We would like to encourage you to join the Special Populations Division at OKACTE. As our membership grows, so will our ability to advocate for resources and opportunities to support our students. Your participation strengthens our voice and involvement in supporting new and experienced teachers by increasing funding to use for professional development, resource development and programming at the national and local levels.

ACTE / ESSP Officers:

The Oklahoma ESSP Special Populations Division welcomes your membership and values your knowledge and friendship. We also feel that as we grow, our abilities to advocate for our students will grow. We hope to see you at our next event!

The ESSP Special Populations Division is designed to support services to students with disabilities that are enrolled in CareerTech courses, and to provide these students with skills required for employment opportunities at the completion of their educational experience.

Members of the Special Populations Section are professionals working with youth or adults, who are:

- Individuals attending alternative sites / individuals with disabilities
- Individuals from economically disadvantaged families / individuals preparing for non-traditional fields
- Single parents, including single pregnant women / out-of-workforce individuals
- English learners
- All other students who need assistance / homeless individuals
- https://www.acteonline.org/about/structure/divisions/new-and-related-services-division/special-populations-section/

For more information, please contact:

- Andrea Verser: President
  Canadian Valley Tech, (405) 224-7220
- Shawn Daugherty: President-Elect
  Francis Tuttle Tech, (405) 717-7799
- Sharon Baker: ESSP State Advisor
  ODCTE, (405) 743-5596

Upcoming Events:

- January 24, 2020, 10 am:
  Canadian Valley Tech - Chickasha
  Planning for March Symposium
  Planning for Summit 2020

- March 10, 2020, 9 am – 3 pm
  ESSP Spring Symposium
  Tulsa Tech, Owasso Campus. Cost: $20.00, breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration will begin at 8:30 am. Event will include: keynote speaker, panels and networking at lunch.

- April 24, 2020, 10 am
  ODCT - Stillwater
  Planning for Summit 2020
  Officers 2020–2021

Casey Cunduff Scholarship:

The Oklahoma Association of Career and Technology Education (OKACTE) / Education Services Special Populations (ESSP) is offering a student the financial scholarship award to acknowledge the achievement of a career and technology student(s) who is a person with a disability and has overcome barriers to achieve his/her highest potential for success. The purpose for this student scholarship is to assist the student in accessing or completing a career and technology education career major or entering into the occupation for which he/she has trained. Up to 3 scholarship awards between $200 and $500 will be made depending upon funds available and number of scholarship awards presented. Scholarship awards must be used to assist with the cost of tuition, fees, books, tools, and/or other expenses connected to employment or training.

Application Deadlines:

Nomination forms must be postmarked on or before April 15 of the year applying for award. Completed applications must be received by Sharon Baker, ESSP Advisor Career and Academic Connections, 1500 W 7th Avenue, Stillwater, OK, 74074. Oklahoma Association of Career and Technology Education (OKACTE).

Our Mission:

We advocate for support services for ALL students in CareerTech courses to gain the skills required for employment.

Why is Career and Technical Education (CTE) important for employment success for students with disabilities? See reverse side!
Why Is **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** Important for Employment Success for Students With Disabilities?

### College and Career Readiness Gaps Persist for Students With Disabilities

Persons with a disability are less likely to graduate on-time, attend college or be employed compared to those without a disability. The disparity in employment between those with or without a disability continues for those who attend college.

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<tr>
<th>Lower on-time high school graduation rate</th>
<th>Less likely to hold a bachelor's degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>62%</strong> Students with a disability</td>
<td>Graduated college with a bachelor's degree or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>81%</strong> Students overall</td>
<td><strong>35%</strong> People with a disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17%</strong> Without a disability</td>
<td><strong>35%</strong> Without a disability</td>
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**Source:** U.S. Department of Education, OESE, Consolidated State Performance Report, 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13

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<th>Lower employment rates: working-age</th>
<th>Lower employment rates: bachelor's degree</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>28%</strong> People with a disability</td>
<td>Employed people with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>73%</strong> People without a disability</td>
<td><strong>76%</strong> People with a disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>26%</strong> Without a disability</td>
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<th>CTE Participation Improves College and Career Readiness Outcomes</th>
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<td>Students with a disability who are CTE concentrators* have better outcomes.</td>
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**Source:** Career and Technical Education, Inclusion, and Postsecondary Outcomes for Students with Disabilities, CALDER Center, 2017.