Trained workers drive Oklahoma business. Personal income generates state revenue. Rising community investments, first-time home purchases and leisure spending lead to a more viable economy. Oklahoma’s highly skilled workforce has grown, too. Health care professionals, electricians, web designers, network security technicians, CAD drafters and welders – they’re all vital for a sustainable Oklahoma, powered by CareerTech, and you.
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I think a trillion dollars of student loans and a massive skills gap are precisely what happens to a society that actively promotes one form of education as the best course for the most people. I think the stigmas and stereotypes that keep so many people from pursuing a truly useful skill, begin with the mistaken belief that a four-year degree is somehow superior to all other forms of learning.

Mike Rowe

The manufacturing industry is experiencing a shortage of skilled workers. This skills gap is continuing to grow both within the state of Oklahoma and nationally. In response to the increasing industry demands, Southern Tech recently built a state-of-the-art Engineering Technology building to house programs which directly address the employment needs of manufacturing related companies.

The 3D-CNC Machining program provides training designed to bring a student to an advanced level of understanding in the field of manufacturing processes currently used in both automated and non-automated industries. The goal is to become proficient in operation, machine set-up, programming of Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines and their related CAD/CAM software applications.

The Mechatronics program prepares students to become Automated Systems Technicians. The curriculum covers installation and operation of robotics and related automation using fundamentals of electricity, electronics, programmable logic controllers, hydraulics, and pneumatics.

The Computer Aided Drafting program, also located in the Engineering Technology building, has been producing graduates since 1968 and the need for skills in Computer Aided Design (CAD) is still on the rise today.

Southern Tech offers a wide variety of additional courses designed for both high school and adult students seeking to develop a career or technical skills. Oklahoma University offers Dental Hygiene at the Southern Tech campus, and adult students may also enroll in the nationally certified Practical Nursing program.

The Biotechnology Program at Southern Tech provides a realistic, hands-on opportunity to learn and experience biotechnology techniques and applications in human health, agriculture, environmental science, forensics and pharmaceutical production. Students learn the theory and procedures routinely performed in research, government, diagnostic and industrial biotechnology laboratories providing them with knowledge and skills and an opportunity for invaluable career exploration. Students develop advanced skill sets and are prepared to make sound educational and career choices in preparation to fill the biotechnology workforce needs as they evolve.

There are many other training programs offered at Southern Tech in the automotive industry, health, human services, construction trades and the arts, and all programs end with qualified students leaving with a national, state or board certification, leading to higher wage-earning opportunities for students and a skilled workforce for businesses.

Southern Tech also offers short-term training classes provided to meet the needs of the district. The class at one of our three locations; online courses are also available.

Clients receive numerous safety and industry-specific training options and can also be served through customized training. The highly qualified instructors teach on location or on campus and will work hard to fulfill the needs of the business. Access information for all classes on our website at www.sotech.edu.
We celebrated 50 Years of service on August 29, 2016. To the right are two alumni/staff members, Travis Southerland-HVAC Instructor and Sandy Babcock-Academic Enhancement Instructor.
1965 - James Bruce, Superintendent of Ardmore Public Schools, accepted donated land from the Noble Foundation and began raising matching funds to begin the technology center.

1966 - Jack Stone was hired in January. Stone hired staff, supervised the building, ordered equipment and furniture and recruited students. School began on August 29, 1966 with 12 programs and 335 students.

1967 - Jack Stone became the first Superintendent of the school as it became independent from Ardmore and was named, Southern Oklahoma are Vocational-Technical Center. Mr. Stone resided as the Superintendent for 30 years.

2001 - The school's official name changed to Southern Oklahoma Technology Center.
2002 - Two extension centers began offering classes.
2003 - Southern received their first Gold Star School Award, they became a regional site for OSSM and the Student Leadership Academy was formed.

2006 - Dr. David Powell became the third Superintendent of the school.
2008 - Southern passes an 8.5 million dollar bond and met criteria for Gold Star status.

2011 - Southern received the Oklahoma Quality Award - Commitment Level. Southern also received the Gold Star School for the third time and Outstanding Tech Centers That Work.

1971 - Alice K. Sturm donated the bulk of her estate to the school.
1985 - Tornado caused 1.4 million dollars worth of damage to the school.

1990 - The Seminar Center (now called the Conference Center) was completed thanks to a $200,000 grant from the Noble Foundation and a grant funded by the state legislature for $305,000.

1995 - The Industry Training Center and the Health Complex were completed.

1996 - Bob Gragg became the school's second superintendent.

2013 - Southern was named Best Places to Work by okcBIZ magazine. All projects were completed with the bond election funds and increased the number of buildings to eleven which increased enrollment.

2016 - Southern celebrated 50 years of Service, received the Gold Star Award, was named Best Places to work by okcBIZ and changed their marketing name to Southern Tech.
On behalf of the students, staff, and board members of Southern Tech, I wish to extend our thank you for your continued support of our quality training services.

In our last fiscal year, Southern Tech offered twenty full-time programs taught by a team of twenty-eight certified, subject matter experts. Our students come from a variety of backgrounds and employable age groups. Our Career Advisors and Training Developers assisted in finding the right course, program or career for each particular student.

Sixty-two additional subject matter experts are utilized as adjunct instructors to deliver short-term training programs for those with less time to commit. Last year, over 17,977 people were served in this area alone. Roughly sixty percent of this number is a result of customized training for 10,786 incumbent workers representing 195 different companies in the Southern Tech district. Southern Tech is a vital asset when companies wish to expand or relocate to southern Oklahoma.

A recent study shows for every $1 invested in full-time program offerings, there is an annual return of $1.38 in salaries earned from graduates of that same year. This calculates to a 138% return on your investment!

Whether the student is youthful or seasoned, entry-level or masterful, we provide the next level of training. Our mission is simply to provide quality education and training services to secure the future of southern Oklahoma. Choose a path and enroll today!

Celebrating 50 Years of Quality Education
Southern Tech’s board of education members represents five geographic zones and sixteen school districts.
During a typical school year, Southern Tech’s full time program team provides almost 386,000 hours of instruction to adults and juniors/seniors from 13 school districts; our full time program enrollments total over 700 students. On average, Southern Tech spends close to $2.4 million annually on funding these programs. With such a high dollar investment, we determined a need to measure the economic return on our communities.

During each school year, Southern Tech reports the placement of previous year completers and course concentrators; this report labels military, any type of employment, and continuing education as positive placement. We take it a step further and measure the economic impact of only those graduates employed in the field for which they have trained with us. What we have found is the return on investment has averaged 138% for the past five years. And the average annual spending power of our graduates totals more than $3.3 million over the past five years.
Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life. Confucius

FULL-TIME PROGRAMS

17,977

Adults, Business and Industry, and Conference customers served.

720

Full Time Program customers served.

95% POSITIVE PLACEMENT

AVERAGE WAGE

$15 HOURLY

$25,835 ANNUALLY

$4,030,380 ECONOMIC IMPACT

Wages reported are for employment within seven months of graduation and do not reflect seasoned earning potential.

CREDENTIALS

94% NCRC Certified

ACT National Career Readiness Certified

65% Industry Certified

AAMP, Adobe, ASE, Autodesk, AWS, NCCER, NCLEX, NIMS, OBD, OSBC and OSDH
Staff across the Southern Tech campus also give back by serving at the Ardmore Soup Kitchen. Many staff members bring family with them to help during the week Southern manages the kitchen for those in need.

“\textit{We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.}” — \textit{Winston S. Churchill}
The coveted Gold Star School Award was received for the 10th time. This award is given to Career Tech’s who meet the minimum criteria including student placement, retention, and completion.

Accepting the award for Southern were (from left) Connie Pelton, Director of Finance/Treasurer, Russell Keeton, Program Director, and Juli McLennahan, Graphic Design Instructor.

Angela Baker (left), Cost Accountant at Southern Tech, and Whitney Elmore (2nd), Career Advisor, were awarded the Oklahoma ACTE New Professional Award. This is award is given to those who have worked at the Career Tech for less than five years and have actively shown growth and initiative in the Career Tech system.

Kenny Shade accepted the Distinguished Achievement Award for Southern Tech for his Flipped Classroom. This award was given to Kenny for his innovation in taking math learning to a different level.

Two Southern Tech instructors along with new teachers from other divisions were recognized for their dedication and service. Stephen Hadwin (left), Design and Fabrication Instructor and Kristi Inselman (3rd from left), Nurse Assistant Instructor, both received OKACTE Outstanding New Teacher Awards for their divisions.

The OKACTE Outstanding New Teacher Awardees.

The OKACTE New Professional Award Awardees.
Revenue

81% Local
$9,318,072

17% State
$1,965,827

2% Federal
$222,075

Expenditures

53% Instruction
$6,743,177
Classroom activities, instructor salaries/benefits, equipment, support,

21% Capital Outlay
$2,679,143
Equipment, construction/building remodeling and architect/engineering fees.

9.7% Operations
$1,244,676
Utilities, upkeep of buildings/grounds, maintenance/custodial salaries/benefits, and campus security services.

5% Support Services
$630,609
Corporate & career development, finance, marketing, and human resources.

3.1% Guidance & Counseling
$430,625
Counseling, career development, student organizations/leadership, and student services.

3% Miscellaneous
$441,048
Legal, food service, election, revaluation, unemployment, workers

2.7% Administration
$346,219
Board of Education, administrative salaries/benefits.

2.5% Student Transportation
$321,922
Transportation of students, Buses, and maintenance of school vehicles.

Southern Tech circa 1966 when classes began.
Southern Tech employed 87 full-time staff including certified instructors, support personnel, and administrators, along with 13 part-time positions.

Southern had 30 certified instructors of full-time or educational enhancement programs who hold various national and state certifications in their industry areas. All certified teachers must hold, or be working toward a bachelor’s degree and a Standard Oklahoma Teaching Certificate.

In addition to teaching, instructors work with their respective student organizations, taking qualified students to contest. They also provide soft skills to students, work with advisory boards, help place students in compatible jobs and conduct follow-up of graduates.
Jack Stone, the first Superintendent of Southern, shown standing in front of the building (now known as Stone Hall) when the school began in 1966.

THANK YOU