

[EXTERNAL] Accreditation Advisory Newsletter (Q1-2026): TEST

From OKCareerTech <OKCareerTech@public.govdelivery.com>

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To Joey Vanek <Joey.Vanek@careertech.ok.gov>



Message from the Accreditation Staff



As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to share the progress and accomplishments of Oklahoma CareerTech's Accreditation Division.

This year, we conducted visits to eight Technology Centers (*click on the name of the technology center to view the examiner group photo*):

- [Chisholm Trail Technology Center](#)
- [Eastern OK County Technology Center](#)
- [High Plains Technology Center](#)
- [Metro Technology Centers](#)
- [Moore Norman Technology Center](#)
- [Pioneer Technology Center](#)
- [Red River Technology Center](#)
- [Southwest Technology Center](#)

We want to thank these eight Technology Centers for being exceptional partners during the accreditation process. We understand the significant time and energy required to prepare for a visit, and we deeply appreciate the hospitality, dedication, and cooperation that each center demonstrated.

This year would not have been possible without the dedication of our accreditation examiners. We welcomed many new examiners who trusted the processes, and we hope they found the experience rewarding. Our returning examiners were instrumental in serving as mentors, providing valuable guidance and expertise. We are incredibly grateful for the contributions of all examiners in making this year a success.

— The ODCTE Accreditation Team

2025-2026 Examiner Survey Results

Thank You for Your Feedback!

We greatly appreciate all the feedback submitted through our Examiner Survey. Feedback and insights from examiners are invaluable in helping us refine our processes and ensure a smooth accreditation experience.

Our team met on **January 12th** to review your feedback and begin preparations for the **Fall 2026 visits**. Your input is already helping shape our plans!

 [Examiner Feedback Survey Results](#)

Thank You to the Technology Centers that Provided Examiners in 2025!

We are grateful to the 192 examiners from ODCTE and 26 technology centers who participated—thank you to the technology centers and ODCTE divisions for sending your talented staff to support this important work

Autry Technology Center	Mid-America Technology Center
Caddo Kiowa Technology Center	Mid-Del Technology Center
Canadian Valley Technology Center	Moore Norman Technology Center
Central Technology Center	Northeast Technology Center
Chisholm Trail Technology Center	Northwest Technology Center
Eastern OK County Technology Center	Pioneer Technology Center
Francis Tuttle Technology Center	Pontotoc Technology Center
Gordon Cooper Technology Center	Southern Technology Center
Great Plains Technology Center	Southwest Technology Center
Green Country Technology Center	Tri County Technology Center
Kiamichi Technology Centers	Tulsa Technology Center
Meridian Technology Center	Wes Watkins Technology Center
Metro Technology Centers	Western Technology Center

Advisory Committee Appreciation

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the members of our Accreditation Advisory Committee whose terms are concluding this year. Your guidance, insights, and dedication have been invaluable in shaping our accreditation process. We hope you will continue to stay involved as examiners in future years.

Members Completing Their Term of Service:

Alex Schmidt

Kalin Henneke

Angela Brownfield

Kelly Grego

Darick Pham

Rebecca Eastham

Donna Barton

Romel Muex-Pullen

Erik Hedges

Sarah Weeks

Garret Hall

Shelly Mounce

Gary Shenold

Tina Harjo

John Day

Tonja Norwood

Julie Childers

Travis Graham

Julie McCormick

Willie Overturf

We are currently reviewing the interest form that was shared a couple of weeks ago. We are excited to report that over **80 individuals submitted interest in joining!** We will review submissions to ensure appropriate representation across key areas and will send notifications as soon as selections are finalized.

We are grateful for the service of our outgoing members and excited for the future of the Accreditation Advisory Committee.

Distance Education

Distance Education Info Session

We invite you to join us for an upcoming Distance Education Webinar on February 10th at 1:30 PM.

This webinar will provide an overview of the process for applying for Distance Education & offer an opportunity to ask questions about the application & requirements.

To attend, please register using the link below. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

[Webinar Registration Link](#)

New Distance Education Practical Nursing Program

In October, accreditation staff, along with Health Science Education (HSE) staff, conducted a distance education visit at Tri County Technology Center to review their application for a Distance Education Practical Nursing program. The program met all requirements for recommendation for approval by the State Board. In November, the Board officially approved this new distance education program, and Tri County will welcome its first cohort in February 2026.

Accreditation and HSE staff are excited for this program to serve as a model for other technology centers, as Tri County invested significant time and resources to ensure a high-quality distance education experience.

New Distance Education Application Deadline

The deadline for **Distance Education applications** is now **March 30**. This extended timeline allows staff additional time to process and schedule applications so they can be approved by or before the June Board meeting, giving technology centers sufficient time to fully implement their programs.

Financial Aid Updates

Financial Aid Pre-Visits Overview

In early 2025, Sandra McKnight, Financial Aid Specialist, visited each district scheduled for accreditation in the fall of 2025 for a pre-accreditation visit. These visits are limited to one day and focus on spot-checking common compliance concerns, such as consumer information disclosures, clock hour instruction time counts, and policies and procedures. They also serve as a one-on-one training opportunity for financial aid officers to address concerns about student file management and payment processes.

Financial Aid Accreditation Visits Overview

18 financial aid administrators (FAA) participated as peer examiners for the eight schools reviewed fall 2025. These 18 FAA spent a week reviewing Consumer Information, required disclosures, policy and procedures, a sample of student files, reconciliation documents, conducting staff interviews, and writing comments. Thank you for your time and expertise as a part of our accreditation process.

\$2M More in Pell Grants for Oklahoma Students

Oklahoma Career and Technology Centers saw a 2-million-dollar increase in Pell grant dollars disbursed from 2023-24 to 2024-25. A total of \$18,384,357 in Pell Grants to 3,658 adult students (an increase of 365) enrolled in full-time programs during the 2024-2025 award year. The average eligible CareerTech student received \$5,026 in Pell Grant funding, which often covers the full cost of a one-year, full-time program. Currently, there are 887 Pell-eligible programs offered across 28 of the Technology Center districts in the state.

For more information about the variety of student aid options available through the Oklahoma CareerTech system, [check here](#). [Download](#) the interactive pdf for even more details.

Workforce Pell

The Negotiated Rulemaking AHEAD Committee has reached consensus on Workforce Pell & Do No Harm (School Accountability) metrics. While implementation details are not yet available, we want to share sources for the most current information.

**Negotiated
Rulemaking for
Higher Education
2025**

**Workforce Pell Rules
Take Shape; States
to Play a Major Role
in Implementation**

**NASFAA Summary:
AHEAD Committee
Accountability
Consensus**

Safety and Civil Rights Updates

2025 Civil Rights Compliance Reviews

In 2025, Alan Nahs, Civil Rights Coordinator, visited the following schools to conduct Civil Rights Compliance Reviews as directed by the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education.

- Amber-Pocasset Public Schools
- Bone-Apache Public Schools
- Chickasha Public Schools
- Glenco Public Schools
- Jones Public Schools
- Mannford Public Schools
- Piedmont Public Schools
- Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Public Schools
- Central Technology Center
- Tir County Technology Center
- Cameron University

Safety & Civil Rights Pre-Visits Overview

Pre-accreditation visits were conducted at Chisholm Trail, Eastern Oklahoma County, High Plains, Metro Tech, Moore Norman, Pioneer, Red River, and Southwest. The visits included training sessions and courtesy walkthroughs focused on ADA compliance, civil rights, security, safety, and hazardous materials.

New in 2025 Legislative and Policy Updates

The Stop Campus Hazing Act (H.R. 5646, 118th Congress, 2023–2024) was enacted on December 23, 2024, and takes effect in the 2026 academic year. The law requires institutions to establish formal hazing policies and implement comprehensive prevention programs. It also renames the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act as the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act.

Additionally, Oklahoma Statute 70 O.S. § 24-163(A) mandates that all institutions incorporate the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism into student, staff, and faculty handbooks.

Welcome Brent Meeks to the Accreditation Team!



We are thrilled to officially welcome Brent Meeks to the Accreditation team! Brent serves as the Senior Director overseeing the Accreditation Division, a role he stepped into in October after serving as our Director of School Accountability.

Brent brings a wealth of experience to the team. Before joining ODCTE, he was a superintendent and worked at the Oklahoma State Department of Education as a Regional Accreditation Officer. Since his promotion, Brent has been on the road with our team, joining visits to High Plains, Metro, Pioneer, Red River, and Southwest technology centers.

We are excited to have Brent's expertise guiding our accreditation process and look forward to the positive impact he will continue to make across our technology centers.

NACIQI Accreditation Update

We are excited to share an update on our work with the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI). Just as we accredit our technology centers, the U.S. Department of Education, through NACIQI, accredits our ability to accredit our technology centers.

We are currently in the process of submitting our renewal application, which is due on February 3, 2026. Once submitted, NACIQI will have up to a year to review our responses and provide feedback on our application.

This year, an Education Program Specialist from the Office of Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education will join us for our advisory committee meeting and also participate in a site visit. We are looking forward to this opportunity to showcase our CareerTech system and the outstanding work happening at our technology centers.

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