

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
STATE BOARD OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
HELD AT THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY
EDUCATION, 1500 WEST SEVENTH AVENUE,
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74074

July 17, 2025

The State Board of Career and Technology Education began its regular meeting at 9:05 a.m. Thursday, July 17, 2025, at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, Tuttle Seminar Center, Stillwater, OK, 74074, and the meeting was also streamed on YouTube. Notice was properly given, and the final agenda was posted at 4:30 p.m. on July 15, 2025, in accordance with 25 O.S. 2011, § 311(9).

Members of the State Board of Career and Technology Education present and all appeared in person:

- Mr. Brent Haken, state director, ex-officio nonvoting member
- Mr. Michael Brown, Lawton
- Ms. Shaelynn Haning, Tulsa
- Mr. Leonard McCullough, Tulsa
- Mr. Rob Seeman, Morris
- Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher

Members of the State Board of Career and Technology Education who were absent:

- Mr. Ryan Walters, state superintendent of public instruction and chair of the board
- Mr. Zachary Archer, Hammon
- Mr. Peter Dillingham, Enid
- Mr. Randy Gilbert, Tecumseh

Attendees from the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education and other guests:

See Attachment A.

1.01 CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Mr. Brent Haken called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., and Ms. Ashley Rink called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

**1.02 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, SALUTE TO THE OKLAHOMA STATE FLAG
AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Led by Mr. Brent Haken.

1.03 OPENING COMMENTS

Mr. Brent Haken said, "Welcome back to Stillwater, guys. Just as a reminder before we get going, we will be in Oklahoma City for the next board meeting and then down in Lawton after that. We'll go ahead and start with some opening comments. The state superintendent is not here, obviously, so I'll be presiding over the meeting. I've got several comments I wanted to go through. We don't have a lot of action items, but there's a lot going on. It's a busy time for Oklahoma CareerTech, so there are things I wanted to go through with you guys."

1.04 DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Mr. Brent Haken said, "Last week, I was in Salt Lake City for the Education Commission of the States. Pretty good conference, actually. You never know, it depends on the year. Last year, I was the only Oklahoman there. But this year, we had Rep. Banning there, the staff attorneys from the House on the education side, and Nellie Sanders was there as secretary of education. We had some really good discussions around policy. One of the most interesting sessions was ROI in education, return on investment in education, and the winning factor of education is CTE across the nation right now. The estimate they gave was that 20% of degreed jobs are going to go away in the next decade because of the technology revolution we're seeing with AI. A lot of especially entry-level jobs in accounting and several fields like that, which are fundamental in the workforce, are going to go away. But the hard trades, the skilled trades, are not. There's a ramp-up of CTE across the nation, which bodes well for Oklahoma CareerTech.

"We also talked a lot about different policies. Everyone in the country is changing their graduation requirements to kind of mirror that ROI, and we're ahead of that curve, as we changed ours two years ago. Though it's been a little bit of a struggle, we got to be a very vocal part of that change. I'm pretty excited about where we are right now in advocating for high school students to have CTE experiences.

"One of the other things we talked about, and that we'll need to discuss as a board in coming months, is an option for the agency to use other state retirement systems. The reason that's a discussion item we'll bring up in coming meetings is because right now we use TRS as an agency, but we don't have another option. So if an employee wanted to retire from the school system or teach and then work at the agency, they can't be back active in the retirement system. Why not have another state option that's already available? That might be a great tool to recruit some people to the agency. Sometimes TRS is not the way to recruit them. SDE does that as well. So do the Regents (Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education). So it might be an option we move forward on legislatively, and we'll kind of discuss that as we go forward. But we had a great, great conversation around that. It was a really good session.

"Several other things we talked through in those meetings were around competency-based instruction, which is what we do. We bode well in all of those discussions.

"We are currently undergoing a lot of Summit work, or Summer Conference, as you know it. That is the gathering of all CTE instructors in the state of Oklahoma. Over 5,000 people will come the first week of August, and that's where our agency does a lot to bring those people together and be on mission and on task. All divisions are working toward that. Of course, Gina (Ms. Gina Hubbard) as our outreach director and Andrea (Ms. Andrea Hancock) and her team

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025

are doing a ton of work to make those things happen. It's a really big event and it's exciting. We are the only education entity that brings all people together at one time.

"This year's State Teacher of the Year for all education, recognized by SDE — is a CTE teacher from Elgin, an FCS team member there. She'll be at the state board meeting soon, so you guys will get to meet her. Pretty exciting. We're looking forward to bringing her here so you all can meet and discuss.

"Some changes within the agency. Just to note, you may have heard about regional coordinators and what their role is. We had regional coordinators who worked on the education side and some on the workforce/economic development side. I've changed that up a little bit. We're now going to move the education RCs to CCD (Career Counseling Division), and they're going to be basically program specialists like the other divisions, but focused around what counseling does. Everything from internships and apprenticeships for high school students, all the way to implementing graduation requirements and how CTE works in an academic setting, will help facilitate.

"On the workforce and economic development side, those RCs are going to be WED coordinators. They'll still work with all the technology centers, making sure our WED staff at the tech centers have what they need. Similar work, just titling them appropriately and making sure they are specific in their tasks, so that we're not wondering what our mission is and where we're going.

"Those are some changes going on. We recently had our leadership retreat, where my team met and started going through goals and settings for the year. Three things that we really wanted to update you on: We're exploring field placement options for program specialists. Those people already in the field, based on the area they serve. Making sure that whether it's in FCS or STEM or whatever, they are supporting the teachers in that area. They don't need to be in Stillwater every day. We used to have the option (we only did it one day a week) where they could telework, that way they were closer to the field and didn't have so much travel, since that's where they usually lived anyway. We're exploring opportunities (we haven't implemented anything yet) where those program specialists may be able to be in the field, at a school or public setting, as their office. We would make space available two to three days a week so they don't have to come to Stillwater every day and make that fit what they actually do. It's kind of monotonous to have them drive to Stillwater, then go back to the field many days. Hopefully we can do a better job of placement while still staying within the governor's executive order. That's what we're really looking to do.

"We're also exploring, or actually have decided to implement, 360 surveys for staff members, so that we can give feedback to each leader in this agency. Funny story, we had all that done and were ready to buy the 360 surveys, had our bids ready to go and then we went through OMES and found out they were on state contract, and so the price went up. So we're still moving forward, but it's a little higher than we anticipated because they were on state contract. I don't know how to make that make sense, but that's what it is.

"We're also going to do a fall review of field pay. We require that data anyway from all field staff here at the agency to make sure we are compensating our agency competitively, so that we can be competitive with the field. You guys will get information on that.

"Some other things you might get questions about from across the state: Adult education is a hot topic right now, because the Trump administration has held up payment on adult education. If you've heard about the after-school programs and all those things, it's all in one package. What that means for us is \$7 million that was slated to come to us on July 1 did not. Thirty programs

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025

across the state that we operate to help people get their high school equivalency are on pause right now. We're waiting to work that out. I've communicated with the legislature that we are working to see what we can do and how we can help those programs. I think the big holdup, from everything I've read, is that there were dollars in that grant that were going to illegals for education. We had already realized that money was not going to be available, and we had worked on plans to make sure that nobody was taking advantage of these opportunities who was not an Oklahoma citizen. We're pretty diligent about how we can do that even though it wasn't required before. I don't think that'll be a holdup, but we'll just wait and see how quickly the money comes in. I still think it will come, but I don't know exactly when. By Aug. 9, we should have some definite answers. It would be a big change in our state if it's not there. Our state does not pay in any other way for high school equivalency. We have almost 300,000 adults without a high school diploma in Oklahoma. That's the only way we get them caught up through that federal grant. We would have to make some changes if it's not there.

"Short-term Pell is something that's been talked about with this board lots of times. It passed with a big, beautiful bill. So now we'll have the opportunity to offer shorter programs for career training and have those be Pell-eligible. Pretty exciting what we might be able to do in the future. There are some parameters. We will be able to offer it because we are accredited. A lot of privates will have a more difficult road to offer those opportunities until they get those programs accredited.

"So it's a lot of updates, a whole lot that I brought to you. Sorry about that, but there are things I wanted you to know that will be coming up for these board meetings."

1.05 MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

A vote was taken on the motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2025, regular meeting. The results were as follows:

Motioned by Mr. Michael Brown
Seconded by Ms. Shaelynn Haning

Mr. Seeman, yes
Mr. McCullough, yes
Ms. Haning, yes
Mr. Brown, yes
Mr. Deatherage, yes

Motion carried.

1.06 A Ceremonial Oath of Office will be administered to Mr. Ryan Deatherage for an unexpired term ending April 1, 2028, replacing Ms. Kendra Wesson - State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Board Chair or State Director of Career and Technology Education.

Mr. Ryan Deatherage said, "I, Ryan Deatherage, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, and that I will not knowingly receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing for the

performance or nonperformance of any act or duty pertaining to my office, other than the compensation allowed by law; I further swear that I will faithfully discharge my duties as a member of the State Board of Career and Technology Education to the best of my ability.”

2. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

2.01 SkillsUSA Presentation and Possible Discussion – Ms. Renee Reed, State Program Manager, Trade and Industry, and Ms. Kendra Alcala, SkillsUSA Oklahoma State Advisor.

Ms. Renee Reid said, “My name is Renee Reid. I'm the trade and industrial education program manager here at the agency. I'm just going to share a brief little piece of what we do in T&I, and then I'm going to turn it over to our state advisor for our CTSO.

“In T&I, we have a large breadth that we cover, everything from cosmetology to plumbing and welding. So, we have a little bit of everything. If you look up here, here are the different eight clusters. You'll see agriculture, and sometimes that's questioned. Remember that primarily our agriculture programs lie within our K12 programs and within that division, but we do have one technology center that has an equine program and a horticulture program. So that is the little, tiny sliver of agriculture that we have in there, just a very small piece.

“We're also covering some different areas that we are going to be seeing some growth in this next year with some of the funds that were given last year through legislation. We're seeing programs across the licensed trades really grow. Electrical programs coming on, fire and EMT programs across the state, and then cosmetology. There's a waitlist, I think, in every cosmetology program that we have in our system. We're seeing cosmetology grow and continue to be a part of our system also.

“Aerospace maintenance is starting to morph a little bit. For years, we've always had A&P, those licensed FAA mechanics, but we're starting to see industry say, ‘We need specific skill sets.’ Some of our technology centers are starting to build very specific programs there. You'll see those aerospace maintenance programs there.

“Industrial technology is ever-growing. Director Haken talked this morning about some of those jobs that used to require a college degree. I would say these industrial mechanics fall into that area. People who used to need an electrical engineering degree are now being replaced by those with mechanical skills. The computer does the work, but the human has to fix what the computer does. We call that industrial maintenance or mechatronics.

“We are in all of our campus locations across the state. Our regions are not necessarily geographic; they're based on the actual areas. Our program specialists are broken up into those different areas and have specializations.

“This slide is probably something you've seen multiple times. We have over 33,000 full-time enrollments across the state. The highlighted areas are, for the most part, all T&I. We account for about 50% of our full-time enrollments in our technology centers.

“This is our staff. You can see we have someone over transportation trades. So instead of having regional coverage, we have someone over manufacturing, someone over licensed construction trades. We are a group of currently seven, soon to be eight; we do have one open position.”

Mr. Michael Brown asked, “Have you seen any interest in, uh, drone technology, and do we have a program specific in some of our centers?”

Ms. Renee Reed said, “Those aerospace technology programs, most of them are including a drone license as part of their licensure. The other place we're actually seeing it is law

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025

enforcement. Law enforcement and safety management, emergency services, falls in our areas. And so many of them are also adding a drone license. It's something that's very easy to add to curriculum. Those students do have to be 16 to sit for their FAA 107, but they can get their TRUST certificate at any age. Some of them are just working on that basic safety license — which is called a TRUST certificate — and some of them are working toward their full license. It just kind of depends on what they're doing. That also rolls over into some of our STEM programs that we have in that other occupational area. But we are starting to see it get added to multiple areas."

Mr. Michael Brown said, "Law enforcement drones aren't fair."

Ms. Renee Reed said, "Well, what I've understood is they're using them more, and they're using them more like if there's an accident, they can assess a situation and not have to necessarily go down a cliff or into an area. They can see what's going on — if it was an older accident or if it's something that's newer. Those types of things. The construction industry is starting to use them more to assess roads. But that's where it comes into that safety piece — you can only fly over certain roads with cars, and there are some rules and regulations on that through the FAA. But they are using them for construction projects to measure all of those things. And of course, you see them in agriculture regularly. So we are starting to see more and more schools add that as an extra cert. It's not necessarily a full program, but for some more hours."

Ms. Shaelynn Haning asked, "How many of the number is, um, let's say under the age of 18? So like not adults?"

Ms. Renee Reed said, "So primarily our programs in our technology centers are juniors and seniors in high school. We probably have about 10% of our enrollments that are adult students. We're starting to see more and more flexibility with our programs — those adult students will come in and maybe not finish the whole program because they're rolling over and finishing an apprenticeship."

Ms. Shaelynn Haning asked, "But they're still getting the certification?"

Ms. Renee Reed said, "Exactly. So the majority of this is kind of catered to those high school students."

Mr. Brent Haken said, "To answer that another way, Renee said it exactly right, but of the 33,000 enrollments, 22,000 of those are high school juniors and seniors. Also related to T&I, a lot of our WED programs that are short-term, adults will take those as well. They're kind of collaborative between the T&I professionals in the school and the WED instructors, and some of them even teach both. It's not necessarily under their purview, but it may be specific to the skill that's needed. So a lot of adults, we have over 300,000 enrollments in WED each year, a lot of that has T&I."

Ms. Shaelynn Haning asked, "What would you consider a short-term program? What is that actual time frame?"

Ms. Renee Reed said, "A best example of that: You have to be licensed through the Construction Industry Board to be a plumber, but you also, through that board, have to do continuing education units. Many of those continuing education units are run through our technology centers because they're full-time plumbing programs that are teaching high school students during the day. Those teachers are licensed to teach those professional development classes at night or on the weekends — however they make it fit for those folks. And so that's where you oftentimes will see those short-term enrollments — things like that. Or it could be something specific, like maybe they want their drone license because they have a construction business and they want to start doing something like that."

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025

Ms. Shaelynn Haning asked, "But that's what — a couple of weeks, couple of months? What is all things?"

Ms. Rence Reed said, "It could be one day. It could be one day a week for six weeks. Everyone does it a little differently."

Mr. Brent Haken said, "It's what they need, when they need it. We don't want to be a supply-focused education; we want to be demand. So whatever the business needs — and that's why we have that short-term. But to give you an idea framework-wise, most of our programs that operate on the full-time side are going to be close to 960 hours — for high school or adults — two years long, 480 each year. And so under that is usually our short-term stuff. That might help you put a little bit of parameters on it. When I mentioned short-term Pell earlier, so the new parameters are going to be, gosh, I'm trying to remember it now — 150 to 599 hours. but I think that's right. That's the new parameters, and then it has to be an 8-week or up to 15-week duration."

Ms. Shaelynn Haning asked, "And the high schools are using these Pell grants to be able to pay for this? Or no?"

Mr. Brent Haken said, "High school students cannot use Pell — only adults. OK. So we have a lot of adults that receive training short-term — I guess is what I'm trying to explain — now that they will be eligible for financial aid, where they weren't before. Like truck driver training is our largest short-term program, and there is no aid available — until '26, when this comes out, that we hope we can make that financial aid accessible so that students can get their truck driver license."

Ms. Kendra Alcala said, "Good morning, everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this morning. My name is Kendra Alcala. I'm the SkillsUSA state adviser for Oklahoma. Today we just want to highlight a few things and the success of our student organization.

"We did provide you guys a quick fact sheet. You will see some items on your list that will also be on our screen today, but I'm just going to highlight a few of our big activities and big events that we have done this year. So I'm proud to say that SkillsUSA Oklahoma has grown to over 18,000 members this year. We're in the top six to seven depending on the others state chapters in the country for largest CTSO through SkillsUSA in the country. Every state in the country does have a chapter, and we also include three territories. We're pretty proud to say that we are always at least in the top 10%. I believe this year our membership hasn't technically ended until the end of August, but I do believe we're going to probably be up in the top, probably sixth place in the country for membership. So our growth is increasing. We are pretty excited about that.

"Throughout the year you'll see that we do have quite a few events that we help our students engage in to help them become better well-rounded citizens and better members of their chapters and then hopefully in the future better members of Oklahoma. I'm going to highlight just a few for you today. Out of our 18,000 members we also include professional members that could be advisers, that could be teachers, that could be administrators at the schools or the technology centers. We are also very excited to say that we have this year almost close to 800 professional members to help support our chapters and also support our students.

"Our chapters do come out of our technology centers primarily. We're also in every technology center including a handful of high schools as well. We do reach into the high schools. I believe we're currently about 10 to 15 chapters in the high schools as well. They were adding some more in the upcoming year. We're reaching into those as well which is pretty exciting. Oh. Yeah, here we go. That'll work.

"Then on the leadership side of things, we take every opportunity to provide our students the ability and the chance to gain some of those leadership skills so they again can go into the world

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025

to be well-rounded people, to help lead our communities. And so one of those includes executive council meetings. Twice a year, our members do come for official business meetings. They help lead our organization, make very important decisions on the direction that they'd like to go. So based on our constitution we have representation in different ways but on average we have about 55 members that come and help make decisions for the guidance of our organization, and those happen twice a year.

"And then the other two big opportunities that we provide our students are both state and district officer positions. We do have both high school members and also postsecondary adult members who can run for leadership positions in SkillsUSA Oklahoma. Currently at the moment, we just installed a new group of leaders for this upcoming year. We have eight high school students that'll be joining us. We have three adult students, and we just recently were very honored to have another national SkillsUSA officer come from Oklahoma. So we have representation at the national level again this year as well. We have six district directors who help lead our district officer groups. We have close to 70 students throughout the state who help run their local chapters and their district chapters as well.

"And then I just wanted to highlight a couple of the larger events. At the state level, we do organize opportunities and conferences for our students. These are outside of the chapter events or the local events that might be happening, but we alone here at the state level last year had 21 events that supported our SkillsUSA members. Our biggest ones are always going to be our fall conferences. We do provide an individual opportunity for our postsecondary adult students to come and learn and engage and grow. So that happened this year. We had 310 attendees come to that event, which was pretty exciting.

"And then our six districts organize and run their fall chapter events in the summer or in the fall as well. We had over 1,500 attendees spread throughout the state in the fall attending those events.

"And then our two other biggest events during the year are our contests. We start very early, starting in February running events in preparation for state conference and then heading on into national conference where we did really well this year, and we'll talk about here that momentarily but during February we run close to 75 different contest days throughout the state. Multiple contests are occurring during those days. As you can see we had over 2,600 participants who were in a contest. Some were in multiple contests depending on the type of contest they were in, but at least 2,600 students did engage in an activity that reflected their ability in their trade. Everything from cosmetology, welding, leadership development like public speaking, quiz bowl, it was very widespread. Carpentry was also represented at that level as well.

"Those students progressed with us to state where we also had other students come with us. And we had again close to, uh, almost 3,000 participants come and join us for that event. So, it's the largest event we do in the state. We take over the Arvest Convention Center in Tulsa, and we use the whole convention center. And we're starting to rapidly outgrow the space which is exciting. It brings some challenges as well but we're happy to have those challenges.

"And then we also expand into some technology centers. We also use some partnership locations like the Pipeliner's Union to run some of our contests. During that weekend, I would say we're close to probably an additional seven or eight spaces including the Arvest Convention Center to be able to hold and run our events.

"And then the last, which is fun and we like to call it, uh, SkillsUSA summer camp, but is our summer leadership institute where students come, come, again, learn what it means to be a

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025

SkillsUSA member, grow as individuals, and this is where we see a lot of leadership growth heading into the next year come out of as well.

"Next time, thank you. Like I said state is our biggest event that we hold here for SkillsUSA Oklahoma. Just a few numbers for that. This year we ran, like I said, we had close to 3,000 participants. Depending on how they were registered or how they participated with us for the day, you'll see that we had 2,346 contestants that were in a contest of some sort. Some again may have been in two depending on their contest type.

"And out of those participants, 2,676 of them were teams. So that could be construction, video production, quiz bowl, all sorts of different things like that. But we do have team-based competitions again, which allows them the opportunity to work on their, show their skilled trade, but also their teamwork ability as well, which we all know in the business field, we, uh, all need to work well with one another. So we have that opportunity for our students to practice those skills as well.

"Additionally, we had a hundred additional participants. So this could have been a cosmetology model. This could have been somebody who came to help for the day in a specific contest area. So we do provide those additional opportunities as well to our people.

"Then just a couple more of the numbers. We like to give out recognition when our students do well. So you'll see we had 236 champion banners that we were awarded to our first-place winners. We had over 1,300 placements that we provided medal-wise for second and third row of our contest as well.

"What's really exciting is the growth within our partnerships that we're having both with our volunteers and our industry partners. So we are excited to share that over, we had ODCTE members come and join us for day and provide service back to our organization which we are very grateful for. And then on top of that we had about 1,200 people from industry and volunteer locations who came to support our contests for the three days. So it's a large, um, machine that takes a lot of help, um, to get rolling.

"You'll see on the screen we also have, um, some proud sponsors that come with us. This is just a small portion of the support that SkillsUSA Oklahoma receives. So we just wanted to point out that we, uh, could not be successful without our partners. One that joined us this year that we're very excited to continue with is, um, Ditch Witch. They joined us this year. They jumped on board. They're very excited. We're very happy to have them. They, um, graciously took over an entire contest, um, and helped support that, uh, came, ran it, gave the supplies, brought the judges, um, in our welding fab competition. So we are very grateful for them.

"And then you'll see a continued sponsorship in other areas. Um, like I said, this is just a small handful, um, of the support that we receive here in Oklahoma.

"Thanks. It's easy to share by words, um, what our students do, but it's always hard sometimes to grasp the capacity of what actually happens. So we have a short video that we'd like to share with you, uh, that gives just a small glimpse of what state competition looks like."

[A short video was shown.]

Ms. Kendra Alcala said, "It's hard to wrap your mind around just how large of an event this is. So in the future, we encourage and we would love to have you guys come and join us for state conference. It happens in April. We'd love for you to come and see it personally and kind of experience what it is to see a SkillsUSA event.

"From state, our winners progressed to nationals. Again, I'm very excited and happy to say that we represent very well at nationals. This year, we represented well again. We again are one of the largest delegations that comes to national conference. It happens in Atlanta. We will be in

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025

Atlanta until 2033. So if you would like to come to Hotlanta and see what a national conference looks like, we'll be there till 2033. We'd love to see you there as well.

"Again, just back to the numbers. So we had 433 Oklahoma delegates who came to represent our chapters for national conference. We were not in every contest, but we're close to probably 80%, 85% of the contests that are offered at nationals. We have some sort of representation within those contest areas.

"We did place first in total gold medals this year again. So we're very excited for that. So 33 gold medals came back to Oklahoma to our chapters, and out of all medals we took third this year, um, in overall medal count for, for conference.

"We also had 124 students receive their skills point certificate. Regardless of if they placed for second or third, as long as our students showed competency in their trade area, their technical committees set the standards and say, 'Hey, these are the things you need to be able to do successfully to be successful within your trade or skilled area.' And we as a committee and as an organization believe you have those skills and so we want to recognize that. One hundred and 24 of our members came home with recognition from our trades saying that they are certified and represent their trades well. We're pretty excited about that.

"We also love to represent other areas besides contests and one of those is our adviser of the year. This year we had a national adviser of the year come. His name is Pate Carlson. He's from High Plains Technology Center, and he won for region four. He was in the top five specialists or in the top five of the advisers of the year. He didn't win, but that's OK. We're still glad that he was there. He's a wonderful teacher and a wonderful example of what it is to be a great SkillsUSA adviser.

"And then last at nationals, we came home with another elected postsecondary national officer. His name is Memphis Hixon. He is from Canadian Valley, Chickasha. He is a CNC student there. He was a member of our officer team last year as a state officer and then came back and progressed to nationals. We're pretty excited and happy to have him.

"All right, looking towards the future. So just a few things coming up for SkillsUSA Oklahoma. Increased membership growth. So along with the additions of the courses coming to our technology centers, that means that we're going to have increased membership as well out of those new courses. So we're excited to have them. We're projecting probably to get close to probably 19,000 members next year for SkillsUSA Oklahoma.

"Expanded industry support. We have identified that with increase in numbers that means that we need increase in funding as well. Our organization is funded internally by membership dues or donations, and so identifying support from industry partners is a big thing on a for our list. So we're excited that Ditch Witch is on board, and we're going to go after some more. Hopefully with this increased membership, again, that increased support will come with it.

"And then last but not least, continued leadership development. We understand that there are limitations on some of our events because of how large our chapters are. How many people can compete, how many people can go to a conference, those sort of things. Funding is a limitation as well for some of our technology centers. So we want to continue to find ways to provide our members who may not be competing for the day to find ways to grow within their trades and also develop those skills necessary to be good citizens and good members within their trade organizations. Expanded leadership development opportunities and working with those chapters to find ways to keep all of our members involved is a big part for us next year.

"All right. So like I said, we did just recently induct new officers, so we want to make sure that we give their opportunity to shine. So you will see this is the students that will be leading

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025

SkillsUSA Oklahoma for the next year. They represent across our entire state. I'm pretty happy to say we diversify. We like to spread out. All of our different population types are represented. Different trades are represented as well. You will see all of our members there. They come from Kiamichi, the Idabel campus. They also come from Northeast Tech Claremore; Canadian Valley Chickasha is represented. Tulsa Tech Lemley, Moore Norman Technology Center. We also have members coming from Green Country, Metro Tech Spring Lake, the Tulsa Tech campuses, Riverside there. Then again, our national officer will also join the team and help represent Oklahoma when he's not representing nationally.

"And then the last we just want to take a moment, like I said, numbers are impressive, but at the end of the day, the students are what matters. That's why we do what we do. You'll see on the screen just a few of the multiple opportunities to see our students shine and show off their trades. We have some national winners on the screen. We have some national officers on the screen. You'll see some representation of some of the trade areas in their contest. We brought for you today an example of our students' work. In front of you, you'll see two examples of that in the packet materials we provided. One is the pin. We take pin design pretty seriously in SkillsUSA. It's a pretty exciting thing. So you will see the most recent representation of our state and national pin there for you. That is from a, a graphic design student from Chickasha, Canadian Valley Chickasha. Her name is Jayla Dowdle. So she's one of our members, but also within our technology centers learning to be a graphic design student.

"And then the thank you card is also an example of a graphic design student's work. Her name is Lilia Valerio-Weekly. She is a graphic design student who is in our Moore Norman campus and she is also our postsecondary state reporter. She represents at the state level as well. We just wanted to bring some examples to show you just how successful and how hardworking our students are for SkillsUSA.

"Last, we are excited to share this year's theme moving forward for SkillsUSA nationals, and then we also will adopt it here at the state level as well. This year's theme is 'Champion Your Future.' So for the next year we will use this in our materials, and we'll use it as our message for our members to help them as they grow within their trades and in our organization as well." Mr. Brent Haken said, "Thank you so much. Any questions that I may answer? You'll have questions for Kendra."

Mr. Leonard McCullough asked, "You'd mentioned that we were like number six or seven out of all the states. Is that per capita or is that total number?"

Ms. Kendra Alcala said, "I would say total number."

Mr. Brent Haken said, "Some of the big states. California. and they have so many people to pull from that we don't."

Ms. Kendra Alcala said, "Yeah, so the chapters larger than us or associations I should say, states are associations smaller chapters. So, association-wise we are in that six-seven range larger than us California, Ohio, Massachusetts, Texas, um, and then things start switching around in those areas those, those are the, the big ones for sure."

Mr. Brent Haken said, "Absolutely, what's impressive is with our small population and our dense, uh, number of students in SkillsUSA, the medal count that we bring back from nationals is pretty exciting what, what this team gets done. And we have great leadership, and Renee and Kendra getting that done, our team here, but our teachers across the field are very good.

"I would reiterate my comment is that Kendra already made it, but if you haven't gone and seen SkillsUSA, you need to see. I talked with the team when I was there this year about facilitating

legislator and public review of what's going on. The videos and the pictures are not going to give you the breadth of what is happening."

Ms. Kendra Alcala said, "We have a competition that is a four-man team. Usually it's a plumber, an electrician, general carpenter and then mason-ish, depending on the program or the school. It's a four-day competition. They are given plans and from the ground up will build a portion of a home or a small structure."

Mr. Brent Haken said, "It's like a half a tiny home that they build in four days. It's pretty awesome. But there's some great things in every contest that we have there. But it's what we do. So it'd be a good thing for you all to see, for the public to see what's going on. It's people that are ready to work and very, very valuable for the state of this massive, what happens there. Massive. And you have cosmetology and then this team building contests all in one building. It's unique. You can watch people get their hair and nails and stuff done and then watch them tear them all up while they're at the other. You can be a volunteer maybe too if you want your hair done."

"I do think that we will continue to see growth as overall we are pushing towards system growth. We have been fortunate with the legislature the last few years. We are seeing tremendous growth in all aspects of CareerTech, and this is one that's definitely going to continue to see growth as our technology centers add these relevant training opportunities."

"It's going to really show off what we're able to do. So excited with that. You know the funding formula plays into what they do because their programs being approved help drive their dollars to their schools. So it's going to drive even more growth I think in the future."

"So what the action that you guys make makes a difference to how many students get the opportunity to be a part of these programs, be in high demand, high, high wage, high skilled jobs. So it's pretty exciting. Thank you for what you do, Kendra. It's very, very important. Awesome."

3. MANAGEMENT ACTION ITEMS

3.01 Discussion and Possible Action on Mid-Year Personnel Report and Ratification of Personnel Actions from January 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025 – Ms. Raquelle Parli, Human Resources Manager.

Ms. Raquelle Parli said, "Good morning. Thank you for having me. Speaking of growth, we are presenting and offering to you today the midyear personnel actions for the midyear, from Jan. 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025. This has a list of all our appointments, promotions, retirements and any resignations. It's straightforward. It should be in your packet — looks like this, yes. So I would like to present that to you. As a caveat to that, we did lose one of our own this year. Marie Saatkamp retired after being here for 30 years. So, yes, it was a big loss for our department, but we have gained a new employee and moved some things around. So I'm thrilled to have a new employee with us, and we continue to grow. I'm thrilled with all the appointments we have made."

Mr. Brent Haken said, "As a reminder to the board, action items for personnel under pay band 17, you have asked for us to make those internally, and the 17s and above would come to you as the board. So this is the way that we can present all those actions that do not individually come to you so that you can see what we've done or where we've been. If you have any questions, please, please ask those things. We are still under the governor's executive order of the FTE count of 2019, so we're making sure that we do not exceed our FTE count from 2019. We are very close to that number right now. Actually, with the open positions, we're probably below that number where we currently stand, but we monitor that pretty often. Budgeted items, we would be just

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025

above personnel but actual filled personnel, we are below the FTE count. I can say that pretty confidently. So if there's any questions, please let us know. I would also point out that within our pay bands, we did give all pay band 13s, which is commonly thought of as program specialists, but there are a lot of other positions, a \$1,000 increase. And then there were increases given individually above that for those who did not receive a raise last year or the time before. So, there were some action items there."

Mr. Michael Brown asked, "Does this require a vote?"

Mr. Brent Haken said, "This requires action. Yes, we would need to move to approve."

Mr. Michael Brown said, "Move to approve."

Mr. Leonard McCullough said, "Oh, I have a question. On the last two retirements, it says effective date of 2030. What does that mean?"

Mr. Brent Haken said, "Should be 6/30 of 2025, right?"

Ms. Raquell Parli said, "Oh, yes, 2025, correct."

Mr. Brent Haken said, "Yes, we would need to make that correction. Thank you for catching that."

Mr. Michael Brown said, "Move to approve with corrections."

Mr. Michael Brown moved to approve the 2025 Mid-Year Personnel Report with corrections.

Mr. Leonard McCullough seconded the motion. The motion had the following votes:

Mr. Brown, yes

Ms. Haning, yes

Mr. McCullough, yes

Mr. Seeman, yes

Mr. Deatherage, yes

Motion carried.

3.02 Discussion and Possible Action Concerning the Employment of Ms. Laura Berger, Administrative Assistant II – Mr. Brent Haken, State Director of Career and Technology Education.

Proposed Executive Session for discussing the employment of an individual salaried public employee (Authority: 25 O.S. 2011, § 307 (B)(1)).

Should the Board enter Executive Session to discuss the employment of Ms. Laura Berger, Administrative Assistant II, the following actions may be taken:

- a. Vote to Convene in Executive Session.**
- b. Discuss the Employment of Ms. Laura Berger.**
- c. Vote to Acknowledge Return to Open Session.**
- d. Possible Vote on Any Action Regarding Subjects of the Proposed Executive Session.**

Mr. Brent Haken said, "As you are aware, our policy states that employee actions will be handled by the human resource manager and then the chief of staff, and then, if there is an appeal process, that will go through me. Final action is made by the board. So that's where we are today."

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025

My recommendation is for termination of this employee, but there is an opportunity for a proposed executive session for discussion of the employment of the individual salaried public employee. Authority is given in 25 Oklahoma Statute 2021 §307B1. It would be the pleasure of the group. We do have the employee present if that would be a desire. It is completely up to you on the action taken. So we can move into an executive session. You can do that, or you can move to however you want. With the motion that we did last, you just moved to vote at that time."

Ms. Shaelynn Haning moved to enter the executive session 9:56 a.m. Mr. Michael Brown seconded the motion. The motion had the following votes:

Mr. Brown, yes
Ms. Haning, yes
Mr. McCullough, no
Mr. Seeman, yes
Mr. Deatherage, yes

Motion dies.

Mr. Brent Haken said, "We do not have enough votes to move into executive session. Would there be another motion, or we can move to reconsider and vote again. That would be the pleasure of this group to either take action or move to executive session."

Mr. Leonard McCullough said, "I move to take action."

Mr. Brent Haken said, "Okay. What would your action be?"

Mr. Leonard McCullough said, "That we go with the recommendation of the director."

Mr. Brent Haken said, "The motion on the floor is to move forward with the recommendation of the director, which is to terminate. Do we have a second? A second? With no second, the motion dies. Do we have another motion on the floor? We could reconsider a vote to go into executive session if that would be a preference of the group, and we could discuss that at that time if you would like to."

Mr. Leonard McCullough moved to enter the executive session at 9:58 a.m. Ms. Shaelynn Haning seconded the motion. The motion had the following votes:

Mr. Brown, yes
Ms. Haning, yes
Mr. McCullough, yes
Mr. Seeman, yes
Mr. Deatherage, yes

Motion carried.

c. Vote to Acknowledge Return to Open Session

Mr. Michael Brown moved to return to open session at 10:14 a.m. Ms. Shaelynn Haning seconded the motion. The motion had the following votes:

Mr. Seeman, yes
Mr. McCullough, yes

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025

Ms. Haning, yes
Mr. Brown, yes
Mr. Deatherage, yes

Motion Carried. A copy of the minutes is on file at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

D. Possible Vote on Any Action Regarding Subjects of the Proposed Executive Session.

Mr. Leonard McCullough moved to accept the recommendation for the termination of Ms. Laura Berger. Mr. Michael Brown seconded the motion. The motion had the following votes:

Mr. Seeman, yes
Mr. McCullough, yes
Ms. Haning, yes
Mr. Brown, yes
Mr. Deatherage, yes

Motion carried.

3 NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

4 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Mr. Michael Brown moved to adjourn. Mr. Leonard McCullough seconded the motion. The motion had the following votes:

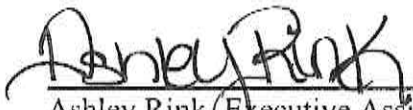
Mr. Seeman, yes
Mr. McCullough, yes
Ms. Haning, yes
Mr. Brown, yes
Mr. Deatherage, yes

Motion carried.


The next regular meeting of the State Board of Career and Technology Education will be held Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Oliver Hodge Building, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

A copy of the minutes is on file at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of
Career and Technology Education
July 17, 2025



Ashley Rink, Executive Assistant
to the CareerTech State Director and
Secretary of the CareerTech Board



~~Ryan Walters, Chair of the Board or~~
Brent Haken, State Director,
Ex-Officio Nonvoting Member