

OKLAHOMA'S TECHNICAL CENTERS FEATURED IN NATIONAL AREA TECHNICAL CENTER STUDY

SILVER SPRING, MD (FEBRUARY 3, 2021) -- Today, Advance CTE released Building Better Futures for Learners: A 50-State Analysis of Area Technical Centers (ATCs), alongside five state profiles highlighting effective and high-impact models of ATCs. One of the state profiles features Oklahoma's 29 ATCs, known as technology centers. These open enrollment institutions serve over 30,000 secondary and postsecondary learners, with 88 percent of learners earning degrees or credentials and 91 percent achieving post program placement in a job or further education.

"As we look ahead at the challenges and opportunities to achieving a sustainable and equitable economic recovery, it is vital that states fully leverage existing avenues for high quality, accessible education", said Kimberly Green, Executive Director for Advance CTE. "Our work shows that area technical centers are resilient and effective institutions for Career Technical Education, and giving these institutions a larger role in postsecondary degree and credential attainment is a win-win for everyone."

Oklahoma's technology centers are key players in the state's education and workforce development efforts, contributing to the state's postsecondary attainment goals by helping learners attain the skills necessary to earn credentials of value in high-wage, in-demand occupations. Through innovative partnerships, the technology centers prioritize supporting underserved populations, particularly native populations and veterans and are commonly business incubator sites, supporting entrepreneurship and business development.

"Oklahoma's technology centers are uniquely positioned to provide industry-endorsed training and certifications that meet the real-time needs of both students and employers while increasing postsecondary attainment across the state," said Dr. Marcie Mack, State CTE Director of Oklahoma CareerTech. "Our technology centers have the agility to respond quickly to industry challenges and are key to economic prosperity in Oklahoma."

The full state profile and additional resources can be found at www.AreaTechnicalCenters.org.