



Annual Report

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2017

Oklahoma Works: Building Oklahoma's future workforce
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Contents

About Oklahoma Works.....	2
Executive Summary.....	3
Statewide Initiatives.....	4
Launch Oklahoma, Postsecondary Attainment	4
Earn and Learn Oklahoma, Work-Based Learning Initiative	5
Career Pathways	6
Digital Learning	7
Public Transportation.....	7
Key Economic Networks (KENS)	8
Data-Driven Decision Making	8
Oklahoma Works Partner Initiatives And Activities.....	8
Supporting Statewide Innovation	8
Strengthening Postsecondary Education and Training Programs	9
Strengthening the Talent Pipeline	10
Veteran Outreach and Involvement	13
State and Regional Conferences and Meetings	13

About Oklahoma Works

Oklahoma Works is an initiative designed to increase the wealth of all Oklahomans through providing education and training for citizens to obtain quality employment. Our aspiration is to implement wealth-generating policies across the state, helping all Oklahomans to achieve the American Dream.

Since 2014, Oklahoma Works has been striving to create a better workforce development infrastructure in the state by aligning education and training with employer needs and coordinating private and public strategic priorities and plans across education, training and economic agencies. The initiative aims to facilitate quality employment for workers and improve the availability of highly skilled talent for business and industry. The initiative is a coalition of state agencies, educational institutions, businesses and other partners working together on four main objectives:

- Aligning and connecting the education and training pipeline with the needs of the state's regional economies;
- Integrating and using workforce and economic development data to inform policy, track progress and measure success;
- Building partnerships between local industry and education at the regional level; and
- Optimizing the use of resources and incentives.



Executive Summary

Oklahoma Works began in 2014 with the identification of a clear problem: the skills gap. Data indicates that 46 percent of Oklahomans currently have a high school diploma or less; but by 2025, 70 percent of the state’s jobs will require education and training beyond high school. That means Oklahoma faces a substantial gap between the workforce we have and what will be needed in less than a decade. Projections further indicate the most growth will be in those middle-skill jobs that require an industry recognized credential, certificate, or two-year degree.

With the goal of increasing postsecondary education and training attainment in mind, Oklahoma Works undertook a strategic planning process in 2015, bringing together state agencies, workforce partners, business leaders, and others to align efforts to strengthen the talent pipeline, reduce duplication, and fill gaps in the system. The result was the Oklahoma Works Strategic Delivery Plan.

The Strategic Delivery Plan provided the blueprint for developing the firm foundation upon which to build a stronger, more streamlined system. Having spent the first two years identifying key goals and strategies, and diligently building the partnerships and infrastructure necessary to achieve those, the initiative shifted its focus toward implementing and expanding strategies during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017.

During SFY 2017, the Oklahoma Works Strategic Delivery Plan was revised to better align with career pathways initiatives in the state, integrate Oklahoma’s statewide educational attainment goal, and incorporate two new strategies aimed at spurring statewide innovation and entrepreneurship. Additionally, over the past year Oklahoma Works has continued to monitor the major metrics identified in the Strategic Delivery Plan. Progress continues to be made toward meeting the targets originally set forth for the initiative. While the state’s recent economic downturn has caused improvement in a few of the metrics to slow, the initiative is on track to achieve the its overall performance goals.

Overall Oklahoma Works Metrics

OKStateStat Statewide Program	Objective Name	Performance Objective	Data Source	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Today*	Target
Workforce Participation	Labor Force Participation	Increase the total labor force participation rate from 61.11% in 2013 to 64.00% in 2017.	Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development	61.2%	61.6%	61.1%	59.9%	60.2%			60.2%	64.0%
Wealth Generation	Per Capita Personal Income	Increase the per capita personal income as a percentage of the national average from 94.43% in 2013 to 98.20% by 2017.	Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development	92%	94%	94.4%	94.8%	94.7%			94.7%	98.2%
Wealth Generation	Income Poverty Rate	Decrease the state income poverty rate from 16.8% in 2013 to 15.3% in 2017.	Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development	16.3%	16.6%	16.9%	16.9%	16.1%			16.1%	15.3%
College Preparedness	College Readiness Benchmarks	Increase the percentage of high school graduates meeting college readiness benchmarks on the ACT and SAT from 56% in 2014 to 62% by 2017.	Oklahoma State Department of Education			57.0%	56.0%	55%	53%		53.0%	62.0%
Postsecondary Education	Degrees and Certificates	Increase the number of degrees and certificates obtained from 40,484 in 2014 to 47,284 by 2018.	Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education		36,984	39,884	40,484	46,449	49,749		49,749	47,284
Student Performance	4th Grade Reading Proficiency	Increase the percentage of 4th grade students statewide who score proficient or above in reading from 66.8% in 2013 to 75% by 2019.	Oklahoma State Department of Education			66.8%	64.8%	69.7%			69.7%	75%
Employment Growth	Youth Unemployment	Decrease the state youth unemployment rate (ages 16-19) from 19.9% in 2013 to 15.0% in 2017.	Department of Commerce	18.8%	14.5%	19.9%	17.0%	11.5%			11.5%	15.0%

NOTE: These are the overall metrics listed in the Oklahoma works plan and tracked on www.OKStateState.ok.gov. Green indicates objectives are on track or trending toward established target. Yellow indicates objective is slightly off-track or trending slightly away from established target. Red indicates the objective is off-track or trending away from established target.

Statewide Initiatives

Launch Oklahoma, Postsecondary Attainment

Governor Mary Fallin established Launch Oklahoma in December 2016 to urgently boost the state’s postsecondary attainment and close the workforce skills gap. Launch Oklahoma is a statewide goal to increase the number of Oklahoma workers with education or training beyond high school to 70 percent by 2025 so that businesses have the current and future talent pipeline they so desperately need. The Oklahoma Works Leadership Team was tasked with recommending strategies toward achieving the Launch Oklahoma goal. The recommendations were submitted to the Governor on October 13, 2017, and included strategies to address inequities in postsecondary attainment and assess alignment of degrees, certificates and credentials awarded to high-demand occupations.

The initiative is focused on four strategic objectives designed to address the barriers Oklahomans experience in obtaining workforce credentials, certificates and degrees.



To meet the Launch Oklahoma goal, the state will need to target returning adults, adults without any previous postsecondary experience, as well as traditional students. Priorities of the initiative, include:

- Prioritizing education and training programs that lead to employment in Oklahoma’s high-demand industries and occupations;
- Increasing equity in postsecondary education and training attainment, including low-income, rural and minority populations;
- Expanding access to work-based learning opportunities, such as internships and registered apprenticeships; and
- Implementing success strategies that help students stay in education and training programs through completion.

In addition to the statewide goal, regional attainment goals have been established for Oklahoma’s seven Key Economic Network (KEN) regions. The regional goals will serve as the foundation for the work of the KEN Champion, or appointed local business leader, in relation to sector partnership strategies, career pathways development and strengthening relationships between all levels of business and education.

Post-Secondary Education Attainment Study

The 2017 Post-Secondary Education Attainment Study informed the work of Launch Oklahoma by identifying barriers to starting or continuing post-secondary education, and proposes statewide solutions to achieve degree and credential completion for *all* Oklahomans. This study confirmed many national findings of barriers to degree completion, including: educational attainment correlates with income, whereas income increases as educational attainment increases, and lower educational attainment correlates with greater use of public assistance programs.

The study also revealed some unexpected findings crucial for all Oklahoma partners in business, government, education, and within the community to address. These issues include the lack of family and community expectations to attend, persist, and obtain a degree or credential from a post-secondary education institution, the prevalence of bullying as a factor in high school non-completion, and the low perception of the value of post-secondary education, among others. For more information, visit: <https://oklahomaworks.gov/education-training-attainment-data/>.

Lumina SHEEO Adult Promise Grant

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) received a 3-year grant from the Lumina Foundation to engage adults. The grant focuses on strategies to help adults who have completed some college credit, but have not earned a degree, to return to complete degrees in critical areas. OSRHE will identify degree programs that correlate to the Oklahoma Works 100 Critical Occupations and collaborate with partners from the business and industry sector, Native American Education offices, workforce agencies, nonprofit entities, and higher education institutions to provide tuition, fees, and books to students who agree to seek degrees for these occupations. The funding provides infrastructure and outreach, but no direct dollars to support students. All funding for the students will come from Oklahoma partners listed above. To date, the program commitment forms for students, partners, and institutions is in development, outreach to communicate the program opportunities to partners is underway, and filling a staff position for Oklahoma City and a position in Tulsa are in process.

Mathematics Success Initiative

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) has dedicated extensive effort on math for Oklahoma students. The Mathematics Success Initiative is driven by a sustainable strategic plan to improve mathematics preparation of students entering college, to reform mathematics remediation to be more effective and to strengthen mathematics preparation for all majors. The current strategic priorities are to improve transition from high school to college, to reform remediation to be more effective, to improve course placement by using multiple assessments, and to create multiple pathways that are standardized by discipline. Efforts to date include addressing the shortage of highly qualified high school math teachers and a culture of math phobia that need to be addressed through collaboration between high schools and local colleges; offering 12th grade math transition courses; scaling co-requisite remediation in the State System; revising state policy to encourage the use of multiple measures instead of college placement testing, and committing to a System-wide implementation of math pathways.

Earn and Learn Oklahoma, Work-Based Learning Initiative

Oklahoma Works has prioritized diversifying and expanding work-based learning opportunities as a vital component of increasing statewide educational and training attainment and closing the skills gap. To do this, Oklahoma Works partner agencies are collaborating to implement the policies and infrastructure necessary to support work-based learning strategies like internships, apprenticeships and job shadowing. To further support work-based learning in Oklahoma, Governor Mary Fallin announced a

statewide goal, known as Earn and Learn Oklahoma, to increase the number of internships and apprenticeships in the state to 20,000 each year by 2020.

In response to legislation recently passed to make work-based learning easier for high school students to access, the State Department of Education established a course code for internships. This allows high school Juniors and Seniors to receive credit for work-based learning beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.

Additionally, the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development (OOWD) received an ApprenticeshipUSA Apprenticeship Accelerator grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to expand and diversify apprenticeship opportunities in Oklahoma. Since that time, OOWD has initiated collaborations with several businesses to explore work-based learning solutions, including internships and apprenticeships. These collaborations are in sectors that did not previously have such opportunities or are in businesses that did not previously offer them. As a part of this work, Dell recently launched Oklahoma's first registered youth apprenticeship program for high school seniors working as help desk technicians.

Career Pathways

Oklahoma Works continues to collaborate with public and private partners to build and strengthen career pathways. Initiatives of the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development, the State Department of Education and the KEN Champions have resulted in more educators participating in externships, increased work-based learning opportunities for students, and the establishment of goals to expand character education and decrease the number of high school dropouts.

Individual Career and Academic Plans

The Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) was recently developed by the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) with input from students, families, educators and other partners. The ICAP equips students with the awareness, knowledge and skills to create their own individualized, meaningful exploration of college and career opportunities. In order to reflect students' changing passions, aptitudes, interests and growth, the ICAP is a flexible, evolving document.

OSDE will introduce a pilot program study in the 2017-2018 school year and continue with additional school district pilots during the 2018-2019 school year. Implementation statewide will follow during the 2019-2020 school year. Students may start the ICAP process in sixth grade and update it every subsequent grade. For more information, visit: <http://sde.ok.gov/sde/new-skills-youth>.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (ODCTE) are jointly working with OSDE in their efforts to implement the ICAP process statewide. The two agencies are providing information and making available their electronic student career pathways portals to schools to use in ICAP implementation. The two systems are known as OKCollegeStart and OKCareerGuide.

- [OKCollegeStart](#) is a system that allows adults and students of all ages to explore career options, plan academics, research financial aid options and building electronic portfolios. The system also allows for transcript information to be exchanged electronically among schools and institutions.
- [OKCareerGuide](#) is an online tool available for all Oklahomans to explore and guide their future. Users can take assessments, identify occupations, establish education plans and connect with employers. Connect to Business

New Skills for Youth Grant

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) received one of ten statewide grants from JPMorgan Chase to build and strengthen career pathways for youth. The three-year, \$2 million grant will help implement individualized academic plans for students, increase concurrent and dual enrollment with earned college credit and career certification, and better connect schools directly with business and industry. The New Skills for Youth grant aligns with the goals of Oklahoma Works and will help strengthen our efforts to increase educational attainment, improve access to skills-based education and training, and create a future-ready workforce.

Guidance Fest

The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (ODCTE) has been hosting [Guidance Fest](#) since 2008 to provide current and relevant professional development to high school, middle school and technology center counselors. The focus of this year's regional workshops is helping counselors implement Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAPs) and strengthen career pathways for students. dedicated

Oklahoma Educators and Industry Partnership

Now in its tenth year, the Oklahoma Educators and Industry Partnership (OEIP) hosts teachers annually at workshops and industry tours designed to help educators better understand the careers available in demand industries throughout the state. This year, the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (ODCTE) partnered with OEIP to expand the number of events held, the number of industries showcased, and the number of teachers participating.

Digital Learning

The Oklahoma Connect and Learn Initiative is a coordinated effort to bring high-speed broadband and digital learning opportunities to schools across the state. As part of this initiative, Oklahoma is partnering with telecommunications service providers and interested school districts to provide affordable fiber optic connections and Wi-Fi access to schools to better facilitate digital learning. A recent report found that 91 percent of Oklahoma school districts now meet the minimum connectivity goal, up from 85 percent in 2015. As part of these efforts, Governor Fallin signed HB 1576 into law in April 2017, which provides current and future teachers with professional development and training in digital and instructional technologies to enhance classroom instruction.

Public Transportation

A statewide asset map and layered route maps of existing public transit routes were developed to understand the current resources available to Oklahomans traveling to work, school and training. Gaps were identified in relation to the location of large employers and regional education and training institutions. As part of a pilot initiative, Oklahoma Works is currently collecting data from Oklahoma adults who are not currently attending postsecondary education to determine to what extent transportation has played a role in non-completion.

Leveraging a partnership with the Governor's Oklahoma United We Ride Council initiative, Oklahoma Works is also collaborating to make recommendations to the Governor regarding improvements necessary to increase access to, as well as the availability and quality of, transportation services; future outreach efforts are anticipated in an effort to introduce all partners to **MyRide**, an internet application of statewide transportation resources.

Key Economic Networks (KENs)

Oklahoma's Key Economic Network (KEN) Champions have prioritized the goals of increasing internship and apprenticeship opportunities, increasing participation in teacher externship programs, increasing employability skills, and hosting partner engagement events to spearhead efforts to align and connect education and industry to meet regional workforce needs. Through KEN networks, business and industry have informed educators about local well-paying, in-demand career opportunities, and are actively recruiting a diverse group of industries to implement more apprenticeship programs. This year, the number of KEN regions was reduced from nine to seven. This modification was made to reflect the recent change in workforce regions as identified in the state's unified plan under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Having Oklahoma's KEN regions mirror the local workforce development areas will further strengthen the connection between education, training and workforce development activities.

Data-Driven Decision Making

Using workforce and economic development data to inform policy, track progress and measure success is integral to Oklahoma Works. The Workforce and Education Collaborative was formed in 2016 to identify ways to improve information sharing that leads to a stronger, more aligned education and workforce system. The Collaborative works to better understand and improve work-based learning and employment outcomes of Oklahoma's students. Ongoing analysis of this information leads to data-driven decision making and promotes continuous improvement and accountability among partners.

Employment Outcomes Digital Workforce Dashboard

An Employment Outcomes Digital Workforce Dashboard was recently created by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) to make frequently requested, workforce-related data more easily accessible to the public. The interactive dashboards summarize employment retention and wages, as well as graduate and enrollment production. The user-friendly dashboards produce customized reports for easy trend analysis.

Oklahoma Works Partner Initiatives And Activities

Supporting Statewide Innovation

Supporting innovation, business growth, and entrepreneurship are vital components of a strong and diverse workforce system. In 2017, Oklahoma Works added two new strategies to its plans that are focused on just that.

Innovate Oklahoma

Innovate Oklahoma is an initiative that allows custom technology applications to be developed to directly meet the needs of the state departments and agencies, leading to innovation and efficiency in government. Innovate Oklahoma leads innovation in our state with the following goals:

- Build strong partnerships between OMES, OCAST other state entities to modernize state government.
- Encourage innovation by creating meaningful interaction for engagement and feedback.
- Grow the state's economy by encouraging and supporting the startup technology community.

The Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) lead the initiative and partner with other non-profits to inform and engage the local technology community and startup companies in providing solutions. Oklahoma currently spends \$170 million annually on technology professional services and application support. As we move off legacy technologies there is an opportunity to look at innovative solutions created by innovation projects. This gives an opportunity to provide state government challenges to local technology startup companies.

Innovate Oklahoma is the first of its kind in the nation and OMES is proud to be breaking new ground and finding solutions to the challenges state agencies face. The Initiative helps to create a niche market of innovative jobs, and can improve the quality of technology workforce inside Oklahoma. The silicon prairie can develop coders, programmers, innovators and entrepreneurs through new companies and startups. Growing Oklahoma's tech economy can help keep talent in our state and bring talent outside of our state.

Access for Success

Oklahoma has launched a new statewide initiative to leverage existing state resources to further spur innovation and support start-up companies. The initiative, known as Access for Success, was created to facilitate a coordinated effort between private industry and postsecondary institutions to support the start-up, recruitment, growth, and retention of companies within Oklahoma. The strategy leverages current intellectual assets, programs, and state-of-the-art facilities available in Oklahoma's postsecondary education systems to expand applied research and development.

Currently, more than three-quarters of research and development is performed in six industry groups, with the bulk of private research and development funding residing in the manufacturing and technology sectors. Companies self-fund most of their research, which means smaller companies often lack the resources needed to further innovation in their fields. Traditionally, universities have focused on basic research, but Oklahoma has a unique opportunity to leverage its postsecondary resources to expand applied research and development, especially in engineering. Through such partnerships, Oklahoma will bring its universities forward as a competitive advantage while also showing practical value and a clear return on investment for the private sector.

Strengthening Postsecondary Education and Training Programs

In the past year, the Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools ("OBPVS") began revising the minimum school licensing standards for private vocational schools to enhance the stability of the for-profit sector, an alternate means to workforce education, especially in the areas of certificates and diploma-level education. The standards strengthened in the area of accountability are beginning to bridge the gap between more stringent, but voluntary, accreditation standards and the state's standards. Other legislation was drafted for possible enactment in 2018 to offer greater consumer

protection for students. During the year, the OBPVS concentrated efforts on bringing into compliance unlicensed schools, including those reaching Oklahomans online via distance learning education, and having unscrupulous, unlicensed operators cease marketing to Oklahomans.

Additionally, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) continued its Complete College America degree completion initiative to graduate more students across all higher education institutions. Colleges and universities are focusing work in several areas: 1) working on support work with local schools to reduce remediation by meeting academic needs while still in high school; 2) reforming remediation at the institution to better move students into credit bearing courses; 3) building bridges to completion through reverse transfer, cooperative work with technology centers, and expanding prior learning assessment opportunities; 4) adult completion efforts through Reach Higher and other “adult-friendly” services and course offerings; and 5) other local efforts to ensure all students have the services and opportunities to quickly and seamlessly complete degree programs across the state.

Strengthening the Talent Pipeline

Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee

The Health Workforce Subcommittee (HWS) is working toward a coordinated state approach for health workforce training, recruitment, and retention to ensure the state has a well-trained, adequately distributed, and flexible health workforce to meet the needs of the health care system. During the past year, the HWS has furthered this mission through the development of evidence-based recommendations to sustain and support funding of the Physician Manpower Training Commission which provides scholarship programs for physicians, nurses, and other health care providers. In addition, the HWS has aligned efforts in order to enhance the talent pipeline for health care occupations identified on the state’s list of critical occupations. Work includes development of recommendations for aligning workforce development programs funded by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority with Oklahoma’s list of critical occupations. The HWS has also developed an in-depth report of workforce data for the health care occupations identified as critical in order to develop robust strategies to identify supply and skills gaps in order to improve and enhance the health care talent pipeline in Oklahoma. Finally, the HWS developed a research-based proposal for a Community Health Worker (CHW) certification process. This post-secondary certification would formalize the CHW profession in the state and establish a strong rung in the career ladder for nursing and other health care professions identified on the state’s list of critical occupations.

Minimum Training Expenditure Rate

The Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development established a [40% minimum training expenditure rate](#). At the October 28, 2016 meeting of the Governor’s Council for Workforce and Economic Development, it was proposed that each local area spend no less than 40% of their Adult and Dislocated Worker funds on training costs that lead to a recognized postsecondary education and/or workforce credentials directly linked to an in-demand industry or occupation. This new requirement is part of an ongoing effort to address the skills gap—the number of people trained and educated versus the number of jobs that are open—which has been identified by the Governor as one of the biggest challenges facing the state. Due to a significant number of open and unfilled positions within critical state occupations and sectors, there is an urgent need to train and educate the workforce in response to the skills gap. Specifically, there is a need to direct more WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding towards these training and education programs that lead to recognized postsecondary education credentials and

workforce certifications. Partner programs and services will need to be leveraged to offset many supportive services and other associated costs, to allow for these increased training expenditures.

Workforce Readiness and Re-Entry of Justice Involved Oklahomans

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC) received several grant awards in the past year, furthering their efforts to reduce recidivism, strengthen female diversion initiatives, and provide substance abuse treatment programs for inmates. The agency continues to partner with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (ODCTE) to expand workforce readiness programs for incarcerated Oklahomans, most recently establishing the state's first certified Cosmetology School at Mabel Bassett Correctional Center. The ODOC also implemented the "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma" program, which brings humanities scholars into facilities to discuss books, including the lives of authors and the historical perspective of events occurring at the time books were written. The program is quite popular and has waiting lists to participate.

Workforce Readiness and Participation of Oklahomans with Disabilities

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) implements several programs designed to engage Oklahomans with disability in employment opportunities. These programs include:

- The School-to-Work transition program, which collaborates with partners to offer a program dedicated to providing education and employment preparation opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities.
- The School Work Study (SWS) program, which provides students with disabilities paid work experiences during the school day, evenings, weekends, and during school breaks. Experiences take place within the school district and in the community.
- The Work Adjustment Training (WAT) program, which focuses on students with the most significant disabilities. They are taught foundational work skills, pre-employment transition skills, and spend time in the community learning more about the world of jobs that are available. Students participate from one to three hours daily.
- Tech-Now, Inc., a community-based enrichment program designed to provide technology skills training to Oklahoma high school and middle school students with disabilities, prepare them for postsecondary education/training and employment, and connect them with state and federal agencies for necessary supports. Students work on projects, such as desktop publishing, computer animations, and digital media production. Students gain valuable technology skills while showing improvement in teamwork, leadership, self-esteem, and conflict resolution.
- iJobs Summer Work Experience Program, a summer work training and experience program for high school students with disabilities. Students participate in one week of employability instruction and independent living skills in the classroom before beginning their part-time jobs. Students work up to 25 hours per week for a business in their local community in an area of their individual interest, and earn a paycheck.
- STEM Camps that challenge students with disabilities at Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) camps in different locations across the state. During these three-day camps, students ages 14-18 used computers and related technologies to design, build and race multiple gravity vehicles and document their project development with digital cameras and video production software. The trainings culminate with the students racing the cars they built themselves.
- Working On the Wichitas (WOW!), a summer camp and work experience opportunity for high school students and young adults with disabilities who have an open case with the DRS. After safety orientation each week, the participants spend the week working with the park ranger,

WOW! staff, and volunteers. Students spend 1/3 of their day working, 1/3 doing employability skills activities, and 1/3 of the day in leisure activities. Students received hourly pay for the work performed at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

- Project SEARCH originated with the Cincinnati Children's Hospital and is a one-year, worksite-based school-to-work program. Participants complete between three and four rotations of 10 weeks each on various jobs within a host employment setting. DRS has been implementing this program since 2007/2008 helping more than 400 students with significant disabilities obtain competitive integrated employment. For the 2017/2018 school year, DRS has seven programs—three young adult programs in Oklahoma City, one young adult program in Yukon, and three high school transition programs for seniors in Enid, Norman, and Moore. The programs include the following partners:
 - DRS Young Adult Program:
 - Francis Tuttle Technology Center (FTTC), Mercy Health Systems, University of Oklahoma National Center on Disability, Education and Training (OU-NCDET), Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC), and DRS
 - Metro Technology Centers, Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center and Hotel, DRTC, OU-NCDET, and DRS
 - FTTC, INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center, Inc., DRTC, OU-NCDET, and DRS
 - CVTC, INTEGRIS Canadian Valley Hospital, DRTC, OU-NCDET, and DRS
 - DRS High School Transition Program:
 - Enid Public Schools, INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center, CDSA, OU-NCDET, and DRS
 - Norman Public Schools, Embassy Suites Norman, DRTC, OU-NCDET, and DRS
 - Moore Public Schools, Norman Regional Health System, DRTC, OU-NCDET, and DRS

Oklahoma Network Initial Claims

The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) has launched new and improved systems to allow for easier use of the Oklahoma Network Initial Claims Version 2 (ONIC v2), which lets claimants view and enter more information online. The new electronic system has decreased wait times for claims filing.

Oklahoma Works Website

Oklahoma Works relaunched an improved, more interactive and accessible [website](#). The new Oklahoma Works website went live in September 2017 and features many more interactive functions than previously possible. The new website provides:

- More detailed content related to the Oklahoma Works initiative, Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development, partner organizations, education and training, and more
- Smoother navigation and searchable content
- Simplified layout, including more interactive features like data visualization and location mapping
- Events calendar
- Sortable policies categorized by Issuances, Memos, Guidance Letters, and Technical Assistance

Veteran Outreach and Involvement

Efforts continue ensure that students connected to the armed forces have appropriate services to assist them in returning to the classroom, accessing opportunities for military training to be evaluated for college credit, and transitioning into the civilian workforce. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) staff participates with the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to create working relationships. OSRHE hosted a conference for institutional staff who work directly with veteran students to ensure sensitivity and expertise, as well as share best practices on how to best serve this student population. OSRHE has also taken the lead to meet with the Transition Office at Tinker AFB to work collaboratively as individuals exit their service and transition into college opportunities.

The Oklahoma Works team also established a committee to survey Oklahoma post-secondary students to gauge their experiences transitioning from the military to post-secondary education and create a set of best-practices and recommendations to institutions and systems throughout the State of Oklahoma.

OK Military Connection

The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (ODCTE), Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA), Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC), Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development (OOWD), and the Oklahoma National Guard partnered to host three regional military hiring events during SFY 2017. These hiring events, held in Lawton, Norman and Tulsa, connected civilian employers with Oklahoma veterans, service members, and their families.

State and Regional Conferences and Meetings

Regional STEM Workshops

Oklahoma Works held two regional STEM Workshops in September 2016 in Lawton and Stillwater. The purpose of the STEM Workshops was to help communities build on local programs to better align science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education with in-demand jobs. The STEM Workshops served as a foundation for community participation at the Governor's STEM Summit which took place in November 2016.

Governor's STEM Summit 2016

The purpose of this statewide summit was to bring together Oklahoma business leaders, educators and other key stakeholders focused on the critical importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics throughout our state and take further action on the ideas discussed at the STEM Workshops held in September 2016. The annual STEM Summit event is a collaboration with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE), which brings the need for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to the forefront for business and industry leaders, higher education, technology centers, and K-12 schools. As a result of the OSRHE focus on STEM, OSRHE has shown increased production of STEM majors in Oklahoma over the past several years.

Governor's STEM & Entrepreneurship Summit 2017

The 2017 STEM and Entrepreneurship Summit was held in November 2017. The event brought together business and education leaders to focus on the intersection of entrepreneurship, apprenticeship and STEM education in Oklahoma communities.

Oklahoma Works Partners Conference

More than 300 Oklahoma Works System Partners attended the annual Oklahoma Works Partners Conference in April 2017. The purpose of this conference was to teach attendees how Oklahoma workforce system partners are promoting a state-wide vision to connect education and training systems with the needs of Oklahoma's economy; aligning and using state data to help determine skills gaps, workforce issues and trends; supporting and expanding partnerships to better connect education and training providers to the needs of business; and modifying use of resources and incentives to support integrated vision.

Oklahoma Works Summit

Oklahoma Works hosted a statewide Summit in October 2016. The purpose of this statewide summit was to provide an update on progress of the Oklahoma Works Initiative, share best practices, promote regional partnerships and build on the momentum developed over the past year of work.