Tech-Now Inc.

Expanding Education And Employment Opportunities For Individuals With Disabilities

Oklahoma State High School High Tech Notable Achievements

Tech-Now provided services to students and teachers in twenty-six program sites in the 2011-2012 program year.

96% graduation rate for students completing one or more year(s) in the Tech-Now program.

98% of students surveyed feel they benefitted from participation in the Tech-Now program.

Tech-Now has served over 2500 students with disabilities in Oklahoma since 1999.

During 2011-2012, the program has provided services to over 360 students with disabilities across Oklahoma.

Since 2009, Tech-Now Inc. and its partners have provided over $78,000.00 in scholarships, tuition waivers, cash and awards to its students.

Tech-Now is currently funded by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, public and private gifts. Tech-Now began through a grant from the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council in 1999.

Tech-Now is the only High School High Tech (HS HT) program in the nation to receive a National Science Foundation (NSF) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) grant through a partnership with the University of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma was one of only three of the 22 HS HT states to receive an extension grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) when the national program funding ended.

During the last national HS HT conference Tech-Now was called the “Gold Standard” by Joan Wills, Senior Policy Fellow, Center for Workforce Development at the Institute for Educational Leadership, the technical assistant center for the national HS HT program.

WESTAT, the primary program evaluator for the U.S. Department of Labor HS HT program, stated that Oklahoma is the only High School High Tech program in the nation that was truly high-tech.

Dr. Roy Grizzard, first Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Labor Department’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) chose to visit the Oklahoma HS/HT program to hold meetings with possible state funding partners.

Director DeRennaux has received several awards for the creation of Tech-Now and the positive impact the program has had on individuals with disabilities including:

President Obama’s Champions of Change. The Champions of Change program is part of President Obama’s "Winning the Future" initiative, as the White House strives to "out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world."

The Don Davis Award, the highest OKC Mayor’s Committee Honor to an individual or group for positive impact in the disability community

The Power To Dream Achievers Award, a state wide award presented to a group or individual for achievements related to the disability community

Special Achievement Award from the Office of State Superintendent for Exemplified Leadership and Academic Achievement.

Director DeRennaux has presented at numerous national and state conferences.

Tech-Now Inc. was awarded the “DRS Training Partner of the Year for 2011”.

Director DeRennaux received an Innovator of the year award from “The Journal Record”. 

www.nauxware.com
Students and Teachers say “Tech-Now Rocks”

*I wanted to let you all know that my kids loved the simple shape people and car/truck activities! I have a few who have really taken an interest in the Corel and show signs of being quite talented.
Melisa D. Kifer
Stillwater High School

*I wanted to let you know that my students loved the car and truck activity. They were excited about having a new activity and they got really creative. Some of the students created scenes behind their car and added things to their car or truck.
Emily Long
Thomas Fay Custer High School

*They really seemed to have enjoyed the car and the truck.
Lynn Gardner
John Marshall High School

*I have several students begging me to be in Tech Now next semester. They are willing to learn the programs on their own before Jan. Would that be okay to have them in?
Dana Cantwell
Norman North High School

* I wanted to take just a minute to write you about my experience yesterday at the high school. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to visit with and see this group of students in action. I told them a little bit about what we were doing and what we needed from them. They got right to work creating mock-ups and samples. They came up with some awesome ideas to make our posters "pop". They were great listeners, and really helped to come up with some super ideas! I'm not sure what funding is used to help these students learn all of the skills that are involved in the process, but this is an endorsement from someone who has seen what they can do, what they have learned and can just imagine what they'll be able to do at the end of the year. It was a joy to be able to see what I am sure is my tax dollars being well spent!!!!
Sincerely,
Kim Blalock
Duncan, Oklahoma
Transition Through Technology

Tech-Now History

Tech-Now was established in 1999 through a grant from the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council. The pilot goal was to establish five after school transition programs to focus on technology skills development that would lead to better educational and employment opportunities for students with disabilities.

With current support from the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, Tech-Now has evolved from an after school program to an in school class providing transition services to students in twenty-one school sites across the state.

With the input of business, agency, and education professionals Tech-Now has developed its curricula to include a targeted focus on the skills necessary for successful employment by including specific activities for employment awareness, preparation, simulation, and entrepreneurial experiences.
Guideposts For Success

Guideposts for Success is a framework for comprehensive program transition services that was developed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) through its National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) after conducting an extensive review of almost 30 years of research, literature, demonstration projects and promising practices.

*School Based Preparatory Experiences
*Career Preparation And Work-Based Learning Experiences
*Youth Development And Leadership
*Connecting Activities
*Family Involvement And Supports
A Workforce Oklahoma Poster

What Do Employers Expect Of Me As An Employee?

1. Come to work every day on time
2. Follow directions
3. Apply good listening skills
4. Concentrate on my work
5. Recognize problems and find solutions
6. Manage time effectively
7. Maintain a safe work environment
8. Be honest and dependable
9. Dress properly and practice good grooming
10. Be cooperative
11. Have a positive attitude
12. Be a courteous and considerate team member
13. Be a continuous learner

In which classes are these skills being introduced, taught, emphasized?

- Tech-Now Progress Report Form –
Expanding Education & Employment Opportunities For Individuals With Disabilities Since 1999

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<th>Qualifying Disability</th>
<th>Year in Program</th>
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Figure 2 Progress Report Form

Tech-Now Presentation With Milestone 1-7 Activities Landscape.docx

derennaux@hotmail.com
Whitepaper, Whitepaper, Who Has The Whitepaper?

As a teacher, I found most whitepapers that I read interesting; however what I needed were solutions to classroom challenges. I needed a proven program that would capture the attention of my students, keep them engaged, challenge them, and teach them relevant skills.

Practice fosters progress

Program is not a four letter word

Computer applications class for credit

- VIDEO -

Instructors’ skills development & extended student products (Spinoffs)

- Progress Report Form based on employer and DRS Guidance -
A. Milestone 1: Career Assessment and Exploration

1. **Objectives:**
   Students will be introduced to the computer and conduct a student interest inventory for career awareness. Students will complete a career exploration activity using the internet and other available resources. Students will identify academic and personal strengths.

B. Milestone 2: Career Awareness and Research – Career Poster or Cereal Box

1. **Objectives:**
   Students will participate in brainstorming, planning, revising and organizational activities. Students will incorporate research, digital photography, photo imaging, compositing, and desktop publishing skills.

C. Milestone 3: Employment Modeling - HT Racer Team Competition

1. **Objectives:**
   Students will participate as a team to collaborate in problem solving activities with peers, experts and others for the purpose of developing solutions and/or products. Students will contribute to a knowledge base to compile, synthesize, revise and produce a model.


1. **Objectives:**
   Students will utilize the internet and other resources to identify and prepare for part-time and/or summer employment opportunities.
E. **Milestone 5: Medium Term Task Planning And Execution – Computer Animation**

1. **Objectives:**
   Students engage in brainstorming, research, planning, revising, and organizational activities to complete the project. Students incorporate digital photography, photo-imaging, compositing, and sequencing using desktop publishing and multimedia software applications.

F. **Milestone 6: Employment Awareness and Preparation through the Development of Entrepreneurial Projects (E-Projects)**

1. **Objectives:**
   Students will increase their understanding of advertising, marketing, and product development. Students will use problem solving and critical thinking skills to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate product development and production. Students will increase understanding of the benefits of working as a team, utilizing individual and team strengths and evaluating contributions of members.
G. **Milestone 7: Critical Steps To Securing Employment**

1. **Objectives:**
   Students will utilize the internet and other resources to locate available jobs and to research interviewing tips for job seekers. Students will create a resume documenting their past experience, education, and career objectives. Students will identify and list two references for contact by employers. They will improve oral communications skills by participating in a mock interview. Students will evaluate peers and practice giving and receiving constructive criticism.

   a. **Activities**
      - Identify job opportunities
      - Create a one page resume
      - Compose a cover letter
      - Practice responses to common interview questions
      - Participate in a mock interview
      - Complete a peer evaluation checklist
Tech-Now Student Percentages By Disability Category 2010

AU = Autism, DB = Deaf/Blind, DD = Developmental Delay, HI = Hearing Impaired, MD = Multiple Disabilities, ID = Intellectual Disability, OHI = Other Health Impairments, OI = Orthopedic Impairments, ED = Emotionally Disturbed, SLD = Specific Learning Disability, SLI = Speech Language Impairment, TBI = Traumatic Brain Injury, VI = Visually Impaired
Questions & Answers

Contact Information:
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