

Expressions!

OF OKLAHOMA CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Central Tech program ranks top in nation

A nationwide study of career and technology education programs has given top marks to an Oklahoma technology center and honored three other state *CareerTech* programs.

The telecommunications program at Central Tech, Drumright, was named an “exemplary program” on the national level. The National Research/Dissemination Center for Career and Technical Education (CTE) recognized the telecommunications program in its “Sharing and Celebrating

Exemplary and Promising Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Programs” awards.

The center is a division of the U.S. Department of Education, housed at Ohio State University and the University of Illinois.

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The award was presented at the Association for Career and Technical Education National Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C., in April.

“Central Tech staff gave a presentation about the telecommunications program during the policy seminar,” said Dr. Ann Benson, state director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

Other Oklahoma schools honored are Great Plains Technology Center’s industrial maintenance program and Tulsa Technology Center’s Business and Industry Training Services division. Both schools were recognized as “promising programs” in the postsecondary category. Also, Broken Arrow

High School’s marketing education program was named as a promising program in the secondary category.

“These awards confirm that Oklahoma *CareerTech* programs are among the best in the nation,” Benson said.

“Central Tech’s telecommunications program is an outstanding representative of the quality we have in our statewide *CareerTech* system,” she said. “High school graduates can enter the program and, after two years of training, earn up to \$40,000 a year. Program graduates are in high demand by telecommunications companies, like Southwestern Bell and MCI.”

The recognition program was designed to identify the critical components of high-quality career and technical education programs. Programs honored must have shown an increase in student achievement, prepared students for careers as well as lifelong learning, integrated academic and technical curriculum and provided rigorous and relevant instructions.



Pictured from left are Dr. Wes Budke, CTE Awards Committee chairperson, Ohio State University; Clinton Webb, telecommunications lead instructor, Central Technology Center; E. David Palovik, Jr., telecommunications coordinator, Central Technology Center; and Phil Maul, superintendent of Central Technology Center.

ODCTE heads up Career Clusters project

The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education has been named as the lead agency to spearhead a national initiative to design and implement Career Clusters in states across the country.

The state *CareerTech* agency has been announced as the recipient of a \$4.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to head the nation's Career Clusters initiative. The grant will provide funding over a two-year period. First-year funding is for \$2.2 million.

The National Association of State Directors of Vocational Technical Education Consortium (NASDVTEc) endorsed Oklahoma's application for the Career Clusters grant. The organization's board of directors will serve as the project's executive committee, said Dr. Ann Benson, state *CareerTech* director.

"Oklahoma will serve as the fiscal agent and provide staffing and technical expertise for the Career Clusters project," said Kimberly Green, executive director of NASDVTE.

"Career Clusters identify pathways from secondary school to postsecondary education and the workplace," Benson said. "They help students recognize the relationship between what they learn in school and what they can do in the future."

The project will include developing a core technical curriculum for 11 career cluster areas, matching the curricula to business and industry standards, and determining methods of evaluating student achievement. Grants were previously awarded to other states to develop five other cluster areas and work is already in progress on those, Benson said.

She said the Career Clusters initiative seeks to identify the academic and technical skills needed for the 11 remaining career areas. Those areas include agriculture and natural resources, architecture and construction, wholesale/retail sales and services, finance, hospitality and tourism, business and administration, human services, law and public safety, scientific research and engineering, education and training; and government and public administration.

"The agency will provide overall coordination for the Career Clusters project, but it will truly be a nationwide effort involving a number of states," Green said.

While the state *CareerTech* agency will coordinate and supervise the Career Cluster project, a total of 12 states will act as "lead" states in actual cluster development.

They include Idaho, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Dakota, West Virginia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Arkansas, North Carolina and Michigan. Oklahoma will also take the lead in developing one of the clusters.

"Each of these states will oversee a Career Cluster partnership involving states, schools, employers, and other industry groups," Benson said.

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careertech

Oklahoma Department of
Career and Technology Education
1500 West Seventh Avenue
Stillwater, OK 74074-4364

Ann Benson, State Director

Ron Wilkerson, Chief Communications Officer

Ann Houston, Community Relations Specialist

Manny Otiko, Media Relations Specialist

Tom Fields, Photojournalist

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Tulsa Tech dental program drives Stillwater student's ambition

Call Stillwater High School senior Beth Feagan a young lady with a driving ambition and you'd be right. . . on two counts.

For more than eight months, she's driven daily from Stillwater to Tulsa to gain marketable skills as a dental assistant. In those eight months, she's totaled more than 16,000 miles on the family car.

She's acquiring her newfound skills at Tulsa Technology Center, a sister school to Stillwater's Meridian Technology Center. She looked first at Meridian, she said, but it didn't offer a dental assisting program.

Feagan said the importance of having the right kind of skills was made clear to her last summer.

"I was looking for a job in Stillwater, but I couldn't find the one I wanted," she said.

Her problems? Youth, no skills and no experience.

On the advice of her father, Randy Feagan, federal legislation program consultant at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, Beth applied for a place in Tulsa Tech's dental assisting program.

The nine-month program is open to high school seniors and adults. Beth said that the *CareerTech* course will help her on the path to becoming a dental hygienist, and it will also enable her to get a good paying job in Stillwater.

Debbie Batson, dental assisting instructor at Tulsa Technology Center, Lemley Campus, said the program averages more than 30 graduates per year.

"Graduates have 100 percent placement," she said. "Dental assisting is a growing field because

more people are aware of the importance of dental health, more companies offer dental insurance and the field offers very flexible hours."

Classes at technology centers are very different from high school, Beth said. Students in her class, which includes both high school students and adults, take their education very seriously.

"All of them have their minds focused on the job market and a career," she said.

Also interacting with people of varying ages teaches students the importance of learning how to get along with different people.

Beth's classes are three hours every day. She gets out of class at Stillwater High School at 9:30 a.m. and drives to Tulsa to attend classes starting at noon.

The dental assisting program also requires that its

students participate in a 150-hour internship. Beth interned with local dentist Dr. Darrell Sadler and was recently hired by another Stillwater dentist, Dr. Walter Coffey. Internships teach students many skills that are not found in the classroom, she said.

Batson said many of her students see the dental assisting program as a springboard to a career in the dental field. Students in the dental assisting program can also receive up to 24 hours of college credit towards an associate degree in dental assisting and dental hygiene at Tulsa Community College.

Beth said her course work at Tulsa Tech will prepare her for postsecondary education. She's already chosen her intended school—Utah Valley State College, in Orem, Utah, where she will study for a degree in dental hygiene.



Dr. Darrell Sadler and Beth Feagan

Oklahoma CareerTech serves as model for U.S., international educators

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Oklahoma's career and technology educators should be very pleased with themselves. Educators from across the United States — and the world — are beating a path to the state to learn how to model their *CareerTech* programs after Oklahoma's.

Bruce DeMuth, associate state director at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, said that over the past two years, more than 20 groups from other states and nations have toured Oklahoma's *CareerTech* system.

"Our reputation attracts them," DeMuth said. Recent visitors have included delegations from California, Georgia, Missouri, Wisconsin, Virginia, Kansas, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Idaho, and West Virginia, and international parties from Jamaica, Peru, Estonia, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Pakistan, Brunei, Qatar and Morocco.

According to DeMuth, visitors are attracted to Oklahoma's *CareerTech* system because of its unique structure. Oklahoma's *CareerTech* system has its own state board, and technology centers receive financing from ad valorem taxes and state and federal funds.

"Our system is also in the forefront of education reform," he said.

"Oklahoma does a whole lot more than many other states because we have varied sources of funding," DeMuth said. "Career and technology programs in some other states only get federal funding."

"Our mission is also very focused . . . to prepare Oklahomans for success in the workplace," DeMuth said. "We do that through a wide variety of programs in nearly 500 Oklahoma high schools, 54 technology center campuses and through customized programs for business and industry and for prison inmates. Some states serve only one of those target markets."

DeMuth is often the first point of contact for groups interested in touring Oklahoma technology

centers. He says the tours usually last about three days and the groups are shown a variety of different *CareerTech* programs.

"They usually tour our agency and *CareerTech* programs in comprehensive schools and technology centers," he said. "Many groups are particularly interested in high-tech programs, such as information technology and health education courses."

DeMuth also said that many of the education tours develop into long-standing relationships. A group from Jamaica toured Oklahoma technology centers last year, and another delegation recently returned for an educational tour.

Carole Powell, a member of the Jamaican education delegation, said the team was greatly impressed by the Oklahoma *CareerTech* system.

"Oklahoma's technology centers are well equipped with state-of-the-art tools and machinery. In addition, the administrators and instructors not only are highly skilled but also seem very dedicated," she said.



Applause

FCCLA Scholarship Winner

Steven Sharrit, a culinary arts student at Northeast Technology Center, has been awarded the FCCLA Morris J. W. Gaebe Entrepreneurial Scholarship. The scholarship, which is presented to two recipients nationally, is worth \$10,000 per year and is renewable for four years. Sharrit will attend Johnson and Wales University, Miami, Fla. campus in the fall.

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ProStart prepares CareerTech students for food service/hospitality profession

Every time Americans decide to dine out, they help support an industry that employs about 10 million workers. And if growth trends continue, the food service workforce will grow to 12 million by 2006.

To meet this demand, the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education has teamed with the Oklahoma Restaurant Association (ORA) and the Hospitality Business Alliance (the educational branch of the National Restaurant Association and the American Hotel and Motel Association) to implement ProStart. The project is a School-to-Work initiative providing high school students with classroom training and internship experience in the food service/hospitality industry.

There are currently six ProStart programs in Oklahoma. They are located at Meridian Technology Center, Stillwater; Indian Capital Technology Center, Muskogee; Caddo-Kiowa Technology Center, Ft. Cobb; Metro Tech, South Bryant Campus; and Oklahoma City's John Marshall and Douglas High Schools.

New programs will be launched in August at Tulsa Technology Center, Lemley Campus; Will Rogers High School, Tulsa, and Pioneer Technology Center, Ponca City.

"According to the National Restaurant Association there is a great demand for skilled workers. Restaurant sales totaled \$376 billion in 2000," said

Carolyn LeGrand, family and consumer sciences education program specialist at the state CareerTech agency. "And by 2010, the food service/hospitality field will need 100,000 more managers."

ProStart is a two-year program featuring a curriculum designed by food service industry leaders and the National Restaurant Association. In addition to classroom instruction, students have to complete 400 hours of a paid internship.

After students complete the class work and internship, they can take the National Restaurant Association certification test.

LeGrand said nationally certified students have higher

starting salaries and better opportunities for advancement.

"Certification proves they (students) have been educated with curriculum recognized by the National Restaurant Association," she said.

"Students working towards a degree in hotel and restaurant administration at Oklahoma State University can receive college credit for their internships," LeGrand said. "Dr. Linda Hoops, with the Hospitality Business Alliance (HBA), is working with colleges and universities across the United States to make sure that ProStart is recognized nationwide. She is also working to raise the level of knowledge and skills for teachers by coordinating HBA Summer Institutes."



Meridian Technology Center was one of the first technology centers in Oklahoma to pilot the ProStart program. Pictured from left are Nancy Mitchell Watson, Culinary Arts instructor, Meridian Technology Center; James Marovec, director of Corporate Worksite Development, Hospitality Business Alliance; Angela Bertwell, Meridian Technology Center student; and William Nolan, manager of Worksite Relations, Hospitality Business Alliance.

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State DECA member receives prize for essay on free enterprise system

Oklahoma DECA member Tyson Shivers, Latta High School, is one of three winners in the Free Enterprise National Essay Contest.

Shivers received a \$1,500 check at the 12th Annual Pinnacle Awards, where he also delivered his essay, at the Sam Noble Special Events Center in Oklahoma City.

The essay contest is sponsored by the Sales and Marketing Executives International (SMEI) Academy of Achievement and Enterprise Square, USA. The competition honors three winning essays based on the subject: "Free Enterprise: Secret of America's Success."

The SMEI Academy of Achievement recognizes men and women who have made the free enterprise

system a success through their leadership and professionalism. SMEI began in 1935 as a professional organization focused on career development, service to members, and service to the profession.

Shivers, along with the other winners from Florida and Wisconsin, spent a weekend at the Waterford Hotel in Oklahoma City. Activities included lunch with Gov. Frank Keating and a tour of interesting points in the city.

President Jimmy Carter's son, James "Chip" Carter, was one of several dignitaries honored by the SMEI Academy of Achievement during the presentation ceremony.

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**Oklahoma Department of
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1500 West Seventh Avenue
Stillwater, OK 74074-4364**

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