

"To improve is to change, so to be perfect is to have changed often."

- Winston Churchill

1. Save the Date(s)! **Simulation Conference**—May 14, 2024 at Moore-Norman South Penn Campus. Registration and hotel information to come out soon!! **New Teacher Training**—July 9-11, 2024, Stillwater, OK
2. **HCE Day at the Capitol**—Please see the registration information found at this site if you'd like to join us and bring students on February 20, 2024:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLBcOnBi8CjVbTrwPYiMWMcAERzqll_R515VN21s7opJ58Bg/viewform?usp=sharing
3. Syphilis cases in the US have risen to [the highest level](#) since the 1950s, according to new data on sexually transmitted infections released yesterday from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The US saw 203,500 syphilis cases in 2022 (the last year for which data are available), up 17% from 2021 and nearly 80% from 2018. The data also showed 3,755 babies were born with congenital syphilis in 2022, a nearly 31% change year-over-year and a 183% change since 2018. See an overview of syphilis [here](#)
4. Join us for a presentation by the **Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics** (as seen at Ok Summit, 2023!). Kristina Marcotte will share some of the most interesting information and you don't want to miss it Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024 at 3:30pm <https://zoom.us/j/99348670311?pwd=dC9kMwpcMmdvVXNUNUYWNBQWVsaE5WQT09>
5. **Presentations.AI: How To Use It To Teach** Presentations.AI is an AI slide deck creation tool that lets you build presentations quickly while still getting a professional-looking design as your end result. The idea for use in education is to help educators showcase the information they need in an attractive and engaging way while saving on time. **Full Story:** Tech & Learning
6. Check out Baamboozle: **What is Baamboozle and How Can It Be Used for Teaching? Tips and Tricks.**
7. **The OKACTE Legislative Seminar Series** is designed to educate members on legislative topics and issues during the 2024 legislative session. With such a vast statewide membership, the webinar series provides a convenient platform for members to gain the tools to be prepared to advocate on behalf of the Oklahoma CareerTech system. **These virtual lunch-n-learn sessions are free to attend and will be recorded to view following each session.** [Legislative Seminar Series | OkACTE](#)
8. Do you know a comprehensive high school that would like to start a CareerTech new program, but needs the funds? Take a look at this Perkins Innovation Grant (see attachment) and your school could get up to \$25,000 to start a Health program! <https://oklahoma.gov/careertech/educators/legislation-assistance/perkins/innovation-grants.html>
9. **Nurse Practitioner Ranked as Top Job.** US News & World Report ranked the nurse practitioner role as its top occupation for 2024 based on factors like job growth, unemployment figures, earning potential, job security and work-life balance. The highest pay for NPs was reported in four California cities and New York City. **Full Story:** [Daily Nurse](#)
10. **New Alzheimer's study** suggests strange visual symptoms may provide an early warning sign of the disease in some cases; linked to posterior cortical atrophy, symptoms present in roughly 10% of cases ([More](#))
11. **Pharmaceutical firm Vertex** completes successful clinical trials for nonaddictive painkiller to replace opioids like OxyContin and Vicodin; company to seek regulatory approval this summer ([More](#))
12. The U.S. Department of Education has released a new national education technology plan for the first time since 2016. Unlike past plans that have "largely served as surveys of the state of the field," the 2024 National

Educational Technology Plan "frames three key divides limiting the transformational potential of educational technology to support teaching and learning," says a U.S. Department of Education press release. These are the digital use divide, the digital design divide and the digital access divide. **Full Story:** [Tech & Learning](#)

13. Creating a Dynamic Talent Pipeline

Kuder Connect 2 Business® (C2B) is an online platform creating awareness and building relationships between individuals and businesses by sharing work-based learning opportunities aligned to career interests. The platform helps local employers promote and fill openings ranging from internships and apprenticeships to part-time jobs and beyond while supporting students' Individual Career and Academic Plan requirements. [Information](#)

14. Lawmakers seek greater access to CareerTech Education Career and technical education programs have positively affected graduation rates and skills training, but lawmakers and experts say challenges such as funding shortages, teacher scarcities and outdated stigmas hinder wider access. A recent House subcommittee hearing focused on the need to overcome these barriers to ensure inclusive CTE programs that provide diverse options for high-school students beyond a traditional college track. **Full Story:** [K-12 Dive](#) (1/19)

15. Guess what I learned in Phoenix at my National Consortium for Health Science Meeting last week? I was thrilled to find out that any teacher using the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Exam can get a Pharmacy Technician Educators Council membership **for free**. The Pharmacy Technician Educators Council (PTEC), a division of PTCB, is a volunteer organization with a mission that unites, supports, and empowers educators in the education and training of pharmacy technicians. For more information contact Zac Green at zgreen@ptcb.org

16. Butte College in California introduced an Accelerated Track Registered Nursing Program to address ongoing workforce shortages and better serve students facing a long wait list for the school's traditional nursing track. The initiative gives students all the intensive training they need for licensure in a year's time. **Full Story:** [KRCR-TV \(Redding, Calif.\)](#)

17. Tips for Giving Constructive Criticism

- **Be Kind:** Start with something positive. Let the person know what you liked about their work before mentioning what could be improved.
- **Be Specific:** Instead of saying, "Your project was confusing," be specific about what part was unclear. This helps the person understand exactly what to improve.
- **Offer Suggestions:** Provide ideas on how they can make it better. Instead of just pointing out problems, give them solutions to consider.
- **Use "I" Statements:** Say things like, "I found this part a bit hard to understand," instead of "Your writing is confusing." It makes your feedback about your experience, not a judgment about them.

Remember, giving constructive criticism is about helping others improve, just like you appreciate when others help you get better. It's a valuable skill that will benefit you in school and beyond.

Sincerely,
Lara Morris
State Program Manager | Health Careers Education



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