

# expressions!

DELIVERING THE LATEST IN CAREERTECH NEWS

## State *CareerTech* Board accepts Buswell resignation, names interim director

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Dr. Phil Berkenbile was named interim state director at a special meeting of the State Board of Career and Technology Education. Berkenbile's previous position was chief of staff.

Berkenbile joined the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education in 1998, serving as associate state director of educational services. He previously served as Morrison's school superintendent from 1993-1998 and was an agricultural education program specialist at the state *CareerTech* agency for nearly eight years prior to that. He began his educational career as an agricultural education instructor and taught at Morrison High School for nearly 16 years.



*Berkenbile*

The State *CareerTech* Board also voted to accept the resignation of Director Pete Buswell at the special meeting. Buswell submitted his resignation on Friday, May 16, a day after the May State *CareerTech* Board meeting. His resignation was effective May 22, but he will stay on as a research analyst until July 31. The board is expected to begin the selection process for a new state director at the June board meeting.

In a written statement, Buswell said: "During the last four months, it has been my honor and great pleasure to serve as the state director of Oklahoma's career and technology education system. The staff at the Oklahoma Department of *CareerTech* Education are very talented and this entire system is outstanding."



*ODCTE employees Mary Dillingham, Nancy Stevens and Nalini Hosur were recognized at a State CareerTech Board meeting for completing the Oracle Database Certification Administrator (DBA) certification. From left are Dillingham, Stevens and*

*Hosur. Dillingham said the staff members received the Oracle DBA certification training at Francis Tuttle Technology Center for a reduced price.*

## Oklahoma students place in NCDA contest

Two Oklahoma students placed in the top three in their respective categories in a contest

sponsored by the National Career Development Association (NCDA). NCDA is a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA). Its mission is to promote career development and lifelong learning.

Amanda M.

Hern, a student at Red River Technology

Center, Duncan, placed first in the adult category of the poetry contest, and Donna Seymour, a student at Metro Technology Centers, Oklahoma City, placed second in the adult category of the poster contest.

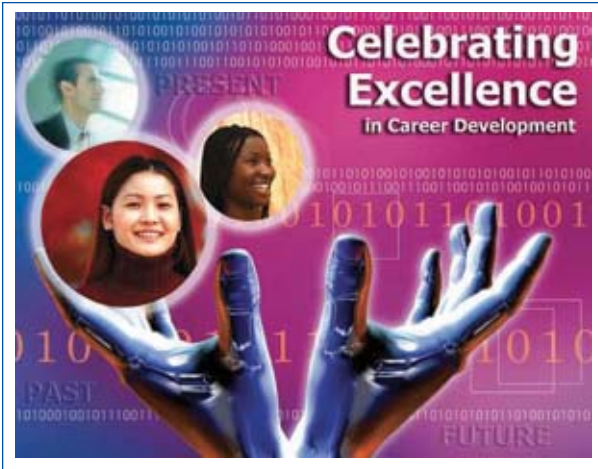
“The theme of this year’s contest was ‘Celebrating My Favorite Career,’” according to Kelly Arrington, Guidance coordinator at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

Hern is a married mother of three, who enrolled in Red River’s FOCUS program when she suddenly became the sole provider for her family. “FOCUS teaches a variety of skills from goal setting to choosing a career,” she said. “I chose to train in the Business and Information Technology area so I would be able to use my creative skills.”

FOCUS is a program that helps Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients gain the skills to enter the workforce.

Seymour is a postsecondary Web design student at Metro Tech, South Bryant Campus.

“She is extremely creative and explores a wide variety of design concepts,” said Anita Parks, Seymour’s instructor.



## Local DECA student elected to regional post

Cory Cox, a marketing education student from Del City, was recently elected as national Southern Region vice president at DECA’s 57th annual International Career Development Conference held in Orlando, Fla.

DECA, an international student organization associated with marketing education, is sponsored at the state level by the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

Cox was among dozens of candidates campaigning in the election to fill one of the four regional vice president positions to serve on the national officer team. The campaigning process

consisted of delegates participating in a screening, as well as caucuses, speeches, campaign booths and state delegate campaigning.

During his campaign, Cox created the theme, “Communicate with Cox—Leadership Guaranteed,” for marketing his leadership skills.

“My three years’ experience in DECA has given me the confidence to guarantee leadership to the Southern Region,” Cox said. “With this office, I guarantee that I will work hard to fulfill all the members’ expectations of me through my service as their leader.”



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# Metro Tech instructor wins excellence award

Demonstrating its strong commitment to education, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) recently announced the 2003 recipients of the Teacher Excellence Awards. Marjorie Hammond of Metro Technology Centers in Oklahoma City was among this year's winners.

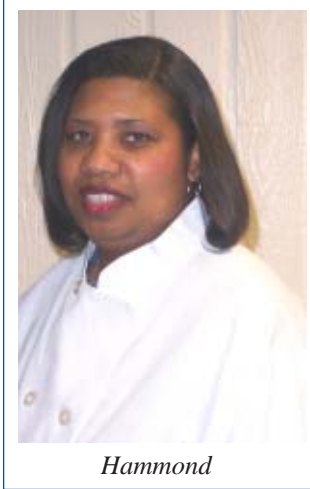
"We are proud to recognize the outstanding efforts of teachers in the restaurant and food service industry," said Mary M. Adolf, president and chief operating officer of the NRAEF. "Teachers like Ms. Hammond demonstrate how restaurants are the cornerstone of career and employment opportunities and have an enormous impact on the future of our industry."

The Teacher Excellence Award recognizes exceptional teachers who use the ProStart School-to-Career program in their classrooms. Developed by the NRAEF, the ProStart program prepares high school students for the job market and higher education through

coursework, work experience, credentials and scholarships.

The instructors honored with a Teacher

Excellence Award, based on exceptional dedication to the ProStart program, were nominated by School-to-Career directors in their states. The winners extended the program's curriculum by motivating their students to participate in internships and by using guest speakers, field trips and other opportunities within the industry to make the program even more successful.



*Hammond*

The award recipients

received an expense-paid trip to the National Restaurant Association's Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show in Chicago, Ill., where they were recognized at a special luncheon.

Celebrating its 84th year, the National Restaurant Association's Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show, is the largest single gathering of restaurant, food service and lodging professionals in North and South America.



***New Board Members***  
*The State CareerTech Board recently welcomed two new members. They are Randy Gilbert, a former agricultural education instructor at Lawton High School and current operations manager for Gilbert and Sons Trucking Co., Shawnee, and Gayle Miles-Scott, an accounting professor at the University of Central Oklahoma. Pictured from left are Sandy Garrett, state superintendent, Gilbert and Miles-Scott.*

## National *CareerTech* directors association names Oklahoman 'Star of Education'

The national association of state *CareerTech* directors recently honored Oklahoman Katrina Harper for her achievements as a youth leader in career and technology education.

Harper is a student at Byng High School and national president of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). She was one of 10 recipients of the National Association of State Directors of Career

Technical Education Consortium's (NASDCTEc) Star of Education Award during the association's spring conference in Washington, D.C.

The student category of the award recognizes young people who have demonstrated the highest levels of *CareerTech* education achievement,

leadership and volunteerism in their school or student organization.

NASDCTEc Executive Director Kimberly Green said, "Our members selected these Stars of Education as the best in the field this year and NASDCTEc is pleased to honor them. It is important to highlight the success stories in *CareerTech* education and all 10 award winners deserve kudos for their contributions to the field."

As national FCCLA president, Harper heads the career and technology student organization associated with family and consumer sciences

education. She represents more than 220,000 members in about 8,000 chapters nationwide and is also responsible for leading national meetings.

Harper was nominated for the award by Sandy Spavone, director of programs at the national FCCLA organization.



Harper

**"I am very pleased that Pioneer Place @222 is now a certified business incubator. The efforts involved in attaining the certification have required a tremendous level of commitment and dedication from all involved."**

Bonnie Cook  
Pioneer Technology  
Center

## Incubator supports rural business development

Bonnie Cook, Pioneer Technology Center's self-employment training coordinator and business incubator manager, recently announced a new incentive for potential clients. Pioneer Tech's business incubator, known as Pioneer Place @222, is located at Suite 4885 in the south building of the former White's Outlet Mall, in Blackwell.

Cook said new clients will be eligible for \$25,000 in agricultural economic development grants.

"They can receive this money because the facility is located in a rural area and, therefore, tenants qualify for economic development grants," she said.

The business incubator is a joint initiative between Pioneer Technology Center and the Blackwell Community Foundation, owners of the

facility. Business incubators are facilities designed to accelerate the development and success of start-up and existing businesses.

By providing affordable lease space and a wide array of on-site managerial, administrative and financial services, the incubator helps entrepreneurs and small business owners overcome some of the challenges faced by new companies.

Pioneer Place @222 has also been certified by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), after a rigorous evaluation and a thorough review process.

"I am very pleased that Pioneer Place @222 is now a certified business incubator," Cook said.

"The efforts involved in attaining the certification have required a tremendous level of commitment and dedication from all involved."