WWTC Receives $50,000 Grant for New Biomedical Science Academy

The grant, provided by Career Tech’s High Growth and Emerging Technology initiative, is part of the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, which is designed to reward new and innovative educational initiatives in secondary and postsecondary schools.

The Wes Watkins academy uses Project Lead the Way curriculum, a nationally-recognized curriculum with rigorous standards and partnerships among public schools, higher education institutions and career and technology centers to improve effectiveness and flexibility for students.

“The Biomedical Science Academy offers collegiate level prep courses, lab exercises, and creative activities. Students must also complete additional advanced math and science courses as part of the program. This academy is for students who know they want to continue on to college and complete a degree in a medical field,” said Mike Lindley, BMA instructor at WWTC.

The four foundation courses set forth by PLTW are to be taken by students sequentially; Principles of Biomedical Science, Human Body Systems, Medical Interventions, and Biomedical Innovations. Courses are aligned with the national education standards and meet the highest standard of rigor in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Students will investigate the areas of the medical field, human biology, physiology, genetics, microbiology and public health. By assuming lead roles of biomedical professionals, students will perform real-world, hands-on, and problem-solving activities to enhance understanding and bring relevance to academic STEM courses.
The academy is a two year program and is open to junior-year high school students with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5. Qualified students also need to have complete Algebra II and Biology I or be co-enrolled in Algebra II their junior year. They must also meet the minimum ACT or WWTC Career Advancement Center test scores prior to the application deadline. PLAN/ACT Benchmark scores indicate college readiness in the test areas.

To increase their level of success in the Biomedical Science Program, it is recommended that the students be at or above the benchmarks in at least 3 areas - English 15, mathematics, 19; reading, 17; science 21 and a composite of 19.

Student in the BMA must also complete one advanced science course and one advanced math course per year. Advanced math courses include geometry, Algebra II, trigonometry, pre-calculus and AP Statistics. Advanced science courses include anatomy/physiology, Biology II and pre-AP Chemistry.

Instructor Mike Lindley attended the PLTW Core Training Biomedical Science Academy “Boot Camp” at OU Health Science Center this past summer. The core training was a rigorous, project based learning immersion into the field of biomedical science. He attended two sessions with each session spanning two weeks’ worth of intense training designed to fully prepare instructors to engage students in innovation.

“I am honored to be a part of Project Lead the Way and feel excited to offer biomedical science to our partner school students,” said Lindley.

Lindley will continue his training in PLTW professional development, which is a three-phase program focused on proper preparation, in-depth training, and continuing education. By actively participating in all three phases of professional development, educators have the opportunity to increase their depth of content knowledge, skills, and teaching related to specific PLTW courses instruction.

The three phases of professional development are Readiness Training, Core Training, and Ongoing Training. PLTW’s Virtual Academy provides ongoing professional development training; detailed materials for each lesson in every PLTW course; videos of PLTW master teachers teaching; PLTW lessons. Also included are collaboration tools including forums for teachers to ask questions and discuss PLTW lessons.

More information on the Biomedical Science Academy or other WWTC Career Majors can be viewed at www.wwtech.edu or by calling 405-452-5500 ext. 2124. In-district patrons may call toll free at 1-888-884-3834.

By Sandy Fields
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Sophomore Showcase

Over 300 sophomore students from Wes Watkins Technology Center partner school (Graham-Dustin, Holdenville, Mason, Moss, Wetumka, Weleetka, Okemah, Hanna) participated in Sophomore Showcase Nov. 5-7 on the campus of WWTC. The tours informed students about WWTC’s career majors and helped students to begin thinking about their career choices and options.
$125,000.00 grant from the competitive lottery grant funds was awarded to Wes Watkins Technology Center to update the health careers training lab. Included in the update were four simulation mannequins; one Sim Man, two Nurse Ann’s, and one Nursing Child mannequin.

The mannequins use advanced technology and have the ability to speak and simulate real life responses to the care given by students as they interact with them to learn, solidify or assess patient care skills.

The new additions to the health lab will provide high simulation experiences for students in all WWTC Health Science career majors including Dental Assistant, Long Term Care Aide, Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomist, Radiology Aide, Veterinary Assistant, Licensed Practical Nurse, Multi-Skilled Nurse Assistant and Surgical Technologist.

Students are pictured in the Health Science career major practicing care giving skills using the new mannequins.
Left to right, Rashee Turner, Okemah; Kaylyne Farris, Okemah; Dystany Neal, Okemah; Ben Wood, Holdenville; Jacob Martin, Hanna; Jayna Pruitt, Hanna; Karlee Reynolds, Hanna; Rai Strianese, Okemah.

Students in Wes Watkins Technology Center’s Algebra II classes built and launched rockets to demonstrate the application of quadratic equations which helped them understand how to write equations for the path of the rocket’s flight. WWTC offers six upper-level math courses which include Business Math, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Statistics, and Calculus. The upper-level Mathematics program at WWTC was created to give students more options. It expands opportunities for high school students by allowing them to complete a career major at WWTC, have choices of advanced math courses that may not be offered at their home schools, receive math credit toward high school graduation, and to meet the core curriculum requirements for admission to Oklahoma colleges and universities. The instructor for these upper-level math course is Ruby McAslin.

Pictured left to right, Dakota Miller, Okemah; Micaela Thomas, Okemah; Caleb Dixon, Okemah; Hailey Ward, Okemah; Allen Gorby, Hanna; Jordan Brown, Hanna; Tristen Harjo, Hanna; Michaella O’Connor, Hanna.
Cassie Dupree, Holdenville

Wes Watkins Technology Center is proud to announce that Cassie Dupree has had an essay published in Volume 8 of Celebrating Our Journey: A Collection of Life Stories, produced by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Cassie is a second year learner in WWTC’s Reading Assistance Program, a service to the community offered in co-operation with Grace M. Pickens Public Library. Cassie is the daughter of Robert and Margaret Dupree of Holdenville. Her essay is entitled My Brave Family. For further information on the Reading Assistance Program for adults or for information about English as a Second Language (ESL) or GED classes, contact WWTC at (405)-452-5500 or the Holdenville Public Library at (405)-379-3245.