

# High Plains Technology Center First Semester News Update

## **Beaver County Annexes into High Plains Technology Center District.**

Exciting developments for High Plains Technology Center in recent months. The annexation vote of Beaver County into the High Plains Technology Center District passed with flying colors making the landscape of HPTC's district look quite different. Beaver County previously lay in what is referred to as "white space" on the CareerTech system map, this means that the county was not a part of any CareerTech district. Not so anymore all Beaver County citizens are now included in HPTC's District. This will be the first CareerTech in the Oklahoma Panhandle. The annexation brings four new sending schools into the district including Balko, Turpin, Forgan, and Beaver. The first program to be implemented in Beaver County will be the Technical Applications Program within each of the four public schools by next fall. Additional programs will be offered shortly after, including CDL Truck Training, Health Careers, Mechanics, Welding, Construction, LPN/CNA/CMA, and Business and Industry Services.

## **HPTC Technical Application Program/Woodward Rodders host 5th Annual Car Show.**

HPTC held its annual Technical Applications Program and Woodward Rodders car show on January 19th and 20th. The event has grown remarkably since its humble beginnings five years ago in a small gravel parking lot at Woodward Middle School, starting with only 10 cars. Now, it spans two full buildings at the Woodward County Event Center, showcasing an impressive 125 cars. One of the highlights of the event is the participation of current students and alumni of the High Plains programs. They have the opportunity to showcase their skills and projects, offering attendees a glimpse into the quality of education and training provided by High Plains Technology Center both young and old. This interaction not only celebrates the students' achievements but also inspires prospective students to consider a career in this dynamic and growing field. Woodward Rodders' car show for the TAP program is more than just an event; it's a celebration of automotive passion, a commitment to education, and a step towards a brighter future for the industry. Woodward Rodders' decision to organize a car show as a fundraising event for the HPTC students from 6th grade to adult ages demonstrates a deep commitment to the community and the future of the automotive industry. By channeling proceeds from the show into scholarships, the club is opening doors for aspiring students who might otherwise lack the financial means to pursue their educational goals. HPTC is thankful for the partnership with the Woodward Rodders so much so that they were selected as the recipients of HPTC's Partners in Progress award. HPTC is already looking forward to next year's show.

## **Automotive Student places 5th overall in Western Equipment Ag Invitational.**

HPTC Automotive student Isaiah Mitchell from Sharon-Mutual achieved an impressive 5th place overall in the Western Equipment Ag Invitational contest in Plainview, TX on January 20th. Isiah competed against 180 other students and was granted a \$7,500 Scholarship to John Deer Tech School. Isaiah won several prizes at the competition, including a 46-inch fully stocked toolbox for his overall 5th-place ranking. Additionally, he won the written exam and received a 30-inch loaded triangle toolbox as an award for that. The estimated value of all the prizes Isaiah won is around \$12,000. HPTC is very proud of Isaiah as it takes a lot of hard work, dedication, and skill to place in the top 10 at such a competitive contest.

## **Construction Student Amanda Mead wins Mike Rowe Work Ethic Scholarship.**

HPTC was thrilled to announce that Amanda Mead, HPTC Construction student, was awarded the Mike Rowe "Work Ethic Scholarship." Amanda is a second-year adult student in the HPTC Construction Trades Program. Amanda went through the rigorous application process for the Work Ethic Scholarship, including a series of short essays about the meaning of "work ethic". She also created a video essay explaining her personal and professional goals. Her responses and qualifications caught the eye of Rowe, a TV personality and commentator best known for hosting "Dirty Jobs" on the Discovery Channel. For years, Rowe has advocated for skilled trades education and financial assistance that can help students graduate with in-demand skills and less debt. 124 recipients were selected from all across the United States totaling \$675,000 in scholarship dollars. Amanda is the only recipient of the scholarship enrolled in an Oklahoma CareerTech program. HPTC is proud of Amanda for her strong work ethic and commitment to developing her skills at HPTC.

## **Looking Ahead: What's Next for HPTC in the Coming Months?**

### **Oklahoma will be celebrating CareerTech Month in February as designated by Governor Stitt**

Governor Kevin Stitt designates the month of February as Career and Technical Education (CareerTech) Appreciation Month in Oklahoma. CareerTech helps connect students to industry, providing a talent pipeline to meet Oklahoma's workforce needs to keep the economy growing. Oklahoma CareerTech partners with business and educational institutions to enhance career awareness, increase educational attainment, and meet the needs of our state. There were 489,635 enrollments for the 2023 fiscal year across the Oklahoma CareerTech system. More than 42 percent of Oklahoma students in ninth through 12th grades were enrolled in at least one CareerTech class in FY23. The system had a record number of pre-K through 12 enrollments for a second straight year. High Plains Technology Center is part of a network of 29 career technology centers across the state. Since 1982 High Plains has been training individuals for success in the workplace. A wide variety of course offerings make career education possible for students from all walks of life: Career Training, Professional and Personal Interest, Online Classes, and Business Solutions. The current boundaries of HPTC's district are coterminous with the eleven sending school districts as follows: Buffalo, Fargo-Gage, Fort Supply, Mooreland, Sharon-Mutual, Vici, Woodward, Balko, Beaver, Forgan and Turpin.

### **Update on Spring Semester Daytime Programs.**

HPTC students are preparing for the Spring Leadership conferences and CTSO contests. Stay tuned for results.

Enrollment is now open for the upcoming school year to all adults and homeschool students. You can enroll online at <https://www.hptc.edu/career-programs> or contact HPTC Counselor Audrea Halderman at 580.571.6183 or [ahaldermant@hptc.edu](mailto:ahaldermant@hptc.edu) to learn more about the enrollment process.

Did you know that the employment opportunities for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) are expected to grow by 5 percent from 2022 to 2032, which is faster than the average for all occupations? Additionally, there are estimated to be around 54,400 job openings for LPNs every year over the next decade. If you're interested in pursuing a career as an LPN, you can apply for the 2024-2025 HPTC Licensed Practical Nursing Program, which will run from August 2024 to May 2025. Applications are

currently available and must be submitted by June 1st. You can access the Online Application Portal through the following URL: <https://hptc.axstudent.com/>.

HPTC will be hosting a Job Fair on April 3rd. HPTC is seeking employers that are hiring for various positions aligned to our programs at HPTC: Business and Marketing, Construction, Welding, Service Careers, Automotive and Diesel Technology, Multimedia, Health Careers, & and CDL Truck Drivers. If you are an employer and would like to participate in the Job Fair please contact HPTC Counselor Audrea Halderman at 580.571.6183 or [ahaldermant@hptc.edu](mailto:ahaldermant@hptc.edu). The Job Fair will be open to only HPTC students from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM it will then be open to the public from 2:00 PM -4:30 PM.

### **Training Opportunities for Adult Career Advancement**

At the start of the year, a number of short-term courses began including Evening Welding, Basic Spanish, Long Term Care Aide, Basic Phlebotomy, and Furniture Construction. Starting on February 12th, there will be a Certified Medication Aide class, followed by a Long Term Care Aide course on February 26th, and Intermediate Spanish will also begin.

HPTC is pleased to announce that the Oklahoma CareerTech Mobile Meat Processing Laboratory (MMPL) will be visiting our campus to conduct Meat Processing Classes. In May, we will be offering Meat Processing classes for goat/sheep, pork, and beef, with the guidance of Bob Jones, a local butcher expert, who will be teaching the class. For more information about this class and all of the HPTC Adult Career Development courses, please visit <https://www.hptc.edu/short-term-programs>.

High Plains Technology Center has partnered with Central Tech to bring Truck Driver Training Courses to Woodward, Oklahoma. The inaugural class was held in January 2023, and since then, three more CDL trainings have been conducted. The latest class began on January 15th, and it has eight students. This marks the fourth such class. Although enrollment for the next class starting on April 8th is still open, only three spots are available as of January 26th. During the training, students receive over 200 hours of instruction on theory and behind-the-wheel training (BTW). The Central Tech Truck Driver Training program includes classroom instruction, range, and road driving, as well as, practical application of skills used in highway driving. Upon completion of the 28-day training, students will be well-prepared to join the trucking industry. To enroll, please contact Tammy at 580.571.6159 or [tkelln@hptc.edu](mailto:tkelln@hptc.edu).

If you're interested in learning more about the various programs offered at HPTC and want to get an insight into the daily routine of an HPTC student, you can follow us on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok, and YouTube. To take a tour of HPTC programs and facilities, please visit us at 3921 34th Street in Woodward, OK.