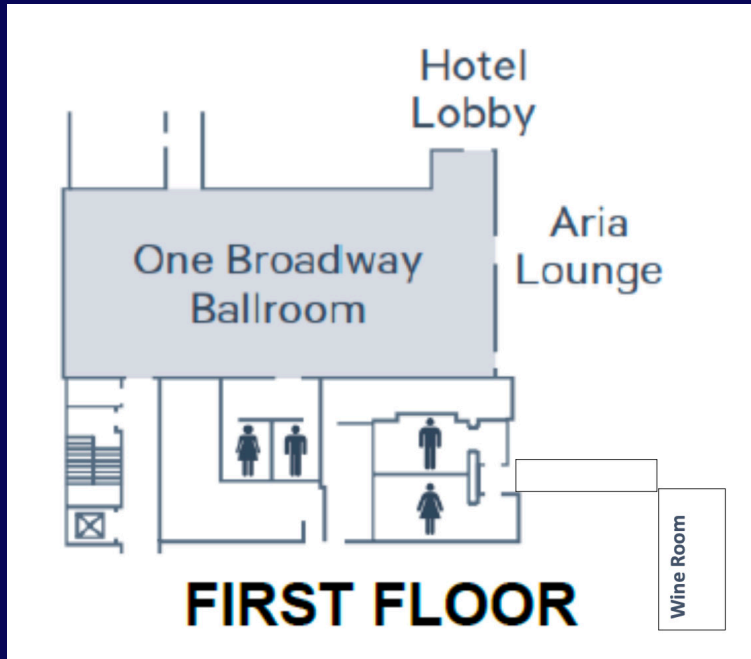




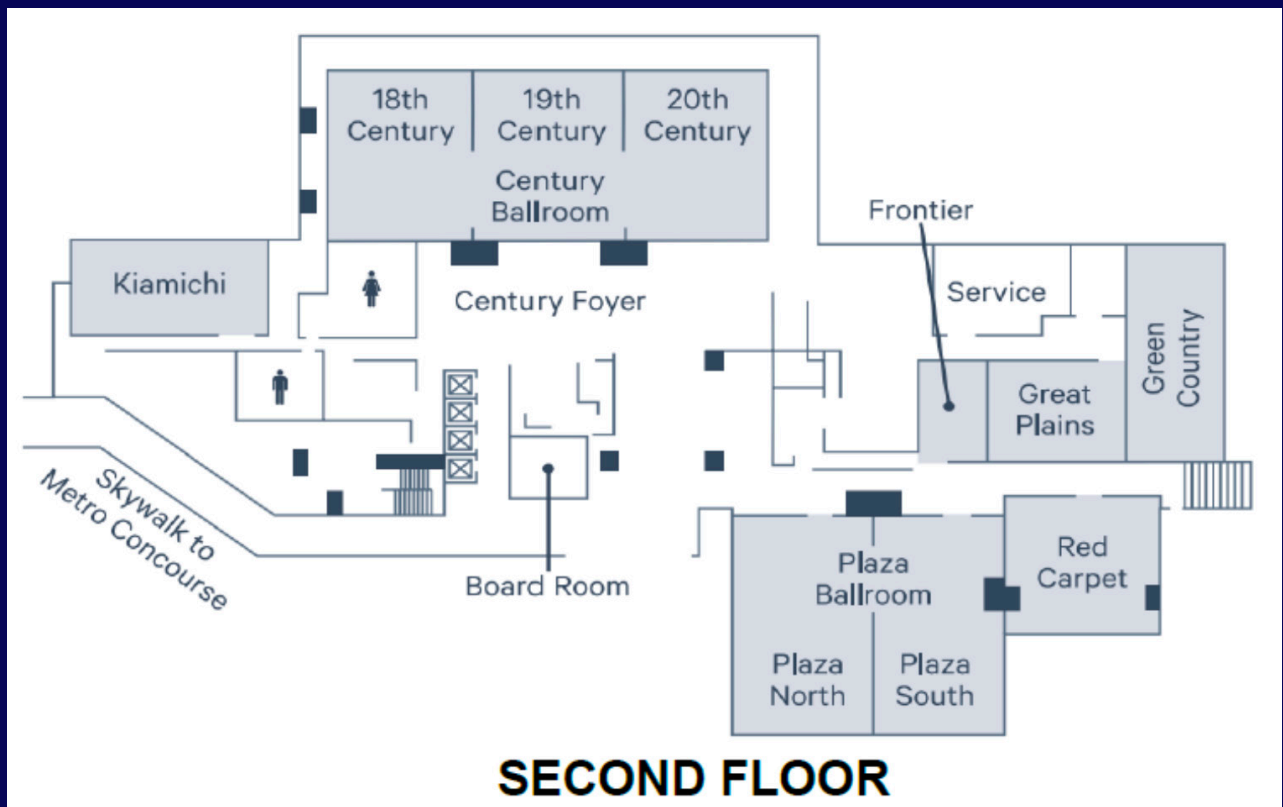
Session Descriptions

Friday, April 25





- *Brick Room is located on 1st floor near Block 23.*



8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

April 25



Mary, Mary Quite Contrary, How Does Your Garden Grow? | 18th Century Ballroom

Laci McCool

What plant would you most like to bring to work with you to brighten your workspace: orchid, daisy, or weed? Would you choose the exquisite and delicate orchid, the cheerful yellow and white blossoms of the daisy, or would you opt for an ever-growing weed that you can't kill because of your busy schedule? Join us and let's get down and dirty.

PBL Isn't for Just Gift and Talented, it's for CTE too! | 19th Century Ballroom

Andre Daughty

Schools around the world are adopting career-oriented, project-based, technology embedded and real world ideas to education. Those spaces recognize the connections between innovative learning and creativity. However, not all schools provide opportunities where all students can shine.

This talk provides context about PBL using storytelling, giving examples from classrooms, and sharing proven, effective and diverse practices for early childhood through adult learners.

To make space for PBL, we must change how educators lead and learn. This talk will inspire you to think about how we can build on the strengths, interests, and talents of our students and create better learning experiences for all. We will explore how to move toward a shared vision of teaching and learning, embrace learning as a process and not an event, and make learning public to share what you are learning and inspire others.



From Dreams to Reality: Designing Engaging Career Exploration Classes for Middle School Students | 20th Century Ballroom

Nancy Overton

We will explore how middle school students, often limited in their career awareness by their immediate environment, can be introduced to a broader spectrum of career paths. Attendees will discover how one technology center successfully partnered with local middle schools to create mandatory career exploration classes. Utilizing the Advance CTE career clusters as a guide, participants will learn how an engaging, hands-on curriculum was developed for students. These classes expand students' horizons by highlighting careers in manufacturing, transportation, energy, information technology, health, human services, business, and more. Participants will gain valuable insights and practical strategies for developing and implementing similar programs, ultimately empowering students to dream big and consider diverse career opportunities for their future.

Designing Modern Spaces to Enhance the CTE Experience | Frontier Room

Dr. Bob Dillon

Reimagine your CTE spaces in this high-energy, interactive session designed to inspire and empower. Discover practical tools and strategies to create dynamic, future-ready environments that foster innovation, collaboration, and student engagement. Participate in hands-on activities to explore flexible designs, student ownership, and cost-effective solutions. Leave equipped with actionable insights and resources to transform your learning spaces into vibrant hubs where students thrive and develop real-world skills. Get ready to lead meaningful change in CTE education!



Window Security Films, What to Know! Great Plains Room

Taryn Stewart

Safe Haven Defense is the leading manufacturer of Security Films. We will discuss the different levels of protection available from the industry and the differences in security films. Participants will discover: Why do you need security films: Ballistic VS Bullet resistant films and Installation process.

Building Soft Skills for Career Success: Beyond Technical Training Green Country Room

Tyler Bell

Exploring the importance of soft skills (communication, teamwork, problem-solving, time management) in career readiness and how to incorporate these skills into CTE curriculums. Providing resources and teaching strategies for cultivating these skills alongside technical expertise.



Babies Galore! | Plaza North Room

Lisa Wolf

Let's learn various ways to teach our students about infants and toddlers! Many Family and Consumer Sciences teachers throughout the country are teaching this information in a variety of classes. Engaging students in this material can help them retain information and enjoy class!



Engaging Industry Partners to Power Up Your CTE Pathway | Plaza South Room

Hannah Van Scotter

Energy Pathway at Carlsbad High School is an innovative Career and Technical Education (CTE) program for students in grades 9-12, centered on project-based, hands-on learning. This pathway helps students develop both technical and employability skills. Working in teams, students gain experience in project and time management, effective collaboration, and professional communication with industry partners.

The new era of education: Bringing students from passion to purpose | Red Carpet Room

Sarah Nelson

Every student deserves a clear path to post-grad success. Yet too many students approach the end of their high school journey uncertain for what's next. Imagine a world where students are not just dreaming about their future, but actively building it.

We're entering a new era of education where the lines between high school, college, and career become intertwined. Join the Savvas College & Career Readiness team in a discussion on how we can equip students with the college credits, industry certifications, and transferable skills all needed to thrive in the modern workforce.



9:00 AM - 9:50 AM
April 25



AI Made Simple: Turning “What’s That” into “I Got This” | 18th Century Ballroom

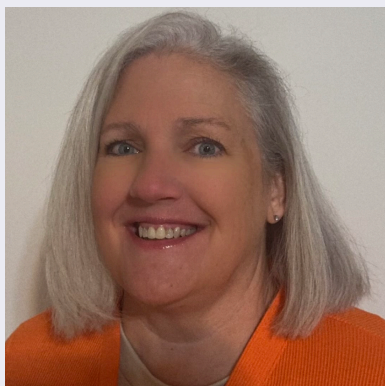
Cody McPherson

Think AI is just for computer geeks and programmers? Nope! This session is for Career Tech educators who know their way around a shop class but think AI might be as complicated as making coffee. Spoiler: It’s easier than you think—and way more useful than that old coffee maker in the teacher’s lounge. We’ll show you how AI can make grading faster, lesson planning smarter, and even help your students tackle real-world challenges in welding, HVAC, auto repair, or whatever trade you teach.

Understanding the ACTE Awards Process 19th Century Ballroom

Teresa Pinkston

Join us for an informative session on the ACTE Awards process, where we’ll break down nomination criteria, submission guidelines, and key deadlines. Learn how to craft a strong nomination, navigate the selection process, and celebrate career and technical education excellence. Whether you’re nominating a colleague or applying yourself, this session will provide valuable insights to help you succeed.



Supporting ALL Students in CTE Classroom/Environment | 20th Century Ballroom

Deanna Reed

To create an inclusive environment in career-technical classrooms, it is essential to implement strategies that effectively support English-language learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities. Firstly, we will dive into how educators can develop tailored lesson plans that incorporate visual aids and hands-on activities, allowing all students to engage with material meaningfully.

Secondly, we will discuss how fostering collaboration among students through peer mentoring can enhance learning experiences and promote social integration. Lastly, we will share how additional resources such as bilingual dictionaries and assistive technologies will empower ELLs and students with disabilities to thrive academically. By focusing on these objectives, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed in their career-technical education.

CTE on the Hill: What's Happening in Federal Policy and Why It Matters | Frontier Room

Stephen DeWitt

Get the latest insights on federal policies and actions shaping the direction of career and technical education nationwide, including Oklahoma. This session will explore current legislative priorities, budget considerations, and key initiatives from Congress and the Administration impacting CTE programs. Learn what's at stake, what's ahead, and how educators and leaders can stay informed and engaged in the federal policy process.



Exploring Drone Technology In Education Great Plains Room

Josh Beatty

Join us for an engaging session on the transformative potential of drone technology in education. This presentation will explore how drones can enhance STEM learning, inspire creativity, and provide students with career-ready skills through practical, hands-on experiences. Attendees will learn about integrating drones into various subjects, including film and media, robotics engineering, geography, and environmental science, showcasing their versatility as tools for career and technical education. With insights into the growing industry demand for drone operators and the rapidly expanding market, this session will provide practical strategies for curriculum development and highlight pathways to prepare students for future opportunities in technology-driven fields. Don't miss this chance to discover how drone education can equip students with the skills they need to thrive in a dynamic, innovation-focused world.

Easy Kitchen Labs for Hands-On Learning in the FCS Classroom

Mindy Lyle & Christina Loyd

This session will explore practical, easy-to-implement kitchen labs designed to enhance hands-on learning in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) classrooms. Participants will learn how to integrate simple cooking and food preparation activities that align with curriculum goals while promoting skills in nutrition, measurement, safety, and teamwork. The session will highlight budget-friendly, minimal equipment labs that can be scaled for various class sizes and skill levels. Emphasis will be placed on fostering a collaborative learning environment where students actively engage in real-world experiences, making connections between classroom knowledge and daily life skills. By the end of the session, attendees will have a toolkit of ideas and strategies for using the kitchen as a dynamic, interactive space for student-centered learning.



Leadership Programs in Oklahoma CTE

Plaza North Room

Misty Toms and Karen Talbott

Join us for a great session that showcases the various Oklahoma CareerTech leadership programs. We will explore how these distinctive programs provide participants with a rich array of experiences and activities that help prepare and equip leaders to be successful CareerTech Administrators. This session will provide an overview of the leadership programs available through CareerTech, highlight the collaborative opportunities of these programs, and share best practices from these programs.



DollaDollaBillsYall | Plaza South Room

Monte Womble

Why do WE do what WE do? If we aren't honest with ourselves, how can we be honest with our students when it comes to Career Exploration and Planning? What were YOUR reasons for setting out on the journey you are traversing? How do we help students connect to THEIR passion when they have NO clue on how to answer the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The answer sometimes lies in the quote "Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want?" Let's take a journey down memory lane...

Discover iCEV's New Courses & Hands-On Challenges | Red Carpet Room

Kassie Jo Winn-Huizar

Discover the latest advancements and resources at iCEV! This engaging workshop will showcase iCEV's newest courses, industry certifications and offerings designed to empower educators and enhance student success.

Join us for an interactive experience where you'll dive into iCEV's latest lab challenges, designed to bring real-world applications into the classroom. This hands-on component will allow you to explore how these lab challenges can be integrated into your curriculum to elevate student engagement and skill development. Don't miss this opportunity to expand your teaching toolkit and be among the first to experience the latest from iCEV!



10:00 AM - 10:50 AM
April 25



Empowering Students | 18th Century Ballroom

Rachel Belmon

Classroom management doesn't have to be about control—it can be about connection, creativity, and student leadership. In this high-energy, hands-on workshop, educators will explore fresh strategies that spark motivation and empower students to take ownership of their learning. Participants will learn how to: Build a more student-led classroom where voice and choice thrive; Facilitate reflective learning that inspires self-motivation; Foster a positive, relationship-driven environment—between students and with teachers; and Leave with practical tools to create a joyful, well-managed classroom where everyone feels seen, heard, and ready to succeed.

Future Leaders Wanted: CTE Students & Special Populations Shaping Tomorrow's Workforce 19th Century Ballroom

Katlyn Hudgins, Stephanie Coca & Iiakiya Raghavendiran

Join us to explore how current CTE students can serve as ambassadors to recruit their peers into CTE programs and Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), creating a vibrant and inclusive community that supports workforce development. Hear from student leaders involved in CTOSs to understand the impact of leadership, advocacy, and peer mentorship on both the personal growth of students and the broader CTE community.



The Classroom Starts with Culture 20th Century Ballroom

Andre Daugherty

Is your classroom engagement not as effective as you imagined? Are your staff meetings missing the teamwork and culture? This session provides practical ways to establish and maintain culture using energizers, anecdotes, examples, and protocols. This is definitely not a "sit and get" session! Be prepared to have fun as we learn together.

CTE Promotion - Done Well! | Frontier Room

Travis Petty

"As great as we would all say your CTE programs are . . . one thing remains best said by P.T. Barnum (the great circus promoter): ""Without promotion, something terrible happens . . . Nothing!"". And so it is with your CTE programs. If they are to thrive, they need to be in the spotlight!

This informative workshop will give you the tools and training you need to properly promote your CTE programs utilizing the most effective method ever created."



Best Practices for Safe and Secure School Green Country Room

Keith Stewart

Attendees will examine cost-effective ways to make their school safer and more secure. The presenter will guide attendees through strategies to transform schools from soft targets to hard targets while maintaining the educational environment's welcoming and aesthetic qualities. Attendees will learn lessons from past active shooter events to make proper changes in their school to help prevent the next attack. This interactive presentation will discuss how we can cultivate a safe, educational environment that protects our students and staff while promoting a sense of community and belonging.



Recruitment through Collaboration

Plaza North Room

Dr. Paula Tripp, Holly Hanan, and Brittani Phillips

Discover strategies for collaborative efforts that led to a state-wide recruitment event, Say Yes to FCS Education at OSU, that has been provided three times for capacity audiences of high school juniors and seniors.

By the end of this session, participants will:

1. Realize the historical need for a focused recruitment event,
2. Adapt strategies for collaborative strategies among professionals,
3. Be challenged to consider planning a similar event in their respective content areas.



The C in CTE: Structuring Classes to Prepare Student for Careers and Life Beyond High Schools | Plaza South Room

Hunter Christmas

This seminar will focus on CTE beyond traditional curricula. We will explore the importance of fostering essential behaviors, setting clear expectations, and integrating real-world scenarios into classroom instruction. Participants will engage in discussions on how to effectively teach life skills through project-based learning, building procedure, and problem-solving. Additionally, we will highlight the significance of CTSOs involvement and competitive opportunities as integral components of the CTE experience.

Building Future-Ready Students: Yukon Public School's Approach to College & Career Readiness & ICAP Completion | Red Carpet Room

Melissa Barlow

Yukon Public Schools is redefining college and career readiness by going beyond ICAP compliance to build a structured, student-centered approach from 7th-12th grade. Join Yukon High School Principal Melissa Barlow as she shares how her team has transformed CCR through streamlined course planning, work-based learning, and strategic collaboration. By transitioning from spreadsheets to a centralized system, they have improved efficiency, increased student engagement, and strengthened partnerships with CareerTech and industry leaders. Learn how their approach simplifies reporting, enhances teamwork, and helps students confidently navigate their post-secondary pathways.



11:00 AM - 11:50 AM
April 25



Transforming Your Classroom: Social Emotional Learning Environments | 18th Century Ballroom

Kimberly Langley

The presentation focuses on the importance of social and emotional health and how to integrate meeting the needs of students in the classroom on a daily basis. Attendees will learn simple ways to enhance the learning environment and transform the classroom into a Social-Emotional Learning Environment that meets the needs of all students.

Will the next generation decide or will it be decided for them? | 19th Century Ballroom

Kody Hookstra

If deciding has become scary, you may be in good company. In this session we will take a step into the big and small decisions that we see in classrooms and in schools. How do we give the power of decision to students with automated curriculum and screen fatigue? How do administrators go beyond trends and survey data and make difficult organizational decisions?



Self-Care Resiliency and Grit: Why it is better to eat Twinkies together than broccoli alone

20th Century Ballroom

Chris Zervas

Anxiety levels are measuring the highest of all time. Is it impacting your team's performance at work? Change influences all of us differently, yet you can find effective ways to manage instability and help your colleagues. Come discover: • Proven ways to ease unrest • How to help others on your team deal with their anxiety • When change is thrust upon you, how to grow and adapt.

Creating a Professional Development Game Plan for CTE Professionals

Frontier Room

Mary Illa Ward

As Career and Workforce Development professionals, we are always seeking to help the students we serve get a career game plan. But what about our own development?

Horizon Point Consulting, Inc. works with individual school districts and state departments of education to provide customized and credentialed training for career and workforce development educators. In this session, we will walk you through various options to create a professional development game plan for yourself and/or your district to effectively help students succeed through your success.



Making Math Relevant for Students: Exploration of Mathematics Within a Career Context

Great Plains Room

Dr. Jennifer Curtis

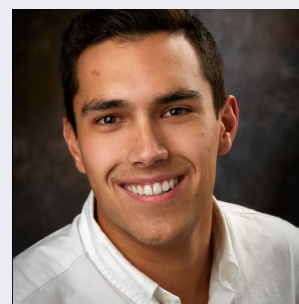
Interested in learning how to help your students understand the value of mathematics in the workplace? Join us and explore authentic career math tasks that are designed from a CTE perspective and based on the research in the Math-in-CTE pedagogical framework from the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE). Participants will explore authentic CTE tasks, first by determining what the task is about, and then immediately diving into a specific job within a career pathway related to the task.

Mastering Medical & Pharmacology Terminology Without the Stress and Frustration

Green Country Room

Nate Rubio

Unlock a new way to learn medical terminology with Dean Vaughn's proven method! This workshop introduces an innovative approach to mastering medical terminology—simplifying complex terms, definitions, and word structures using visual mnemonics and engaging imagery. Plus, discover how this same powerful method can be applied to pharmacology, making drug names and classifications easier to remember.



Empowering your FCCLA Chapter: Strategies for Success | Plaza North Room

Christina Loyd

Join us for an engaging and informative workshop designed to equip FCCLA advisors, members, and supporters with the tools and strategies necessary for building a dynamic chapter. Our session will cover essential topics such as fundraising, community service, national programs, member recruitment, and the benefits of STAR Events. By the end of this workshop, you will leave with a comprehensive game plan to enhance your FCCLA chapter's impact and reach



Empowering Careers for You-Recruiting Females for Skilled Trades| Plaza South Room

Gayla Hahn

Ideas on how to recruit females for skilled trades & learn about a recent mini-conference designed to help teen girls find their potential in skilled trades.

We will discuss: Possible motivators for females in skilled trades; Ideas for recruitment aimed toward female student; Walk away with the format to design your own mini-conference; How to involve industry in the process; and Discussion time to learn ideas from each other.

Driving Real-World Learning: A Hands-On Journey with SmartLab's Harvest Hauler Red Carpet Room

Kelly Raney

In today's dynamic workforce, career readiness starts well before high school. This session introduces Pathfinder, SmartLab's guided STEM curriculum for middle grades that immerses students in real-world industry challenges. Through hands-on projects in digital media, app design, robotics, and engineering, Pathfinder cultivates critical thinking, collaboration, and technical fluency.

Participants will explore how schools are using Pathfinder—within SmartLab's flexible implementation models—to equip students with future-ready skills aligned to career pathways. This session is designed for educators, CTE coordinators, and school leaders who want to deepen STEM integration with a simple turn-key method.

