

Expressions!

OF OKLAHOMA VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Teachers, students share benefits of School-to-Work at Tulsa conference



School-to-Work spokesperson Shawntel Smith shares a lighter moment with members of the School-to-Work Student Advisory Committee at Success Connection III. Pictured left to right are Rickey Hunt, Colin Holman, Lucretia Petrik, Jeff Stiles and Shawntel Smith.

Educators, students and business leaders from across the state gathered recently for two days in Tulsa for Success Connection III, a conference titled "Straight Talk Between Business and Students." The seminar was sponsored by The State Chamber.

The conference featured several notable speakers such as State Secretary of Education Floyd Coppedge; Miss America 1996 Shawntel Smith; William Spring, vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank, Boston, Mass.; and author Clifton Taulbert.

Speaking during the opening session, Coppedge said School-to-Work enables educators to provide students with real workplace experiences and technical skills.

Coppedge said that all students must have a strong foundation in the basic academic subjects. "No level of education is more important than

secondary education," he said.

Shawntel Smith described School-to-Work as a "life-changing movement."

In her travels across the country speaking about School-to-Work, the 1996 Miss America said she has seen several examples of the positive effects of the initiative. She cited the example of a Fresno, Calif. student who managed to continue attending school even though she was homeless.

Because of the girl's involvement with School-to-Work, the girl now has a job and an employer who is willing to pay for her education.

Some of the other guests that Smith introduced included Henry Primeaux,

owner of Crown Auto World, and one of his employees, Amanda Willis, who is the first woman to graduate from the General Motors Automotive Youth Education Systems program. Four students, Rickey Hunt, Jeff Stiles, Colin Holman and Lucretia Petrik, shared their School-to-Work experiences with the audience.

Spring discussed the experiences of Boston schools and School-to-Work. He stated that a survey of about 280 students at Brighton High School in

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School-to-Work

“If we want the future to be an exciting place, we have the power to do it today.”

*Clifton Taulbert
author*

Boston showed that students involved with School-to-Work had better attendance and grades than other students.

Taulbert was the keynote speaker on the final day of the conference. He spoke about his “eight habits of the heart.” They are a nurturing attitude, responsibility, dependability, friendship, brotherhood, courage, hope and high expectations.

Taulbert said that he learned these lessons from the “porch people,” a network of elders, friends and family members who guided his development during his childhood in the Mississippi Delta. He said the porch people put their hopes and dreams in youth.

“They saw their future in the lengthening steps of their children,” Taulbert said.

He said society can decide what the future is going to look like by investing in our young people.

“If we want the future to be an exciting place, we have the power to do it today,” he said.

School Administrators Attend Workshops

More than 40 school administrators from across Oklahoma participated in this year’s High School Administrators Program, sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Vocational and Technical Education.

The program is a series of three workshops designed to help school administrators better understand the state’s vocational-technical education system.

The two-day workshops were held monthly during September, October and November at various locations across the state. The September workshop was held Sept. 24-25 at the department.

Session topics include vocational program content and standards, teacher activities and responsibilities, vocational student organizations, the relationship to area vo-tech schools, effective teaching and briefings on Oklahoma’s School-to-Work system, which is now being implemented in schools across the state.

Dr. Ann Benson, assistant state vo-tech director and coordinator of the workshop, said the program helps participants understand vocational education’s goals and purposes.

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votech

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Educators form alliance to promote high-tech jobs

Oklahoma education and commerce leaders met at Oklahoma City Community College recently and agreed to put forward a united front in preparing students for high-tech careers. The meeting was part of the Oklahoma High Tech/Semiconductor Workforce Development Conference.

Dr. Roy Peters, director of the Oklahoma Department of Vo-Tech Education; Dr. Hans Brisch, chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education, and Sandy Garrett, state superintendent of public instruction, along with Rex Smitherman, chief operating officer of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, signed the agreement for the Oklahoma High-Tech/Semiconductor Workforce Alliance Development.

One of the conference's guest speakers was Savitri Saldana, of SEMATECH, a non-profit research and development consortium of American semiconductor manufacturers. She briefed the attendees on the current state of the semiconductor business.

According to Saldana, the U.S. semiconductor industry produces 70 percent of semiconductors worldwide. The semiconductor business is currently a \$150 billion industry, she said, which is expected to double by the year 2000.

The industry expects to hire 40,000 workers during the next five years, she said. Entry-level jobs in the industry pay between \$25,000-\$30,000 per year and require an associate level degree.

Saldana said that the industry requires highly skilled workers because one mistake in the manufacturing process can cost the company up to half a million dollars.

In closing remarks, Saldana asked when the industry could expect a response from the day's outcome.

Sid Hudson, from the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education, said that the industry could look forward to education and business leaders putting forward a statewide program in the near future.



Oklahoma education and business leaders came together recently to form an alliance to prepare students for high-tech jobs. From left are Sandy Garrett, state superintendent for public instruction; Chancellor Hans Brisch of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; Dr. Roy Peters, state vo-tech director; and Rex Smitherman, chief operating officer of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

LINC connects former welfare recipients to workplace

Coordinators of the new Linking Individuals to New Careers (LINC) programs at Great Plains Area Vocational-Technical School in Lawton have been paid a high compliment by employers — they are asking for more employees.

The first class of 37 individuals “graduated” July 25. To date, 23 of those students are employed. Three of the students have been promoted, and one has been promoted three times.

LINC started in response to the national mandate to get people off welfare. Under the mandate, welfare recipients can only receive welfare benefits for five years during their lifetime and for only two years continuously.

The Department of Human Services refers clients, mostly those receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, to the program. Co-coordinator Krystal Brue said that of the first 37 students, 12 received instruction in non-production areas and 25 were trained in production areas. Of those, 21 out of 25 were employed in production jobs and two who received non-production training were hired, one at Cameron University and one at TCM Marketing.

Comanche County has a welfare population of 1,600 and the vo-tech program has set a goal of training 150 students annually. The second class of 16 persons started the program Aug. 16.

Employer reaction has been positive, Brue said.

One of the biggest benefits to the program, the co-coordinators say, is that students are going out under the vo-tech umbrella, rather than the DHS umbrella.

“More employers feel warm and fuzzy about our vo-tech,” Brue said. “We try to create a package

where they (students) can go out and sell themselves to an employer.”

That package, which includes educational training, also teaches team building, communication skills,

stress management and life skills.

The typical student has been young, female, with two to three children. The age range has been from 20 to 50

years. Some have dropped out of school, but most have a high school diploma or a college degree.

Students have up to one year after receiving training to go to work. Those in production training usually go to work within 30 days, Brue said.

— Glen Boyer, Great Plains Area Vo-Tech, Lawton

VO-TECH



Student gets head start in business



Clinton High School student Jaretta Stehr already has her own business. She operates Jaretta's Creations, where she sells handmade crafts. Stehr, a member of DECA, recently placed second in a nationwide contest sponsored by S & S Worldwide, a company that produces craft catalogs and sells craft kits. She won a \$500 gift certificate and her products will also be featured in the company's catalog.

Hall of Fame honors six Oklahomans

Six Oklahomans were inducted into the Oklahoma Vo-Tech Hall of Fame Oct. 20 at a banquet in the Oklahoma State University Student Union. Two of the six were inducted posthumously.

The ceremonies were sponsored by the Oklahoma Vo-Tech Foundation. They attracted more than 230 attendees, some from as far away as New York City, said Dr. Arch Alexander, foundation president.

Alexander said induction into the Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed by the foundation.

The six new inductees join a total of 24 Oklahomans who have been added to the Hall of Fame since its inception in 1990, Alexander said. Previous inductees include two governors, college deans and professors, state business leaders, vocational teachers and state vo-tech staff members.

Those inducted, and their presenters were:

- Dr. Bob Brown, retired instructor of business and office education at the University of Central Oklahoma, presented for induction by Dr. J. W. Weatherford, professor of professional teacher education at the University of Central Oklahoma.

- Dr. Willa Combs, deceased, former professor and chair of the Department of Home Economics at Langston University, presented by LU President Dr. Ernest Holloway.

- Doctor Coaken Jones, deceased, former agricultural educator at Langston University and national advisor of the New Farmers of America, introduced by former student James Roy Johnson.

- Ernest Muncrief, retired agricultural education instructor at Marlow High School, presented by former student Barry Hinson, head basketball coach at Oral Roberts University.



Applause

Josey Named Employee of the Quarter

Kristen Josey, an Accounts Clerk IV in the Finance Division, has been selected as the Oklahoma Dept. of Vo-Tech Education's Employee of the Quarter. She has been with the department for 10 years.

AVA Honors High School Student

Brandi Lewin of Vanoss High School has been selected as the American Vocational Association's Region IV Outstanding Business Education Student.

Warren Is OBEA Teacher of the Year

Wendi Warren was recently named as the Oklahoma Business Education Association's Teacher of the Year for 1997-98. Warren is an administrative service instructor at Southwest Technology Center in Altus.

Moore-Norman Student Wins Scholarship

Katina Ingram, an adult business education student at Moore-Norman AVTS, has won the Oklahoma Association for the Advancement of Black Americans in Vocational Education's 1997 scholarship. The award is worth \$400.

- Dr. Roy Ayres, retired state supervisor of trade and industrial education at the Oklahoma Department of Vo-Tech Education, presented by Vic Van Hook, retired deputy director of the state vo-tech agency.

- Ted Best, retired state supervisor of marketing education for Oklahoma Department of Vo-Tech Education, presented by Dr. Lucille Patton, retired dean of the College of Special Arts and Sciences at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Expressions!

Mid-America graduate leads busy life

Corey Lampkin isn't your typical young adult. At 21, Lampkin is already a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), husband, father, business owner and national officer.

Lampkin, past president of Oklahoma's Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), is a recent graduate of the LPN program at Mid-America Vo-Tech, Wayne. He was recently elected National Postsecondary/Collegiate Board Representative for HOSA.

Lampkin and his wife, Rhonda, have two young children and own a uniform and accessory store in Purcell. Besides running his own business, Lampkin also works as an LPN charge nurse for a rehabilitation center in Norman.

Lampkin's short-term goal right now is to support his wife as she finishes college. After that, he would like to enroll in the career mobility program at the University of Oklahoma. Due to his work experience, this program will allow him to get his bachelor's degree in nursing in about half the time it normally takes.

Fate led Lampkin to nursing, a profession he had

not considered.

Upon switching from a private school to a public school, he found some of the classes he needed were already full. His counselor suggested that he go to Mid-America Vo-Tech. The idea appealed to him.

At Mid-America, Lampkin took an allied health class. There, his instructor Bernice James, encouraged him to go into the health field.

As a home health aid, Lampkin found he liked the medical involvement of patient care.

He attributes HOSA for sharpening his confidence building and leadership skills that led to his newly elected position. Being a HOSA officer not only taught Lampkin the value of leadership, it also gave him the opportunity to improve his speaking, communication, and time management skills.

And home is also a training ground.

"When trying to balance family, school, work, and extracurricular activities, you learn how to manage your time real quickly," he said.

—By Liz Fortune

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