

Expressions!

OF OKLAHOMA VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

VSO presidents take stand against violence

“One Voice Against Violence,” a statewide, student-led initiative designed to prevent violence in schools, kicked-off Oct. 12 at a press briefing at the State Capitol.

The campaign, sponsored by Oklahoma’s seven vocational student organizations, ties in closely with a national campaign launched recently by the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (formerly known as the Future Homemakers of America). That national campaign is dubbed “STOP the Violence!” (Students Taking On Prevention).

More than 68,000 young Oklahomans in 2,000 vocational student organization chapters are potential participants in this statewide campaign, said Dr. Ann Benson, state vo-tech director. “That’s the combined membership of these seven organizations,” she said.

The seven VSOs, and the occupational areas they represent, include FFA, agricultural education;

HOSA, health occupations education; TSA, technology education; SKILLS USA-VICA, trade and industrial education; DECA, marketing education; FBLA/PBL, business education; and FHA/HERO, family and consumer sciences. The Oklahoma School-to-Work Student Advisory Council also participated in the campaign.

Oklahoma’s STOP initiative coincided with the national FCCLA pilot campaign which was also launched in 11 states.

“Adults have discussed, debated — even agonized — over how to address the problem of violence in schools. But, we all know young people are more likely to listen to their peers,” said Alan T. Rains, Jr., Washington, D.C., FCCLA’s executive director.

FCCLA received funding from the Community Oriented Policing Services division of the Department of Justice to implement its 11-state pilot program (Alabama, Arkansas, California, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Utah). Plans are to take the campaign nationwide.

In the STOP program, students learn practical skills to recognize, intervene and stop violence. High school students, recent graduates, and adult coordinators from the 11 states recently attended a train-the-trainer program conducted by FCCLA in Washington, D.C. A delegation of five Oklahomans attended that training. They included Denise Morris, Oklahoma’s state FHA/HERO advisor, Brenda Brixey, Oklahoma’s STOP coordinator, and three past state FHA/HERO officers.

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Vocational student organization presidents recently participated in a student-led initiative to prevent violence in schools hosted at the State Capitol. Pictured are back row from left, Valerie Reid, TSA; Tara Cox, FBLA/PBL representative; Muhammad Allah, Skills USA-VICA; Jack Hedrick, School-to-Work Student Advisory Committee; Josh Shipp, DECA; and Anna Clovis; FHA/HERO. Front row, from left are Jarrod Cavner, FBLA, and Mel Albright, FFA.

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Six educators receive Oklahoma Vo-Tech Foundation's highest honor

Six Oklahoma educators were inducted into the Oklahoma Vo-Tech Hall of Fame in ceremonies on Oct. 25 at the Wes Watkins Center for International Trade Development (CITD) in Stillwater. The event was sponsored by the Oklahoma Vo-Tech Foundation, said Dr. Ann Benson, state vo-tech director and foundation president.

Induction into the Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed by the Foundation, Benson said.

"It is given to recognize outstanding professional and personal achievements which have brought honor and distinction to the Foundation and vocational-technical education in Oklahoma," she said.

Thirty Oklahomans have been inducted into the Vo-Tech Hall of Fame since it was created in 1990. Previous inductees include two governors, college deans and professors, state business leaders, vocational educators and state vo-tech staff members.

This year's inductees were:

- The late Dale Hughey, a former superintendent of Woodward schools and retired area vo-tech schools coordinator for the Oklahoma Department of Vocational-Technical Education. Hughey worked at the state vo-tech from 1966-75.

- Dr. Joe Lemley, the first director and superintendent of Tulsa Area Vo-Tech School, now known as Tulsa Technology Center. Lemley was honored for his years of service in vocational education by having a Tulsa Tech campus named after him.

- John Hopper, the first superintendent of Central Tech, Drumright. During Hopper's 25 years at the helm of Central Tech, the school achieved a reputation for being an innovative and advanced facility.

- Marvin Stokes, who served as superintendent of Byng schools for 62 years. During Stokes' tenure as superintendent, Byng High School and Byng Elementary School both received the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Award.

- Vic Van Hook, retired deputy director of the Oklahoma Department of Vocational-Technical Education. Van Hook also served as president of the American Vocational Association (now known as the Association for Career and Technical Education) and was part of a U.S. delegation that studied the Soviet Union's vocational programs in 1975.

- Wayne Miller, former director of OSU-Okmulgee and OSU vice president. As director of OSU-Okmulgee, Miller saw enrollment double, oversaw the addition of new buildings and instructional equipment, and witnessed the granting of college credit for OSU-Okmulgee courses.



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Mid-Del EV program receives ASE certification

Mid-Del Technology Center has received national and statewide acclaim for its ground-breaking Electric Vehicle (EV) program, the first of its kind in the nation.

The technology center's EV program has been designated as a Continuing Automotive Service Education Automotive Service Excellence Certified Training Provider. Gov. Frank Keating presented the certification to John Matlock, director of vocational education for Mid-Del schools.

The award ceremony also featured a demonstration of the Toyota Prius. The Prius is powered by the Toyota Hybrid System (THS), a revolutionary concept that features both a gasoline engine and an electric motor. The Prius has an onboard system that recharges the batteries while the vehicle is being driven.

Sandy Stephens, Mid-Del Technology Center director of business and industry services, said the Prius, loaned to Mid-Del by the Toyota Motor Co., can get between 60-80 miles per gallon and has a range of 800 miles.

"The day of the shade tree mechanic is over. All you have to do is look at the car and see how different it is," Keating said.

The Continuing Automotive Service Education (CASE) designation means that the EV program has

been successfully evaluated by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation and certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. This means that the Mid-Del EV program is now nationally certified to train auto-technicians in electric vehicle technology, Stephens said.



Pictured from left are Gov. Frank Keating and Mike Anderson, Mid-Del Technology Center automotive instructor. Anderson is showing Keating the inside of a Toyota Prius car which uses both electric power and a gasoline engine. Mid-Del Technology recently received national certification to teach electric vehicle technology.



State Vo-Tech Director Dr. Ann Benson spent several days this fall touring many of Oklahoma's largest employers in an effort to cement the ties that bind vocational-technical education and business and industry. Among those are Ditch Witch, Perry; Mrs. Smith's Bakeries, Stilwell, and Seagate Technology, Inc., Oklahoma City. "While it was a pleasure to tour these impressive facilities, the highlight of our visit was the time we spent with business leaders learning about their operations and how much they have appreciated the help of our vo-tech system," Benson said. Shown during the visit to Seagate are, from left, Dr. Earl Cowan, superintendent of Canadian Valley Technology Center; Don Colton, Seagate Technology's top Oklahoma executive; Benson, and John Nelson, president of the board of education at Canadian Valley.

Banker's success story begins at Metro Tech

The seeds of Jackie Listen's successful banking career were sown in an auto body repair course in 1979.

Listen, vice president of the McClain County National Bank in Purcell, says he learned a lot about values during his senior year in high school as a student at Metro Tech. There, he learned the value of being ready for opportunity when it knocked and the value of mentors.

That's one reason he tries to give young people a chance today.

Listen grabbed the opportunity to enroll in the auto body program during his junior year of high school. Skills gained there helped him land a job where he worked his way up to \$20,000 a year working as an auto technician at Bob Moore Cadillac. This was the year after he graduated from high school.

Listen was ready for his first opportunity by keeping an open mind during his sophomore year at Jones High School.

"A representative from Metro Tech came to school," Listen said. "Until then, I had never considered vo-tech. I'd been on the farm all my life. But, this sounded like something different."

Listen said he looked forward to his auto body repair class every day even though it meant a 45 minute drive from Jones High School.

"It was a class where you could see the finished product," Listen said.

It was also a class with an instructor who instilled a strong work ethic in his students.

Stephen Prieto, Listen's instructor at that time, believed that knowledge is of no use unless it's shared. Sometimes that knowledge has to be learned through experience — and making the effort to prevent someone else making a mistake.

Don Dodd, from Bob Moore Cadillac, was



another notable mentor in Listen's young life. Dodd taught Listen to do things right. Eddie Rule, the body shop manager, encouraged him to give courtesy estimates above and beyond what the customers asked for when they came in.

"Often, those customers wanted me to go on and fix other things, too. This was a niche I created for when things were slow. I learned how to sell," Listen said.

And from that niche, he earned \$20,000, after graduating high school, which enabled him to help with finances at home.

Auto body is where Listen said he learned about physical work and problem solving. It was also a stepping stone to other things in his life.

From those beginnings, Listen went in to real estate and worked for 11 years with his future father-in-law, Paul Howard, another mentor, who taught him the art of salesmanship. Because of his experiences and a good work ethic, Listen knew how to sell. And, these skills led into the vice presidency at the McClain County National Bank with branches in Lexington and MCNB Mortgage branches in Purcell and Norman.

"Now, through the bank, I'm involved in Junior Achievement. I believe in passing along whatever I know to kids today who face so much more than I did," Listen said.



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Construction program prepares female inmates for workforce

When Cindy Dutton, Mary Buchanan, Teresa Kelly-Preble and 21 of their classmates moved into their new classroom on Nov. 1, their emotions were far beyond the normal feeling of enjoying the “newness.”

They also felt enormous pride in craftsmanship . . . because it was their hard work that built those new surroundings.

In many cases, they’re more than classmates. They’re also cellmates — all inmates in the Dr. Eddie Warrior Correctional facility at Taft and students in either the facility’s Construction Technology program or the Building Maintenance Technology program. They are learning vital skills with which they can support themselves and their families when they are released from prison sometime in the coming year.

The programs are cooperative efforts between the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Oklahoma Department of Vocational and Technical Education. The partnership at the facility is just one of 20 cooperative efforts the vo-tech agency has with DOC and in private correctional facilities statewide.

The women began the construction project — a 3,800 square foot metal building — in April and remained on schedule to complete it by Nov. 1. It will contain two offices, a testing room, a tool room, restrooms, and a large shop area.

Serving as contractors on the project were Willie Bowler, construction technology instructor, and David Gates, building maintenance instructor. Both say the project has been a real boon to helping their students learn.

“It’s given them a chance to apply the theory and lessons they learn in the classroom in a real life setting,” said Bowler, a veteran of more than 25 years in the construction industry.

Bowler said both programs are open-entry, which means that new inmates can enter at any time. Students receive 960 hours of instruction, which takes about 10 months.

“We know that if we can provide these women

with solid job skills, they are much less likely to return to prison,” said Angela Reagan, the facility’s public information officer.

That’s important to inmates, too.

“I want to use the skills I’ve learned here to get a good job,” said Kelly-Preble. “This has been a great program with great instructors who take the time to work individually with you. And, it’s allowed us to show what we can do.”

Reagan described the construction project as a winning combination. “We (DOC) get a new building, the women get a chance to practice their skills, and Oklahoma taxpayers save about \$50,000,” she said.

Cost of the project was split between the Department of Corrections and the Oklahoma Department of Vocational-Technical Education. Bowler said the construction job was first bid out to private contractors, but the low bid, about \$120,000, was about 40 percent more than available funds.

Bowler estimated the final cost of the project would be about \$70,000.



Keli Green, Tulsa, builds an inside wall of a new educational facility at the Dr. Eddie Warrior Correctional Center at Taft. A student in the Center’s construction technology program, Green says she is learning marketable skills she can use after her release from custody. The program is placing more than 85 percent of its eligible graduates in construction-related jobs.

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Skills to Rebuild wins Governor's Award

Almost six months after tornadoes devastated large parts of the state, the Oklahoma Department of Vocational-Technical Education's Skills to Rebuild program is still training construction workers and also winning praise from Gov. Frank Keating.

The Skills to Rebuild initiative, which was started to help the state recover from the May tornadoes, recently won the Governor's Commendation Award for Quality. The construction training initiative was one of 26 winners at Quality Oklahoma Team Day '99 hosted at the State Capitol on Oct. 21.

Pam Stacey, Skills to Rebuild coordinator, said the Governor's Commendation Award judges state agency programs on measurable results, originality and use of the Quality Oklahoma processes.

She said one of the strong points of Skills to Rebuild is that it includes many different state employees at several different agencies.

"Skills to Rebuild is a broad-based partnership that includes 16 technology centers, various divisions of the state vo-tech, business and industry and state agencies such as the Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management," she said.

According to Stacey, Skills to Rebuild has trained more than 1,600 participants and held more than 200 classes. In addition, 79 percent of the participants say they have been able to apply the construction skills they learned.



The Skills to Rebuild initiative recently won a Governor's Commendation Award for Quality in ceremonies held at the State Capitol. Pictured, from left, are Pam Stacey, Skills to Rebuild coordinator; Larry Bullock, Oklahoma Department of Vo-Tech Education; Nicole Bel, Oklahoma Department of Vo-Tech Education; and Jodie Eiland, carpentry instructor at Gordon Cooper Technology Center.

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