

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

Alternative Education

The Adult Education Program is continuing to ensure participant access to services during the COVID 19 Pandemic; Career Skills staff have transitioned into assisting satellite offices with TABE testing for GED (and other programs when available).

Upcoming Program Initiatives

The Adult Education/Career Skills Staff are creating specific interventions for justice involved individuals; the opportunity to utilize AZTEC online software for pre-release services including GED preparation, resume building, and pre-professional skill building is currently being explored by the Adult Education Manager and the Manager of Re-Entry Programs.

GED/HSE Testing Rates

- GED Graduates:
 - Month of January Graduate Total – 1
 - Fiscal Year To Date Total – 8
 - HiSet Paper Testing – 1
 - Online GED Test – 0

Note- Graduation Goal will be re-evaluated following COVID Staff Phasing Protocol
- Individual Testing Results (By Subject)
 - SCIENCE – 1 Pass 1 Fail
 - SOCIAL STUDIES – 2 Pass 1 Fail
 - MATH – 1 Pass 0 Fail
 - WRITING (RTLA) – 2 Pass 0 Fail
 - READING – 0 Attempts

Participant AZTEC Usage

- **Adult Education Participant Totals**
 - Total time: 327.75 hours
 - Learning toys: 188.25hours
 - Drill and Quiz times: 58.75 hours
 - Exam times: 80.75 hours
- **Career Skills Participant Totals**
 - Total time: 53.5 hours
 - Learning times 52.25 hours
 - Drilling and quizzing times: .25 hours
 - Exam times: 1.0 hours

Career Skills Staff Contacts

- 5 Career Skills Classes: 13 completions

Resume Preparation

- 32 Individual resumes completed for Career Services clients and other referrals.

Contacts/Completions

Career Skill Classes	13
Specialized	9
Resumes	32
Math Tutor & Other	<u>10</u>
TOTAL COMPLETIONS	64

Specialized Classes/Training/Workshops Administered

- **Motivational Interviewing Training** – Career Skills staff developed and implemented a staff training that focused on finding client's motivations to create meaningful goals and appropriate timelines for services. – 9 individuals

Other Services

- One staff member assisted with GED Intake - 4 students.
- One staff member assisted with TABE assessments– 2 individuals
- One staff member assisted with RRR Registration for Technology, Food Distribution and Resource Information – 4 individuals

Talking Leaves Job Corps

Talking Leaves has 100% participation in Distance Learning. Students continue to utilize a curriculum based on the requirements for the Oklahoma State Department of Education to complete their High School Education.

Talking Leaves has welcomed a limited number of students back on Center but are not hosting in person classes yet. The Center will continue Distance Learning and work with students virtually.

Talking Leaves will be receiving professional development from Edgenuity Online Curriculum and Learning Solutions as an online High School provider next month.

Talking Leaves will be having a visit from the Oklahoma State Department of Education Accreditation officer in February to complete the 2020-2021 accreditation for the Oklahoma Job Corps Academy.

Vocational Rehabilitation

We had 6 consumers obtain an undergraduate degree in December 2020.

- Northeastern State University
 - Bachelor of Science in Psychology,
 - Bachelor of Business Administration
- Oklahoma State University
 - Bachelor of Science in Recreation Management, Recreation Management and Recreational Therapy,
- Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology

- Associate in Applied Science in Graphic Design Technology, Visual Communications
- University of Arkansas Fort Smith
 - Bachelor of Business Administration
 - Bachelor of Nursing
 - The BSN student has a job waiting once she is off maternity leave at the Cardiac Step Down Unit at Mercy Hospital in Ft. Smith AR.

Due to COVID-19 the other graduates are still in the job search process.

Vocational Training

Business Tech

MOS 2016 Certifications Received by Business Tech students:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelsey Coachman from Braggs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outlook ○ Certification Total-4 • Kimber Croley from Proctor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Word ○ Outlook ○ Certification Total-2 • Trent Dry from Fort Gibson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Excel ○ Certification Total-2 • Michlynn Eagle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outlook ○ Certification Total-2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryanna Masoner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Word ○ PowerPoint ○ Certification Total-2 • Gabrielle Tolliver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PowerPoint ○ Excel ○ Outlook ○ Certification Total-4 |
|---|---|

One Business Tech student is currently in Practicum at the Career Services Literacy Center in Tahlequah.

- Kristin Lochner, Tahlequah

Child Care

One student waiting to schedule their class observation and take the CDA test. The student is currently hired full time and working at a child care center.

- Audrey Wikel, Tahlequah
 - Wonderland Child Care Center, Fort Gibson

Two students have passed their CDA, completed their class observations, and are waiting on their CDA certificates:

- Jade Duncan, Stilwell
- Lesley Gower, Tahlequah
 - Hired full time and currently working at the Cherokee Nation Child Dev Center in Tahlequah

Surg Tech

- Five Surg Tech students will start their clinicals next month in area hospitals and/or surgery centers located in Arkansas and Oklahoma
 - Haley Baker, Tahlequah
 - Caitlyn Coleman, Tahlequah
 - Taylor, Galyean, Stilwell
 - Tucker Galyean, Stilwell
 - Shaela Higgins, Westville
- One Surg Tech student has graduated and is seeking employment.
 - Nowa Lowry, Salina
- One Surg Tech student has been hired full time:
 - Meagan Marrs, Tahlequah
 - Employed at Wagoner Community Hospital, Wagoner

RN Scholarship Program

- Two new RN Scholarship Recipients:
 - Kierra Milton, Fort Gibson
 - Attending Connors State College
 - Khirsty Matlock, Cookson
 - Attending Carl Albert State College
- Three RN Scholarship recipients graduated from Connors State College and will start their Nurse Residencies at Cherokee Nation Hastings Hospital:
 - Kristen Morton, Stilwell
 - Jazmyn Stonecipher, Little Kansas
 - Megan Towie, Tahlequah

Vocational Training Success Story

Jason Allen, High Voltage Lineman- OSUIT

Jason Allen enrolled in OSU –IT's High Voltage Lineman Program in the Fall 2018 after just graduating from high school in the Spring of 2018. He was a single individual, eighteen years of age, living at home with his parents and had a job but resigned to focus on his education. Jason committed all his time to completing his educational goal during the challenging COVID-19 Pandemic. Jason, like many other students pursuing Vocational Training or a degree, could not attend classes on campus and was forced to navigate online distance learning when the COVID-19 Pandemic began. Jason managed to maintain his grades and earn his Associate in Applied Science High voltage lineman on September 16, 2020. Jason has also secured employment in his area of training with MDR Construction, Inc. out of Columbia, MO as a 3rd Class lineman.





CAREER READINESS ACT

Trainings



Career Readiness Act Program:

High Voltage Lineman Training

Lineman Class 1:

Eight students successfully completed the first Lineman Training class with a 100% Job Placement.

- Brett Wright - Grove, OK
- Colton Keith – Roland, OK
- Taylor Davidson – Sallisaw, OK
- John Holland – Tahlequah, OK
- Zach Scott – Stilwell, OK
- Damin Chuckluck – Vinita, OK
- Cameron Blair – Catoosa, OK
- Weston Davis - Locust Grove, OK

Lineman Class 2:

Nine students successfully completed the second class.

- Hunter Hayes – Claremore, OK
- Issiah Gray Cloud – Vian, OK
- Travis Brown – Hulbert, OK
- Kye Carlile – Locust Grove, OK
- Cayde Hawkes – Chouteau, OK
- Tanner Epperson – Wagoner, OK
- Kyler Hair – Salina, OK
- Rhett Shankle – Hulbert, OK
- Clayton Kelley - Grove, OK



Lineman Class 3:

Twelve students have been selected and started CDL Training in January and will start Lineman training on February 8th.

- 4 weeks of Class A CDL Training
- 16 weeks of Classroom Training
- 16 weeks of Internship

Accepting Applications for Class 4 now!

Lineman Class 4:

The Lineman class 4 will be starting in March with CDL Training and Lineman Training to start in April.

- 4 weeks of Class A CDL Training
- 16 weeks of Classroom Training
- 16 weeks of Internship



Fiber Technician Training Program

This short course is designed to train individuals in the Fiber Technician trade. Covered topics will include: Pole climbing; including learning to climb in the power zone, jiggling or pulling fiber from start to finish, introduction to fiber splicing; both residential and commercial, learning to splice, hanging strand and fiber and lashing them together, hanging self-support and sagging to proper tension and advanced fiber splicing & troubleshooting. Training will also include OSHA 10, CPR and Class A CDL Permit.

Check out this highlight of the Career Services Fiber Technician Training Program helping get Cherokee's back to work:

Getting back to WORK

Career Services department providing extensive training opportunities for Cherokees hit hard by COVID-19

By Kenlee Hansen

12 Anadigadga • The Official Cherokee Nation News



Cherokee Nation citizen Brent Pigeon went to work on Aug. 27, 2020, just like every day before, leaving his home in Wellford, Oklahoma, and driving to his welding job in Tulsa, where he had been employed for over 15 years.

But when Pigeon arrived in Tulsa, he soon found himself without a job, having been laid off due to a decline in welding jobs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They came to me and nine other guys, and I thought, 'Oh no, here it is. I don't have a job,'" Pigeon said. "You know, you have been here for so long and make so much money and then it's gone, just like that. It's devastating. Like anyone that has a steady job for that long, you accumulate things, and now you have to start thinking about how am I going to pay for my truck, how am I going to get the kids to school, how are we going to buy groceries?"

At age 42 and with children in school, Pigeon didn't want to leave home to find a welding job, which seemed like his only choice.

"The company I was with was one of the last ones that kept going around here, so I thought if it came down to it, I would have to pack up and provide for my family in another state," he said. "But luckily, Cherokee Nation was there to help."

In July, Principal Chief Chuck Haskins Jr. announced the Cherokee Nation was dedicating more than \$7 million in funding to increase career training and employment opportunities for Cherokees like Pigeon who were seeking relief from the effects of the pandemic.

Pigeon's mother shared a Facebook post advertising the Cherokee Nation's new fiber technician training program. Pigeon saw an opportunity to pick up a new trade and get back to work, so he contacted Cherokee Nation Career Services. By October, Pigeon was in the classroom learning a new skill.

"It's a blessing to know the Cherokee Nation is behind their citizens because I really do think that they want to see Cherokees people succeeding in life," he said.

Pigeon hopes other Cherokees who are in need of a job or who are wanting to consider a career change, no matter their age, will use the training programs offered through the Cherokee Nation.

New programs offered through Career Services are often published through Cherokee Nation's Facebook page, and more information is always available at www.cherokee.org under the Career Services tab.

"In the midst of the worst public health crisis in generations, one of the best ways to provide relief to Cherokee citizens is to make sure they have an opportunity to learn new skills and find the employment they need to provide for their families," said Deputy Chief Bryan Warner. "This relief through the Rescuer, Recover and Rebuild initiative is a long-term investment that goes hand-in-hand with the historic Career Readiness Act Chief Haskins and I signed in 2019 with the support of the Council of the Cherokee Nation. Together, these programs are making a significant difference for Cherokees."

Pigeon expects to graduate from the fiber technician training program in early 2021.

"I never thought I'd lose my job or have to find another job or career path. But thank God Cherokee Nation was there to provide this 42-year-old man with kids and a fiancée with a new career path," he said. *

Career Services programs are limited to Cherokees living within the tribe's reservation. Other eligibility requirements may apply. For more information, contact the nearest Cherokee Nation Career Services office or call 918-453-5555.

Fiber technician training program participant Nicholas Hicks practices adding wire and getting ready for a fiber pull.

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Executive Director: Corey Bunch

Phone: 918-453-5153

email: corey-bunch@cherokee.org

College Resource Center

Spring 2021 Scholarship Funding:

Scholarship funding has commenced for Spring 2021 for Cherokee Nation Graduate, Undergraduate and Concurrent Enrollment scholarships.

Scholarships

- 2,866 Total Applications Received
- 2,315 Total Approved

Concurrent

- 409 Applications Received
 - ❖ 96 Missing Documents
 - ❖ 281 Approved
 - ❖ 29 Denied

Graduate

- 314 Applications Received
 - ❖ 48 Missing Documents
 - ❖ 256 Approved
 - ❖ 5 Cancelled
 - ❖ 4 Denied

Undergraduate

- 2,143 Applications Received
 - ❖ 269 Missing Documents
 - ❖ 1,778 Approved
 - ❖ 28 Cancelled
 - ❖ 67 Denied

Outreach & Presentations:

Schools on holiday break

Fall 2020 Stole Report: Total: 95

Associate – 8

Bachelors – 73

Masters – 13

Doctorate – 3

Students on program receiving stoles – 70

Students not on program receiving stoles – 27

Spring 2021 Stole Report: Total: 3

Associate: 1

Bachelors: 2

Students on program receiving stoles – 3

Students not on program receiving stoles – 0

Future Plans:

1. January 28 will be the next Virtual College Night.
2. Mailing and emailing all schools information about the scholarship programs to be distributed to their students.
3. Cherokee Nation Scholarship Applications for academic year 2021/2022 will open March 1, 2021 online at <https://scholarships.cherokee.org> for the following:
 - a. Cherokee Nation Valedictorian/Salutatorian Scholarship
 - b. Cherokee Nation Concurrent Enrollment Scholarship
 - c. Cherokee Nation Undergraduate Scholarship
 - d. Cherokee Nation Graduate Scholarship

Head Start

Accomplishments:

- 1) Received great feedback from families on the At Home Learning Activities. Each child on distance learning status, in Head Start and Early Head Start, received two boxes of toys that complement the teaching guide.
- 2) One of the ECU Administrative staff who is a fluent speaker was interviewed for a CNN article. So proud of Sandra Turner for passionately promoting her first language to ECU children and staff for the last 37 years in training and classroom activities.
- 3) The food distribution is ongoing and well received as well. Our families pick up meals on a weekly basis. The meals are nutritious and meet the CACFP guidelines. At least the children can still enjoy and benefit of one of their favorite parts of the program, the meal service.

New Initiatives:

- 1) The ECU is waiting patiently to reassume the space currently occupied by the Ga-Du-Gi clinic. A design plan is being developed to convert the space into office space and training room.
- 2) Plans are underway for the BiNax Now testing to be implemented in the ECU. Tentative Implementation date is mid February.
- 3) The ECU will begin the annual Community Assessment (CA) process/update. This tool is used to ascertain future enrollment; identify and access to necessary internal and external resources available for education, health, social service, facility needs and/or repair. The Self Assessment will begin soon. This is an internal tool for staff and partners to respond to the current status of all areas.

JOM/ Johnson O'Malley Program

JOM Student Count: 24,117 as of 1/13/2021

JOM is dedicated to supporting schools in their service to Native students. JOM staff have reimaged its policies, procedures, and programming, to give schools the opportunity to optimize their funding to meet the

ongoing and new needs students are experiencing. We will continue to assess the situation and work to implement appropriate changes for the greatest benefit to the student.

We have no new numbers to report due to covid-19 social distancing and precautions.

JOM-

Accomplishments:

1. Worked on the following:
 - Submitting school reimbursement claims for 2020-2021.
 - Technical Assistance – Bartlesville, Collinsville, Jay, Salina
 - Staff assisted with deliveries of the HotSpots provided by Cherokee Nation to the schools to provide internet access for students.
 - Staff members attended virtual Intertribal Council Meetings.
 - Staff in planning stages of JOM competitions, making modifications as needed due to covid.
 - Preparing and creating curriculum materials and games

STEM-

- Checked out stem equipment to Westville school
- Working on future STEM plans

Future Plans/New Initiatives:

Planning for distance guidance and competitions using virtual methods.
Reorganizing science and engineering fair as a virtual event

Sequoyah High School

Daily COVID-19 testing of students/staff members is going great. Sequoyah High School staff members are conducting the testing daily, Monday-Thursday in the Old Gym. We have tested over 2,555 people, with 18 positive cases. Great job to our students and staff on wearing their mask, adhering to social distancing practices, and keeping their hands clean!

The second term of classes began on Thursday, January 7, 2021. Teachers reported for Professional Development on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 5-6, 2021 to transition online classes to the new version of Blackboard- our Learning Management System that delivers classroom content to our students. We are still utilizing a block scheduling module and students have 4 classes each semester, and complete 2 semesters in each Fall and Spring term. Students can obtain 8 credits each school year. In a traditional school 7 period day, students are only able to obtain 7 credits in a school year.

The Oklahoma Department of Education and the BIE have not waived testing requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. These tests will take place in the Spring of 2021. We are currently awaiting confirmation from the USDE and BIE in regards to our request to utilize the ACT as the yearly assessment tool at Sequoyah High School. This has been approved by the BOE and Principal Chief, Chuck Hoskin, Jr.

The Oklahoma Department of Education did waive the TLE teacher observation and assessment for the 2020-2021 school year, as well as the need for 2021 Senior students to take CPR before graduating. We are awaiting Board of Education approval in February 2021 for this to be official.

The BIE issued an additional \$53,000 in instructional funds to schools. Our Leadership Team indicated that STEAM, STEM, Robotics, video streaming for extra-curricular events and an additional wrestling mat would be

beneficial to increase rigor academically and/or keep students and families safe during the pandemic and post-pandemic time.

Just before Christmas Sequoyah schools received a new bus. Now Sequoyah schools can proudly state we have acquired an all-electric school bus. This all electric school bus is the FIRST of its kind in the state of Oklahoma. The bus was purchased with a grant and had a cost of approximately \$350,000.00. The general managers from the bus manufacturers and several technicians came from in state and out to train the transportation team. This bus requires a very unique training on its care and operation. The bus operates solely on high voltage electricity. With this bus we have taken a giant step into the future of transporting students at Sequoyah schools. We are very proud to be the first school to promote cleaner air with a zero emissions bus.

Students, faculty and staff are working harder than ever to help each other reach their goals. Our technology issues are getting better every day. We are all working to shift our mindset to a positive one during these trying times.