EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Oklahoma's Career and Technology Education System is focused on developing a world-class workforce. The CareerTech System delivers educational experiences through a network of 399 PK-12 school districts, 29 technology center districts, 13 skills center sites and 32 adult basic education providers. CareerTech's ultimate goal is to improve Oklahoma's economy by providing individuals with training and skills necessary to succeed in the workplace and providing companies the workforce required to compete globally. CareerTech addresses workforce demand by leveraging business/educational partnerships, enhancing career awareness and increasing educational attainment for individuals across the state. This business plan shows Oklahoma's critical need for workforce development. CareerTech has had a proven impact, and state resources are vital to continued workforce development.

VISION
We are securing Oklahoma's future by developing a world-class workforce.

MISSION
We prepare Oklahomans to succeed in the workplace, in education and in life.

GOALS
- Educational Attainment
- Career Awareness
- Business/Educational Partnerships
- Agency Operations

VALUES
We believe in ... 
- Service to our customers and stakeholders.
- Data-driven decisions.
- High-quality educational experiences.
- Innovation, flexibility and accountability.
- Diversity and inclusion.
- Ethical behavior.
- Commitment to excellence.
- Exceptional professional development and technical assistance.
For over 100 years, Oklahoma CareerTech has served the state, connecting students and businesses with education, training and work experience to drive the economy. That century of responsive service shows ODCTE’s exemplary record of adapting to evolving industries including aerospace, construction, agriculture, manufacturing, health, information technology and energy. However, there is no time like the present. Oklahoma’s industry clusters have potential for major growth over the next five years.

The Governor’s Workforce Council-Approved Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act plan illustrates the impact in the graphic below. CareerTech plays a key role in WIOA as well as the council’s initiative around the Centers for Workforce Excellence. ODCTE’s curriculum and training cater directly to these industries that, by 2024, will add 33,000 new jobs paying $80,000 per year on average. Is Oklahoma prepared to meet the workforce demands? Nearly 1 in 2 new jobs will require a certificate, credential or degree, but in 2019, less than one-third had that background. There is work to be done, and Oklahoma CareerTech will deliver.
ODCTE’s diverse, industry-informed educational opportunities offer programming vital to these critical areas. CareerTech also offers career planning services, business and industry partnerships, work-based learning – and a greater-than 90% student placement rate. Below are just a few examples of how CareerTech meets specific industry sector needs.

**Agriculture and Biosciences** – Agricultural education, biotechnology, family and consumer sciences, health careers, nursing, agricultural mechanics, biomedical science, surgical technology, veterinary care, medical imaging, behavioral medicine, vision care and equine science.

**Aerospace and Defense** – Aerospace, computer science, engineering, cybersecurity, electronics and information technology, databases, airframes and powerplant.

**Construction** – Carpentry, masonry, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, heavy equipment operation, cabinetmaking and computer-aided design and drafting.

**Energy** – Pipeline technology, welding, pre-engineering STEM, metal fabrication, heavy equipment, electronics, machining, business information management, applied engineering.

**Information and Financial Services** – Programming, computer science, applications, accounting, communications, financial services, banking services, management and administrative support careers.

**Manufacturing** – Production process development, quality assurance, maintenance installation and repair, welding, and metal fabrication.

**Transportation and Distribution** – Truck driver training, pipeline technology, databases and automotive services.

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**OKCareerGuide.org**

CareerTech provides OKCareerGuide.org as an easy-to-use tool to help all Oklahomans guide their future. They can take assessments, identify occupations, establish education plans and, ultimately, connect with employers. They gain immediate access to the latest job opportunities and learn how their personal interests line up with the working world and employers’ needs.
The spread of COVID-19 contributed to a decline in enrollment, but the health care crisis has not diminished the value of the educational opportunities offered by the CareerTech system.

Oklahoma CareerTech enrollment totaled more than 455,000.

More than a third (128,436) of Oklahoma sixth-12th graders were enrolled in CareerTech courses, as were nearly half (86,915) of ninth-12th graders.

More than 86,000 students learned leadership skills in CareerTech student organizations, an increase from previous years.

Oklahoma CareerTech Skills Centers, through 1,541 enrollments, offered specialized training to adult and juvenile offenders. CareerTech offered first-time truck driver training through its Skills Centers.

Nearly all students - 94% – had a positive placement after completing CareerTech, either continuing their education, obtaining employment or joining the military.

Oklahoma CareerTech students earned 18,685 certificates and/or industry-recognized credentials.

More than 3,300 students inducted into National Technical Honor Society.

CareerTech responded to the meat processing industry’s workforce shortage caused by COVID-19 by establishing online training and certification for meat processors, demonstrating CareerTech’s agility and flexibility to respond quickly to industry challenges.

Energy Career Cluster
Oklahoma is one of only five states in the nation with an identified energy cluster of CTE programming designed for high-skill, high-wage and in-demand energy sector occupations. Created as part of the Oklahoma Energy Workforce Consortium, ODCTE PK-12 school classes and technology center courses have tailor-made material for students seeking careers as lineworkers, field service technicians, mechanics, service unit operators, stationary engineers or petroleum engineers.
Optimizing Workforce Development for Oklahoma

**FY21 General Appropriation** ................................................................. $133,470,385

Being mindful of the current economic situation, it is critical to keep the workforce development steady in these challenging times. To do our part as CareerTech, our request is to maintain our FY21 budget as of July 1, 2020.

**FY22 General Appropriation Request** .............................................. $133,470,385

**Additional investment opportunities needed:**

- Support growth of current unfunded programs in PK-12 schools, such as agricultural education, family and consumer sciences; science, technology, engineering, and math; business, marketing and information technology........................................ $1,200,000

- Expand Skills Centers and dropout recovery to meet the needs of individuals working to reach their career goals while turning the corner in their lives................. $750,000

- Meet the statutory requirement of funding flex benefit allowance for technology centers................................. $805,541

- Enrich industry sectors with customized training and specialized workforce educational programs in all delivery arms meeting the needs of these industries: aerospace, agriculture, construction, energy, health, information technology, manufacturing and transportation................. $6,200,000
FALCON McDOULETT  
CANADIAN VALLEY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Falcon McDoulett knew he wasn’t the type to sit at a desk and answer emails all day. He needed to work with his hands. In 2018, his friends convinced him to join the machining program at Canadian Valley Technology Center in El Reno. That took him to SkillsUSA’s national contest and eventually a job offer from Huntington Ingalls Industries, a Virginia shipbuilding company that works with the U.S. Navy. Today, the former Tuttle High School student gets to use those skills making parts for nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers – some of the most advanced engineering marvels the world has ever seen. He has also joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, which will open doors to more career opportunities unavailable to civilians.

WILLIAM POWELL  
LEXINGTON SKILLS CENTER

William Powell was serving a 10-year prison sentence when he was accepted into the licensed trades program at the CareerTech Skills Center inside Lexington Correctional Center. Before he started his training to be an electrician, Powell said, his life was completely void of any source of pride. Through the Skills Centers training program, Powell completed his General Education Development certificate and later became a certified unlimited electrical journeyman and contractor. Today, he owns his own electrical business, Powell Electric, in Ponca City.

Aerospace Career Cluster

CareerTech is proposing establishment of a state aviation technology center with new, centralized and customized training that will boost our aerospace industry into the stratosphere. This would expand upon ODCTE’s wide range of STEM PK-12 school and tech center programs, which include advanced composite material training, avionics and electronics technician and unmanned aerial systems.
WILLIAM POWELL
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BILL LEYRER AND TERRELL COX
RED RIVER TECHNOLOGY CENTER

More than 30 years ago, Red River Technology Center electronics instructor Bill Leyrer was a SkillsUSA district and national officer from the same Duncan tech center where he now teaches. Last year, he paid it forward and saw one of his students follow in his footsteps. Terrell Cox was Oklahoma SkillsUSA postsecondary president for 2019-2020 and the first RRTC student elected since his instructor’s day. The Duncan High School graduate said Leyrer challenged him to push himself and take initiative in social situations. That advice helped him take first place in the job interview category of 2019’s state leadership contest. Cox said if it weren’t for Leyrer, he doesn’t know what he’d be doing today.

RAMSEY MILLER
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS AT YUKON HIGH SCHOOL

Former CareerTech student Ramsey Miller is a labor and delivery nurse in Virginia – and a hero. Earlier this year, she put her nursing training to the test, saving two lives in the Philippines and earning HOSA’s 2020 National Hero award. She and a colleague were in Manila for a nursing mission trip when a deadly typhoon struck. While the storm raged, they found a woman giving birth in the street, and they acted quickly and with only primitive supplies, helping with the difficult, dangerous birth and saving the lives of the woman and her daughter. They also helped the infant take her first breath when she was in distress. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma’s nursing program, Miller has passion for health care that was fueled by her time as a health occupations student at Yukon High School.

Get Skilled. GET PAID.

Online Meat Certification
Responding to meat processing worker shortages, CareerTech now offers self-paced online meat processing courses on meat safety, evaluation and selection, as well as other topics. The courses help students obtain industry certification later, preparing Oklahomans for careers in the meat industry.
TETHERTECH SAFETY
CADDI KOIWA TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Safety has always been a chief concern of trucking company owner Billy Turner. Alarmed by fatal accidents in 2019, he began looking for ways to stop trucks from losing wheels – a common cause of fatal truck wrecks. Turner and lifelong friend Troy Miller connected with Caddo Kiowa Technology Center in Fort Cobb, and TetherTech became a CKTC Business Development Center and Incubator tenant. That relationship led to the patented TetherTech Hub System, which runs a steel cable through an axle tube tethered to a pair of wheel end caps. It keeps trucks’ wheels from flying off when a bearing fails. The product, installed in less than an hour, saves both money and lives.

NATASHA SMITH
UNION HIGH SCHOOL

In 2009, Natasha Smith wasn’t sure what to do after high school. Then, a friend urged her to enroll in office management technology at Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee. There, she sparked her love of CareerTech education and joined Business Professionals of America, serving as state parliamentarian and national postsecondary vice president. She went on to a degree in career technical and workforce development from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Today, she teaches multimedia and web design at Tulsa’s Union High School. In August 2020, she was named New Teacher of the Year in Business Marketing and Information Technology Education during CareerTech’s summer conference, Oklahoma Summit. She also serves on BPA’s board of trustees.

Virtual Job Shadow
CareerTech established VirtualJobShadow.com in 2020 to empower students and job seekers to learn more about their interests, potential careers and more. The site features videos with diverse men and women at real worksites, giving a real-world, modern look into the workforce. It also has career planning tools, quizzes to identify career interests, a resume builder and a job search tool to help users on their road to a career.
For more information, please contact

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