



What **We** look like



- when we all work together like gears in a machine, everyone wins



Cover Star

Robert Jeffery is a DRS Transition student who took part in DRS' Project SEARCH job training program and landed a permanent job with Chesapeake Energy. He also starred in the DRS Transition public service announcement, "Dream Big," www.okdrs.org/drupal/vid-info/2014dream-big.



Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

800-845-8476 | 405-951-3400 | info@okdrs.gov | www.okdrs.gov

DRS Publication No: 15-07, January 2015

This publication is authorized by the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services in accordance with state and federal regulations and printed by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services at a cost of \$2,281.09 for 750 copies. This publication is available on the DRS website. For additional copies, contact DRS Communications Office at 405-951-3402 or 800-845-8476 toll free.

We believe

We laugh

We cry

We smile

We work

We play

WE THINK

WE GROW

We love

We (people with disabilities) are, in most ways, just like you.

Contents

Letter from the Director	4
OK Commission for Rehabilitation Services	5
DRS Organizational Chart	6
2014 Actual Expenditures	7
Vocational Rehabilitation	8
Denise Gallagher	8
The Services We Provide	10
The People We Served	11
Visual Services	12
Peter Broussard	12
Debbie Lukenbugh	14
Gary Spikes	17
Partnerships	19
Disability Determination	21
Oklahoma School for the Blind	22
OSB and OSD School Census	24
Oklahoma School for the Deaf	26
Counties We Serve	28





Dear Oklahoma Stakeholder,

I am thrilled to share our 2014 Annual Report with you. The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services has had a great year assisting Oklahomans with disabilities achieve their goals for education, employment and independence.

Today, you can't turn around without hearing iPhone, iPad, or some variation of a word starting with a small i. The advancements in technology are phenomenal and all the rage, but for a moment, we want you to pull back from the center focus of yourself or your organization and think about all the people around you — think about the groups you talk about when you say “we.” Your “we” probably includes individuals with disabilities. More than one in six Oklahomans has a disability making it a statistical probability that most groups of ‘we’ include individuals with disabilities.

Yet, in 2014, we are still struggling to fight the myths and incorrect assumptions about the disability community. This report shows that many individuals with disabilities can enter the workplace and contribute – we know of 2,200 of our clients alone that joined the workforce and became taxpayers last year. We are proud of our 100 percent graduation rates at both the Oklahoma School for the Blind and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf.

Given the right assistance and opportunities, the sky is the limit for a person with disabilities. We, the staff of DRS, are committed to empowering and assisting individuals with disabilities to find high-paying, quality jobs through our vocational rehabilitation programs as well as providing a quality education for our students.

I want to express also how proud I am of our staff. We faced many difficulties throughout the year with the federal government shut down, shortage of staff and a challenging economy; yet, we pulled together and did a fantastic job.

I hope you find this report informative and reflect on your personal “we” and how you can help empower a person with a disability in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Cordova', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Joe Cordova
DRS Executive Director

OK Commission for Rehabilitation Services



Commissioners Jack Tucker, Steve Shelton and Lynda Collins and Executive Director Joe Cordova

The Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services meets monthly to discuss agency activities and plan for the future. Commission Chairman Steve Shelton led the meetings and the commission through another successful year.



Commissioner Steve Shelton devotes his time to the agency while working full-time as a senior application programmer and consultant with Fidelity National Information Services. Shelton has great empathy for our clients as a former client himself. The Oklahoma House of Representatives speaker appointed Shelton to the commission.



Commissioner Jack Tucker, vice chairman, former client and retired principal from the Oklahoma School for the Deaf, knows from his 40 years of experience in working with children with disabilities of the importance of services provided by DRS. The Oklahoma State Senate president pro tempore appointed him.



Commissioner Lynda Collins is a former DRS client and employee, who worked her way up through the ranks to Vocational Rehabilitation administrator. She retired after 33 years of service. Her previous DRS positions included field service coordinator, programs manager, vocational rehabilitation counselor and vocational rehabilitation



evaluator. Gov. Mary Fallin appointed Collins to the commission.

Executive Director Joe Cordova works directly with the commissioners. He leads approximately 980 employees. In state fiscal year 2014, Cordova's staff assisted 91,388 Oklahomans with disabilities. He directs the agency, which is comprised of six program divisions — Disability Determination, Oklahoma School for the Blind, Oklahoma School for the Deaf, Support Services, Visual Services and Vocational Rehabilitation. Each division has its own goals along with the collective mission of helping Oklahomans with disabilities find employment and independence.

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services has six divisions, employing approximately 980 employees dedicated to assisting people with disabilities across the state.



2014 Actual Expenditures



	VR/VS	OSB	OSD	DDD	Support	Total
State	\$ 14,138,000	\$ 6,778,000	\$ 8,389,000		\$ 2,148,000	\$ 31,453,000
Federal	37,831,000	206,000	218,000	\$34,915,000	5,086,000	\$ 78,256,000
Other	610,000	82,000	798,000			\$ 1,490,000
Total	\$ 52,579,000	\$7,066,000	\$ 9,405,000	\$ 34,915,000	\$ 7,234,000	\$ 111,199,000



The majority of funding for Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services is eligible for a federal/state match of 78.7 percent /21.3 percent. VS' Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is state funded.

The majority of funding for Oklahoma School for the Blind and Oklahoma School for the Deaf is state appropriations. Other OSD funding is primarily the Equipment Distribution Program, which provides telecommunications and

other equipment to deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and severely speech-impaired individuals.

Disability Determination Division is 100-percent federally funded.

In the Support Services division, DRS utilizes an indirect cost rate as the standardized method for individual programs to pay a fair share of support service (general administration) costs.

Statistical information is based on State Fiscal Year 2014

Vocational Rehabilitation

We are linked with our clients throughout the course of their cases. When they succeed, so do we.

Vocational Rehabilitation division staff provide Oklahomans with disabilities with the opportunity to become employed members of society. Our job is to remove barriers that prevent a person from working, to guide and counsel clients on career paths of their choice and network with employers on behalf of people with disabilities.

In fiscal year 2014, VR had 10,890 cases on the books. That means VR staff were working with these clients in some fashion. Some may be at the beginning of their journeys to employment, and others may be completing their plans. We celebrated with 1,903 Oklahomans with physical or mental disabilities who got jobs.

Our clients receive career counseling, vocational education and training, or medical services if it is determined it will help them find employment.

They may also receive assistive technology, job placement and coaching. Our counselors help clients find their own path to employment success and independence.

When our clients become members of the workforce, we help them depend on themselves instead of the government. They support our state by paying income taxes on the wages they now earn. They also begin supporting their hometowns by spending their earnings locally.

The SSA reimbursement program generated \$2,159,542 in revenue for DRS from 187 former SSI/SSDI beneficiaries reaching quality employment that will sustain them. These outcomes are derived directly from quality VR services focused on real employment. This is the first time in the history of the agency that we have surpassed \$2 million in reimbursement revenue in back-to-back federal fiscal years.

For young adults with disabilities, VR has the Transition: School to Work program that prepares high school students for the work world. Transition counselors provide career counseling and training that often includes summer jobs or workshops that teach interview skills and resume writing.

The deaf community benefits not only from our services through the VR process but also through our Interpreter Certification and Resource Center. Not only do we help clients find work, we help the deaf by evaluating and certifying the proficiency of sign language interpreters.

To qualify for VR services, a person must have a physical or mental disability that is a substantial barrier to employment. He or she must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in ways that lead to finding and obtaining employment.



We helped Denise overcome hearing loss issues so she can be a great receptionist!

Denise Gallagher is a busy receptionist at Youth and

Family Services of North Central Oklahoma in Enid. She also happens to be hard of hearing.

Gallagher greets 1,500 children and families each year and helps them navigate a range of services offered by 50 YFS staff, including 24 mental health counselors.

She handles the switchboard and helps clients reach their counselors and other staff.

“Denise is a great greeter – she puts people at ease,” Executive Director Dan Buckley said. “She’ll take on any project. I appreciate her flexibility in going from data entry, to filing, to the copy machine, to finding me the type of pen I like.”

Gallagher was a client of VR when she applied for the job in August 2011.

“... Out of 90 applicants, they chose me,” Gallagher said with a smile. “I feel real blessed to have this job.”



Gallagher's VR counselor, Stacey Birchfield paid for hearing exams, new hearing aids and a wireless transmitter to improve her ability to hear on the phone.

"When you are hard of hearing, you learn to look people in the face," Gallagher said. "When they talk fast, all the words run together."

YFS tried out several phone systems in search of one that is fully compatible with Gallagher's hearing

aids and computer.

"What we wanted was something that Bluetoothed into my hearing aids," Gallagher explained, "A lot of new equipment comes out all the time, so we are still experimenting with devices that will improve my hearing."

"Had it not been for their (DRS') help, I would not have a receptionist job," Gallagher said.



Vocational Rehabilitation Clients Served

10,890 Clients Served
5,779 Program Applications
3,937 Employment Plans

Visual Services Clients Served

1,979 Clients Served
867 Program Applications
650 Employment Plans

Total Clients Served

12,869 Clients Served
6,646 Program Applications
4,587 Employment Plans

Vocational Rehabilitation Clients Employed

1,903 Employment Outcomes
\$19,603 Average Yearly Earnings
\$10,225 Average Cost of Services Per Client
\$2,940 Average Taxes Paid

Visual Services Clients Employed

297 Employment Outcomes
\$17,683 Average Yearly Earnings
\$10,993 Average Cost of Services Per Client
\$2,652 Average Taxes Paid

Total Clients Employed

2,200 Employment Outcomes
\$19,343 Average Yearly Earnings
\$10,329 Average Cost of Services Per Client
\$2,901 Average Taxes Paid

All data reported on the federal FY-2014.

The Services We Provide

Every year, we provide clients with specialized training and services during their casework. Some clients only need a few services and others need more. Below are the top 15 services provided to our clients whose cases closed during the year.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Clients Served</u>
Vocational rehabilitation counseling and guidance.....	5,038
Medical diagnosis and treatment.....	3,723
Transportation	3,621
Maintenance:	2,460
Those expenses such as food, shelter and clothing that are related to services listed in the plan to obtain employment.	
Information and referral services:	2,442
Services from other agencies (e.g., cooperative agreements) not available through the VR program.	
Job placement assistance	2,261
Referral to a specific job resulting in an interview, whether or not the individual obtained the job.	
Job readiness training	2,063
Assessment.....	1,436
Services provided and activities performed to determine an individual's eligibility for VR services	
On-the-job supports – short term	1,102
Miscellaneous training.....	1,026
Any training including GED or high school training leading to a diploma, or courses taken at colleges not leading to a certificate or diploma.	
Job search assistance	1,011
Support and assistance for an individual in searching for an appropriate job and may include help in resume preparation, identifying appropriate job opportunities, developing interview skills and making contacts with companies on behalf of the client.	
Four-year college or university training	940
Occupational or vocational training.....	830
Rehabilitation technology	770
On-the-job supports – supported employment	716

The People **We** Served

Characteristics of persons rehabilitated in 2014 in VR and VS Programs.

Gender

	Rehabilitated	Severe Disabilities Rehabilitated
Male	1,167	1,112
Female.....	1,033	960

Race

	Rehabilitated	Severe Disabilities Rehabilitated
White	1,571	1,476
African American	386	370
Asian	15	14
American Indian or Alaska Native ..	318	293
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.....	11	11
Hispanic Ethnicity	97	88

Clients may indicate up to six races/ethnicities.

Age at Application

	Rehabilitated	Severe Disabilities Rehabilitated
Younger than 20.....	795	719
20 to 21.....	106	99
22 to 34.....	407	388
35 to 44.....	293	286
45 to 64.....	535	517
65 and older.....	64	63

Education Level at Application

	Rehabilitated	Severe Disabilities Rehabilitated
No formal schooling	4	4
Elementary education (Grades 1 - 8).....	37	37
Secondary education, no diploma (Grades 1 - 12)	604	552
Special education certificate of completion/ diploma or in attendance	222	200
High school graduate or equivalency certificate (regular education students)	702	675
Post-secondary education, no degree	305	286
Associate degree or vocational/ technical certificate	171	169
Bachelor's degree	119	113
Master's degree or higher	35	35
Any degree above a Master's - e.g. PhD, EdD, JD	0	0
Vocational/Technical Certificate or License	1	1
Occupational credential beyond undergraduate degree work	0	0
Occupational credential beyond graduate degree work	0	0

Primary Disability

	Rehabilitated	Severe Disabilities Rehabilitated
Blind/Visual Impairment	185	179
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	194	184
Deaf-Blindness	3	3
Communicative Impairments	37	37
Orthopedic Impairments	263	248
Respiratory Impairments	22	17
General Physical Debilitation	46	46
Other Physical Impairments	254	243
Cognitive Impairments	666	604
Psychosocial Impairments	295	286
Other Mental Impairments	235	225

Visual Services

We are geared to success and that rubs off on our clients.

DRS' Visual Services provides services that make it possible for people who are blind or visually impaired to reach their employment or life goals.

Clients are provided the opportunity to become employed through the vocational rehabilitation process of:

- Career counseling,
- Vocational education and training,
- Medical services required to become employable,
- Assistive technology geared to their specific needs and job placement.

Clients are eligible for the vocational rehabilitation program if their disability makes it difficult to work. They must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services, which are required to prepare for and find jobs.

Many clients receive individualized living skills training to allow them to navigate their environments, operate computers, manage money and their household, and much more. When these skills are learned early in the rehabilitation process, persons who are blind or visually impaired become open to the idea that they truly can compete in the work place.

There is no age limitation to become involved in our vocational rehabilitation program, which assists interested persons in returning to work.

The Business Enterprise Program trains

and assists people who are blind or visually impaired in establishing and operating food service businesses in public and private facilities across the state. BEP equips locations, provides initial inventory and offers ongoing technical support to licensed BEP entrepreneurs.

BEP entrepreneurs must complete vending facility training courses and must pay a percentage of net proceeds to DRS, which matches federal funds to support the program.

For young adults with disabilities, the Transition: School to Work program helps students prepare for the work world. Transition counselors provide career counseling and training, which often includes summer jobs or workshops that teach interview and resume writing.

The Older Blind Independent Living Services gives Oklahomans, aged 55 and older, the ability to remain independent after becoming visually impaired. The program teaches living skills with special magnifying equipment, talking small appliances and tips on staying safe when performing household duties.

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is the source for talking books for those who cannot read the written word due to visual impairments or physical disabilities. The library mails

thousands of free, recorded books to patrons all across the state. The Accessible Instructional Material Center provides free Braille and large print textbooks and classroom materials to public school students.



Deaf Blind client proves to be a valuable employee

All Peter Broussard wanted was a chance to work hard, fit in at the job and take care of his family — like every American.

At Cintas, Broussard, who is deaf and blind, is just one of the guys on a team that rewards productivity and ambition.

Joan Blake, a deaf-blind specialist and vocational rehabilitation counselor, worked with Becky Bradshaw, Cintas senior human resources manager, to assess the workplace and match Broussard's skills for the job.

Broussard has advice for other job-

seekers with vision and hearing loss: "If you have doubts, don't doubt yourself. Just prove to yourself that you can be successful. Don't be a skeptic. Don't expect discrimination. Stand up for yourself. Show what you are capable of."

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Services Circulation

4,873 library patrons
868 books circulated daily to patrons
4,340 books received weekly by patrons
160 daily inquiries



Federal Quota Funds (Previous School Year)

767 children eligible for textbooks
\$254,369 funding



Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Center

969 children served
Two average days for a child to receive an in-house book
18 average days for a child to receive an ordered Braille book
Nine average days for a child to receive an ordered large print book
20,609 total books/items in collection

15 new Braille books purchased
63 new large print books purchased
2,755 new instructional aids and equipment*

*Books and instructional aids/equipment, such as talking globes and tactile maps, are ordered during one fiscal/school year and received the next fiscal/school year.

All data reported on the state FY-2014



When **We** party, Children read

Oklahoma's youngsters who are blind or visually impaired enjoyed crafts, horse petting, a mad scientist, pizza and plain old good fun at the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped's Summer Reading Kick-Off party to encourage the youths to pick up a book and read over the summer.

Children and their families look forward to this annual event.

This year, we need to brag on our

top two outstanding readers who read enough to be entered into the drawing for prizes.:

- 1st place: Tyanna Culley — \$100 iTunes card, read 12.25 hours
- 2nd place: Ariana Richardson — \$50 iTunes card, read 22.25 hours.

Many volunteers were at the event more for the fun and the children than to work.



When **We** work together,

“I love working, I get my own money so my parents don’t have to pay for some of my stuff ”

Debbie Lukenbaugh,
INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center employee

DRS’ Transition School to Work clients get the opportunity to try out jobs through the Project SEARCH program.

Many partners pull together to give these students a quality intern experience that will help them move forward in the work world and achieve permanent employment.

This innovative program combines classroom instruction, career exploration and hands-on 10-week training rotations in various departments at a host business in the community.

The program is successful because we work with partners such as INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center in Enid, high school personnel, community development associations — all as a team for that one intern.

The Enid Project SEARCH program succeeded beyond all imagination when eight interns completed the program and were immediately hired by employers in the community. All are now taxpaying citizens, less likely to need disability benefits or social services.

Debbie Lukenbaugh went through the Project SEARCH program and landed a permanent job with INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center.

She works from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the housekeeping department.

Lukenbaugh is happy to be a permanent employee at the hospital and starts every shift with a high-five with her supervisor, Carl Smoker. He appreciates a hardworking employee who is glad to be there.

“I love working,” Lukenbaugh said. “I get my own money so my parents don’t have to pay for some of my stuff – like more scrubs, and I’m on my feet 24/7, so I buy comfortable shoes.”

“Project SEARCH is great because we get to work with individuals like Debbie,” Smoker said. “They come in



Debbie Lukenbaugh, center, with Stacey Birchfield, VR counselor, left, and Loretta Lawley, Project SEARCH Job Coach, right, proudly celebrate Lukenbaugh’s success in the program.

with so much enthusiasm, and they bring all that to the table because they are excited. It rubs off on the other employees and also the patients.”

“What initially appeals to our clients is the chance to replace classroom time with real world experience,”

Debbie gets a job

Transition coordinator Kim Osmani said. "Project SEARCH also gives them a boost in confidence and provides exposure to a variety of appealing jobs."

Parents are key members of the transition team.

"We interview parents first because we want to make sure students have a good support system and the parents are there to back them up," Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Stacey Birchfield said. "Then we interview the students."

Students have to interview for the Project SEARCH program just like a job. The interview panel consists of the partners who would be advising them once in the program.

By the time interns complete the nine-month journey in the workforce they have that first job under their belts along with expert information given by the team.

The Project SEARCH program is also offered in Oklahoma City and Yukon for students with disabilities.



There's no better way than to start the work day with a big high five with your boss!

For the eight interns to land that job each partner had a role

The employers help students learn relevant, marketable skills while sampling different types of work.

DRS assists with career counseling and funds technical assistance, job coaches, project management, and partner agency coordination through the University of Oklahoma's National Center for Disability Education and Training.

The public school offers senior English, independent living skills training and hires job coaches who provide daily support.

In Enid, the Community Development Association follows up with interns who need additional services or those who are not placed by the Enid job coaches by a specific date.

Success Rate for Enid

Three additional former Project SEARCH interns were hired in permanent jobs at INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center this year, while others are employed at Lowe's, Hobby Lobby, Highland Park Manor and St. Mary's Regional Medical Center.

The hospital has hired at least two interns who participated in the program each year. Seven of those are still employed.



We helped Gary so he can help veterans

Veteran helps others succeed at college/career tech through Veterans Upward Bound.

Transitioning from military service to the academic world can be overwhelming for veterans. They trade a structured environment for a new avalanche of choices. Many also juggle families and jobs, or have service-connected disabilities.

Gary Spikes has been there, done all of that – plus he has hearing and vision loss, and has used a wheelchair in the past because of degenerative disc disease.

Now, thanks to DRS vocational rehabilitation program, Spikes is an academic counselor with the Veterans Upward Bound.

Veterans Upward Bound is based at East Central University in Ada. It helps veterans, National Guard members or reservists enter and complete college or vocational school.

“Veterans and kids are my passion,” Spikes said. “I want to try and make it right for veterans, do my part in trying to make it easier on them – especially this young crowd that’s coming back now. They’ve really got it tough.”

Spikes served in the Army infantry from 1977 to 1979 in the 2nd Armored Division, Charlie Company. The noise from exploding shells affected his hearing.

“They’ve had to deal with a lot and sacrificed a lot for us,” Mary Meeks, Spikes’ supervisor said. “This is the safe place for veterans to hang out and ask the questions,

think through the process, express frustrations – ‘empty their bucket,’ as we call it.”

For Spikes to be able to work with the veterans as he does now, he needed a college education. With career counseling and financial assistance from DRS’ Vocational Rehabilitation division, Spikes earned a bachelor’s degree in social work and a master’s in vocational rehabilitation at East Central University.

He excelled in his education by becoming qualified for three licenses, Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor and Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. He can apply the knowledge to a variety of situations.

“I am very proud of Gary,” DRS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Stephynne Stevens said. “That is just the right job for him because he wants to help other people succeed. I am so glad that DRS could assist Gary in reaching his employment goals.”

While Spikes was required to do the work in college, DRS assisted with tuition, hearing aids, a wheelchair, eye exams and glasses, medical evaluations, and transportation during his training and job search. The agency also purchased a frequency modulation (FM) system, which uses a transmitter microphone and receiver to eliminate background noise.

He has volunteered at the American Legion in Ada for at least eight years, serving as a maintenance man and service officer, helping veterans and their families understand available benefits.

Spikes also delivers food for chronically hungry elementary students at 11 schools in Ponotoc County as a volunteer for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma’s The Backpack Program.

Left: Gary Spikes and his supervisor, Mary Meeks. “I recognized Gary’s ability to connect with other veterans. He is familiar with military service, college and disabilities because of the things he’s gone through himself.”



BELL, summer participants, Teague Niebrugge and Elbin Carillo hang outside the OKC Thunder Book Bus on its visit to the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

We team up with others for the benefit of clients

DRS partners with numerous state groups, organizations and employers to provide Oklahomans with disabilities enhanced services. These partnerships are priceless in the services for the clients, but also strengthen DRS as an agency.

Workforce

We are an active member of the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development initiatives and are committed to access for all in overcoming barriers to employment and services for Oklahomans with disabilities.

Specific results from these efforts include:

- DRS and workforce partners leading the Oklahoma Works system into the statewide vision of effective partnerships and the education, training and quality employment to obtain increased household wealth.

- DRS is committed to ensuring an accessible workforce system.

Through a partnership with Oklahoma ABLE Tech, we are connecting Oklahomans with disabilities to assistive technology and accessible information and communication technology.

- Local DRS representatives participate in individual Workforce Investment Board and Youth Council activities in their areas.

Staff understand their role is a key part of the Workforce system.

- DRS supports career pathways for young people, working-age youth and adults in partnership with employers.
- DRS actively participates by locating staff in Workforce centers around the state.
- Agency personnel continue their pioneer work in the area of accommodations used in the WorkKeys Career Readiness Certificate process.

Project Search

DRS' Transition: School to Work program works closely with other organizations and large businesses across the state to give high school students and young adults internships through the Project SEARCH program.

Mercy Health Systems, Chesapeake Energy, INTEGRIS Baptist Health Center in Oklahoma City and INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center in Enid have all opened their doors to help students with disabilities learn about holding down a job. Other organizations also partnering with the program includes:

- Canadian Valley Technology Center,
- Dale Rogers Training Center,
- Enid Public Schools,
- Francis Tuttle Technology Center,
- The University of Oklahoma National Center for Disability Education and Training
- Metro Technology Centers.

By working so well together, our program produced better placement

results than the entire international program with 76 percent of the youth in the program getting hired. Our program closure rate is higher than the national rehabilitation rate. Participants have secured jobs at businesses such as Tinker Air Force Base, Chesapeake Energy, Power Wellness, Oklahoma State University, St. Anthony's Hospital and more.

Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning

The National Federation of the Blind of Oklahoma teamed up with the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the Visual Services division to bring a fun, summer day camp experience to children who are blind or have low vision, ages five to 14.

The two-week Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning program builds participants' self-confidence, positive attitude and Braille skills.

BELL curriculum includes fun projects, games, along with other engaging activities related to program content. Field trips were made to the Harn Homestead, the Oklahoma Science Museum and the Oklahoma River Sports Complex where children and volunteers navigated the Oklahoma River in a dragon boat.

Additionally, students visited the Oklahoma City Thunder's Rolling Thunder Book Bus. Each student got a free book as part of the basketball team's campaign to promote reading and literacy.

These are only three of the many partnerships that this agency works with to better serve our clients.



Performance

Five Dimensions of Quality are based on accuracy, customer service, processing time, cost and production.

87,479 budgeted workload completed

98.6 % Oklahoma decision accuracy rate — 2nd in the nation

97.6 % national decision accuracy rate

88.5 days processing time

Based on Federal FY-2014

Cooperative Disability Investigations Unit

Cooperative Disability Investigations Unit is a joint effort among federal and state agencies to effectively pool resources to prevent fraud in Social Security Administration's disability benefit programs and related federal and state programs. CDI obtains evidence sufficient to resolve questions of fraud and/or similar fault in SSA disability programs.

Extended Service Teams

Oklahoma DDD serves as a national resource, an Extended Service Team site. Oklahoma's EST is one of only four in the country that assists other states with their backlog of disability claims.

Our EST processes SSA applications not only for Oklahoma, but also for California, Arizona and Louisiana.



OK EST Team

OK EST Team

OK DDD

OK EST Team

MEXICO

The Nationally Ranked

Disability Determination

Oklahoma's Disability Determination Division processes applications made to Social Security for Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income.

2014 presented many challenges for DDD that included the government shutdown, severe budget predictions and unexpected hiring authority that increased workloads and shifted priorities. DDD met and surpassed many of these challenges effectively and efficiently, which is not only noteworthy, but also commendable.

Staff remained steadfast on their focus through the tough times. DDD personnel understand that each Social Security claim is a person needing a determination. Therefore, timeliness and accuracy are crucial. Staff receives quality training and mentoring that focus on accuracy, confidentiality, consistency and efficiency.

For each disability claim, a team of para-professionals, disability reviewers and medical or psychological consultants review each applicant's medical and work history. The team decides whether applicants meet medical eligibility criteria for disability or blindness according to federal guidelines. Children may qualify for SSI benefits and are evaluated based on their ability to perform age-appropriate activities as documented in their medical records.

In FY 2014, DDD staff made accurate decisions in 97.6 percent of the initial disability claims application as measured by SSA's Office of Quality Performance.

DDD continues to be a national resource as an Extended Service Team site that assists other states with their backlog of disability claims. Our EST is one of only four in the country. With an accuracy rate for FY 2014 at 97.6 percent, Oklahoma's EST also included 100 percent accuracy on initial allowance decisions. Since its inception, Oklahoma EST has assisted California, Arizona, and Louisiana.

In 2009, the EST added a new workload component that brought 60 additional jobs to DDD and Oklahoma. It also increased DDD's budget by \$5 million.

Out of 54 other state disability determination divisions, Oklahoma's DDD is ranked 2nd in the nation for its quality disability case work.

DDD is 100-percent federally funded. In the past 13 years, DDD has experienced a 94 percent increase in staffing and 117 percent increase in its budget. In 2014, the division employed 365 Oklahomans with a federal budget of \$38.4 million. In 2015, DDD's budget is expected to see an approximate 18 percent increase.

The Oklahoma City Cooperative Disability Investigations Unit is a joint effort consisting of staff from DDD, Social Security Administration, Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General and SSA Office of Inspector General. This program effectively pools resources to prevent fraud in Social Security's SSDI and SSI disability programs and related federal and state programs.

The Cooperative Disability Investigations units investigate individual disability claims and identifies third parties who engage in disability fraud.

Claims and post-entitlement actions are referred to the CDI Units by DDD staff, SSA field office personnel and private citizens who suspect fraudulent activity based on suspicious behavior or other indicators. The investigation results are presented to DDD staff for their use in making disability determinations and to federal and state prosecutors for consideration of prosecution.

In 2014, the CDI unit has saved \$16.9 million in SSA and Non-SSA savings (Medicare and Medicaid) and opened more than 220 case investigations.

Even though 2014 brought with it unique challenges, DDD remained steadfast in their mission. Their dedication and commitment led DDD through another remarkable year, providing outstanding service to the disability applicants in the states of Oklahoma, Louisiana, California and Arizona.

Oklahoma School for the Blind

The Oklahoma School for the Blind is open to all state students who are blind or visually impaired. Only at OSB will students receive specialized education in coordination with their state-mandated educational requirements. They learn valuable independent living skills and use specialized accessible technology equipment.

Students excel in their education because school staff expect them to do so. All state-mandated education requirements are taught here. The school offers a comprehensive curriculum of reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, physical education, music and computer science for residential and day students.

Specialized instruction includes Braille, orientation and mobility, optimum use of low vision, adaptive equipment, technology and tactile graphic skills. This specialization is not readily available at other public schools in the state.

Even though OSB is located in Muskogee, its boundaries are statewide. Regardless of the hometown, the school will transport students at no cost to the parents or guardians. Students who live close commute daily. Those who live further

away stay on campus Monday through Thursday. Residential students are transported to and from OSB for three-day weekends at home.

OSB also has a Summer Enrichment Program for students who attend public schools during the regular school year but still need training specific to people who are blind or visually impaired.

The school provides special events and activities to bring the public and students together. Each year, OSB hosts Future Shock, which enables students to visit with workplace professionals and college recruiters to prepare the students for life after high school.

OSB provides thousands of free outreach service hours each year for students attending local public schools, their families and local school systems. Qualified staff offer free student evaluations, in-service training for teachers and recommendations for classroom modifications and special equipment that help students reach their full potential.

For more information, call 918.781.8200 or 877.229.7136 toll free in Oklahoma or visit their website at osb.k12.ok.us.



**We give our students a
well-rounded education.**



Left, students pose with State Sen. Earl Garrison at the state Capitol during the 2013 People with Disabilities Awareness Day.

OSB and OSD School Census

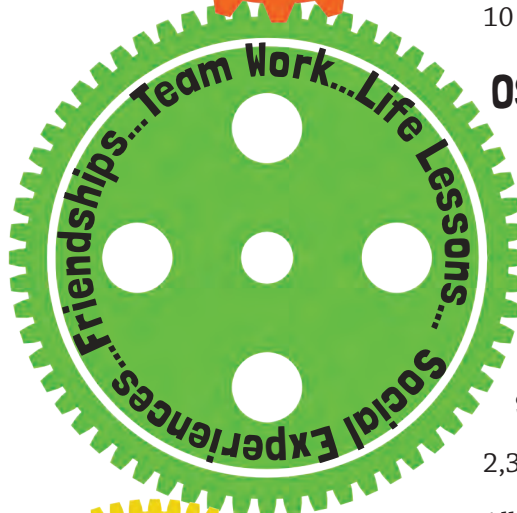
We are proud of the education we provide for our students.

OSB Census

- 100 percent graduation rate
- 51 residential students
- 36 day students
- 87 students attending all or part of the year
- 41 counties served
- 15 students with multiple disabilities
- 1 to 5 teacher-to-student ratio
- 1 to 6 direct-care specialist-to-student ratio
- 60 summer school students
- 15 days for summer school

OSB Outreach Programs

- 2,775 direct services
- 277 consultations and evaluations
- 145 services to families
- 374 services to schools
- 1,810 services to organizations



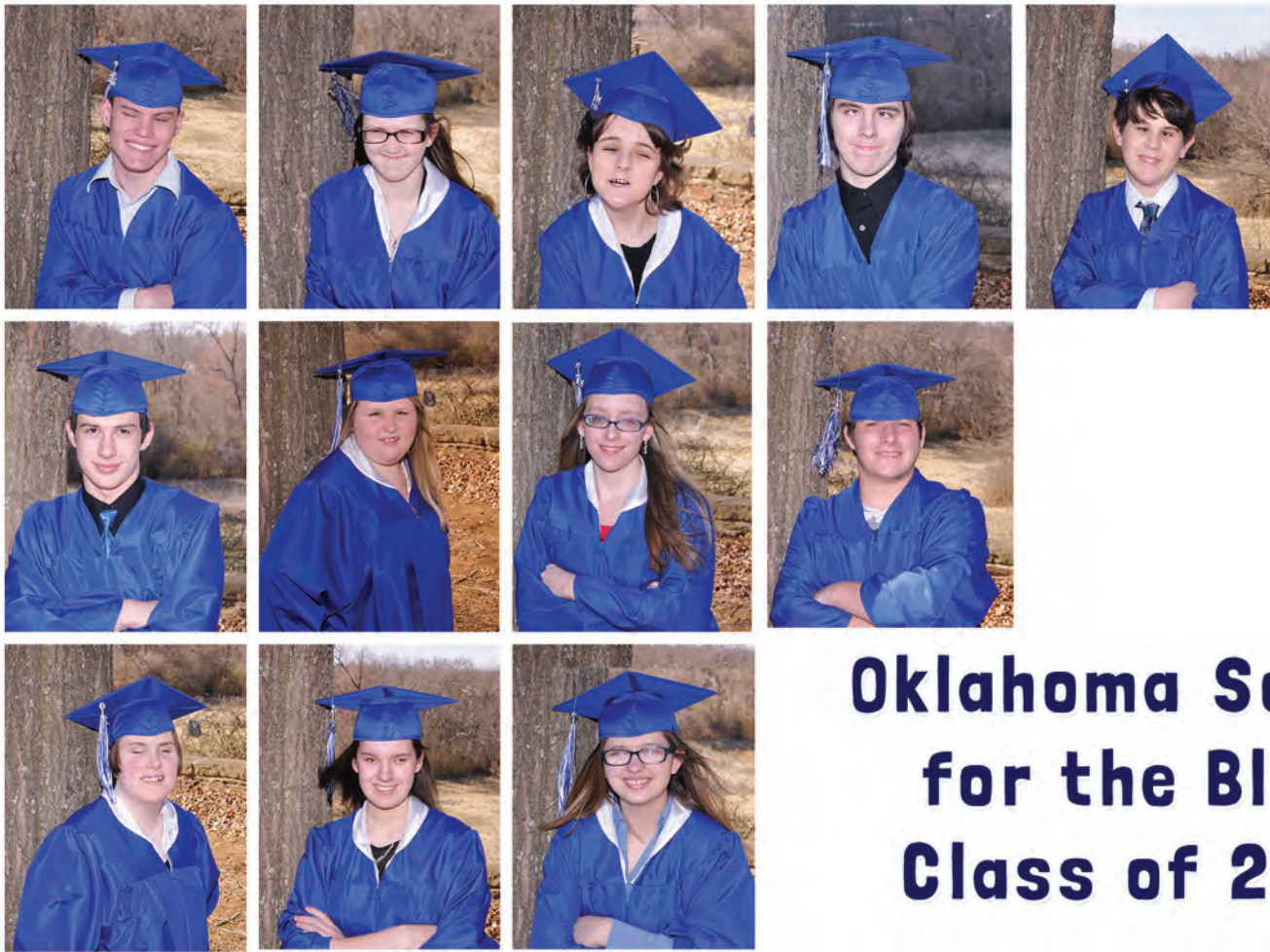
OSD Census

- 100 percent graduation rate
- 74 residential students
- 85 day students
- 159 students attending all or part of the year
- 54 counties served
- 3 students with multiple disabilities
- 1 to 6 teacher-to-student ratio
- 1 to 9 direct-care specialist-to-student ratio
- 76 summer school students
- 10 days for summer school

OSD Outreach Programs

- 29,010 direct services
- 14,254 consultations and evaluations
- 11,352 services to families
- 9,536 services to schools
- 2,368 services to organizations

All data reported on the school year 2013-2014.



**Oklahoma School
for the Blind
Class of 2014**



**Oklahoma School
for the Deaf
Class of 2014**

Oklahoma School for the Deaf

Oklahoma School for the Deaf is the statewide resource center on deafness. OSD offers the ultimate learning environment for deaf and hard of hearing students because there are no communication barriers.

All staff and students communicate directly with each other using American Sign Language, voice or any other communication mode preferred by students. Communication at OSD is not limited to only a few people who can sign. Other schools may have accommodations, but OSD is a deaf education immersion school.

Students who attend OSD must still meet all graduation requirements that are set forth by the state. All classes are taught in consideration of each student's unique communication and education needs. This includes not only the use of American Sign Language, but also the use of other

adaptive technology beneficial to students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Courses such as Chemistry, Algebra I and Geometry are offered as in any other school.

OSD has a strong vocational program that offers business technology, family and consumer sciences and welding classes on site. OSD also offers a school-to-work program, occupational training opportunities for the deaf. The program allows students to work at various places in the community, gaining valuable work experience, which gives them a competitive resume after graduation.

OSD is a four-day a week program with classes Monday through Thursday. Students who live close to the Sulphur campus can commute back and forth to school. Those from greater distances live at the school Sunday through Thursday, free of

charge, and go home for three-day weekends. OSD serves any Oklahoma student from age three to 12th grade.

Students receive full educational and social experiences that are available to most of Oklahoma's students. They perform in school programs and dramas. They have prom and homecoming for all sports. They compete with other schools on academic teams, sports teams and leadership programs.

OSD has an expanded educational reach with two satellite preschools strategically placed throughout the state, one at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond and one at the University of Arts and Sciences of Oklahoma in Chickasha. These satellite preschools help to educate children near home during their early years and provide the needed education in communication that is critical for young students.



We expect our students to graduate, and they do!
100 percent graduation is our norm.



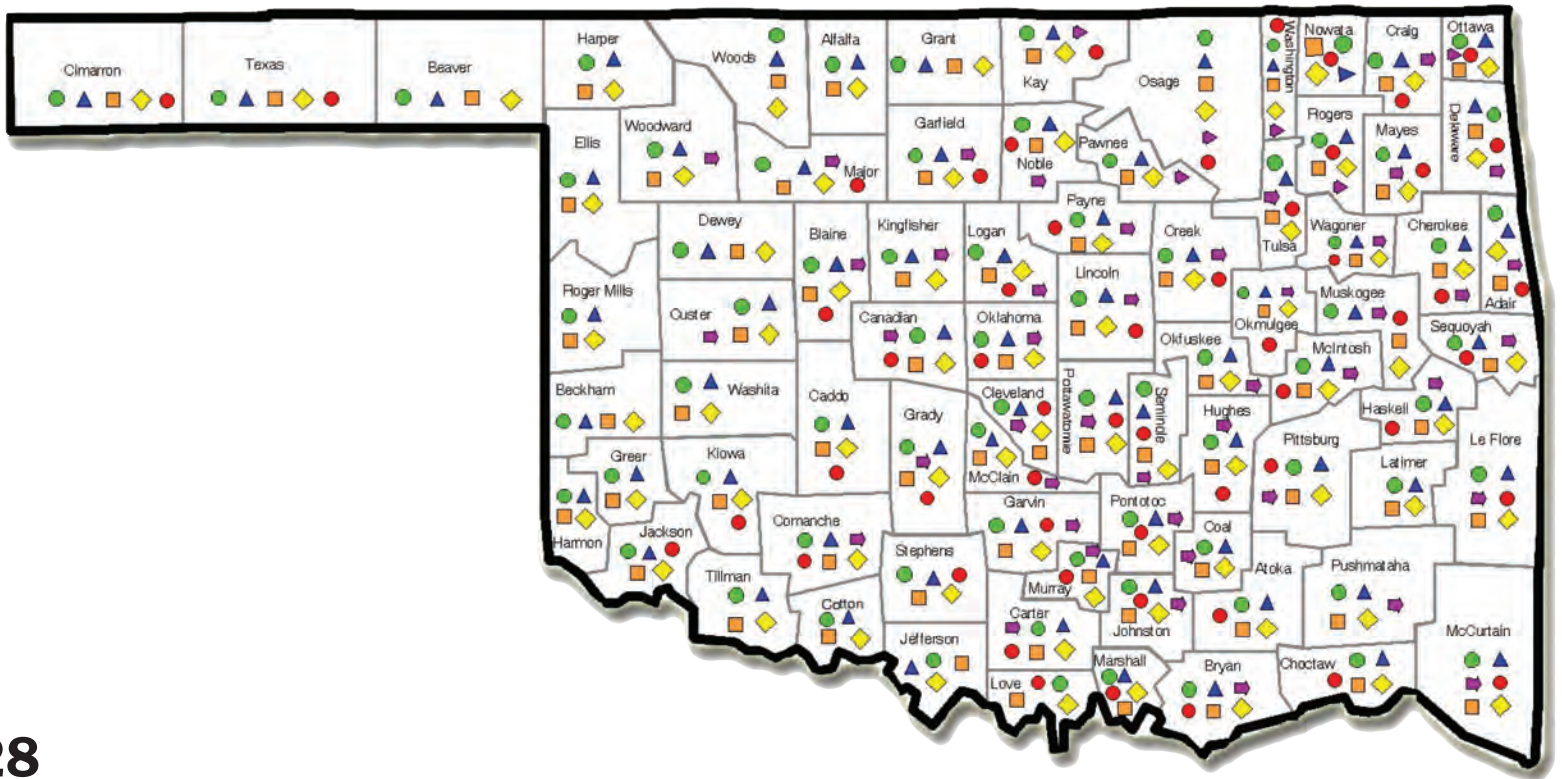
We also serve deaf adults

The school is also active in the community, which includes adults who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Equipment Distribution Program provides adaptive equipment for telephone and communication access for those of any age. Also, the Hearing Aid Program for senior adults provides assistance for those needing hearing aids who meet eligibility guidelines.

OSD hosted a number of events geared to the deaf community or to foster a better understanding of people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

For more information, call 580.622.4900 voice or TTY or visit their website at www.osd.k12.ok.us.

Counties **We** serve



28

DRS 2014 Annual Report



The green octagon denotes residents of this county received services from the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) division



The blue triangle denotes residents of this county received services from the Visual Services (VS) division



The purple arrow denotes residents of this county received services from the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB)



The red circle denotes residents of this county received services from the Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD)



The orange square denotes residents of this county received services from the Disability Determination (DDD) division



The yellow diamond denotes residents of this county received services from the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH)

91,388 Oklahomans were served by DRS from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014

County	VR	VS	OSB*	OSD*	DDD	OLBPH	Total by County
Adair	38	11	7	17	546	18	637
Alfalfa	13	6	0	2	68	20	109
Atoka	74	9	0	12	304	14	413
Beaver	4	5	0	2	31	6	48
Beckham	23	12	0	6	362	28	431
Blaine	15	4	1	6	147	18	191
Bryan	179	48	5	21	1,049	36	1,338
Caddo	81	30	0	13	727	17	868
Canadian	212	22	4	35	1,143	132	1,548
Carter	104	36	9	70	1,197	68	1,484
Cherokee	88	49	5	14	857	48	1,061
Choctaw	79	12	0	4	410	24	529
Cimarron	1	1	0	5	23	4	34
Cleveland	435	62	4	85	2,364	259	3,209
Coal	54	6	3	1	104	5	173
Comanche	351	49	5	48	2,472	108	3,033
Cotton	7	2	0	0	115	10	134
Craig	37	4	5	5	442	23	516
Creek	225	30	2	30	1,147	89	1,523
Custer	56	19	1	5	413	48	542
Delaware	51	7	4	9	816	58	945
Dewey	8	3	0	0	71	10	92
Ellis	9	5	0	2	26	9	51
Garfield	165	31	4	30	936	88	1,254
Garvin	102	16	3	26	635	40	822
Grady	132	23	3	29	822	57	1,066
Grant	7	4	0	1	39	8	59
Greer	34	2	0	6	147	17	206
Harmon	18	1	0	0	81	4	104
Harper	8	3	0	2	43	9	65
Haskell	72	6	2	3	341	16	440
Hughes	51	9	3	13	330	11	417

County	VR	VS	OSB*	OSD*	DDD	OLBPH	Total by County
Jackson	74	6	0	11	468	322	881
Jefferson	15	1	0	9	151	7	183
Johnston	27	11	2	13	273	7	333
Kay	154	19	9	18	898	78	1,176
Kingfisher	25	4	3	3	193	27	255
Kiowa	53	4	0	6	215	23	301
Latimer	39	6	0	5	203	17	270
LeFlore	130	26	5	12	1,290	43	1,506
Lincoln	70	7	3	18	588	43	729
Logan	56	10	1	17	523	46	653
Love	13	2	0	7	179	14	215
McClain	59	18	2	6	553	50	688
McCurtain	59	30	4	16	752	53	914
McIntosh	64	9	4	12	475	35	599
Major	21	6	1	10	76	10	124
Marshall	46	13	0	15	295	18	387
Mayes	92	27	6	17	870	43	1,055
Murray	47	5	5	96	289	24	466
Muskogee	298	101	37	13	1,874	121	2,444
Noble	26	4	5	5	159	14	213
Nowata	39	4	0	12	213	13	281
Okfuskee	47	4	1	6	301	17	376
Oklahoma	2,395	259	25	278	14,497	915	18,369
Okmulgee	159	27	4	19	1,003	69	1,281
Osage	99	8	3	26	651	46	833
Ottawa	47	15	1	11	933	53	1,060
Pawnee	56	4	3	3	338	34	438
Payne	172	18	1	23	926	80	1,220
Pittsburg	218	39	2	68	1,146	62	1,535
Pontotoc	169	48	3	35	750	46	1,051
Pottawatomie	174	38	6	37	1,506	80	1,841
Pushmataha	76	7	2	12	312	18	427
Roger Mills	5	2	0	0	32	8	47

People with Disabilities Awareness Day 2014 was an outstanding success with more than 900 attending at the state Capitol.



County	VR	VS	OSB*	OSD*	DDD	OLBPH	Total by County
Rogers	227	24	4	17	1,156	98	1,526
Seminole	38	14	1	22	559	24	658
Sequoyah	236	43	9	11	1,200	55	1,554
Stephens	50	11	0	91	827	53	1,032
Texas	16	8	0	4	138	6	172
Tillman	16	4	0	7	176	9	212
Tulsa	2,109	451	44	218	11,930	688	15,440
Wagoner	103	37	6	12	687	49	894
Washington	107	14	4	30	919	71	1,145
Washita	18	6	0	6	169	14	213
Woods	48	12	0	2	59	17	138
Woodward	53	15	1	2	211	24	306
Out of State	87	19	0	0	0	0	106
Unknown **	1		2,498				2,499
Total by Program:	10,866	1,967	2,775	1,763	69,171	4,846	91,388

* Outreach students served by the schools are not included in the map data.

When you say
“**We,**” what does
that look like?

