

# Area career tech centers form workforce solution compact

Canadian Valley Technology Center is one of five area career tech centers to participate in the Onward OKC Compact, a collaborative partnership designed to improve and streamline services offered to businesses and students.

In addition to CVTC, other centers participating are Francis Tuttle Technology Center, Metro Technology Centers, Mid-Del Technology Center and Moore Norman Technology Center.

“The compact has not only helped us streamline the system, it has also helped us identify other challenges and opportunities,” Canadian Valley Superintendent Gayla Lutts said. “Onward OKC has given the centers the ability to identify and share more resources, highlight the strengths of each center, prioritize

demands and requests, provide better training, offer more benefits and get a clearer picture of what companies want and need and then provide it for them. By pooling resources, Onward OKC streamlines access to training for business owners, HR managers, and job seekers, eliminating the guesswork for our customers while ensuring they are getting quality training designed to meet their specific needs.”

“Overall, the CareerTech system in Oklahoma works extremely well and is a strong business recruitment tool for our state and local chambers,” said Dr. Michelle Keylon, superintendent and CEO of Francis Tuttle. “We are always looking for ways to make CareerTech even

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## Yukon Progress

# Compact

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better — for our students and for the businesses and communities we serve. One challenge that became more obvious in recent years was that the five technology centers located within 20 miles of Oklahoma City were not collaborating on developing solutions for our business customers, which was ultimately hindering workforce

development progress for metro-area companies.”

Oklahoma CareerTech is a system made up of 29 technology centers across the state that offers education and skills training to Oklahomans, providing companies with the required workforce to compete globally. Each technology center works closely with advisers from local industries to ensure students learn the skills

needed to be valuable members of the workforce.

Strict district boundaries and difficulty identifying centers with expertise in specific industry sectors made the system cumbersome to navigate for businesses seeking skills training for their employees.

A business’s request to use services at a tech center outside of their designated district could take up to a month to be resolved.

“All five tech centers

already provide high quality service to businesses in Oklahoma City,” said Roy Williams, president and CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. “Creating this collaborative presents such an opportunity to advance our regional workforce development strategies and better use their collective assets and expertise. Onward OKC is going to be a game-changer, both for the businesses served and for our capacity to grow the regional economy. We

commend the leadership of these technology centers for their vision, and their teams for creating such an innovative and effective partnership.”

### Metro Tech

Superintendent and CEO Aaron Collins agreed. “A business would call a tech center and might be told they didn’t offer the type of training at that location and that was the end of the interaction,” said Collins. “It was frustrating to the business community. This compact eliminates those issues and allows us to work together as a team to better support our business community and our students.”

The compact has been

in development for several years, and the centers are already seeing a significant improvement. Each center provides a unique set of services, courses and expertise in various industries.

The Onward OKC agreement allows the centers to collaborate on a solution and direct businesses to the proper channels for the best service for their needs — not just their location within the Metro.

Businesses interested in more information about CareerTech business services in the Oklahoma City metro area can visit the compact website at <https://www.onwardokc.com>.

