The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education is focused on developing a world-class workforce through educational experiences offered through a network of 394 PK-12 school districts, 29 technology center districts, 14 skills center sites and 31 adult basic education providers. CareerTech’s 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 they need to compete globally. To meet the state’s workforce demands, CareerTech leverages business/educational partnerships to enhance career awareness and increase educational attainment for all Oklahomans. CareerTech’s business plan highlights the critical need for workforce development and the available resources for filling the gap.

**VISION**
Developing a world-class workforce for Oklahoma industries and employers.

**MISSION**
Preparing Oklahomans to succeed in the workplace, in education and in life.

**GOALS**
- Career Awareness
- Educational Attainment
- Business/Educational Partnerships
- Agency Operational Efficiency

**VALUES**
We believe in...
- Service to our customers and stakeholders.
- Data-driven decisions.
- High-quality educational experiences.
- Innovation.
- Flexibility.
- Accountability.
- A commitment to excellence.
- Exceptional professional development and technical assistance.
For more than 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 to invest in Oklahoma’s workforce development. As existing industries struggle to find qualified talent and the state works to recruit new businesses, we must have the workforce to fill those jobs.

Various talent pools need to be included in the development. We must broaden our reach for workforce talent. Focusing on only the traditional paths will not meet the current and future demands. This is where Oklahoma CareerTech thrives in being flexible, resilient and aligned with industry demand.

ODCTE’s diverse, industry-informed educational opportunities offer programming vital to several critical areas. CareerTech also offers career planning services, business and industry partnerships and 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 and 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.
Agriculture: The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education have partnered to establish a meat processing training program. The training program was developed in response to the ever-growing need for workforce development in the meat processing industry.

Construction: Oklahoma CareerTech has partnered with the Construction Industries Board to develop and implement a workforce development program designed to increase awareness and interest in pursuing a career in a skilled trade.

Aerospace: With the recent donation of an MD-80 from American Airlines, Oklahoma CareerTech students will be able to train hands-on with the equipment they will use in the field.

Counseling & Career Development
The Counseling & Career Development team creates and distributes career development products, offers quality professional development training, and provides technical assistance and leadership for career and academic development.
**State-General Appropriation (FY22)**

- **$134,641,723**

**State-General Appropriation (FY23)**

- **$34,000,000**

**Federal**

- **$35,727,180**

**Revolving**

- **$5,142,588**

**State-Lottery**

- **$4,210,689**

**Total**

- **$213,722,180**

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**Pass Through to Schools**

- **$179,137,821**

**Personnel Services**

- **$22,001,095**

**Operating Expenses**

- **$9,549,176**

**Professional Services**

- **$3,034,088**

**Total**

- **$213,722,180**
WHY CTSOS ARE IMPORTANT TO OKLAHOMA

One integral component to the success of Oklahoma’s economy is the career and technical student organizations (CTSOs). The professional skills taught through the CTSOs helps to fill the need many employers say is critical to their business success. They need individuals to have not only the technical skills, but the workplace skills in communications, teamwork, time management and critical thinking.

Being engaged in a CareerTech student organization gives individuals a competitive advantage of being successful in the workplace. CTSOs are embedded in CareerTech programs and courses. The co-curricular organizations are designed to develop skills through curriculum, activities and competitions. They improve occupational competencies, enhance leadership skills, enrich classroom learning, promote career awareness, provide experimental learning, foster a sense of community and improve decision making.

CTSOs enhance student learning through contextual instruction, leadership and personal development, applied learning and real-world application. While the mission of each CTSO is uniquely different, all seven of Oklahoma’s CTSOs offer shared benefits for students, including leadership, public speaking, problem solving and organizational skills. In addition, students have opportunities to hold leadership positions at local, state and national levels and attend conferences to network with other students and industry leaders.

The seven CareerTech student organizations cover all sectors of industry. Agriculture through FFA; family and consumer sciences through FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America); science, technology, engineering and math through TSA; business management, information technology, finance and health administration through BPA (Business Professionals of America); trade, technical and skilled services through SkillsUSA; marketing, finance and management through DECA; and the healthcare system through HOSA (Future Health Professionals of Oklahoma).

CTSOs prepare students for the future by giving them opportunities to learn specialized skills deemed relevant to specific workforces, said Brittani Phillips, Oklahoma’s FCCLA Adviser. “They take the course work learned through their CTE class and put it into real world experiences,” Phillips said. “Students flourish when given the opportunity to create a project, challenge themselves to present and grow their leadership development.” CareerTech student organizations aren’t just important, they are essential to meeting workforce demands for today and tomorrow.
In FY21

- Nearly a third (116,079) of Oklahoma 5th-12th graders were enrolled in CareerTech courses, as were more than a third (77,115) of 9th-12th graders.
- Nearly all students - 93% - had a positive placement after completing CareerTech, either continuing their education, obtaining employment or joining the military.
- More than 16,000 students investigated nontraditional careers through the VirtualJobShadow.com initiative. Oklahoma CareerTech plans to expand the program to reach more students.
- Oklahoma CareerTech and the Oklahoma Education and Industry Partnerships have recently hosted 15 panel discussions on employment opportunities in several industries. Altogether, 633 participants registered for these eye-opening discussions.

- To help nurses return to the field, CareerTech worked with the OU Health Sciences Center College of Nursing to revamp a statewide nurse refresher course. The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma donated $200,000 for scholarships for 100 students to take the course.

- The Oklahoma CareerTech Testing Center entered an agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety to offer Class D written driver’s license and motorcycle license tests throughout its network of test sites. The partnership began with a pilot phase at Moore Norman Technology Center and expanded in April.

- Oklahoma CareerTech students earned 14,885 certificates and/or industry-recognized credentials.

- The Air Force Association Central Oklahoma Gerrity Chapter presented Tonja Norwood, CareerTech’s STEM program manager, with the Gerrity Chapter President’s STEM Education Award. The partnership has resulted in a “more pervasive reach” for the CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers programs, said Janelle Stafford, chapter president.

**Film Partnership**

In March 2021, Oklahoma CareerTech and the Film Education Institute of Oklahoma signed a memorandum of understanding to work together and with other industry partners to provide training and curriculum to meet the film industry’s employment demands in Oklahoma.
Investing in Oklahoma’s Workforce

**FY22 General Appropriation** $134,641,723

- Meet the statutory requirement of funding flex benefit allowance for technology centers $900,000
- Support growth and investment in current and unfunded programs in PK-12 schools, such as agricultural education, family and consumer sciences; science, technology, engineering, and math; business, marketing and information technology $8,500,000
- Enrich industry sectors with customized training and specialized workforce educational programs in technology centers meeting the needs of these industries: aerospace, agriculture, automotive, construction, energy, health, information technology, manufacturing and transportation $20,000,000
- 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 $2,500,000
- Strengthen agency operations by investing to retain and recruit exceptional employees while maintaining critical infrastructure. This would include support for Oklahoma JAG (Jobs for American Graduates) $2,100,000

**FY23 General Appropriation Request** $168,641,723

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**AP Courses**

Advanced Placement (AP) courses and Oklahoma CareerTech courses work in tandem to support career readiness by encouraging the development of the academic knowledge and technical skills that are increasingly important to students’ overall employability. AP courses allow students to experience a college-level course while in high school. At the end of the course, students can take an AP exam that, if passed, allows them to receive college credit.
CODY MCCUISTION
MERIDIAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER, GUTHRIE HIGH SCHOOL AND BPA

Cody McCuistion heard he could spend half of each day at Meridian Technology Center learning more about what he already enjoyed in his spare time and earn 68 hours of college credit as a Guthrie High School student. McCuistion’s decision to enroll in the network engineering program and join Business Professionals of America was an easy one. He said the two-year program fast-tracked him to receive industry certifications, knowledge, and experience. A solution architect for Hitachi Vantara, McCuistion sets up and delivers proofs of concept and product demonstrations for Hitachi Vantara's Unified Compute Platform suite of enterprise products. McCuistion said CareerTech’s concurrent enrollment options offer students the opportunity to learn skills that apply immediately to their future success.

JESSICA GARVIN
RED RIVER TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND FCCLA

Jessica Garvin wasn’t planning a career, she just wanted sewing skills. Garvin said she learned to sew at Marlow High School, but family and consumer sciences education taught her much more. She joined Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, where she met incredible, lifelong friends. After high school, Garvin attended Red River Technology Center in Duncan to get her medication administration technician certification, part of her journey toward her long-term administrator’s licenses. She doesn’t make her living sewing, but her involvement with FCCLA continues today. She mentors students and helps them prepare for competitive events. Garvin was elected to the Oklahoma Senate in 2020 to represent Senate District 43. The University of Oklahoma graduate is COO at Gregston’s Nursing and Rehab in Marlow, Oklahoma.

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 on 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.
SEAN KUEHN
CHARLES PAGE HIGH SCHOOL AND TSA

Charles Page High School student Sean Kuehn said CareerTech’s Technology Student Association provided a community of like-minded students who were interested in the same career fields. Enrolling in the technology education program was a logical choice. He chose to lead. He has served as both secretary and president of the Oklahoma TSA chapter and also national TSA president. Involvement in technology engineering and TSA taught Kuehn communication skills, how to make effective decisions and time management skills. He said he uses those skills in his schoolwork and hopes to continue to develop them at Columbia University. Kuehn said CareerTech’s TSA program changed his life. He said in TSA he found a family that would last through high school and beyond.

JULIA LEWIS
INDIAN CAPITOL TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND HOSA

Julia Lewis enrolled in the health careers certification program at Indian Capitol Technology Center in Tahlequah to learn about the various jobs in health care. The Tahlequah High School student liked helping people, but she wasn’t sure which career path to take. Then one day, she was called upon to save a man’s life after she and her friends saw a group of people surrounding a man who was in distress. The 17-year-old said, “I didn’t think twice about getting out to help him.” She got out of the car while it was still moving, and when she saw the man wasn’t breathing, she called 911 and performed CPR until the paramedics arrived. Tahlequah Police Department honored Lewis as a hero, and she also received the HOSA Hero Award during the CareerTech student organization’s International Leadership Conference. She’s now convinced that health care is the right field for her and plans to become a dentist or dental hygienist. She is now a certified nursing assistant and phlebotomist.

Mobile Meat Trailer and Virtual Reality Instruction
Responding to meat processing worker shortages, CareerTech now offers self-paced online meat processing courses on meat safety, evaluation and selection and other topics. CareerTech also provides a mobile meat lab and virtual reality instruction to meet students where they are.
AMANDA PEREZ-VARGAS
PIONEER TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND ABE

Amanda Perez-Vargas had worked in various menial jobs since she dropped out of high school in ninth grade, and she decided she did want a better life. Her caseworker told her the key to that life was to get an education. Perez-Vargas enrolled in Pioneer Technology Center’s adult basic education program. She said it was refreshing to be in class with students her own age who faced the same struggles she did. She gained the confidence to prepare for the high school equivalency test, earned her high school equivalency diploma after one month in the program and was motivated to continue her education and earned an associate degree. Perez-Vargas is the bursar at Pioneer Tech. She plans to earn a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Southern Nazarene University.

JAY VILLEMARETTE
MOORE NORMAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND SKILLSUSA

Jay Villemarette enrolled in Moore Norman Technology Center’s auto body course back in the ‘80s because he liked working with his hands. The high school junior learned how to repair vehicles, but the personal and professional life lessons he learned were even more valuable. Villemarette placed third at the state SkillsUSA auto body competition and fifth place at the national convention. He gained the self-confidence to start Skulls Unlimited International, a mail-order company he runs with his wife, serving services customers around the world. The two created a niche’ market that has supplied skeletons and skulls to museums such as the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.; the American Museum of Natural History in New York; and the Field Museum in Chicago. His is the largest supplier of osteological specimens in the world, and his company was even featured on “Dirty Jobs” and “Modern Marvels”.

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.
T&C MEATS
AUTRY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Backyard grill masters Eldon Campbell and Tyler Tate started their company, T&C Meats, in 2014 after winning $10,500 in Autry Technology Center’s Cherokee Strip Business Model Competition. Autry Tech’s services helped them develop business plans and provided a space in the Strate Center where they could develop their idea to supply meat and grilling supplies. In 2017, T&C Meats moved into its own facility in Enid. It carries a wide variety of specialty meats, cheeses, hand-crafted sausages and bratwurst, seasonings and more. T&C makes its own snack sticks and jerky and provides specialized barbecue and dry-aged steaks.

DELANEY MEDCALF
SOUTHERN TECHNOLOGY CENTER

After auditing a biotechnology class at Southern Technology Center when she was a high school sophomore, Delaney Medcalf enrolled in the two-year biotech program, which reinforced her passion for science. She completed the biotech CAPSTONE program at the Noble Research Institute, her contributions for which were published in a New Zealand paper. She was chosen as a 2019 Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation Fleming Scholar in her senior year, which included a paid internship after high school. She continued her education at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in biology, and said her classes at Southern Tech helped her breeze through her college lab classes. She plans to earn a master’s degree, go to medical school and earn a Ph.D. She would like to be a dietitian or emergency medicine doctor.
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

CAREERTECH SWEETENED THE DEAL FOR ALABAMA TEA MANUFACTURER

When Milo and Bea Carlton opened a hamburger restaurant in Alabama after World War II, customers loved their secret hamburger sauce. Their legacy, however, was not the burger, but their fresh-brewed sweet tea. The tea became so popular in their restaurant, the family started bottling it.

This year, Milo’s Tea Company celebrates 75 years in business, and the Birmingham, Alabama-based company now sells tea and lemonade at more than 13,000 retail locations. To keep up with their growth, the family-owned company expanded its manufacturing operations with a new plant in Tulsa. In Spring 2020, Milo’s completed construction of a 10,000 square foot facility on 20 acres near Owasso and began hiring.

“We interviewed and onboarded all of the Tulsa associates using Tulsa Tech’s facility. It was a helpful program in that the content aligned with our training and it kept our associates as safe and physically distant as possible throughout the pandemic,” said Ryan Faught, director of people for Milo’s. “Tulsa Tech’s Front Line leadership program became a key element to our 2020 orientation process for all new Tulsa associates.”

Funding for the training came from Oklahoma CareerTech’s Training for Industry Partnerships program, which allowed the technology center to provide Milo’s employees with safety, leadership, and quality training.

Milo’s is majority-owned and controlled by women, including Milo’s granddaughter Tricia Wallwork, who serves as CEO. Heather Williams, client services coordinator for Tulsa Technology Center, described Wallwork as a community-focused and people-first leader.

“They’ve been hiring locally, offering higher than average wages, and giving back to the community,” said Williams, adding that Tulsa Tech and Milo’s Tea have a great relationship. “We work well together and have an open and honest relationship that makes working together successful,” she said.

Faught agreed. “There is such a rich community of resources available in Oklahoma for every level of training and professional development,” he said. “After we established our HPWS goals, our friends at Tulsa Tech helped ensure our associates had the tools, information and training they need to grow in their careers.” Williams said the Tulsa plant plans to expand in the next year, adding additional jobs to the Tulsa-area economy.
For more information, please contact

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