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Page: Basic Information
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Letter of Introduction <p>I am a career and technical education professional with 21 years of experience in education, including 16 years in Oklahoma CareerTech and 16 years of continuous service as a HOSA–Future Health Professionals advisor. Throughout my career, I have been committed to creating inclusive, student-centered programs that intentionally expand access, representation, and opportunity for all students pursuing careers in healthcare.</p> <p>My work began in the classroom, where I designed health science instruction that emphasized hands-on learning, leadership development, and real-world application while ensuring students from diverse backgrounds could see themselves reflected in curriculum, career pathways, and leadership opportunities. As a long-serving HOSA advisor, I have consistently promoted equitable access to CTSO participation, encouraged involvement across gender, socioeconomic status, geographic location, and ability level, and supported accommodation processes for students with physical and learning disabilities to ensure full participation.</p> <p>For five years, I served as Camp Ignite Director, helping design and implement leadership programming that intentionally incorporated heterogeneous student groupings, inclusive team-building activities, and service-focused experiences. These processes fostered collaboration among students from diverse schools and communities while strengthening cultural awareness, communication skills, and mutual respect. Visual media, messaging, and activities were purposefully designed to reflect diversity within healthcare professions and leadership roles.</p> <p>For the past three years, I have served as the Oklahoma HOSA State Advisor, providing strategic leadership for one of the state’s largest CTSOs. In this role, I oversee statewide conferences, competitive events, and leadership initiatives while implementing processes that promote accessibility, gender equity, and inclusive participation. This includes accommodation procedures, inclusive recruitment and recognition practices, and partnerships with education and healthcare stakeholders to support a diverse workforce pipeline.</p> <p>In addition, I am currently working toward my doctorate, with my research focused on HOSA student success and the role CTSOs play in strengthening the healthcare workforce pipeline. This work informs my leadership practice by grounding program decisions in data, equity, and long-term workforce outcomes. My qualifications for the Kaleidoscope Award are rooted in sustained leadership, inclusive practices, and a commitment to ensuring CareerTech programs reflect and serve the diverse students and communities they support.</p>

Support

My greatest strength as a Career and Technical Education leader is my ability to design, lead, and sustain inclusive programs that intentionally connect students to real-world career pathways while fostering leadership, equity, and access. Across my career, I have focused on building processes and experiences that reflect the diversity of our students and the evolving needs of the healthcare workforce, while strengthening collaboration between education, industry, and community partners.

One of my most significant accomplishments has been the continued development and growth of Oklahoma HOSA's Camp Ignite, which I have led in a Director/Co-director capacity for the past five years. Camp Ignite has experienced consistent growth each year and now serves students from across Oklahoma, representing multiple CareerTech programs, geographic regions, and educational backgrounds. The program is intentionally designed to bring together students who may not otherwise interact, fostering heterogeneous groupings that promote teamwork, communication, and mutual respect. Camp Ignite emphasizes leadership development, service, and hands-on exposure to healthcare careers, making it an inclusive entry point for students at varying stages of career exploration.

A defining strength of Camp Ignite is its intentional integration of diverse industry partners and career fields. Students engage directly with professionals from multiple sectors of healthcare and public safety, allowing them to see a wide range of career options and role models. Innovative programming has included health careers instruction in American Sign Language presented by the Oklahoma School of the Deaf, which expands student awareness of accessibility and communication equity. Additional experiences have included live Med-Evac helicopter landings with pilots and flight medics, Safe Driving and trauma-prevention presentations through Oklahoma Challenge, Wilderness First Responder training, and other immersive simulations that expose students to emergency response, rural healthcare challenges, and interdisciplinary teamwork.

In addition to overall program leadership, I single-handedly design all Camp Ignite family group curriculum that is facilitated by state officers. This curriculum is intentionally aligned to HOSA's core values and is purposefully structured to promote leadership development, inclusion, service, and collaboration. By equipping state officers with clearly designed, values-driven curriculum, I ensure consistency of experience while empowering student leaders to effectively guide diverse groups of participants.

The strength and impact of Camp Ignite have extended beyond Oklahoma. Following participation in our program, Colorado HOSA leaders have chosen to implement their own Camp Ignite 2.0 model, adapting the framework and best practices they observed in Oklahoma. This replication demonstrates the program's scalability, sustainability, and relevance as a model for inclusive, experiential leadership development within CTSOs.

In my current role as the Oklahoma HOSA State Advisor, I apply these same principles of intentional design and inclusion on a statewide scale. I oversee conferences, leadership initiatives, and competitive events serving thousands of students annually, implementing accommodation processes, promoting gender equity, and ensuring recruitment and visual media reflect the diversity of Oklahoma's communities. Beyond Oklahoma, my service on the International HOSA Board of Directors and competitive events teams has allowed me to advocate for inclusive practices nationally. I am also pursuing my doctorate, with research focused on HOSA student success and strengthening the healthcare workforce pipeline.

Together, these accomplishments reflect my strengths as an educator and leader who designs with intention, leads with equity, and creates sustainable, inclusive opportunities through CareerTech.

Page: Photo

Please submit a photo/headshot of the program/project. The photo should be digital, high resolution (at least 300dpi), and submitted in .jpg format. Files 2MB or larger are preferred. Photographs will be used for publicity purposes only.

Photo

Download File (https://acte.secure-platform.com/file/82041/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWVpYUlkIjo4MjA0MSwiYWxsbn3dOb3RTaWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSI6ImInbn9oZ2ZteBRANTVNi2dVKuA0GRauzcshaJvoQb_9Jqhaw?Amy%20Warner.png)