



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009**

**CONTACT: DOROTHY O'BOYLE**

**OFFICE PHONE: (405) 390-6606**

**CELL PHONE: (405) 343-4488**

**EOC TECH STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO "GET INVOLVED!"**

**(CHOCTAW, OKLAHOMA)** An invitation for membership and leadership development was the topic of the first all-school assembly of the year held Friday, August 28, 2009. Career Tech Student Organizations (CTSO) at Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center give students an opportunity to develop leadership and public speaking skills, participate in competition events with other career tech students across the district, state and nation, while working on professional development, citizenship and self improvement.

"CTSOs are integral to each of the Career Tech training programs. Activities focus on providing both secondary and adult students opportunities to develop soft skills that augment their technical skills which ultimately enhance their employability," says Dr. Francie Russell, Educational Services Director.

Guest speakers for the assembly were: Christina Hofegartner, Central District FCCLA President, a graduate of Luther High School and current full-time adult student at EOC Tech; Cody McPherson, National Post Secondary SkillsUSA Parliamentarian, of Enid and current student at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee; and Corey Winston, State FCCLA Vice President a Sophomore at Millwood High School. All are active in various student organizations both regionally and at the state level.

Hofegartner attributes her confidence and ability to speak before audiences directly to her involvement in CTSOs, primarily in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). She has completed two years in Early Care and Education and hopes to one day own her own child care business. Both McPherson and Winston have met students across the state and nation with their involvement in various student organizations.

Students at EOC Tech are also eligible for Student Leadership Council as well as CTSOs. The mission of the council is to unite the student body, provide a platform to discuss student issues, plan school activities and community service projects while serving as advocates for EOC Tech in the sending schools and their communities.

To learn more about student organizations and course offerings at Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center, please call (405) 390-9591 or visit [www.eoctech.org](http://www.eoctech.org).