

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

Alternative Education had **five** students pass all components of the HSE (GED®, HiSET®) Test during the month of January. Our total graduate count is **15**.

The **Career Skills Education Classes** had 77 individuals complete.

The **NHEDWG (Opioid) Grant (HOPE)** program is continuing to grow and meet the needs of individuals affected by the Opioid Crisis. We have had program participants on work experience in various locations and this has ultimately resulted in the individuals being hired full-time. The uniqueness of the individuals we assist is in having a variation of barriers they are dealing with. Our goal is to assist individuals with overcoming their own unique barrier(s). The Participant Success Story below is from one of our many successful program participants.

HOPE Participant Success:



Aelicia Green, Tahlequah native and Cherokee citizen, was a successful participant in the Helping Others Perform Effectively (H.O.P.E.) Program, offered through Cherokee Nation Career Services. This program is funded through a grant from the Department of Labor and assists individuals who have had their lives adversely affected by the opioid crisis.

“I work fulltime as a Clerk II in the Behavioral Health Department at Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah,” said Green. I’m so grateful to Career Services for everything they helped me with but it was a long road to get here.” Green grew up in Tahlequah, but started getting into trouble at an early age. “I made some really bad choices early in life,” said Green. “I was sixteen when I started dating a man that was much older than me and dropped out of school after I got pregnant. I was way too young to be making those kinds of choices.” At that time, home schooling was not an option, neither was the choice to bring your child to school. “I was embarrassed and worried about how I would be treated by the other kids and teachers,” said Green. “I dropped out of school and started working.”

Green became pregnant again at nineteen but after she had the baby her life took a turn for the worse. “I started doing some bad things,” said Green. “I was involved in a very violent relationship, some extreme domestic violence issues, and I started using drugs. I was hanging out with the wrong people, wasn’t working, and all I did was live off of my mom and do drugs.” This cycle continued until eventually Green was arrested and charged with drug possession. “I went to county jail for a short time but eventually went to prison, said Green.” “This all sounds crazy when you say it out loud, but going to prison was probably the best thing that ever happened to me at that point in my life. I did a lot of growing up during the time I spent in prison.”

Green was released from prison and sent to a half-way house for nearly six months. "After I was released from the halfway house I moved back to Tahlequah and lived at my mom's house," said Green. "I was scared and confused about how to get over this addiction thing so I could move on with my life but it all turned around when I gave my life to the Lord." Green has great support at the church she attends. "The ladies at church help me stay away from all the thugs and the drugs," Green said. "The people there are the best support system I could ever ask for." Green visited Career services and enrolled in the H.O.P.E program which led to her finding employment at Hastings Hospital. "I'm just truly grateful for the opportunity Career Services has given me," said Green. I have a job with full benefits and next year will qualify for the Christmas bonus."



The **Trade and Economic Transition** grant program is now officially under Public Law 102-477. In addition, the grant team has been given guidance to continue working with the same eligibility, while the area of operation has extended west all the way to Oklahoma City. Applications and intakes have greatly increased and likewise eligible participant numbers have gone from 75 last quarter end to 120 this month. The upward trend has greatly increased the workload of the three Career Specialists on the program. However, several interview panels are completed, and a new group of Career Specialists that will operate under the grant should begin to show up in Career Services offices throughout the jurisdiction, including Tahlequah, Tulsa, Pryor, Muskogee, and Sallisaw.

Larry Daugherty, Job and Business Developer for the **Tribal Economic** team, and Joshua Drywater, **TET** program manager, attended a job fair around the Oklahoma City area that focused on providing assistance for a large group of workers who had been laid off from Halliburton. The event was a huge networking opportunity for the team, which has not operated in the area before. Several follow up meetings with unions, businesses, and workforce partners have continued since the event.

The **Trade and Economic Transition** team has also increased efforts into the Washington county area. Tonya Foreman, Tri-County Technology Center representative, welcomed members of the team and allowed knowledge of the grant to be relayed to students in their training programs. From there, applicants were allowed to visit with Career Services members on location. The school was instrumental in providing grant information to members of their community who had not heard of the grant through other outreach methods. Future plans to work with Tri-County Technology in the upcoming semesters have already been confirmed, and a partnership in helping individuals within the community transition into new careers will greatly benefit the Bartlesville area.

Lastly, the team utilized a small lull in client flow during the holiday season by participating in training events focusing on the questions presented by Career Specialists on current files and a brief overview of the operations of Public Law 102-477. During the transition of funding sources, administrative efforts were also focused on that ensured all client files were up-to-date to make the transition as seamless as possible. 2020 is the last year of the grant funding and

eligibility that the TET team has learned to embrace. The team highly expects a very productive and busy year helping the dislocated workers in the eastern half of Oklahoma find sustainable, unsubsidized employment.

PL 102-477 Business Tech students assisted with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).

Vocational Program Participant Success:



Tiffany Thompson completed the Physical Therapy Assistant Program with ICTC-Muskogee and Connors State College. Tiffany obtained her Physical Therapy License and secured employment in her area of training with a local physical therapy site here in Tahlequah.

Tiffany Thompson's days in school and training were not without some challenges, mostly financial. But through applying with Career Services PL 102-477 Vocational program, Tiffany was able to get the financial assistance she needed to complete her education and training. Tiffany began her education after graduating from Hulbert High School, going on to Connor's State College and then to ICTC-Muskogee.

She was long-term unemployed and was dependent on financial aid, public assistance and others to meet her basic needs while pursuing a career in Physical Therapy Assisting. Through Career Services PL 102-477 Vocational Program she was able to get assistance with tuition, books, fees, and supportive services for uniforms needed for her clinical and the expense of the Physical Therapy Assistance exam, application and licensing fees. Since then she has become a fulltime employee with Redbud Physical Therapy in Tahlequah.

Career Readiness Act Training:

Indian Capital Technology Center

Construction Helper Trainings: Classes started February 4th



Certified Medical Assistant Class | Tahlequah: Starting March 2nd

Lineman Training | Tahlequah | OSU-IT, ICTC, HMTI

- First class starting March 2nd
- Second class starting April 17th
- See attached Flyer

High Voltage Lineman Training Program

Classes starting soon in Tahlequah!

TRAINING INCLUDES

- 15 weeks of classroom and climbing training
- 16 weeks of paid internship
- CDL training

REQUIREMENTS

- 18 years or older
- Be able to obtain CDL Class A
- Pass drug screening
- Interview process

FOR MORE INFO

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College Resource Center**Spring 2020 - In progress thru 2/12/2020**

# of Spring 2020 scholarship awards thru 2/12/2020	3,437 (Pell/NonPell/Grad)
# of Spring 2020 Concurrent Applications Received	471
# of Spring 2020 Concurrent scholarship awarded thru 2/12/2020	427

Outreach & Presentations:

January 16 - Carl Albert College - Presentation

January 21 - Sand Springs High School - Presentation

January 22 - Claremore Northeast Tech Campus - College Fair

January 23 - Pryor Northeast Tech Campus - College Fair

January 29 - Afton Northeast Tech campus - College Fair

January 30 - Kansas Northeast Tech Campus - College Fair

January 30 - Neo Tribal Scholarships - Table

February 3 - Cave Springs - School Visit with Counselor

Future Plans:

1. Completion of Spring 2020 funding, review, notification of award/denial and funding to schools.
2. Scheduling visits to public schools for assistance in applying for Cherokee Nation Scholarships for the 2020-21 school year.
3. March 1, 2020 - Class of 2020 Valedictorian & Salutatorian Scholarship applications available online at <https://scholarships.cherokee.org>. Deadline will be March 31, 2020 at 11:59pm central time.
4. March 1, 2020 - school year 2020-21 Cherokee Nation Scholarships open for application, apply online at <https://scholarships.cherokee.org>. Deadline for applications will be June 15, 2020 at 11:59pm Central Time.
5. Cherokee Nation Stole application available for Spring 2020 commencement. Soft Deadline is April 30 for mailing purposes only.
6. Coordinating with CN Government Relations for the Youth Summit to be held in March 2020.
7. Bridgette Nichols, Development Coordinator, Oklahoma College Assistance Program which is through the Oklahoma State Regents Office, will be doing a workshop with CRC staff February 20 about FAFSA, Student loans, and financial literacy to help navigate our students better with the process.
8. CRC staff will be attending the Native Scholarship Forum Workshop, February 21, 2020. American Indian College Fund, Cobell Scholarship, and American Indian Graduate Center will be

presenting their scholarships in detail thru a webinar. CRC staff will be learning about outside scholarship opportunities available to Native Students.

Head Start

Activity	January	YTD
# of classrooms/sites	63 classrooms 21 sites	63 classrooms 21 sites
# of parent meetings conducted	12 Meetings Conducted	99 Conducted
# of site visits by HS/ECU staff	115 Site Visits	747 Conducted
# of PD hours completed	50.75 hours offered	213.50 hours offered

Accomplishments:

- 1) The main sidewalk connection to the Children's Village safe room will be completed this week. The new sidewalks will make it easier to navigate the cribs with wheels.
- 2) The faculty and staff at the Salina site are proud of their new paved driveway and parking lot. This project was funded by the one-time Health and Safety funds through the Office of Head Start.
- 3) One administrative staff attended the Conscious Discipline training in Midwest City. The entire Early Head Start staff will receive this training in March. This training deals with effective alternate ways to redirect inappropriate behavior. Alternate methods are introduced versus time out, which is not considered best practice and is discouraged.
- 4) The quarterly public school superintendents meeting was held in February. They planned pre-enrollment and training dates, required application attachments and reviewed the status of their playgrounds for inspection.

Upcoming initiatives:

- 1) The monthly New Staff Orientation is scheduled this week with two new staff. They will receive intense training on all the critical areas of classroom operations.
- 2) Notification of various funding from the Office of Head Start was distributed including COLA, Quality Improvement, Expansion and One Time Health and Safety projects. The ECU plans to apply for all four areas. We anticipate the announcement will be distributed in the near future.
- 3) Several supervisors and managers will attend the train-the-trainer to be a CPR/First Aid Instructor in March or April.

JOM/ Johnson O'Malley Program

JOM Program

Activity	January/February			YTD
	JOM	Special Projects	Public School Outreach	YTD Total
# of students on program	25,524 (2/13/20)			25,524

# of schools participating	68	26	34	539
# of communities participating	3	26	2	50
# of special events			4	157
# participants students/adults		735	297	176,399/860
# of school staff participating		27	32	2412
# of contractors participating			4	228

Accomplishments:

1. **70 - 2019-20 JOM Applications have been approved.**
2. Waiting on 1 2019-20 JOM Application.
3. Attended 2020 OKJOM Planning meeting in Ada, OK 1/16/20
4. Stickball presentation at Dewey 106 students 1/16/20
5. Stickball presentation at Dewey 121 students 1/24/20
6. Monitoring at Bartlesville, Coffeyville, Dewey, Leach, and Nowata. 1/29/20
7. Assisted with Cherokee Nation Science Fair on 1/30/20
8. Indian Education Committee meeting at Oaks Mission School 1/30/20
9. Storytelling at Vinita 127 students. 1/31/20
10. Monitoring at Adair, Ketchum and Wickliffe. 2/3/20
11. Monitoring at Collinsville, Oologah, Verdigris, and Westville. 2/7/20
12. 2020 OKJOM planning meeting in Washington D.C. 2/9/20.
13. National JOM Conference in Washington D.C, we presented 3 workshops at the conference. February 9-11, 2020

Future Plans/New Initiatives:

1. February 25 – Oaks Mission Indian Education Committee meeting.
2. March 2 – 5 – Cherokee Language Bowl
3. March 6 – 2020 OKJOM Planning meeting Thackerville, OK
4. March 11 – Jay Upper Elementary Cultural Day
5. March 19 – Youth Summit at Chota Conference Center
6. March 25 & 26 – 2020 OKJOM Conference Thackerville, OK

Sequoyah Schools

1. Hosted the 8th grade SHS Day, February 3, 2020. 252 Students present from 30 schools. New Applications on the website February 17, 2020.
2. Corey Still, SHS Alumnus, of the American Indian Graduate Center, presented to 16 Juniors on February 6th about the Native American High Achievement Youth Summit in Northern California. Wells Fargo is the sponsor of the event and will pay for an all-expense paid trip for 100 Native American youth to attend. GPA requirements and application process. July 12th – 16th.
3. 3 students submitted College Horizons applications, February 7th, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.
4. Parent Teacher Conferences, February 6th & 7th.
5. 7 students performed for all of Maryetta Elementary and Middle Schools, *Rabbit Sings with His Heart*, Puppet Show put on by the Children's Theatre Group, February 7th.
6. Academic Team Placed in top 6 at state February 8th, at Redlands College in El Reno. Several firsts for SHS academic team – 1st regional championship, area championship, & state qualifier.
7. 35 students took the ACT on February 8th, 25 SHS students.
8. 21 students made Eastern Oklahoma Band Directors Association Honor Band
9. 61 Seniors qualified for the Trail of Tears Awards
10. Seniors accepted to Columbia University and Dartmouth, with others continuing to report.

11. 3 students on Work Study that have been placed, young man at the Early Childhood Unit, in the SHS Transportation Office, Business Office of Health, and working to get another placed.
12. 2 Seniors enrolled in a Drawing Workshop at the University of Central Oklahoma College of Fine Arts and Design.

Future Plans/New Initiatives:

1. Possible collaborations to do substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention educational programs at Sequoyah High School with Dr. Julie Ann Baldwin, Cherokee Citizen and Regents' Professor, Department of Health Services at Northern Arizona University.
2. 2 more college signing ceremonies have been scheduled. Athan Duncan will sign to play football for Missouri Southern State University, Tuesday, Feb. 11, at noon. Daryl Hooper will sign to play volleyball for Haskell Indian Nations University, Friday, Feb. 14, at 12:20. Both ceremonies will be at TPWTP. This will bring the total of college signings for the Sequoyah class of 2020 to 9.
3. Charles Stilwell, Coordinator, Health Promotion/Disease Prevention CN Community Health Promotion through the MPOWER Grant partnered with Sequoyah High School on an Aquaponic Project that is moving forward. We are looking to raise our own lettuce, among other things.
4. Possible collaborations to do substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention educational programs at Sequoyah High School with Dr. Julie Ann Baldwin, Cherokee Citizen and Regents' Professor, Department of Health Services at Northern Arizona University.
5. 8 Seniors to attend a workshop on applying for the Indian Health Services Undergraduate Scholarship at NSU, February 12th.
6. 13 female students attending "Women in STEM" Conference at NSU-Broken Arrow, February 13th.
7. Enid Track Meet, February 15th.
8. Student Council:
 - a. Hosting Senior Recognition Night, February 14th
 - b. National Honor Society:
 - c. Valentines Raffle Basket for Tornado Victims, February 12th.
 - d. Elder Outreach in Stilwell (clean yards), February 15th.
9. Hosting District and Regionals Main Site for Basketball, February 21st and February 27th – 29th
10. Wrestling Regionals will be held at Vinita HS on February 21st and 22nd.
11. Hosting the Sequoyah Spotlight Speech and Debate OSSAA Qualifying Tournament, last one before Regionals. February 28th and 29th, Friday is Debate, Saturday is public speaking and acting events. Last year we hosted around 300 students.
12. Wrestling State competition is in OKC at the Fairgrounds, February 28th - 29th.
13. Basketball Area Tournament is in Stroud, March 5th - 7th.
14. OSSAA Regionals for Concert Band March 5th - 6th.
15. HOPE Club to participate in the Polar Plunge, March 7th.
16. March 9th - Native American Cultural Center - Yale University on our campus
17. March 13th – 20th – Spring Break
18. March 24th – ACT District Testing
19. SHS Stompdance, March 28th, 7:00 pm.
20. FLW, High School Fishing Tournament, Ft. Gibson Lake, March 28th.
21. OK Bass Nation, High School Fishing Tournament, Lake Tenkiller, March 28th.
22. March 13th – 20th – Spring Break
23. March 24th – ACT District Testing
24. May 15th – Graduation