

# expressions!

DELIVERING THE LATEST IN CAREERTECH NEWS

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## CareerTech students learn about government during first Leadership Day at the Capitol

*CareerTech* student leaders representing 10 technology centers recently met at the State Capitol to see firsthand how leadership roles can make a difference.

The students met for the first *CareerTech* Student Leadership Day at the Capitol. Students interacted with legislators from their own districts as well as from other districts around Oklahoma.

State Rep. Ray Miller, a member of the *CareerTech* Legislative Committee, spoke to the students about the importance of leadership in Oklahoma and the nation. Another special guest was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma Joe Watt.

The student leaders were invited to sit in the House Chambers and see firsthand where their legislators sit and debate bills as they relate to their districts and the state of Oklahoma. They also received tours of the Capitol. *(continued on page 2)*



*State Rep. Thad Balkman of Norman speaks to students from his district during CareerTech Student Leadership Day at the Capitol*

## Oklahoman serves as ACTE president

Dr. Francie Russell, director of Adult Education at Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center, was recently elected national president of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE).

Russell has been an active member of ACTE, both nationally and locally for the Oklahoma Association of Career and Technology Education (Oklahoma ACTE). She served on the ACTE board of directors and as a region vice president from 1999 to 2002.

“I am extremely humbled and honored to serve as the national president of ACTE. I am

proud to represent not only Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center and the state of Oklahoma’s *CareerTech* system, but also our country as well,” she said. “I pledge my energies to provide leadership to our membership and board of directors as we continue to embark on the task that turns our ACTE vision into reality.”

Russell started her teaching career in the 1970s and has worked for Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee and Mid-Del Technology Center in Midwest City. She has been with Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center since 1997.



*Russell*

## A time for opportunities . . .



*“To reach our full potential, I believe we must take advantage of the opportunities before us.”*

Pete Buswell  
State Director  
ODCTE

Opportunities.

We are surrounded by them.

Even in difficult financial times like these, opportunities are everywhere. The challenge is to recognize them, consider them carefully, and take advantage of them.

Admittedly, as the old saying goes, “It’s hard to recognize that your objective is to drain the swamp when you’re up to your neck in alligators.”

Nevertheless, we must take advantage of the opportunities before us—especially in difficult times like these. This is my third month in Oklahoma, and I’m impressed with the potential of this state and this system. However, to reach our full potential, I believe we must take advantage of the opportunities before us.

While I know I have yet to earn the trust and respect of all of you who have worked to build this system, I hope to do exactly that before much time passes. In the meantime, I want to do everything I can to take advantage of some of our opportunities.

I came to this job with a business perspective and a different way of looking at things. And,

while I’ve got many ideas on ways I believe we can improve this system, at the same time, I recognize that there are reasons why this system was built the way it was. But the bottom line is this...we can, and we must, continue to make improvements to career and technology education if we are to maintain our reputation as the nation’s finest. If we’re not moving ahead, then we’re falling behind. There’s simply no standing still.

My challenge to you is to think how you can make your own improvements in the way you do business...and to keep me from making the wrong decisions. Let me know when I’m wrong. I can’t guarantee I’ll agree with you, but I’ll carefully consider your reasoning.

I recently told the Oklahoma House of Representatives *CareerTech* committee that I don’t mind getting hit by a two-by-four once in a while. Just give me time to rest between swings.

It is my fervent hope that most of you feel the same way about change. This world is moving ahead at warp speed, and we must increase the speed of change in our system if we are to soar ahead.

Pete Buswell  
State *CareerTech* Director

### Day at the Capitol *(continued)*

The schools representing *CareerTech* Student Leadership Day at the Capitol include Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center, Choctaw; Great Plains Technology Center, Lawton; Canadian Valley Technology Center, Chickasha and El Reno campuses; Moore

Norman Technology Center, Norman; Francis Tuttle Technology Center, Oklahoma City; Autry Technology Center, Enid; Wes Watkins Technology Center, Wetumka; Northeast Technology Center, Afton, Kansas and Pryor campuses; and Central Technology Center, Drumright.

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## Oklahoma DECA newsletter earns national acclaim

The Oklahoma chapter of DECA recently received the national DECA award for Best Online Newsletter, southern region. DECA, the career and technology student organization associated with marketing education, is one of seven student groups sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

Justin Suess, a student at Latta High School, Ada, and 2002-03 state DECA reporter, is editor of the association's newsletter *Oklahoma DECA Beat*.

"The articles for the newsletter are written and submitted by Oklahoma DECA members and then I edit, create, and publish them in the newsletter," Suess said.

"I think our newsletter has been successful because we keep it traditional, and we also have a

theme for each issue," he said. "The best part of being state DECA reporter, and working on the newsletter, is networking and getting to know members from other chapters around the state."

Lettie Dilbeck, state DECA advisor, said the newsletter is a great communication and learning tool for students.

"Working on the newsletter teaches students a host of skills such as written communications, English proficiency and teamwork," she said.

"Our state newsletter emphasizes reporting from the local DECA chapters," she said. "These are students who send in articles about the activities they have been involved with." For more information about DECA, go to <http://okcareertech.org/mktd/deca.htm>.

*"I think our newsletter has been successful because we keep it traditional, and we also have a theme for each issue."*

Justin Suess  
Editor  
*Oklahoma DECA Beat*

## Hospitals line up to recruit Surg Tech grads

Oklahoma *CareerTech* students are finding the shortage of health care workers is working to their advantage. Students in the Surgical Technician (Surg Tech) training program at Central Tech are being recruited by major health care networks and their affiliated hospitals in the Tulsa market. Their representatives are visiting the tech center and offering lucrative opportunities to students planning to graduate this spring. The Surg Tech program offers instruction in patient care before, during and after surgery and areas such as basic sciences, medical terminology and surgical procedures.

Instructor Todd Prough said the pay scale and benefits are extremely good and predicts his students will find no shortages of places to ply their trade.

"Hillcrest HealthCare System's Nellie Rhea and Amanda Wilson were in our class in February and spoke of opportunities in the 17 hospitals in the Hillcrest system in Oklahoma," he said. "Earlier St. Francis hospital representatives spoke



*Shon Hughes (left), educational coordinator for Surgical Services for St. Francis Hospital, answers questions from Lindsey Baugus, Barbara Berry and Denise Buckley, students in Central Tech's Surgical Technology program, during a recruitment visit.*

with our class, and soon we will hear from others interested in what we are doing here."

"These hospitals have been very cooperative in helping us offer a training program that best fits the needs of today's health care providers as well as students entering this field," Prough said.

## Outstanding program lands Mercedes donation



Ed Stanch of Mercedes-Benz stands next to the vehicle recently donated to Francis Tuttle in Oklahoma City.

the Mercedes-Benz ML 430 sports utility vehicle was recently donated to the Oklahoma City technology center.

Mercedes-Benz selected Francis Tuttle for the first donated vehicle in the nation because of its involvement in AYES and its reputation for quality automotive technician training. As part of an ongoing effort to maintain its leading edge in automotive technology, Mercedes-Benz has determined that providing training resources to outstanding automotive technology programs improves future employees.

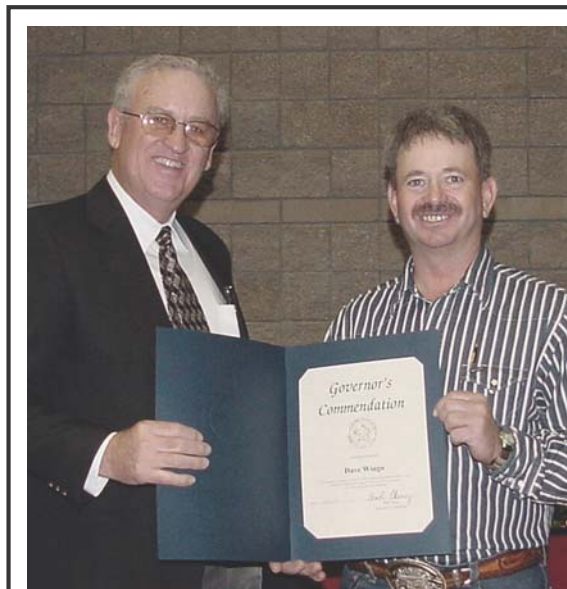
“As a partner with Francis Tuttle in the AYES program (Automotive Youth Education Systems), we are well aware that when these students leave here, they will diagnose, maintain and repair these very vehicles,” Stanch said.

“We are pleased that Mercedes-Benz recognizes Francis Tuttle as one of the nation’s leaders in quality training,” said Dr. Tom Friedemann, Francis Tuttle deputy superintendent.

*“As a partner with Francis Tuttle in the AYES program, we are well aware that when these students leave here, they will dignose, maintain and repair these very vehicles.”*

Ed Stanch  
Mercedes-Benz

When students step into one of the automotive classroom/labs at Francis Tuttle, they are dubbed “technicians.” When they leave the tech center, upon completion of their program, they must be prepared to step directly into that role. That, says Ed Stanch, supervisor of Technician Sourcing and Development for Mercedes-Benz, is exactly why



Rep. Dale Turner presented Dave Wingo with two commendations, one from Gov. Brad Henry and the other from himself and Sen. Dick Wilkerson. Dennis Howard, Commissioner of Agriculture, also recently presented Wingo with a certificate of commendation for his service to the state of Oklahoma. Wingo was selected as the National Trade and Industrial Education “Outstanding New Teacher” at the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) convention in Las Vegas, Nev. A special reception was held for Dave Wingo, Building and Grounds/Power Products Technology instructor at Wes Watkins Technology Center.

## CareerTech students cook up success in culinary contest

Metro Tech's Food Services students competed against five teams to win the first annual ProStart Culinary Cup competition in the Gourmet Meal category.

As a result, each of these Oklahoma City area high school students received a gold medal, a \$3,000 scholarship from the Culinary Institute of America and a full scholarship to OSU-Okmulgee. The team also received a silver medal from the Made in Oklahoma Coalition for using Oklahoma grown/produced products. The Metro Tech team will represent Oklahoma at the national competition April 26-29 in Denver, Colo. The national competition will be broadcast on the Food TV Network.

Sponsored by the Made in Oklahoma Coalition, the National Restaurant Association, the Oklahoma Restaurant Association, Taco Mayo, and Ned's Catering, the ProStart Culinary Cup competition is designed to showcase the culinary and academic talents of high school and adult students from across the state



*From left to right are Patrick Bowers, Mark Curatola, Chris Crowley, Gabrielle Williams, Instructor Marjorie Hammond and Thomas Horne.*

Metro Tech students participating in the Gourmet Meal category were Chris Crowley, Capitol Hill High School; Thomas Horne, Crooked Oak High School; Gabrielle Williams, US Grant High School; Mark Curatola, RENEW; and Patrick Bowers, Southeast High School. A second Metro Tech team won the silver medal in the Quick Service category of the competition. The Quick Service team included Jinell Carter, Wynell Crawford, Onie Waters and Sherri Rodriguez.