

**Education Committee
Career Services
November 2021 Monthly Report
Diane Kelley, Executive Director**

Alternative Education, Career Skills, and Testing Report

Alternative Education continues to serve GED clients through in-person instruction, over the phone assistance, and with our online AZTEC platform and another Adult Education Teacher has been added to the Tahlequah office. The Adult Education Teacher in Stilwell is coordinating classes with individuals working at the surgical mask plant to offer them GED services after hours.

Career Skills staff is also working to expand services to address barriers of our program participants; instructors have been working with our Reentry Program to tailor classes and services to overcome the intensive barriers our Tribal Citizens face when reentering their communities and locating employment.

Testing Centers remain open and are providing services in Tahlequah, Pryor, and Stilwell.

Upcoming Program Initiatives

The Alternative Education Program is working to expand services in southern Adair County and is currently completing focused recruitment efforts to promote our services to potential GED clients in the area.

An Adult Driver's Education course is in development, which will address this specific employment barrier. The class will assist adult students with taking and passing the written driver's examination, learning basic driving skills and techniques, and also promote safe driving practices for participants.

Career Skills

9 Career Skills Classes: 62 Completions

29 Individual resumes completed for Career Services Clients and other referrals

Testing Services

Total Tests Administered: 126

<u>Pearson VUE</u>	Tests Administered	<u>HiSET</u>	Tests Administered
Tahlequah	63	Pryor	4
Pryor	36	Tahlequah	1
Stilwell	12		
Sallisaw	0	<u>MOS</u>	
		Tahlequah	10

EMT Training

The first class of EMT training will begin Jan 5, 2022.

Classes will be held Monday and Wednesday from 6pm to 10pm until April 30, 2022 in Pryor.

The EMS Training program will provide a National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Certificate and Oklahoma State, Emergency Medical Technician along with Paramedic level Training. The NREMT is the National Level of Certification where state entities are responsible for licensing to practice in prospective states.

We are working with Oklahoma Emergency Medical Training Academy in Pryor Oklahoma to provide the EMT training. Mike Miller is the Owner and Lead instructor for this entity. He is a Flight nurse and paramedic with 20+ years either in an ambulance or on a Helicopter. He began this school as an endeavor to prepare for the next phase of his career which is teaching. The EMT training lasts for a total of 16 weeks and will teach all aspects of EMS at this level

- 216 Hours of Emergency Medicine
- 60 Hours of On the Job experience with an Ambulance Service
- 8 Hours of Basic Life Support Training
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician testing
 - Both Adaptive Cognitive Exam and Psychomotor skills exam

Paramedic Training

We're currently working with a number of area training institutions to get more Cherokee Citizens into these programs.

Students in Oklahoma may choose between paramedic training, certificate, and associate's degree programs, all of which may lead to eligibility to take the requisite licensing exam.

Admission to such programs may require CPR certification, previous certification as an EMT, a background and/or drug screening, among others, depending on the school. All paramedic programs include a practicum element, which may be fulfilled by clinical hours or an internship, as the program requires.

There are currently schools that have state-approved programs that also meet Department of Transportation requirements. These programs prepare students for NREMT-P exams and state licensure exams.

Medical Assistant Training

We will be looking to recruit and start our 3rd Medical Assistant Training starting early next year.

Firefighter- 1 course

Credited through OSU-FST and IFSAC certification available.

Looking for volunteer Firefighters.

Jan. 3, 2021 7:00-9:00PM, then every other Sat. 8:00AM-5:00PM – through Mar. 27, 2022

Tahlequah Regional Training Center 1232 W. Woodward Road, Tahlequah, OK 74464

Register online: <https://forms.gle/PQnadY5tQCQFSi5V9>

Or contact: Jerry Hooper: Jerry.Hooper@ictech.edu or 918-348-7990
Mark Whitmore: AsstFireChief@CityofTahlequah.com or 918-931-5896

Vocational Programs

Business Tech

- Eight students earned certifications such as Word, Excel, Outlook, and Access.
- Six new students started the class.
- One student doing well on full-time practicum with Facilities Management at CNOHC.

Surg Tech

- Five students will begin clinicals in February at area hospitals and surgery centers in AR and OK.
- Four Students graduated on 11/9/2021, passed boards and have obtained full-time employment.

RN Scholarship

- One student doing residency at Hastings Hospital and is doing well
- Ten new nursing students are continuing their studies
- Eight nursing students were interviewed on 11/9/2021 resulting in six selections for the Spring 2022 semester

Vocational Rehabilitation

The Vocational Rehabilitation program has been operating under a No-cost Extension (NCE), 10/01/21 to 12/31/21, to expend the remaining funds from our previous grant cycle. During the NCE Vocational Rehabilitation was only serving those individuals who were eligible prior to 09/30/2021. Fortunately, the Program was able to expend those funds early and ended the NCE on 10/09/21. We are now taking and processing new applications for our disabled consumers who are planning on attending a training program in the spring.

In conjunction with the Disability Employment Initiative, the Vocational Rehabilitation team celebrated our partnership with Oklahoma Workforce. We were also able to donate a replica of our accessibility kiosks to Green Country Workforce Development Board, which will likewise increase their ability to provide more accessibility to jobseekers utilizing their services.



477 Vocational Success Story

K. Benge is a Licensed Practical Nurse graduate of Northeast Area Vocational Training –Kansas, Oklahoma. She began her studies May 07, 2020 and successfully completed September 30, 2021. She was a great student and her priorities were to earn good grades, maintain good time and attendance, and achieve the goal of Licensed Nurse.

Prior to her entrance into the Practical Nursing field, Benge was a Certified Nurse Aide. She was still working at Hartsworth Senior Living in Vinita, Oklahoma when she entered the Practical Nursing program. She would soon learn it would be too difficult to continue working and keep her grades up to a level that she expected of herself.

When she needed additional nursing direction or encouragement, she would go to her mother, who was assisted by Career Services in 2015/2016 with her LPN career. It was very gratifying to assist both mother and daughter and help both meet their goals.

Benge has completed her training, received her Oklahoma State Board license, and has secured employment in the last few months. She submitted an application at Monroe Manor in Jay, OK where her mother is a nurse and was immediately hired as the new LPN! How exciting for a new graduate. She is earning a competitive wage and will continue each year to increase her salary.

Benge plans further her education in a Registered Nursing program at Rogers State

College, Claremore, Oklahoma or Northeast Oklahoma A&M, Miami, OK. After obtaining her RN credentials, she thinks she may prefer to work at a larger facility or hospital.

Benge is very grateful to the Cherokee Nation for financial assistance to help her reach her immediate goal and relief of working and attending school. Grades are earned not given and this student is pleased with her success. This bright young lady will do very well in work or education.



College Resource Center

Scholarship Funding for Fall 2021 has commenced for the Cherokee Nation Concurrent Enrollment, Undergraduate, and Graduate scholarship programs.

Break Down by Program:

Concurrent Enrollment	366
Undergraduate	4,008
Graduate	635

Outreach & Presentations:**October Events:****10/18/2021:**

- Delivered scholarship flyer packets to contiguous schools in Washington County, Arkansas:
 - Fayetteville High School
 - Farmington High School
 - Springdale High School
 - West Fork High School
 - Greenland High School
 - Elkins High School

10/19/2021:

- Delivered scholarship flyer packets to contiguous schools in Crawford County, Arkansas:
 - Cedarville High School
 - Alma High School
 - Mountainburg High School
 - Mulberry High School
 - Van Buren High School

10/21/2021:

- Met with the group of Cherokee high school seniors (4 students present) at Stigler High School- Stigler, OK about CRC/tribal scholarship opportunities.
- Delivered scholarship flyer packets to contiguous schools in Haskell County, Oklahoma:
 - McCurtain High School
 - Kinta High School
 - Porum High School
- Mental Health & Wellness WebEx with Dr. Ashleigh Coser- WebEx- 6 PM CST
 - 15 participants total

10/22/2021:

- Met with Superintendent at Hanna Public Schools in Hanna, OK for outreach/program information and tour of school
- Delivered scholarship flyer packets to contiguous schools in McIntosh County, Oklahoma:
 - Eufaula High School
 - Checotah High School

10/25/2021:

- Delivered scholarship flyer packets to contiguous schools in Sebastian County, Arkansas:
 - Northside High School
 - Greenwood High School
 - Hackett High School

10/26/2021:

- Stanley Black & Decker Informational Webinar on Zoom- 6 PM CST
 - An estimate of 20 participants including a small group from Carl Albert State College

10/27/2021:

- Delivered scholarship flyer packets to contiguous schools in Le Flore County, Oklahoma:
 - Arkoma High School
 - Pocola High School
 - Spiro High School
 - Panama High School
 - Cameron High School
 - Poteau High School

10/28/2021:

- Met with school counselor at Heavener High School in Heavener, OK and delivered scholarship packet.
- Delivered scholarship packets to contiguous schools in Le Flore County, Oklahoma:
 - Monroe High School
 - Howe High School
 - Wister High School
 - Talihina Jr/Sr High School
 - Le Flore High School

November Events:

11/3/2021:

- Delivered scholarship flyer packets to contiguous schools in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma:
 - Canadian High School
 - Indianola High School
 - Crowder High School
 - Quinton High School
 - McAlester High School

11/4/2021:

- Met with school counselor at Haileyville High School- Haileyville, OK and delivered scholarship packets.
- Delivered scholarship packets to contiguous schools in Le Flore County, Oklahoma:
 - Hartshorne High School
 - Savanna High School
 - Kiowa High School
 - Pittsburg High School

11/5/2021:

- Delivered scholarship packets to schools in Muskogee County, Oklahoma:
 - Haskell High School
 - Braggs High School
 - Oktaha High School
 - Webber Falls High School
 - Gore High School
 - Porum High School
 - Fort Gibson High School

11/8/2021:

- Delivered scholarship packets to schools in Wagoner/Muskogee County, Oklahoma:
 - Muskogee High School
 - Hilldale High School
 - Coweta High School
 - Porter High School

11/12/2021:

- Native American College Achievement Summit- 9 AM- Tulsa Community College
 - An estimate of 250 participants in small groups with COVID guidelines followed.
 - Met with Indian Ed/Counselors from McClain High School, Daniel Webster High School, Sapulpa High School, Okmulgee High School
- Delivered scholarship packets to schools in Tulsa County, Oklahoma:
 - Glenpool High School
 - Jenks High School

Fall 2021 Stole Report:

The Cherokee Nation College Resource Center rewards students striving to complete continuing education goals and academic success. The Stole program is available for college students who are currently graduating from a college or university and are Cherokee Nation citizens. The program offers the opportunity to receive graduation stoles for one Associate (Art, Science or Applied Science –Nursing), Bachelors, Masters or Doctoral Degree. Under this program citizens will receive one graduation stole per degree level.

Associate – 1

Bachelors – 37

Masters – 16

Doctorate – 0

Faculty – 0

Students on Cherokee Nation Scholarship Programs receiving stoles – 33
Students not on Cherokee Nation Scholarship Programs receiving stoles – 21

Total: 54

Future Plans:

- CRC staff will be attending the Cherokee Nation Passport Classes for November/December
- November 29: College Resource Center scholarship materials delivery – Tulsa/Osage County
- November 30: College Resource Center scholarship materials delivery – Osage County
- December 2: College Resource Center scholarship materials delivery – Washington County
- December 6: College Resource Center scholarship materials delivery – Nowata County
- December 7: College Resource Center scholarship materials delivery – Chautauqua County, KS
- December 8: College Resource Center scholarship materials delivery – Montgomery County, KS
- December 9: College Resource Center scholarship materials delivery – Montgomery/Labette County, KS
- December 15: College Resource Center scholarship materials delivery – Cherokee County, KS
- December 16: College Resource Center scholarship materials delivery – Cherokee County/Ottawa County

January 2022

1/15/2022 – Spring 2022 renewal deadline for the Cherokee Nation Concurrent Enrollment, Undergraduate, and Graduate Scholarship programs.

CULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER

Outreach Activities October 2021 Contacts 1345 YTD (Oct 21 to Oct 22) 1345

1. Outreach numbers for FY 20-21 ended with 8,941 contacts. Due to the pandemic, reorganization of the staff, closed schools and other numerous circumstances, the numbers were well under what Shanista Cloud had collected while in full function mode at the Cherokee Heritage Center.
2. Outreach activities increased during the month of October as schools celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day. The three staff members dedicated to cultural outreach visited 20 schools with 1,345 contacts (combined virtual and in person). Staff is to be commended for strictly adhering to covid procedures set by Education Services.
3. Throughout much of October staff assisted with PPE deliveries to schools and delivered 79,457 masks and 3,978 bottles of hand sanitizer. They worked in close tandem with respective councilors on delivery and community support.
4. Staff was able, with the help of Jeannette Whitmire of the Communication Department, to develop five instructional videos in pinch pots (pottery), basketry, making mini stickball sticks, the construction of cornhusk dolls and five stories told by Robert Lewis.
5. In a continued partnership with Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Museum, OKC, they were shared with the museum for their annual Native American Month activities. This partnership was developed among staff at the Cherokee Heritage Center and has carried on since outreach staff was transferred to Cherokee Nation.
6. Four Cultural Resource Center staff members were able to travel to Oklahoma City, October 14 to visit the newly opened First Americans Museum as professional development.

7. Staff learned the art of moccasin making taught by Tonia Hogner-Weavel with students being JOM and Cultural Resources staff.

November 2021 Events

Storytelling/ Cultural Presentation:

Nov 3 US State Dept Bureau of Diversity and Inclusion	Nov 3 Foyil
Nov 4 Grove	Nov 5 Claremore Jr High
Nov 5 Claremore Teacher Training	Nov 8 GrandView
Nov 9 Grove	Nov 10 Keys
Nov 13 CCO/Washington DC	Nov 15 Keys
Nov 16 Grove	Nov 17 Sand Springs/Sallisaw
Nov 18 Grove	Nov 19 Pryor/Chouteau
Nov 23 Owasso	

Head Start

Activity

October

YTD

# of classrooms/sites	69 classrooms 21 sites	69 classrooms 21 sites
# of parent meetings conducted	6 Meetings Conducted	11 Conducted
# of site visits by HS/ECU staff	201 Site Visits	598 Conducted
# of PD hours completed	37 hours offered	119.50 hours offered
CC Expenditures - Travel	\$-0-	\$3,446.42

Accomplishments:

- 1) The Blue Ribbon Steering Committee was revived and the meetings have been most productive. This committee convenes monthly to brainstorm on feasible improvements in the Children's Village. Improvements areas include playgrounds, training, activities, recruitment, retention, and morale boosting events. The committee is comprised of Children's Village staff in a rotating fashion to ensure everyone has an opportunity to make recommendations. This has proven to be a great way of hearing from all stakeholders in making the Children's Village an enjoyable work place. The Children's Village is the largest facility in the ECU and it takes great coordination to keep staff on the same page. The committee has made some great recommendations.
- 2) The number of vacancies continue to be a concern and the rate of onboarding is constantly being reviewed. Advertisement for various positions are posted continuously. There were three new hires in October.
- 3) One Admin staff completed her ChildPlus Administrators Certification. The 40-hour training on the child tracking software prepares her to assist in maintaining, monitoring and generating various

reports on attendance, trends, screenings and personnel. There is one additional staff currently enrolled in the certification training.

New Initiatives:

- 1) The ECU received final approval from the Cherokee Nation IRB to continue participation in the Family and Child Experience Survey (FACES). The ECU initially participated in the study in 2015. We are one of 22 AI/AN grantees chosen to participate in a study in 2015 and did not include AI/AN grantees before then. For obvious reasons, the study was paused in 2020 and will resume late fall of 2021 or early spring 2022. It is a five-year survey.
- 2) Kicked off a series of meeting to discuss the new facilities in Tahlequah and Pryor/Sallisaw. The Tahlequah site will house the current Children's Village operation, relocate the Tahlequah Early Learning Academy (TELA with four Early Head Start classrooms) currently in a Tahlequah Public School facility and add two more classrooms. With the addition of the TELA site, Tahlequah will house Head Start and Early Head Start with 16 classrooms. The new Pryor facility will house two Early Head Start infant and toddler classrooms in one section of the building with a separate kitchen. The combination of the ECU and CDC programs under one roof will set the stage for a wonderful collaboration in providing comprehensive services to children and families.
- 3) The AI/AN annual conference is scheduled virtually the week of Nov 15-19. This training is free and covers a wide range of topics for all components of Head Start and Early Head Start.

Johnson O'Malley Program (JOM) / Cultural Outreach

Activity	October			YTD	
	JOM	Special Projects	Public School Outreach	Cultural Resource Center	YTD Total
# of students on program	25,321 (11/15/2021)				25,321
# of schools participating	7	13	3	20	43
# of communities participating					
# of special events	7	5	3		17
# participants <u>students/adults</u>		312		1345	1751
# of school staff participating		17			17
# of contractors participating	0	0	0		0

Accomplishments:

- 1) All 70 2021-2022 JOM Applications approved. (70 schools)
2. Technical Assistance - Leach, Salina, Tahlequah,
3. Worked on claims submitted by schools, Warner, Porum, Grand View, Tenkiller, Tulsa, and Bluejacket.
4. Conducted 3 Challenge Bowl sessions Warner Middle School, Salina High School and Colcord.

5. 10/27/2021 assisted Welch with JOM Election
6. 10/28-29/2021 delivered gifts for Fall Training Attendees to JOM Contacts at Briggs, Grand View, Hulbert, Tahlequah, Tenkiller, and Woodall.
7. 11/2/2021 attended Leach JOM elections. 2 JOM Contacts and Superintendent in attendance. No election held due to none parent participation. Meet with the JOM Contacts and discussed their options.
8. 11/3/2021 delivered gifts for Fall Training Attendees to JOM Contacts at and 1 IEC member in Tulsa, Adair, Chelsea, Copan, Sequoyah-Claremore, Osage and Tulsa
9. Field Specialist presented at Cultural Days at Bell School, Grove Elementary, Onefire Field, Grandview School, Keys Elementary, Keys High School and Gore.
10. Participated in Rock your Moc Training and Beading cultural training.
11. Planned JOM 101 training for Parent Committee members and school staff.
12. Collaboration with Tribal Leaders/Oklahoma Indian Education Leaders Virtual Attendance
13. Collaboration by Zoom with State Department on Indian Education Child Counts
14. Staff assisted with Holiday Food Distribution Baskets at Three Rivers and Hulbert
15. Delivered Cherokee Cultural Enrichment in Schools Student books to Immersion School.

1. 2022 OKJOM Conference Planning
 - a. Conference **CANCELLED** March 30 – 31, 2022 WinStar Conference Center & Casino

Future Plans/New Initiatives:

JOM:

1. 11/30/2021 – JOM 101 Virtual Training
2. 12/2/2021 – JOM 101 Virtual Training
3. History Presentations mailed on hard drives to Warner, Sequoyah High School and Grove
4. Cherokee History Curriculum Planning Meeting
5. Challenge Bowl Competitions completed virtually with 13 school systems 312 kids, \$6,530 in award monies to be distributed.
6. Working on Cherokee School videos
7. Cherokee History School Curriculum
8. Cherokee History Training
9. Collaborating with STEM to initiate the Mary Golda Ross Book Event
10. JOM Art Competition Virtual Event- deadline November 19; competition is December 6-9
11. Writing Competition Virtual Event - deadline January 28; judging February 1-11
12. Language Bowl Virtual Event deadline February 18; March 7-10 virtual competition
13. Cherokee Writing Competition Virtual Event- April 8

STEM-

1. Robotics kits delivered: Cave Springs, Haskell, Claremore
2. Robotics Informational Presentations with: Jay Schools, Cave Springs
3. Robotics Sessions in School: Heritage School
4. Delivered Cherokee Cultural Enrichment in Schools Student books to Heritage School.

Future Plans/New Initiatives for STEM:

1. Schedule in person robotics sessions in schools with Covid precautions
2. Science Fair- Virtual Event deadline January 14; January 27 judging

Sequoyah Schools

- New principal, Ramona Ketcher, and assistant principal, Justin Brown.
- Basketball and wrestling schedules are available on the athletics page of our website, Sequoyahschools.org/page/athletics. Schedules can be downloaded and/or synced to online calendars. Directions for syncing are on our website.
- We have a new automated livestreaming camera system for The Place Where They Play that will be used to livestream our home events in that venue on Cherokee Nation's YouTube channel. We have a similar system at the football stadium and livestreamed our last 2 football games, homecoming ceremony, and senior recognition ceremony.

Recent Extra-curricular:

Band

- The Pride of Sequoyah earned a superior rating at the OSSAA Regional Marching Contest at McAlester. The Pride has earned a superior rating at each of the last 4 regionals in which they have competed.
- They went on to compete at the Superior Marching Contest in Spiro where they earned a superior rating and placed 4th in class 3A.
- Jace Cooper made all-state band for the 2nd consecutive year.

Cross Country

- Both SHS cross country teams placed 6th at regional and qualified for state. Emmary Elizondo and Alex Elizondo placed 3rd, Rylan Nofire 7th, and Conlie Smith 19th at regional.
- At state, girls placed 14th and boys placed 19th. Emmary Elizondo placed 13th and made OCCTCA all-state. Conlie Smith earned Senior all-star with her state meet run.

Drama

- SHS drama was selected as drama one-act play state runner-up. This is our 2nd state runner-up for one-act play.
- Kai Wacoche and Shace Duncan were selected as all-state actors.

Fast Pitch Softball

- Harley Culie made all-state. Culie signed to play softball for Rogers State University, Wednesday, 11/17.
- Harley Culie and Ashlyn Guinn made all-region.
- Harley Culie, Ashlyn Guinn, Annaston Brown, and Rylee Bush made all-district.

Football

- Echota Hummingbird made 1st team all-district as outside linebacker.
- Quin Robbins made 2nd team all-district as defensive back.

Robotics

The SHS Robotics team Blake Washington, Chris Pantle, and Gabe Miller won the Nowata tournament. All SHS teams reached the semi-final of that tournament.

Youth Leadership

Activity	October/November	YTD
# of sites	3	3

# of meetings conducted (in-person/virtual)	6 Meetings Conducted	
# of site visits by MC, JMC, LCA	10 Miss Cherokee 7 Jr. Miss Cherokee	
#of rehearsals	22	22
# of students participating	60	
# of Community services hours completed	27 hours offered	

Accomplishments:

- The Youth Vocal Performance lessons are being held weekly.
- The Cherokee Nation Youth Choir is rehearsing weekly, 6 pm, each Tuesday.
- The Cherokee Nation Tribal Youth Council 21-22 Inauguration was held on October 25, 2021.
- 11/6/21-Cherokee Nation Tribal Youth Council, held their first meeting for their term 2021-22, and guest presenters included: Diplomat in Residence Amanda Johnson. We are looking for candidates who have developed specific skills and attributes needed to be successful in the Foreign Service. These dimensions include cultural adaptability, initiative and leadership, objectivity and integrity, and oral and written communication skills among many others. Candidates build these skills in their own individual way through their professional, academic, and/or personal life. James Greenleaf also presented advice or guidance on how to join the Foreign Service, as well as, information about various careers and student programs. Sequoyah students also joined the Zoom presentation.
- Invitations were received from Administration for Miss Cherokee, Jr. Miss Cherokee and the Cherokee Nation Tribal Youth Council to assist with the Holiday Food Distributions. Many have volunteered around their school/work schedules.

Future Plans and Initiatives:

- Preparing for 2022 Cherokee Nation Choir Auditions
- Preparing for Cherokee Nation Tribal Youth Council programming
- Preparing for invitations/requests for Miss Cherokee and/or Jr. Miss Cherokee

December 2021 Events:

- Vocal Performance Lessons, weekly
- Choir Rehearsals, every Tuesday
- 12/4/21-Cherokee Nation Tribal Youth Council Meeting, meets monthly
- 12/17/21-Performance at National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum with Michael Martin Murphy
- 12/21/21-Caroling at Eldercare