Hello, Friends! This will be my final time to write for the Career Advisor. As many of you know, I am retiring in June. When I began working at the OK Dept. of CareerTech eleven years ago, one of the first things I asked to do was create a way to get relevant, timely information out to counselors, both at the schools and technology centers. Thus, the Career Advisor was born! I have enjoyed researching articles that I thought would have helped me as a school counselor and therefore might be of interest to you. I hope you have enjoyed it.

I will be leaving the Career Advisor in the very capable hands of Shawna Nord, the new Academic Coordinator for CareerTech and you will continue to receive important information each month. You will find details about Shawna and our new CAC Manager, Cari Lousch, below. We are so excited about the addition of these wonderful counselors and educators to our team. Finally, I want to tell each of you how much I have enjoyed working for you at the state department of CareerTech. I hope in some small way, I have been of service to you. You all do such great things for Oklahoma students!

Tommi

Important Information for Fall 2019:

1) Changes for CareerTech OCAS Subject Codes for 2019-20 are located here. (Scroll down) The document with changes only will be very helpful. Newly approved CTE courses counting for OKPromise and the CollegePrep/WorkReady curriculum are located here as well.

2) Please remember to change the Instructional Level in your SIS for the approved CareerTech courses (sent to you by your local technology center) to “college level”. This will assure your school receives postsecondary opportunities points on the A-F Report Card beginning in 2019-20.

3) Last month I told you about the 2019-2020 changes in FACS courses. These courses are changing to yearlong courses. Our advice is to enroll your student in the entire course even if they request only a semester. This will save you many, many scheduling headaches in the future!

4) If you have questions, please contact us.

SAVE THE DATE: GUIDANCEFEST 2019
October 1, 2019 – Northwest Tech Center, Fairview, OK
October 2, 2019 – Kiamichi Tech Center, McAlester, OK
October 3, 2019 – Francis Tuttle Tech Center, Rockwell Campus, Okla. City, OK
October 8, 2019 – Tulsa Tech Center, Owasso, OK
October 10, 2019 – Great Plains Tech Center, Lawton, OK

Registration will be available in August!
Beginning June 1st, the Academic Coordinator for the OK Dept. of CareerTech will be Shawna Nord. Shawna has been a high school counselor at Mustang and Edmond North for many years. She is highly experienced in OCAS subject codes, scheduling, transcripting rules and other academic issues. In addition, she is an expert on AP – including going through the pilot with AP last year! She is here to help you with your CareerTech and academic questions!

Here is her contact information: shawna.nord@careertech.ok.gov  Phone: 405-743-5524

The new Manager for the Career and Academic Connections (CAC) division for the OK Dept. of CareerTech is Cari Lousch. Cari was a high school counselor, has worked for the OSRHE (when Student Prep was EPAS), and has recently worked as a Senior Account Executive ACT, traveling around the nation and sharing information about student assessment and career development. Cari is here to help you with your assessment, career development and CareerTech questions!

Her contact information is cari.lousch@careertech.ok.gov  Phone: 405-743-5159

Please consider this: I know you have many, many student events to consider when you schedule the ACT, SAT and other tests. However, one other activity I would ask you to consider is the CareerTech Student Organization’s state competitions. Unfortunately, these are held in April (and have been held in April for years before that became “testing month”). These competitions cannot be held until students have nearly completed their training and education in their CareerTech programs. These competitions prepare your students with skills including, public speaking, interviewing, resume’ writing, hands-on work skills and many others. Your CareerTech teachers and technology center can give you the dates of these events as they are scheduled years in advance. Each year we have concerned and upset parents and students contact us when they cannot compete in an event they have prepared and trained for all year because they have to take the ACT or SAT. There are usually several dates to choose from when giving the ACT, SAT, etc. And I know it is a very difficult job to schedule these exams. I just wanted to make you aware of the situation. Please remember CareerTech Student Organizations when you schedule testing for next year. Thank you for considering all student activities.

Working from Their “Why” – The five finalists for 2019 School Counselor of the Year share how they got on the path to being a school counselor and what keeps them there. – from ASCA

Misconceptions Around School Counselors – Mandy Savitz-Romer – from Harvard Graduate School of Education and Erica Harris

- Conducting a Peer-Led Mental Health Chat – from For High School Counselors
- 10 Reasons Teens Have So Much Anxiety Today – from Psychology Today
- Trying to be “Perfect” is Killing Our Teens and We’re to Blame – from Grown & Flown Blog
- Teaching Teenagers to Cope with Social Stress – from The New York Times
- 4 Ways Cannabis Harms the Teenage Brain – from Amen Clinics
- ADHD and Lying: What You Need to Know – from Understood

The most consequential, and least informed, decision that college students make – from The Washington Post

Video for the beginning of school: Student vs. Teacher

If you have questions or comments, please contact me:

Tommi Leach, M.Ed, Academic Coordinator
Oklahoma Department of CareerTech
1500 W. 7th Ave.
Stillwater, OK 74074
tommi.leach@careertech.ok.gov
405-743-5524

My new job...