with technology education programs.

• **Carl Wetzler**, a student at Tulsa Technology Center, is the national SkillsUSA-VICA post-secondary president. SkillsUSA-VICA is the student organization associated with trade and industrial education programs.

Harper, who was named president by the other national FCCLA officers, said she has always dreamed of being a national officer.

"My big goal was to be a national officer," she said. "I see it as a way of giving back."

More than 80,000 secondary and postsecondary students are members of the seven student organizations sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

"These organizations provide thousands of Oklahoma students with public speaking skills, leadership training and valuable workplace experience that prepare them for life after graduation," said state *CareerTech* Director Ann Benson.