Dear Members,

On behalf of the Oklahoma Association of Career and Technology Education, welcome to the Oklahoma Summit. I encourage you to take this opportunity to network with your colleagues and learn about what’s ahead for CareerTech.

Thank you for your continued support of OkACTE and your commitment to provide students with the skills and training necessary to be successful in this ever-changing working environment. Your leadership is creating a workforce that will help propel business development, in our state and lead to enhanced quality of life for all Oklahomans.

We have had an amazing year, including a successful legislative session and events with record breaking attendance. None of this would be possible without our OkACTE leaders, countless members who volunteer their time and talents and each and every person who pours their best into CTE.

We must stay united, we must stay focused on our mission and we must continue to challenge our students in the most innovative, out of the box way that only Oklahoma CareerTech can do.

Thank you for being a vital part of OkACTE and I hope you enjoy your time at the Oklahoma Summit.

Skye McNiel
OkACTE Executive Director

Reflecting on the first session of the 59th Legislature, lawmakers pre-filed over 3,000 bills and joint resolutions prior to the start of session. Gov. Stitt signed 363 of the almost 500 bills sent to him, vetoed 77 bills completely, allowed 65 bills to become law without his signature.

The final agreement on the FY 2024 $10.7 billion budget, the state’s largest ever, is about $1 billion more than the current budget. With the use of this extra money, there were great strides made in public education and investments in Oklahoma. Funding for CareerTech was given a $22 million increase.

I appreciate your willingness to help educate your legislative members about our efforts. OkACTE members definitely have strong reputations and credibility in their communities, which result in many of our successes at the State Capitol.

At the beginning of the 2023 legislative session, we tracked and monitored over 600 bills. These bills varied from CareerTech education policy, common education policy, education funding, teacher pay raise, tax credits, licensing, ad valorem, retirement, state employee pay raise, guns, economic development and much more. The list of OkACTE priorities is set and outlined in our Legislative Agenda. The Legislative Agenda is established by our membership. OkACTE members have an opportunity to submit prospective legislative priorities to be reviewed and ranked at the Legislative & Appropriations Forum. Once ranked, the OkACTE Political Action Committee, which is comprised of two members from every division, votes on the approved agenda. Our goal is to have a pulse on every bill that could positively or negatively impact any area of our system. Below is the 2023 OkACTE Legislative Agenda & Appropriations Request.

**CAREER GUIDANCE & ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

- Support changes to the College Prep/Work Ready graduation requirements to validate the importance of CTE courses in preparing students for their future. Acknowledge industry recognized credentials as a positive outcome of PK-12 education.
- Ensure that Oklahoma’s promise is available to all eligible students including those who participate in high quality career and technical education programs at technology centers.

**ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**

- Support legislation that provides all taxing jurisdictions an equal voice in the development and approval of economic development incentives such as Tax Increment Financing districts.
- Fully support legislation that encourages sound growth in emerging and expanding industries such as but not limited to film, movies, music, aerospace, manufacturing and healthcare.
- Support legislation that reduces employer risk when partnering with educational entities to provide work-based training opportunities for students.
- Support the implementation of a pilot program to allow diploma RN program to be created at four technology centers. The programs must be offered in cooperation with higher education institution and an industry partner.

**FUNDING & RELATED PRIORITIES**

- Fully fund the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education’s 2024 budget increase by $55,701,865 million of which will:
  - Increase support for existing PK-12 CTE Programs ($1.1 & $121 funding)
  - Increase enrollment capacity at Technology Centers
  - Increase training services to Oklahoma’s Employers
  - Increase services at Oklahoma Skills Centers
  - Fully fund of the Flex Benefit Allowance for all educational employees
- Maintain the Oklahoma Department of CareerTech as an independent state agency supporting all facets of Oklahoma’s Career and Technology Education programs.
- Support full funding of the Oklahoma Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund.
- Support the restoration and/or increase of funding of critical social services to insure that all citizens have access to the support they need to eliminate barriers which keep them from bettering their situations through education.
- Oppose any voucher proposal that takes away funding or resources from public education.
- Support a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all TRS retirees.
- Continue and strengthen partnerships with K-12 and higher education.
As we worked through the legislative process, we had several victories that included blocking bills that were detrimental to our students and system. Our biggest win is our over $22 million increase to the CareerTech FY24 budget. We’ve continued to meet with legislators, in one-on-one settings, to give them a detailed overview of the Oklahoma CareerTech system. We covered every arm of delivery, funding, uniqueness and success stories. Additionally, we had a record number of teachers invite legislators into their programs, classrooms and CTSO events. No one explains our impact better than the students we serve. The legislative success we had this year was directly related to the relationships made and the information shared by our CTE professionals with their elected officials.

**CareerTech State Appropriations**

- $1,400,000 – Technology Centers Flex (Health) Benefit Allowance
- $9,948,597 – Technology Center Certified Staff Salary Increase
- $4,750,000 – PK-12 CareerTech Programs
- $1,213,461 – Statewide CDL training
- $3,522,462 – Technology Center Operational Funding Formula
- $1,769,116 – Agency Operations in support of program growth
**Most Notable Bills of 2023 Legislative Session**

Here are a few of the bills that made their way through the session. For a full list, please see the OkACTE website - 2023 OK CTE Laws.

**SB 1119 – Teacher Pay Raise**
$286 million appropriated for teacher pay raise.
- Adjusts the minimum salary schedule based on years of experience:
  - $3,000 (0-4 years)
  - $4,000 (5-9 years)
  - $5,000 (10-14 years)
  - $6,000 (15+ years);
- Directs that the salary increase must be an increase amount equal to the amount indicated in the step increase, provided they stay employed by the same district
- Includes all fixed costs in funding.
- "Teacher" is defined based on 70 O.S. § 26-103 and includes ALL certified personnel except superintendents or retired teachers. Persons employed as classroom instructional employees of technology center school districts supervised by the State Board of Career and Technology Education shall also receive the salary increase.

**HB 1934 – Private and Home School Tax Credit**
• Creates the Oklahoma Parental Choice Tax Credit Act. For private school tuition and fees, the measure creates an income tax credit on a sliding scale with income caps based on adjusted gross income (AGI) of the eligible student’s household
  - $7,500 credit: less than $75,000 AGI
  - $7,000 credit: more than $75,000 but less than $150,000 AGI
  - $6,500 credit: more than $150,000 but less than $225,000 AGI
  - $6,000 credit: more than $225,000 but less than $250,000 AGI
  - $5,000 credit: more than $250,000 AGI
• Stipulates that the amount of the tax credit shall be equal to the private school tuition and fees or the maximum credit allowed according to the AGI of the eligible student’s household, whichever is less.
• Caps the amount of total credits that may be claimed for private school tuition and fees:
  - 2025: $150 million
  - 2026: $200 million
  - 2027 and subsequent tax years: $250 million

**SB 930 – Mandatory FAFSA**
Requires students to complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to graduate from a public high school beginning in SY2024-2025.
- Allows students to opt out if:
  - The student’s parent or legal guardian submits a signed opt-out form.
  - A student aged eighteen (18) or older submits a signed opt-out form.
  - A school counselor authorizes a student to opt out.
- Requires districts to designate a school employee to collect confirmation information for student’s FAFSA completion.
- Identifies that the State Department of Education shall develop and publish materials for students, parents, and legal guardians explaining the requirements to complete the FAFSA, the benefits to completing the FAFSA, and the opt-out provisions and an opt-out form to be used by school districts.

**SB 930 – Aerospace Education Program Expansion**
• Creates the Aero Student Pathways for Aerospace Careers and Education which allows the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission and its Director to organize and administer an aerospace strategy for implementing aerospace educational curriculum initiatives to better prepare students for an aviation and aerospace career.

**SB 1121 – 6 Weeks Maternity Leave**
• $12 million (estimated) for six (6) weeks maternity leave.
• Applies to full-time public school employees (mothers) who have been employed by the school district for at least one year (at least 1,250 hours during the preceding twelve-month period). For CareerTechs, it applies only to classroom instructional employees.
  - Does not apply to paternity leave.
  - Must be used immediately after birth of employee’s child.
  - Is used in addition to and not in place of sick leave.
  - Reimburses districts by the State Board of Education for expenses related to providing paid maternity leave.

**SB 621 - Workforce Development Commission**
Creates the Oklahoma Workforce Development Commission to coordinate the development of the workforce needed to grow Oklahoma’s economy and Oklahomans’ prosperity. The Commission will consist of nine members appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Speaker of the House. The Commission will administer the Workforce Development Revolving Fund, cooperate with public and private entities as needed, and enter into contracts or agreements for studies, professional services, grant administration and procurement, research projects, supplies, data collection, or any other services deemed necessary.

**SB 317 - Expanded TIF Reporting**
Requires the governing body within a tax increment district in operation for at least 9 months to submit a report to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce within 19 days of the end of the fiscal year. The report shall show the amount and source of revenue captured and apportioned, the amount of principal and interest due on outstanding bonded indebtedness, the tax increment base and current captured appraised value or the other local tax or fee collections retained by the area, the captured appraised value or the other local tax or fee collections shared by the governing entity, the name of the person who is currently in charge of the implementation of the plan, and the names of the persons who have disclosed an interest. The Department shall provide a copy of the report to any member of the public upon request.

**SB 93 – Mandatory FAFSA**
Requires students to complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to graduate from a public high school beginning in SY2024-2025.
- Allows students to opt out if:
  - The student’s parent or legal guardian submits a signed opt-out form.
  - A student aged eighteen (18) or older submits a signed opt-out form.
  - A school counselor authorizes a student to opt out.
- Requires districts to designate a school employee to collect confirmation information for student’s FAFSA completion.
- Identifies that the State Department of Education shall develop and publish materials for students, parents, and legal guardians explaining the requirements to complete the FAFSA, the benefits to completing the FAFSA, and the opt-out provisions and an opt-out form to be used by school districts.

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  - Does not apply to paternity leave.
  - Must be used immediately after birth of employee’s child.
  - Is used in addition to and not in place of sick leave.
  - Reimburses districts by the State Board of Education for expenses related to providing paid maternity leave.
SB 100 – CareerTech Board Districts

- Requires the State Board of Career and Technology Education to divide CareerTech districts with more than 225,000 electors into board zones.
- Directs that Boards of Education of each CareerTech district shall consist of one member elected from each of the district zones.
- Beginning July 1, 2024, allows the boards of education of each CareerTech district to pass a resolution to continue electing all board members at large, or to require a board member be elected from each district zone.
- Clarifies that if members cease to be a resident of the district zone for which they were elected, the office shall become vacant, and the vacancy shall be filled as directed in 26 O.S.§ 13A-110.

SB 110 – School District Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

- Requires every school district to undergo a risk and vulnerability assessment from the Oklahoma School Security Institute or a nationally qualified risk assessor by July 1, 2026, and every five years after. The assessment must include recommendations for improving school security.
- A district, university, or CareerTech must undergo a risk assessment in order to be eligible for an Oklahoma School Security Grant. If a school receives a School Security grant, it must spend grant money on items recommended by the risk assessor and/or provide de-escalation and behavioral threat assessment training to employees.

HB 2903 and HB 2904 – Establishes and Funds a School Security/School Resource Officer Grant Program

- Establishes a 3-year pilot program for school security ($50M for School Security Grants per year --- $150M over 3 years):
  - To establish and maintain a School Resource Officer (SRO) Program.
  - To provide physical security enhancements for schools including, but not limited to, school resource officers, cameras, gates, lighting, locks, doors, windows, security geofencing, and ballistic storm shelters.
  - Directs that monies in the School Security Revolving Fund shall supplement and not supplant existing school security funding.

To view a complete listing of the 2023 Oklahoma CareerTech laws, please use the QR code below:

![QR Code](image)

Member Benefits

OKACTE provides members with opportunities to engage in many programs and events to enhance their membership experience. Members can stay well-informed of events, changes in legislation, and media surrounding the Oklahoma CareerTech system by engaging with us using the following tools below.

Membership Emails
Stay in the loop of the events and news involving the Oklahoma CareerTech system. These emails are for members only. This year more than 323,000 individual emails were sent. Your personal information is safe with OKACTE, as we do not provide member emails to sponsors or vendors.

Legislative Updates
During the Legislative Session, these emails update membership on the bills that are hot topics for the OKACTE members. Weekly emails providing updates on CareerTech specific content was provided to members from February 6, beginning with an update regarding Governor Stitt’s State of State Address.

ICYMI Emails
In Case You Missed It emails are highlights and links from media coverage throughout the state. These emails are for members only. This year the average check payout was $13,026.

OKACTE/CCOSA Mutual Benevolence Plan
OKACTE partners with CCOSA to offer a death plan for members and spouses. In the event of the death of a member or spouse the beneficiary will receive a check from OKACTE to help defray the costs incurred. Upon a death, MBP participants provide a $10 payment which is provided after a death occurs. This year the average check payout was $13,026.

OKACTE Membership Dues Installment Plan
OKACTE offers members the opportunity to join or renew their membership with the OKACTE Membership Dues Installation Plan. This opportunity is available to OKACTE members whose annual dues total $100 or more. Members have the option to participate in 2 or 4 payment plan options. In 2022, we had 47 participants. This opportunity is available until August 8th.

Professional Liability Insurance
For just $40 per year PLI covers up to $1,000,000 per insured per occurrence plus the cost of defense, investigation, and legal fees. It also covers up to $10,000 per member per claim for attorney fees and up to $1,000 premium on bail bonds. In 2022, 871 members took advantage of the Professional Liability Insurance.

Oklahoma Summit App
Download the OKACTE app for free in the Apple App Store or GooglePlay. This app is utilized during the Oklahoma Summit conference. Users can create their own schedules, interact with other attendees, and directly contact exhibitors during and following the conference.

OKACTE Website
Members have a one-stop-shop for all things OKACTE with the OKACTE website. Learn more about our programming, sponsorship programs, register for events, or find out more about Oklahoma Summit and more at www.okacte.org.
OkACTE Fellowship Program
The OkACTE Fellowship program provides leadership development for CTE professionals to further their development in professional associations. This year, the fellows led by Michael Culwell and Dr. Brent Casey experienced many leadership opportunities throughout the state. They visited programs, schools, heard from various leaders, completed a book study, and presented sessions at the ACTE Region IV conference. Through this program, participants learned about the advocacy process and were able to share their CareerTech story with many legislators. It was a successful year for the 12 participants in the program.

Professional Development
Another emphasis of OkACTE is to provide professional and leadership development. We host conferences and workshops that allow members to grow in their professional skills while providing networking opportunities with other CareerTech professionals.

2022 Oklahoma Summit
Oklahoma Summit, our annual conference, held the first week of August with over 4,000 attendees was packed with committee and business meetings, professional development sessions, the awards banquet, and many networking opportunities. The general session honored many CTE professionals for their outstanding accomplishments to our system and allowed attendees to hear from our gubernatorial candidates. The exhibit hall was host to over 100 vendors and an exhibitor reception. The PAC Dance was reintroduced for the first time in many years with a successful turnout and fundraising effort.

Leadership OkACTE
The Leadership Seminar was held August 28-30th in Durant. Division leaders were given an opportunity to learn about effective leadership, network with division officer teams, listen to the history of the Oklahoma CareerTech system from Dr. Tom Friedemann and do strategic planning for the upcoming year. Approximately 140 members attended this year’s retreat.

Legislative Seminar
Legislative Seminar was host to nearly 85 members in preparation for the 2023 Legislative session. Participants received basic information regarding the legislative process, as it related to Oklahoma CareerTech. Advocacy how-to sessions and a variety of breakouts were presented to attendees to continue the strength and support for CareerTech.

Awards Workshop
The awards workshop allowed attendees a deeper understanding of the awards process at each level. The agenda provided a first-hand experience from national award committee chairs, award winners and award-winning dossier writers. This opportunity was held for interested members, awards committee chairs and award nominators to learn the in-depth process of the awards program. This year’s workshop was host to approximately 60 attendees.

Diversity Symposium
The Diversity Symposium is an annual event hosted by the OkACTE Diversity Committee. The symposium is designed to address issues related to awareness of diversity for member, students that are taught and businesses that our members are involved in. This year, the symposium had over 100 attendees and was host to many outstanding speakers focusing on various Diversity topics. Some of the highlights included, human trafficking, gender identity and sexual orientation, health care disparities, developing an inclusive workplace and safe zone training among many more.

HR Forum
HR Forum is for any CareerTech employee involved in the on-boarding and exiting processes for any CareerTech employee. The following topics were presented to 31 attendees last December; the tangible benefits of membership including member only programs, ways to update and establish better practices of membership status within OkACTE and a deep dive into the membership dues installment plan. Attendees also had an in-depth discussion and training for the 2023 process for Positional Memberships.

Partners in Progress
Partners in Progress was held in February to honor our industry partners who work one-on-one with our technology center districts. Each partner was recognized for their commitment to work with our technology centers and students. Many legislators attended the event where our business partners shared their commitment to CareerTech and our students. This year we honored 27 technology center partners.

Sponsorships
OKACTE’s sponsorship program is designed to increase professional development opportunities, improve, and expand relationships with key industry partners, add prestige to our nationally recognized awards program and create constant exposure to our career and technology education system throughout Oklahoma. Oklahoma Summit would not be possible without the support of many of our sponsors. With their generosity, we have been able to provide attendees with opportunities in the exhibit hall, award winning motivational speakers, cash prizes for award winners and attendees, and numerous networking opportunities. We are thankful for all they do for OkACTE and our membership.
On The Horizon

Our OkACTE staff and leadership are dedicated to meeting the changing needs of our members. We will keep you informed of any updates and developments throughout the year. We look forward to collaborating with you on upcoming projects and events. Additionally, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to two important new initiatives: the Legislative Roadshow and OkACTE Sponsorship Committee.

Legislative Roadshow

Introducing the Legislative Roadshow, an annual event aimed at providing a hands-on CTE experience. Over the course of two days, we will be hosting elected officials and key stakeholders on a statewide tour, visiting every arm of our diverse system. This exclusive opportunity will familiarize state decision makers with the crucial role that CTE plays in our state’s workforce economy.

We are thrilled to showcase our K-12 programs, tech centers, skill centers, and state agency. As we continue with our planning, we may reach out for volunteers and assistance. Our goal is to ensure that this tour becomes the most informative and eye-opening experience for our legislators and officials. We look forward creating this successful event in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of CareerTech.

OkACTE Sponsorship Committee

This fall, our team will be introducing a new initiative, the OkACTE Sponsorship Committee. Our goal is to create new sponsorships that will not only expand opportunities and activities at the Oklahoma Summit, but also help maintain affordable dues and minimize registration costs. These new sponsorships will not only contribute to the development of exciting professional growth, but also enhance networking opportunities and support the establishment of other OkACTE events. To ensure the success of this endeavor, we will be selecting the members of the Sponsorship Committee through an application process. Rest assured, we have some unique and exciting incentives in store. Stay tuned for more information to come!

Dear Oklahoma Summit Attendee:

On behalf of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) I am delighted to welcome you to the 56th Annual Oklahoma Summit! As the largest ACTE member state in the nation, Oklahoma amplifies our vision to empower educators to deliver high-quality career and technical education (CTE) programs that position students for career success. At ACTE, we are so immensely grateful for all the work you are doing to advance CTE.

As members and summit attendees, we encourage you to actively engage in all the professional learning and networking opportunities this week to ensure CTE thrives at local, state and national levels. As a national ACTE and Oklahoma member, you benefit from our public policy work, a subscription to Techniques magazine, access to our awards, leadership and insurance programs and member-exclusive discounts to all our events.

As professionals in CTE, you strive to stay connected to the latest innovations in education and industry. The Oklahoma Summit agenda is packed with information on issues facing our profession and the workforce development needs of our nation that will inform your teaching and administration of CTE programs. I invite you to complement your professional development here in Oklahoma by joining the national gathering of CTE professionals at ACTE’s CareerTech VISION 2023, happening this Nov. 29-Dec. 2 in Phoenix, Arizona. Be sure to register by Aug. 31 to secure the early bird rate to attend the largest national conference in the nation for CTE professionals!

I wish you a successful event this week as you grow your network, gather new resources and apply your newfound knowledge to your home school districts and communities. Have a wonderful conference!

Sincerely,
LeAnn Curry
Executive Director, ACTE
ACTE Membership

ACTE is a national association that empowers educators, administrators and CTE professionals to deliver high quality training and education. OKACTE members have a unified membership with ACTE. This unique relationship allows members to simultaneously join both their state and national professional membership organizations. As a unified state, OKACTE is committed to ensuring our state association stands as a national leader, representing the largest membership state within ACTE.

ACTE MEMBERSHIP STATE COMPARISON

ACTE Oklahoma Board Member

Region IV Vice President
Michael Culwell  
Kiamichi Technology Centers

Counseling and Career Development (CCD), Vice President Elect
Brooke Kusch  
Autry Technology Center

Postsecondary Adult Career Education (PACE), Vice President Elect
Shawn Freie  
Autry Technology Center