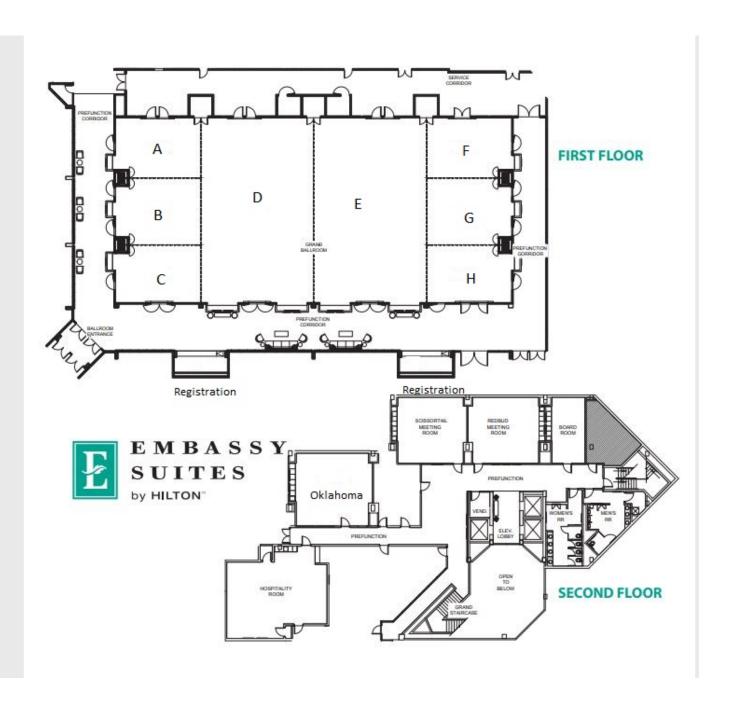


# OKLAHOMA WORKS CONFERENCE

October 1-3, 2025

**Embassy Suites Hotel** 

# **Embassy Suites Map**



### **Conference Schedule**

#### Wednesday, October 1, 2025

- 9:00 to 5:00 pm | Registration Open
- 9:00 to 12:00 pm | Exhibitor Move-In
- 1:00 to 4:30 pm | Exhibits Open
- 1:00 to 1:15pm | Welcome and Comments
- 1:15 to 2:45pm | General Session Guest Speaker
- 3:15 to 4:15pm | Break with Exhibitors
- 4:15 to 4:45pm | General Session Guest Speaker

#### Thursday, October 2, 2025

- 9:00 to 5:00 pm | Registration Open
- 7:30 to 8:30am | Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 to 5:00 p.m. | Exhibits Open
- 8:30 to 9:45am | Breakout Sessions Round 1
- 9:45 to 10:00am | Break with Exhibitors
- 10:00 to 11:15am | Breakout Sessions Round 2
- 11:30 to 12:45pm | Lunch in Ballroom
- 1:00 to 2:15pm | Breakout Sessions Round 3
- 2:15 to 2:45pm | Break with Exhibitors
- 2:45 to 3:45pm | General Session: Ballroom

#### Friday, October 3, 2025

- 7:30 to 8:30am | Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 to 9:00am | Registration Open
- 8:30 to 9:45am | Breakout Sessions Round 4
- 9:45 to 10:00am | Break
- 10:00 to 11:15am | Breakout Sessions Round 5
- 11:30 to 1:45pm | Closing Lunch and Workforce Development Professional Awards
- 1:45pm | Adjourn

### **General Information**

#### Meals/Breaks

- **Continental Breakfast** will be available Thursday and Friday mornings on the **first floor**. Full breakfast included in the hotel stay and available for overnight hotel guests.
- Snacks and beverages will be available during afternoon breaks on the first floor.
- Lunch provided Thursday and Friday.
- Evening meals are "on your own" Wednesday and Thursday, and there are many restaurants located near the hotel in Oklahoma City.

#### **Exhibitors**

#### Exhibitors are located on the first floor.

Plan to stop by and meet each of the exhibitors, as they are a valuable part of this conference.

#### **Evaluations**

Scan the QR code to access the conference session and overall evaluation survey or visit: <u>Your Voice Matters:</u> <u>2025 Oklahoma Works Partners Conference Feedback</u>. Name badges will be collected at the closing session for door prizes.



#### **Breakout Session Handouts**

<u>Workshop presentations</u> will be posted at <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IPzJZJye2RjF5RXCdAZkKI6Om18irEhX?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IPzJZJye2RjF5RXCdAZkKI6Om18irEhX?usp=sharing</a>

### **Conference Day 1**

### Wednesday October 1, 2025

#### 1:00 PM to 1:15 PM | Opening Session | First Floor

Welcome by Cody Cox, OWA President



#### 2:45 PM to 3:15 PM | And then Moments- Taylor Doe

#### Salon D/E



A lifelong Oklahoman, Taylor Doe is an entrepreneur who is deeply invested in community development, youth mentorship and fostering economic mobility for others. Since graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Human Relations, Taylor has worked in corporate America, founded and sold a tech company with his brother and for over a decade has devoted himself to building relationships and community initiatives in low-income schools and neighborhoods. Taylor has lived between, what Martin Luther King Jr. called, the "Two Americas" which has given him unique insights on how opportunity is unlocked for some and remains locked for others. He believes that storytelling has the power to change economic outcomes. Taylor invites audiences across the country to unpack their own stories of success —challenging them to be generous with the opportunities they hold.

### 4:15 to 4:45 PM | State of the Workforce -Kyla Guyette, CEO, Oklahoma Workforce Commission



Kyla Guyette is the founding CEO of the Oklahoma Workforce Commission. Ms. Guyette was previously the founder and principal of The Work Lab, a boutique consulting firm specialized in workforce development system effectiveness, regional collaboration and innovative programming. In this capacity, Ms. Guyette trained and lectured at Local Workforce Development Boards around the country and has been a decade-long advocate at the federal level. She also served as Director of Strategic Partnerships for KRA Corporation with the objective of organization-wide modernization and strategy. Ms. Guyette brings over 18 years of experience in workforce programming with a specialization in serving muti-barriered individuals and young adults.

## **Conference Day 2**

### Thursday- October 2, 2025

#### 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM, Breakout Sessions, Round 1

#### **EmployOklahoma**

#### Salon A- Presented by Kristy Austin

An overview of Oklahoma's case management system, EmployOklahoma.

#### **AEFL Networking- AEFL Directors Only**

#### **Salon B-Presented by Robin Drury**

Join this session to network with AEFL Directors.

#### **Interacting with Difficult People**

#### Salon C-Presented by Jacky England

We all interact with difficult people, whether they are co-workers or clients. In this workshop, we will learn how to interact positively during difficult situations.

### Opening Doors to Opportunity: Creativity, Collaboration and Inspiration- Department of Rehabilitation Services

#### Salon D-Presented by Renee Sansom

Imagine new possibilities in rehabilitation through innovation, teamwork, and motivation that inspire change and empower individuals to thrive.

#### Harness AI in Office 365

#### Salon E-Presented by Nicole Cue

Learn to harness AI in Office 365 to streamline operations, ensure compliance, and boost efficiency in workforce programs, with practical tools and insights.

#### 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM, Breakout Sessions, Round 1 Continued

#### Familyhood Champions: Strengthening Families, Strengthening Workforce

#### **Salon F- Presented by Steven Charles**

Strong families build strong communities- and a strong workforce. Learn about the recent OKDHS initiative Familyhood Champions, a statewide effort supporting Oklahomans through evidence-based training that will improve employee well-being, productivity, and long-term success.

#### Feedback in a Gift: Turning Conflict into Connection

#### Salon G- Presented by Brandee Ganz

Difficult conversations are growth opportunities by listening, speaking with empathy and assuming positive intent, we transform feedback into collaboration and meaningful connections.

#### An Overview of the VR Centric Benefits Planning and the Ticket to Work Program

#### Salon H- Presented by Jason Price

An overview of the VR Centric Benefits Planning and the Ticket to Work Program.

9:45AM-10:00 AM, Break with Exhibitors

#### 10:00 AM to 11:15AM, Breakout Sessions, Round 2

#### **Workforce as Economic Engines: Proving ROI**

#### Salon A- Rue Ramsey

Make every training dollar count. Learn how to connect workforce development directly to economic growth and demonstrate a clear return on investment.

#### Understanding Updates and Changes for the TABE 13/14 and CLAS-E C/D

#### Salon B- Presented by Chasity Wright

The session highlights for teachers and administrators the innovative features and updates to these assessments designed to enhance adult education accuracy and effectiveness. Participants will gain an indepth understanding of TABE 13/14, which comprehensively evaluates reading, math and language skills. We will also explore the connection of TABE Reading and Math to O'Net careers and readiness. Additionally, we will discuss TABE CLAS-E, focusing on assessing adult learners' English language proficiency in Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing.

#### 10:00 AM to 11:15AM, Breakout Sessions, Round 2 Continued

#### **OSRHE's UpskillOK, Reach Higher and Show What You Know Programs**

#### Salon C- Tracey Romano, Tisha Bradford, & Jenny Wood

UpskillOK, Reach Higher, and Show What you Know are three OSRHE programs that help adult learners and employees gain skills, credentials, and degrees that align with Oklahoma's critical workforce needs.

#### **Hope Awareness**

#### Salon F- Presented by Cristi Heath

This session is designed to introduce the transformative concept of the Science of Hope, as pioneered by Dr. Chan Hellman. This workshop aims to equip participants with practical tools infuse hope into their daily work by recognizing the crucial role Hope science plays in improving well-being.

#### **Communicating With Your Workforce: Take-aways From a Former Crisis Negotiator**

#### Salon G- Presented by Dennis Griffith

Learn communication techniques from a former crisis negotiator to build trust, listen effectively, give feedback, and create an empowered workforce.

#### **Carl Albert State College "The Assessment Process"**

#### Salon H- Will Higgins, Janey Boggs & Jason Cowger

A brief overview of the assessment process for TANF participants and the value the information brings to achieving individual goals.

#### 11:30 to 12:45 PM Lunch in the Ballroom

#### 1:00 to 2:15 PM Breakout Sessions, Round 3

#### The Missing Link in Workforce Success: Financial Empowerment with CLIMB

#### Salon A- Presented by Keith Jossell

Learn how CLIMB bridges financial instability and capability, offering practical tools that strengthen workforce readiness, boost retention, and foster economic resilience for vulnerable communities.

#### **Oklahoma Fatherhood**

#### Salon B- Presented by Flynn Mason & Bridget Fogle

Explore Oklahoma Fatherhood programs and discover the vital role fathers play in strengthening families and communities across the state through support, engagement and advocacy.

#### 1:00 to 2:15 PM Breakout Sessions, Round 3 Continued

#### **Signify Health**

#### Salon C- Presented by Fred Perrin

Information provided on employment and overall programs provided by Signify Health.

#### How AI can work for you

#### Salon F- Presented by Dana Brashear& Shannon Speir

A brief overview of how you can use AI to streamline your daily processes and work more efficiently.

#### **Apprenticeships: Industry-Driven Partnerships with Oklahoma Technology Centers**

#### Salon G- Presented by Joe Steele

Learn how to leverage the apprenticeship training model through partnerships with local Oklahoma Technology Centers-supporting real, industry-driven solutions for today's workforce needs.

#### Building Skills for Oklahoma's Workforce: Aztec CTE Programs Aligned with TABE 13&14

#### Salon H-Marcuss Ripp and Alan Dale

Explore strategies that connect academic skills and career preparation. Learn how CTE instruction aligned with TABE 13&14 supports Oklahoma's workforce and employment pathways.

#### 2:15-2:45pm, Break with Exhibitors

### 2:45 to 3:45 PM- Super Session- Skill sets for Success: What Employers Really Want Now& Next

#### **Ballroom**

#### **Presented by Rue Ramsey**

Bridging the talent gap: This super session decodes employer skill demands, equipping professionals to build a future-ready workforce for today and tomorrow.

### **Conference Day 3**

#### 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM, Breakout Sessions, Round 4

#### **Holistic Approach to Poverty Mitigation**

#### Salon A-Presented by Lee Copeland

Poverty mitigation through sustainable employment requires a systemic, people-centric approach to workforce alignment. Come hear how to help clients get "unstuck" and find their way.

#### Strength in Numbers: Instruction, Advocacy, and the Power of a Unified Voice

#### Salon B-Presented by Lisa Johnson, Eric Beecher, Jennifer Wehrenber, & DesJean Jones

Discover high-impact instructional strategies for adult learners while exploring how educators can engage in allowable advocacy to support programs and students. Learn how OKAACE, as Oklahoma's COABE affiliate, amplifies our collective voice-advancing adult education through professional development, policy influence, and statewide collaboration. Together, we are stronger.

#### **SNAP into Success: Fueling Futures and Funding Partnerships**

#### Salon C-Presented by Joni Jackson & Andy Jenson

OK SNAP Works helps SNAP participants gain skills, training and support to secure employment. Achieve self-sufficiency and connect partners to funding career success.

#### **Meet your One Stop Operators: Building Excellence Through Connection**

#### Salon F- Presented by Brandee Ganz, LaFonda Crowder, Mandy Cox, Nicole Cue, Kim Jones & Jessica Knight

Join us for an engaging and interactive session designed to introduce the faces behind your One Stop Operations. This is more than a meet and greet, it's a strategic opportunity to foster collaboration, share insights, and strengthen the unified workforce system. Through the lens of Dynamic Stages of One Stop Excellence, participants will explore how each operator contributes to inclusive, comprehensive service delivery and drives innovation across our network. Whether you're new to the system or a seasoned partner, come ready to connect, learn, and celebrate the people powering our mission to change lives-one project at a time.

#### **Communicating With Your Workforce: Take-aways From a Former Crisis Negotiator**

#### Salon G- Presented by Dennis Griffith

Learn communication techniques from a former crisis negotiator to build trust, listen effectively, give feedback, and create an empowered workforce.

#### 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM, Breakout Sessions, Round 4 Continued

#### **Not Just Career Day: Building Authentic Industry and Education Partnerships**

#### Salon H- Presented by Brittany Crane

In today's rapidly evolving economy, individuals need more than just classroom knowledge- they need real-world experiences and industry exposure to succeed. This presentation explores Connect 2 Business, an innovative platform designed to bridge the gap between education and workforce by streamlining connections between individuals and local employers. Participants will learn how Connect 2 Business enables individuals to facilitate meaningful real-world learning experience such as internships, job shadowing, guest speaking opportunities and business tours-all while reducing administrative burdens and improving access. Through success stories, platform walkthroughs, and interactive discussion, attendees will be equipped with actionable strategies for integrating community and industry partnerships into career development paths.

#### 9:45AM-10:00 AM, Break with Exhibitors

#### 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM, Breakout Sessions, Round 5

#### **Expanding Opportunities: How Libraries Support Workforce Development**

### Salon A- Panel Presented by Brooklynn Bors, Megan Conrady, Kristin Herr, Regan Schreier, Heather Thompson and Sara WhiteShield

Discover how libraries support workforce development and digital literacy, featuring a new project with Oklahoma Department of Libraries and Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

#### **Use Data to Drive Impact: More HSEs and MSGs!**

#### Salon B- Presented by AJ Crowell & Jeannie Hale

Do you know which students are GED & HiSET Ready? We'll show you! Having difficulty getting students to close a skill gap? We'll highlight the reports and practice problems to help them! All users, from beginner to advanced, can benefit from this data review to accelerate measurable skill gains and HSE credentials for your program. We can't wait to see you there!

#### **Overview of VETS Programs**

#### Salon C- Lucius Drawhorn Jr.

This session will provide an overview of VETS programs, partnerships and resources.

#### **Legal First Aid: Empowering the Oklahoma Workforce**

#### **Salon F- Presented by Tiffany Armendariz**

Empower the Oklahoma Workforce to identify, address, and overcome legal barriers and obstacles to employment and career development.

#### 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM, Breakout Sessions, Round 5 continued

#### **Oklahoma SBDC- Empowering Small Business Success**

#### Salon G- Presented by Dana Brashear

The Oklahoma Small Business Development Center (OKSBDC) is dedicated to helping entrepreneurs and small business owners start, grow, and succeed. This presentation provides an overview of who we are, the no-cost and confidential services we offer, and the impact we make across Oklahoma. From business planning and financial analysis to market research and growth strategies, discover how OKSBDC empowers local businesses to thrive and strengthen our state's economy.

#### Your Invisible Signature: The Power of Your Unique Service Fingerprint

#### Salon H- Presented by Jennifer Walker

Discover your unique service fingerprint through empathy, personalization, and the T.O.U.C.H approach-creating lasting customer connections through empathy, authenticity, and personal strengths.

1:30 AM to 1:45 PM, Closing Luncheon and Workforce Development Professional Awards

### **Exhibitors**

Aztec Software

Alan Dale

WorkReady Oklahoma

**Ankira Singleton** 

Job Corp

Julie McPeek

CBM Driving Academy

Corey Ahifenger

Data Recognition Corporation

**Chasity Wright** 

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### Link Workforce Ecosystems to Level Up Skills and Leverage Growth

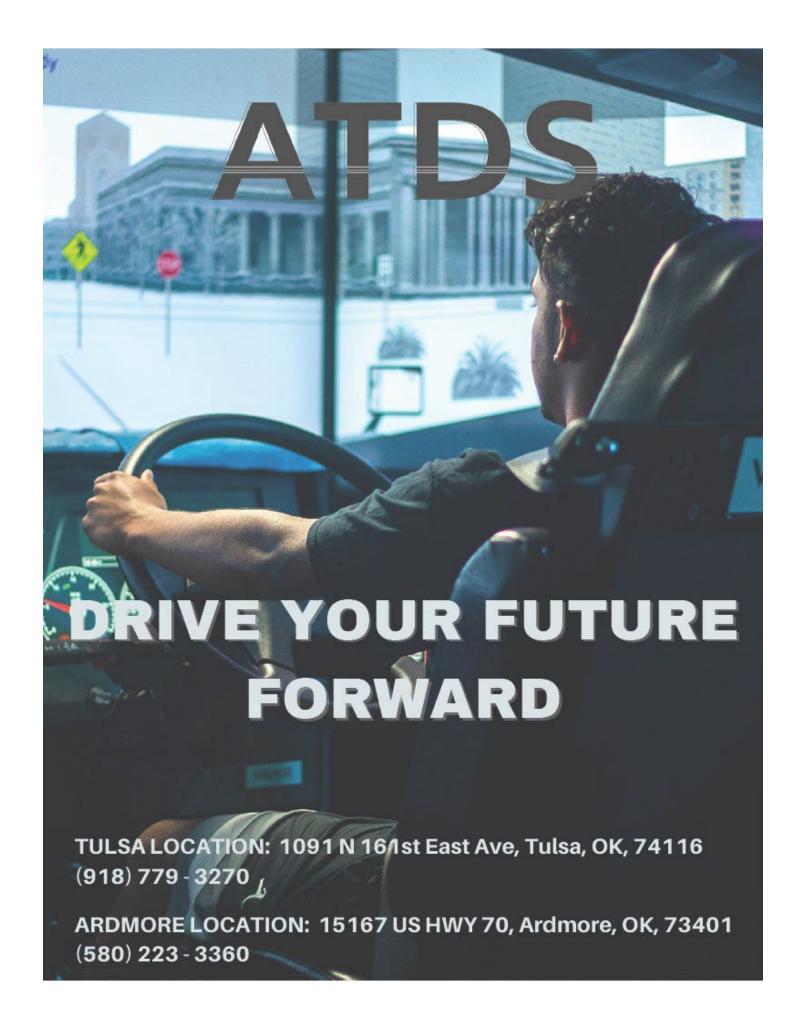
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### **Dynamic Workforce Solutions**

# Proud sponsor of the 2025 Oklahoma Works Partners Conference

We're thrilled to join workforce leaders, innovators, and changemakers from across the state to celebrate collaboration, share best practices, and explore bold ideas that shape the future of work.

At DWFS, we believe in the power of partnerships and this event is a perfect reflection of that spirit.

Let's connect, learn, and lead together.

#OklahomaWorks2025 #DWFS 
#WorkforceInnovation #FutureOfWork





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# The 2025 Oklahoma Works Partners Conference is planned by these Workforce Development Partners:

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Oklahoma City Branch
Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education
Oklahoma Department of Human Services
Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
Oklahoma Employment Security Commission
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Oklahoma Workforce Association
WorkReady Oklahoma
WIOA Title I: Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth

https://oklahoma.gov/workforce.html



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