

Spring Break is near! If you're not on break this week, then you will be next! We will continue to share fun facts and information you need to know! Our staff has a new home! Ironically, we are in the same suite I was in when I first became the Program Administrator for Health Occupations! Come visit us on the first floor, directly across from the elevator in the main entrance of ODCTE! We have much more room and are thrilled to be here!

1. **Wednesday, March 13** (TOMORROW) is the due date for **HOSA Star Chapters** as well as **Barbara James Service** hours documentation and **National Service Project** entries. The portal will be CLOSED at 5pm CST. As soon as Round 1 pre-judging is complete and results are processed, we will announce students moving on the SLC, Round 2.
2. **Oklahoma Program Changes Platform to Make Networking Easier for Students**
One program through the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education is changing its platform. **Connect 2 Business** helps Oklahoma businesses find workers and helps students and adults find anything from internships, all the way to full time jobs. Students can take assessments to see the career opportunities that fit what they're interested in. news9.com
Our CCD manager just sent this message out: "At this time our greatest need is getting **employers added to the system**, we are looking at all areas of Oklahoma from the smallest business to the largest. Our goal is to have Oklahoma students see all the opportunities that our great state offers, especially in their local areas. Here is a direct link to [OkCareerGuide](#), in the middle of the page you can see Connect 2 Business, from there you can either click Businesses get started or view businesses." **Please work to add your advisory committee and clinical sites to this list!!**
3. Simon Sinek unveils the reasons why the most straightforward answer, "**I do X at Y company,**" is **exactly the wrong way to respond** to this commonly asked conversation starter. [Read this article!](#)
4. **Middle-school girls** from an independent Catholic school in St. Louis, Mo., tried their hands at **dentistry, examining x-rays and filling model teeth** during a field trip hosted by A.T. Still University's Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health. The event was intended to spark interest and improve diversity in the health care fields, says Stephanie McGrew, assistant director of diversity and inclusion at ATSU's School of Health Sciences. **Full Story:** [KMOV-TV \(St. Louis\) \(3/6\)](#)
5. Simple K-12 is offering a 30-minute, FREE webinar titled "**How to Talk to Your Students About Text Anxiety**" on Tuesday, March 19, 10-10:30am CST [Register Now.](#)
6. **Bacteria in your gut may drive addictive behaviors!** Read more: [Could the gut give rise to alcohol addiction? \(nature.com\)](#)
7. An experiment reveals that reviewing and **understanding your errors is an effective way to study**
8. Oklahoma ACTE is hosing a **Legislative Bill Update** on **Thursday, March 14 between 12pm and 1pm**. Join Skye McNeil as she goes over the bills affecting CareerTech Education this session. [To register, be sure you sign up before 10am on the 14th!](#)
9. Career and technical education has evolved from traditional programs to encompass diverse pathways, offering students real-world skills and opportunities for college credit, writes Sue Ann Highland, national education strategist for School Specialty. In this blog post, **Highland explores the inclusive benefits of CTE, emphasizing the importance of choosing pathways aligned with students' interests, showcasing the universal advantages of hands-on learning and promoting community awareness and industry partnerships to enhance program success.** **Full Story:** [SmartBrief/Education](#)
10. **Great information!!!** **How much sleep Americans get**, plus [other data on sleep.](#)

11. **Program prepares students for careers in telehealth:** Dale County School District in Alabama are **initiating a telemedicine project to address healthcare accessibility, with a focus on mental health.** Lisa Welch, the district's career tech director, says the effort serves rural areas while also preparing students for careers in healthcare and equipping them with skills relevant to the growing telehealth industry. **Full Story:** [WTVY-TV \(Dothan, Ala.\)](#)

12. What Happened to Appendectomies? A thorough history of the surgical removal of the worm-shaped appendix, and an explanation of **why the incidence of the operation has jumped** in recent decades. ([Watch](#))

13. OkACTE has a payment option for those paying membership dues with a **minimum total of \$100.** The **OkACTE Membership Dues Installment Plan (MDIP) is available for individuals to make payments for their membership dues.** **The 4-payment installment plans are due March 31 for payment installments in June, July, August and September.** Visit the [Registration and Membership Dues](#) page for details on the 2024-2025 membership dues. To join the many who have opted to take advantage of this opportunity, an electronic application must be received by March 31st. Doing this gives you access to member rates and member opportunities! Participation rules and regulations apply. Visit the [Membership Dues Installment Plan](#) page for more details. Forms must be submitted electronically. If you have questions about the MDIP program, you can call Carmen Jones at 405-525-8906.

14. Did you know there is a page titled “Home Grown Solutions” where teachers just like you have shared information on how they use **common items for simulation?** [Check out the page here!](#)

15. **New drugs used for weight loss, including Ozempic and Wegovy, show success in treating side-effects of HIV drugs, including fatty liver buildup** ([More](#)) | **How semaglutides work** ([More, w/video](#)).

We are just mere weeks away from the semester end—let's finish strong!!

Lara

Sincerely,
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State Program Manager | Health Careers Education



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