



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EOC TECH PROVIDING QUALITY CAREER EDUCATION
FOR 25 YEARS AND COUNTING!**

(CHOCTAW, Oklahoma) On January 22, 1980 with overwhelming support, the communities of Choctaw, Harrah, Jones, and Luther voted to establish a technical school in Eastern Oklahoma County. This year as Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center celebrates its 25th Anniversary, acknowledgement the many milestones which have been accomplished and setting the bar for future endeavors in technical education is in order. And there is much to acknowledge! In its infancy, 11 programs were offered; today 16 full-time programs are available in addition to a broad range of adult evening classes, specialized training for business and industry, as well as personal development courses and services. Over 60% of EOC Tech students are continuing their education after program completion.

Sixty teachers, trainers, and staff members provide such services as career counseling, academic planning, financial aid assistance, and mentoring. EOC Tech is home to the only Senior Day Service Center that is housed on a technology center campus in the US. The Child Development Center, which is also located on campus, has earned the highest rating available to childcare centers in the state.

For the past seven consecutive years, EOC Tech has consistently served 30% or more of the eligible population of high school students in the district; providing career exploration and accommodating specific schedule needs. Next Step Scholarships are available to all graduating seniors from the district's partner schools. This "thirteenth year" scholarship allows students who have not finished their course work or students who did not attend during high school, to attend EOC Tech at no cost. Full-time students who are in need of a math credit to fulfill high school graduation requirements are eligible to take Algebra I, II and Geometry while on campus. In addition, college credit can be earned in select courses.

For adults, EOC Tech offers affordable continuing education, re-training, updating skills, and industry certifications. Many adult students qualify for PELL Grants, VA tuition assistance, and more. Short-term adult education classes, based on community needs and interests, are offered at various times

in the day and evening. During the 2006 Fiscal Year, over 3800 people took advantage of these courses offered by EOC Tech.

The business and industry services range from the Fire Academy Core which is a 16 week, intensive training course, to new business startup assistance. During the 2006 Fiscal Year, over 200 people received industry safety instruction from EOC Tech trainers. Both private companies and municipalities used EOC Tech's on-site trench safety trainer as a part of their industry safety instruction. For the second year in a row, the John F. Futhey II State Fire School will be held on Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center's campus August 10, 11, and 12. To assist with businesses seeking government contracts, a BID Assistance Coordinator is available.

The facts and figures are compelling evidence that the voters of January 1980 had a vision for creating a stronger community through their education and that of their sons and daughters. All indicators reflect their mission has been accomplished. The Board of Education, superintendent, administration, and staff continue to expand the curriculum and envision ways to continue that mission in Eastern Oklahoma County with that same commitment. Happy Anniversary EOC Tech and all who have benefited from the technical training they have received!

For complete course offerings and services available at EOC Tech, visit our website at eoctech.org or call (405) 390-9591.

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For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Dorothy O'Boyle, EOC Tech.