

**STATE BOARD OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD
OLIVER HODGE BUILDING, ROOM 500 CR2
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

August 13, 2026

The State Board of Career and Technology Education began its regular meeting at 9:04 a.m. Thursday, August 13, 2026, at the Oklahoma State Department of Education, 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and the meeting was also streamed on YouTube. Notice of the meeting and the final agenda were posted in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act prior to 8:59 a.m. on August 12, 2026, in accordance with 25 O.S. § 311 (A)(9).

The following members of the State Board of Career and Technology Education were present in person:

Mr. Brent Haken, state director, ex-officio nonvoting member
Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City
Mr. Michael Brown, Lawton
Mr. Peter Dillingham, Enid
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, Tulsa
Mr. Rob Seeman, Morris

The following members were absent:

Mr. Lindel Fields, state superintendent of public instruction and chair of the board
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher
Mr. Randy Gilbert, Tecumseh
Mr. Leonard McCullough, Tulsa

Attendees from the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education and other guests:

See Attachment A.

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

Director Haken called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Ms. Ashley Rink called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

**1.02 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, SALUTE TO THE OKLAHOMA STATE FLAG
AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance, Salute to the Oklahoma State Flag and a moment of silence were led by Director Haken.

1.03 DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Haken welcomed the board members and guests. He reported that technology center full-time programs and K-12 programs were beginning for the new school year, with continued statewide interest in expanding CareerTech opportunities.

Director Haken discussed the recent ceremonial signing of statewide articulation agreements with OSU Institute of Technology and OSU-Oklahoma City. The agreements will allow eligible technology center students who complete full-time programs and earn industry credentials to receive college credit. He recognized Jessica Ventris, Bryan Hall and their team for their work to finalize the agreements and noted that additional colleges had expressed interest in participating.

Director Haken also reported on the successful CareerTech Summit and the continued momentum surrounding K-12 embedded programs, technology center enrollment and Jobs for America's Graduates. He concluded by noting that the board would have additional time to discuss the agency's appropriations request before taking action at a future meeting.

No action was taken.

1.04 MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2026, REGULAR MEETING

Michael Brown moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2026, regular meeting. Peter Dillingham seconded the motion.

Voting Results:

Rob Seeman, yes

Shaelynn Haning, yes

Peter Dillingham, yes

Michael Brown, yes

Brian Bobek, abstained

Following the vote, the board was advised that the motion did not receive the number of affirmative votes required for approval. Legal counsel clarified that a board member is permitted to vote to approve minutes even if the member was not present at the meeting because approval establishes the minutes as the board's official record. Counsel further advised that the board could reconsider the matter, amend the minutes later if necessary or table the item until a future meeting.

No motion to reconsider was made. The motion to approve the July 16, 2026, regular meeting minutes failed, and the minutes were not approved. No further action was taken.

2 RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2.01 PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF THE 59TH ANNUAL OKLAHOMA SUMMIT – MS. GINA HUBBARD, DIRECTOR OF STATEWIDE OUTREACH.

Ms. Gina Hubbard presented an overview of the 59th Annual Oklahoma Summit, held in Tulsa in partnership with the Oklahoma Association of Career and Technology Education (OkACTE). The event had 4,515 registered attendees, approximately 200 more than the previous year. More than 210 Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education employees attended, volunteered, presented or supported their respective divisions.

Ms. Hubbard highlighted keynote speaker Daron Roberts, who delivered a message about perseverance, leadership and professional growth. She also recognized the CareerTech educators who formed the Centennial Choir and performed "Oklahoma!" and the national anthem during the opening session.

Mustang Public Schools received the PK-12 Award of Excellence for providing comprehensive, high-quality career pathways across CareerTech program areas and creating meaningful opportunities for students. State Superintendent Lindel Fields participated in presenting the award.

Ms. Hubbard also reported on the Oklahoma CareerTech Foundation Golf Tournament, held at South Lakes Golf Course in Jenks. Preliminary estimates indicated that the tournament raised approximately \$8,000 to \$9,000 to support student scholarships and CareerTech student organization state conferences.

Ms. Hubbard concluded the presentation by sharing a promotional video developed through a partnership between the statewide marketing committee, representing 28 technology centers, and AMG. The video featured students and industry representatives discussing CareerTech's role in addressing workforce needs, providing industry credentials and career pathways, and helping students develop technical, leadership and communication skills.

Director Haken added that the Oklahoma Summit provides required professional development for CareerTech educators and helps connect teachers with the statewide system and the services provided by CareerTech divisions.

No action was taken.

2.02 PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF JAG NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS AND UPDATE ON THE ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY, TANF AND CTE DIVISION – DR. STEPHANIE COCA, STATE JAG LEADER; STATE DIRECTOR, ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY; AND TANF CTE DIVISION MANAGER.

Dr. Stephanie Coca provided an update on the Adult Education and Family Literacy, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Career and Technology Education (TANF CTE), and Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) programs.

Dr. Coca reported that Adult Education and Family Literacy, operating under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, serves individuals age 16 and older who are not enrolled in school and have not earned a high school diploma. The program also provides English language, reading and writing instruction to individuals from other countries. She highlighted a new diploma pathway that allows qualifying individuals to combine previously completed high school coursework with GED and HiSET examination scores. Approximately 200 diplomas have been awarded through the pathway since February.

Director Haken noted that the board previously approved rules supporting the diploma pathway following legislative authorization. He explained that the pathway allows the program to evaluate each participant's prior accomplishments rather than requiring individuals who nearly completed high school to begin the process again.

Dr. Coca reported that the TANF CTE program assists eligible adults with dependent children by providing access to CareerTech training, supportive services and employment assistance. The program operates at 23 technology centers and is supported by three state program specialists and 16 TANF navigators. The program works with participants to identify training that leads to employment opportunities within their communities and supports their transition to self-sustaining careers.

Dr. Coca also presented an overview of JAG, which serves Oklahoma students in grades 10-12 through 13 statewide programs. JAG works to prevent students from dropping out of school, develop employability and leadership skills, introduce students to career pathways, connect them with employers and provide 12 months of support following graduation. She explained that JAG specialists serve as teachers, counselors, coaches, advocates and mentors while helping students access job-shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, technology center programs, higher education and employment.

Dr. Coca recognized the following Oklahoma recipients of national JAG awards:

- Ronald "Wes" Jackson, JAG Cornerstone Award
- Veronica Tuttle, Employer and Community Impact Award
- Alisha William-Reed, JAG Advantage Implementor Award

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- Paul Duit, Data Integrity and Excellence Award
- Karri Fulmer, Headrush Trailblazer Award

Mr. Jackson, a JAG specialist with McAlester Public Schools, discussed the program's impact on students facing barriers to graduation, postsecondary education and employment. He reported a 100% graduation rate among his participating seniors and more than \$101,000 secured to support their postsecondary education and training. He also described the individualized assistance and continued contact provided to graduates as they transition into technology center programs, college and employment.

Ms. Veronica Tuttle, a JAG specialist at Broken Bow High School, discussed the employer and community partnerships developed through her program. Students participate in employer tours to explore local career opportunities and organize a community service event that distributes donated clothing, household goods and other necessities to families at no cost. Ms. Tuttle emphasized the program's role in helping students overcome personal and economic barriers while developing responsibility, gratitude and career awareness.

Director Haken stated that Oklahoma was entering its third year of operating JAG as a statewide initiative in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. He explained that the program was added to reach students facing barriers who might not otherwise be served through existing CareerTech programs. He also noted that the agency had requested legislative funding to continue and expand the program.

No action was taken.

3 MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ITEMS

3.01 FY28 Appropriations Request Discussion – Mr. Brent Haken, State Director of Career and Technology Education.

Director Haken introduced the FY28 appropriations request discussion and directed the board to the FY27 request included in the meeting packet. Discussion was temporarily paused to conclude Item 2.02 and resumed afterward. He explained that the preliminary discussion was intended to gather board input before a formal FY28 request was developed and presented for consideration.

Director Haken reported that CareerTech received approximately \$44 million in increased legislative funding during the previous three years, including approximately \$28 million in one-time funding. During that period, enrollment increased by at least 6,000 students in technology center full-time programs and nearly 12,000 students in high school programs. Despite this growth, approximately 7,400 students remained on technology center waiting lists during the previous year, and demand was expected to continue increasing.

The board discussed potential strategies for expanding capacity, including:

- Offering high school CareerTech programs during evening or alternative hours;
- Expanding apprenticeship opportunities;
- Increasing adult tuition to more closely reflect instructional costs and maximize available Pell Grant funding;
- Pursuing federal, interagency and private funding;
- Partnering with local economic development organizations;
- Creating competitive grants for innovative expansion proposals; and
- Targeting areas of the state that do not currently receive technology center services.

Director Haken reviewed the primary components being considered for the FY28 request. The flexible benefit allowance would be adjusted as necessary to account for anticipated increases in employee health insurance costs. He noted that the legislature has historically funded these mandatory increases.

Workforce training funds would be used to expand program capacity and reduce student waiting lists. Director Haken reported that eliminating the waiting list had previously been estimated to require \$41.6 million. CareerTech subsequently received \$10 million toward that need and requested an additional \$31 million during the prior appropriations cycle. Updated enrollment and waiting-list data were expected to be available in October and would be used to refine the FY28 request.

Director Haken reported that approximately 280 new K-12 CareerTech programs had been added during the previous three years. Approximately \$5 million to \$5.5 million would be needed to support continued program growth, including instructional supplies, curriculum and other program expenses. He noted that aviation maintenance and career exploration programs were among the areas experiencing growth.

The board also discussed the technology center expansion incentive, which would provide one-time grants to establish training opportunities in underserved areas. Director Haken explained that a similar initiative previously provided \$1.5 million to support the expansion of technology center services into Beaver County. Board members discussed whether larger, more targeted awards or a competitive grant process could produce a greater impact, particularly in counties without technology center services.

Director Haken reviewed a proposed statewide career-exploration initiative estimated at approximately \$20 million. He discussed investments made by other states to expand CTE programs and noted that Oklahoma would need a significant investment to provide comparable career-exploration opportunities statewide. The FY27 request totaled approximately \$68 million and would serve as a starting point for developing the FY28 request.

In response to questions regarding federal funding, staff reported that CareerTech received approximately \$18 million in Carl D. Perkins funds. Approximately 85% of those funds were distributed to schools, with the majority supporting secondary programs. The agency was evaluating whether Perkins funds could be used more strategically and was exploring additional opportunities through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, interagency partnerships and workforce-development grants. Staff also reported that the agency had expended its remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Director Haken explained that funding sources vary considerably among technology centers. Some districts rely heavily on state support, while others are funded primarily through local revenue. He stated that the FY28 request would be refined to identify specific outcomes, demonstrate the anticipated return on investment and show how additional funding would expand training capacity.

The board requested that staff continue exploring innovative funding and service delivery strategies. The proposed FY28 appropriations request will be discussed again at a future meeting.

No action was taken.

4 MANAGEMENT ACTION ITEMS

4.01 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Review and Implementation of the Strategic Plan – Ms. Gina Hubbard and the Persimmon Group.

Ms. Gina Hubbard provided an overview of the agency's nine-month strategic planning process. She explained that The Persimmon Group was selected through a competitive request-for-proposal and interview process based on its experience working with technology centers and state agencies. Ms. Hubbard introduced Bill Fournet, founder and chief executive officer of The Persimmon Group.

Mr. Fournet explained that the planning process began with a discovery phase that included document reviews, stakeholder surveys, interviews and focus groups. The information gathered was evaluated through a series of planning sessions designed to develop organizational alignment, stakeholder support and a practical implementation plan. He clarified that the plan focuses specifically on the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education rather than the entire statewide CareerTech system.

The discovery process identified several key themes, including:

- Strengthening the agency's role in coordinating and sharing successful practices across the statewide system;
- Responding more quickly to changes in workforce needs, technology, curriculum and instructional delivery;
- Elevating CareerTech as a primary educational and career pathway;
- Improving public understanding of Oklahoma's CareerTech system;
- Addressing internal capacity, communication and organizational alignment;

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- Strengthening legislative alignment and support; and
- Improving coordination and credit transfer among CareerTech and postsecondary institutions.

Mr. Fournet presented the plan's revised mission and vision, which emphasize CareerTech's role as a national model and an economic engine that supports prosperity for Oklahoma residents, businesses and communities.

The strategic plan is organized around five pillars:

- Workforce
- Brand
- Education
- Diversified Funding
- Staff

Mr. Fournet explained that each pillar contains long-term outcomes, measurable goals and specific initiatives. Outcomes define the agency's desired position at the conclusion of the three-year plan, goals serve as progress measures and initiatives identify the work required to achieve the goals. Each initiative includes a timeline, accountable sponsor and assigned team members. Initiatives may be modified, postponed or discontinued when necessary to respond to changing conditions and available capacity.

The workforce pillar focuses on ensuring that Oklahoma businesses have access to employees who are prepared to contribute upon entering the workplace and that students recognize CareerTech as a pathway that expands their educational and employment opportunities. Potential strategies include aligning programs with changing industry needs, using available program capacity more effectively and exploring opportunities to attract participants from outside Oklahoma when appropriate.

The brand pillar focuses on increasing recognition of CareerTech as Oklahoma's premier workforce-development system and communicating the full range of services available to businesses, students and communities. The education pillar emphasizes flexible program delivery and stronger articulation and transfer opportunities so students can continue their education without unnecessarily repeating prior coursework.

The diversified-funding pillar focuses on identifying additional public, private and partnership-based revenue sources. Mr. Fournet emphasized the importance of establishing reliable baseline data before setting growth targets. The staff pillar focuses on employee engagement, organizational alignment, retention and professional development.

Mr. Fournet recommended quarterly reviews of the plan's overall strategic direction and monthly reviews of individual initiatives. These reviews will allow agency leadership to monitor progress, address barriers, evaluate capacity and adjust implementation activities as necessary.

Director Haken stated that the planning process helped the agency establish clearer priorities and align its work while managing continued growth and organizational demands. Board members were encouraged to contact agency leadership or The Persimmon Group with questions during implementation.

No action was taken.

4.02 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. JARROD JOHNSON TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUCCESS – MR. BRENT HAKEN, STATE DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. JARROD JOHNSON (AUTHORITY: 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1)).

SHOULD THE BOARD ENTER THE EXECUTIVE SESSION, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS MAY BE TAKEN:

- a. VOTE TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
- b. DISCUSS THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. JARROD JOHNSON TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUCCESS.**
- c. VOTE TO ACKNOWLEDGE RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.**
- d. POSSIBLE VOTE ON ANY ACTION REGARDING SUBJECTS OF THE PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Director Haken reported that Cori Gray had accepted a position with Metro Technology Centers and recommended the appointment of Dr. Jarrod Johnson as Director of Student Success, subject to board approval.

Dr. Johnson introduced himself and provided an overview of his professional experience. He most recently served at Autry Technology Center and previously served as a prekindergarten-through-12th-grade principal at Drummond Public Schools and as an agricultural education instructor. Director Haken added that Dr. Johnson's experience included service as a teacher, principal, superintendent and technology center program director.

The board did not convene in executive session.

Mr. Brian Bobek moved to approve the appointment of Dr. Jarrod Johnson as Director of Student Success. Ms. Shaelynn Haning seconded the motion.

The following votes were recorded:

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Brian Bobek, yes
Rob Seeman, yes
Shaelynn Haning, yes
Peter Dillingham, yes
Michael Brown, yes

The motion passed unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business requiring action.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Career and Technology Education will be Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Canadian Valley Technology Center in El Reno, Oklahoma.

A copy of the minutes is on file at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.



Linda Fields, State Superintendent
of Public Instruction and Chair of the Board
or

Brent Haken, State Director and ex-officio
nonvoting member of the CareerTech Board



Ashley Rink, Executive Assistant
to the CareerTech State Director and
Secretary of the CareerTech Board