Last year in Oklahoma, 21% of teaching certificates issued by the State Department of Education were to applicants seeking certification through alternative pathways. Of the new hires in Oklahoma schools last year, 23% were alternatively certified. These statistics show a decrease from the State’s highest numbers of 37% of certificates issued to alternatively-prepared applicants and 32% of new hires alternatively certified in the 2008-09 school year.

The Teach for America program is placing and supporting teachers in Tulsa and Oklahoma City Public Schools while partnering with the University of Oklahoma, the University of Tulsa, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis for their candidates to receive Master’s degrees. Their Teaching as Leadership framework can be accessed at http://www.teachingasleadership.org.

The Troops to Teachers program and American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) are also options in Oklahoma.

Our OSU programs have responded to the need for alternative pathways to certification by developing initial certification programs at the Master’s degree level in Elementary and Secondary as well as Add-On certifications in Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education.

Alternative pathways to certification are not the only change you may be seeing. The transition from PASS to Common Core Standards and associated PARCC Assessments is well under way and scheduled for completion in June 2014.

Most districts have already implemented Common Core Standards and many have included understanding and implementation of these standards in their teacher evaluation instruments.

Oklahoma schools will soon be asked to select one of four approved teacher evaluation instruments, and the State Department of Education will provide training for principals on one of these instruments. To see a possible sample, check out Tulsa Public School’s rubric at http://tinyurl.com/tpseval.

How are our academic programs responding to today’s digital natives in Oklahoma classrooms learning from a significantly different set of standards and teachers prepared and evaluated in new ways? Are we relevant and vital in the changing face of teacher preparation?
The Teacher Excellence Network (TEN) has been put in place to provide our recent OSU graduates with a support system and content that they can use as new classroom teachers. TEN builds teams of OSU-prepared new teachers in Oklahoma schools and OSU faculty. The main purpose of TEN is to help our graduates succeed, particularly in the areas in which they will be evaluated by their principals (classroom management, instructional effectiveness, professional growth and continuous improvement, interpersonal skills, and leadership). By making desktop cameras available to participants, TEN hopes to zoom in on specific questions and areas of concern new teachers have. Using OneNet’s statewide network and MOVI, a simple desktop videoconferencing software, participants will be able to share their classroom teaching with an OSU faculty member and receive quality feedback with no travel involved.

By keeping our recent graduates connected to OSU through TEN, we hope to give them tools and ideas from other professionals in the field, documents to clarify their evaluation, extra assistance addressing Common Core standards, and a place to keep in touch with their peers and OSU faculty and staff.

We chose to use Wiggio as a social networking tool for TEN because of all its great features. You can hold virtual meetings with one another, take a poll of your peers, message each other in a variety of ways, and share great ideas and resources. If you are interested in joining the Teacher Excellence Network (TEN), please contact the TEN Project Coordinator, Hannah Denker, at hannah.denker@okstate.edu

### 2011-12 PEC Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.15.11</td>
<td>4pm – 302</td>
<td>North Classroom Bldg</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.15.12</td>
<td>4pm –</td>
<td>Willard Living Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.6.12</td>
<td>Willard Living Room – Program Advisory Boards</td>
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Field Experience & Clinical Practice
(Harley Justus)
Greetings faculty and staff. I am beginning my second year as the Coordinator of Clinical and Field Experiences. Thank you for making me feel welcome during my first year at Oklahoma State University; your professionalism and kindness has not gone unnoticed. The spring 2012 student teaching placement process has begun.

We held the Intent to Student Teach meeting on September 6, 2011; we had 154 students in attendance. All students intending to student teach during the spring semester must turn in their application packets and meet with Mark or I no later than Friday, September 23. Remember, candidates will be notified via email once placements are confirmed.

Admissions (Kathy Boyer)
The annual Teacher Education Admissions Survey for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education is in process and will be submitted in the next few days. In the past academic year we admitted 318 candidates to professional education.

We have completed the fingerprinting for our student teachers this semester on both campuses and are happy to report that the State has now passed legislation that allows for dual purpose results. This means that when a student becomes certified and then gets hired within the year, they do not have to be re-printed and pay for a second background check. Schools can now request dual purpose results directly from the State Department of Education.

Some of the duties within the Professional Education Office have shifted and I am now processing the field placements and making the certificate recommendations for the Career & Technology candidates.

Certification (Mark Shelton)
I’m Mark Shelton, and I became the PEU Certification Specialist on July 1 of this year. My background includes secondary science and administration in Oklahoma schools. In addition to certification support, I will be facilitating observation and clinical practice placements in Secondary Education, Art, Foreign Language, Music and Physical Education. You may contact me by phone, email or come by my office at 325w Willard.

Portfolios (Jon Thomas)
Key deadline dates for portfolios:
Submission I - October 6, 2011
Submission II - December 6, 2011
Submission III – December 1, 2011
Help Session Schedule available at
http://education.okstate.edu/portfolio

Assessment (Brent Hill)
Specialized Professional Association (SPA) reports are an important part of the NCATE process. I am working with each certification program to prepare reports for the March 15, 2012 deadline.

Graduate Assistant/TEN Coordinator (Hannah Denker)
Please e-mail Hannah at hannah.denker@okstate.edu with questions regarding TEN.

Administrative Assistant (Kat Colson)
Students enrolled in the following courses each semester will be contacted by Kat to complete OSHA training: AGED 3101, CIED 3622, CIED 3313, CIED 3903, CPSY 5683, CTED 3903, EDUC 5910, HDFS 3201, HHP 3431, MUSI 1723, SPED 5673, SPED 5883
The Fall Conference sponsored by Oklahoma Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (OACTE), Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation (OCTP), and Oklahoma Association of Teacher Educators (OATE) will be held November 17 – 18, 2011, on the University of Central Oklahoma campus in Edmond. The theme is Imagine the impact in Oklahoma: Providing a Learning Journey for All. Conference strands include Innovative Partnerships; Creative Teaching and Learning Strategies; Research; Use of Data in Improving Learning; Leadership; Accreditation; and Policy and Legislation. Presentations are encouraged that relate to the overall conference theme and conference strands. Presentations focusing specifically on innovations taking place in teacher and leader preparation programs, how data are being used to improve learning and program quality, curriculum changes focusing on Common Core Standards, and initiatives geared toward improving P-12 student learning in urban and rural settings are strongly encouraged. Proposals are due October 3, 2011; see http://oacteok.org for details. SPA training will be held on the 18th. Please contact Kat Colson if you plan to attend.

Elementary Education students Alissa Ingram and Katy Rogers represented OSU well at the Character First summer workshop hosted by OSRHE this summer. Alissa noted that

the material provided is extremely useful and can be applied to any grade (which is priceless). Everyone at the conference is so welcoming and honest. They all believe what they are teaching is important and their confidence spreads like wildfire. I am so thankful that I got the opportunity to meet these people and hear what they had to say. I will be a more effective teacher because of it.

Katy shared:

The Summer Institute for Character Education was a fulfilling opportunity in which I was able to collaborate with students from other universities to incorporate character into my future classroom. Through the experience I became aware of the positive effects character education can have upon students as teachers should seek to integrate it into their classrooms on a daily basis. At the conclusion of the program, I walked away with a desire to establish Character First in my classroom.

The Student Oklahoma Education Association Fall Conference will be held Saturday, October 1, 2011, from 8am-4pm at UCO. Please direct students to http://okea.org. The Student Professional Educators Conference will be held Thursday, October 13, 2011, at OBU. Please direct students to http://oklahomaprofessionaleducators.org.


Keep up with legislation impacting education at http://www.oklegislature.gov/AdvancedSearchForm.aspx

How current legislation is being implemented in school districts: http://www.sde.state.ok.us/Law/Legis/redbanner.html
OSU’s Professional Education faculty consistently provide quality professional development to Oklahoma teachers. Here are a few of the experiences provided this summer:

**Biofuels In-service Workshop: Teaching Science in the Context of Agriculture** was held in conjunction with the STEM Institute on June 1, 2, and 18 and funded in part by EPSCoR. Nineteen secondary agricultural education teachers learned about ethanol production and were provided over $300 in Lab-Aids experimental science kits. The workshop was funded in part by EPSCoR.

**Improving Teachers’ Efficacy in Agricultural Mechanics with an Emphasis on Technical Skill Acquisition and Authentic Assessment** was held at the Tecumseh Agricultural Education facility, where Mr. Kendall Whittington shared best practices, increasing teachers’ efficacy at performing various agricultural mechanics skills, and developing authentic assessments to evaluate student learning and skill development with nine teachers.

**Testing the Impact of a Digital Game-Based Teaching Strategy on Student Motivation and Achievement in Secondary Agricultural Education Programs in Oklahoma**, funded in part by Pfizer, Inc, taught ten teachers how to incorporate a web-based game on swine confinements effectively with student-centered teaching strategies.

Dr. Belinda McCharen began a pilot of a **Fast Track Teacher Transition** initiative for nine alternatively certified career and technical education teachers supported by the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE). Participating teachers engaged in ten days of intensive work in four areas: Instructional Planning, Instructional Strategies, Classroom Assessment and Classroom Management. The teacher mentors and administrators from their buildings were also trained in a two-day workshop explaining the content the teachers were being provided and their respective roles in supporting these new teachers. The teachers and mentors will also attend three webinars, three 2-day training sessions covering additional content and have three on-site coaching visits throughout the school year. The mentor and administrator will be engaged in a follow up of assigned field activities during the day-long coaching visit. The year-long program will culminate in June 2012 with another ten-day training session. For more information about this project go to [http://136.165.122.102/mambo/content/view/51/62/](http://136.165.122.102/mambo/content/view/51/62/)

Thirty teachers from northwest Oklahoma participated in **Beyond Read Aloud: Integrating Science and Literacy While Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners**, which illustrated ways to teach science and language arts in ways that support children with developmental delays/disabilities and those who are still learning English. The workshop was part of an $85,000 grant project directed by Dr. Julia Atiles and funded by the Oklahoma State Regents Title II No Child Left Behind professional development grants program and the U.S. Department of Education.

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**Drs. Lynna and Floyd Ausburn** worked with eight Surgical Technology faculty at Tulsa Technology Center over the summer to plan a major curriculum development and research project on the **use of virtual reality and other digital technologies** to present their curriculum. Over the summer, weekly planning sessions were held with this faculty and production was started on a large-scale curriculum development project. This project is now under development by the Ausburns and their graduate student Virtual Reality Research & Development team in consultation with the Tulsa Technology faculty.

**Dr. Julie Angle** serves as Professional Development Coordinator and **Dr. Juliana Utley** as the Assessment Coordinator and co-PI with **Dr. Karen High** for **Transitioning Engineering Research to Middle Schools**, an NSF-funded project. Twelve participating teachers engaged in environmental engineering or biotechnology research with university faculty to create hands-on and inquiry-based curriculum units for the middle school classroom from June 13-July 15, 2011. See [http://ret.okstate.edu/](http://ret.okstate.edu/) for more information.

To help address the lack of geosciences taught in the high school curriculum, the **G.E.T. (Geoscience Experiences for Teachers) in the Field**, a project funded by the Geoscience Education Directorate of the National Science Foundation, provided 10-days of authentic field and laboratory geology experiences for seven Oklahoma high school science teachers. The group of teachers was led by geologist, Dr. Jim Puckette, and science educators **Drs. Toni Ivey and Julie Thomas**. As the teachers learned geology concepts which concentrated on aquifer stratigraphy, geochemistry, and groundwater, they designed lessons to incorporate the geosciences into their physical science, biology, and chemistry classrooms.

**Teaching Creativity and Innovation to Inventive Minds** was facilitated August 3-5, 2011 by **Dr. Susan Stansberry**, OSU; Dawn Danker, Yukon Public Schools; and Wes Fryer, Celebrate Oklahoma Voices. Eighteen Oklahoma teachers participated in digital fabrication and production activities with a STEM focus and took back to their classrooms a backpack with a digital still/video camera, audio recorder, headset/microphone, flash drive, and memory card. Participants will continue to collaborate online at [http://lc.celebrateoklahoma.us/](http://lc.celebrateoklahoma.us/), where their digital storytelling projects from the workshop can be viewed (search STEM). This experience was funded by an NSF grant, Manufacturing Innovation and Revitalization Partnerships: Innovation Partnerships with Teachers ([http://edtech.okstate.edu/ipt](http://edtech.okstate.edu/ipt)).

**Dr. Susan Stansberry** presented two inservice workshops for Perkins-Tryon teachers on August 10, 2011: **Ten Tips for Technology Integration this School Year** and **SMARTboard Activities in Terms of Instructional Strategies** for Elementary and Secondary ([http://simplycurious.net/presentations](http://simplycurious.net/presentations)).

**Oklahomans for Excellence in Science Education (OESE)**, through NSF funding, provides funding for teachers to participate to attend a three day "Teacher Evolution" workshop. **Dr. Julie Angle** was one of the presenters for this three day event; other presenters were from OU and SWOSU. While the other presenters focused on the science content, Dr. Angle’s role was to provide high school and middle school teachers with hands-on activities that teach the Nature of Science (NOS). The workshop takes place at the OU Biological Station on Lake Texoma. Lodging, meals, and materials are provided for all participating teachers.