



Advisory Committee Member Handbook

GREAT PLAINS
Technology Center



Mission Statement

Our mission is to prepare individuals for success in work and life, serving as a driving force for economic development in Southwest Oklahoma.



Advisory Committees

Great Plains Technology Center serves and is supported by Comanche and Tillman Counties as well as portions of Tillman and Kiowa Counties. Advisory committees provide a necessary communication link. Committees consist of industry representatives, recognized as subject matter experts in their fields, who help educators build valuable career training based on the current needs of the community workforce.



Notice of Non-Discrimination - Great Plains Technology Center does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, disability, age, or any other characteristic protected by law and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admissions and employment. Title IX Coordinator, Valerie Anderson, vanderson@greatplains.edu; 504 Coordinator, Kristy Barnett, kbarnett@greatplains.edu, (580) 355-6371, 4500 SW Lee Blvd., Lawton, OK 73505.

Welcome!

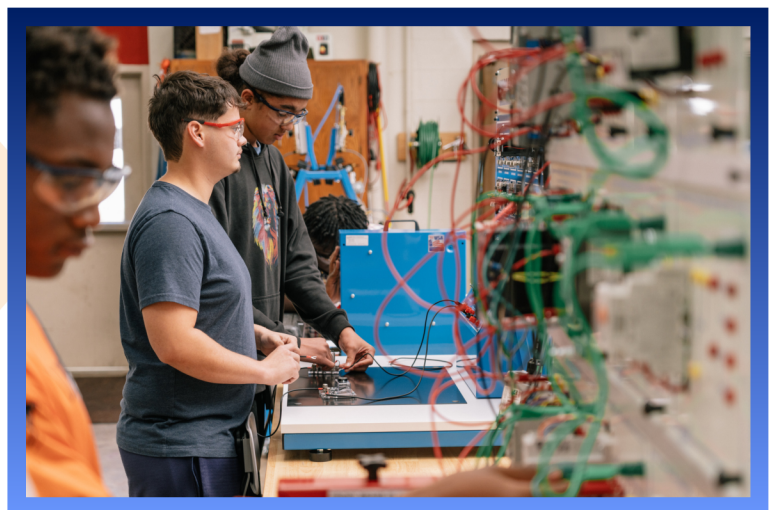
We're glad you're here!

Purpose of an Advisory Committee

- To provide a direct link between Career Tech programs and the needs of business, industry, and the community.
- To ensure students receive training leading to employability and career advancement.
- To strengthen accountability and program quality for state and accreditation purposes.
- To serve as a communication bridge between education and the local workforce.

Functions of an Advisory Committee

- Program Guidance
- Advise on curriculum to reflect current industry practices and standards.
- Identify skill gaps and recommend training priorities.
- Suggest equipment, technology, and facilities needed to meet industry expectations.



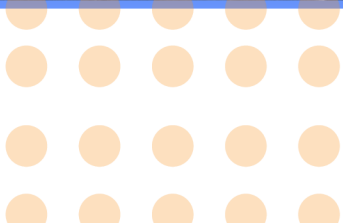
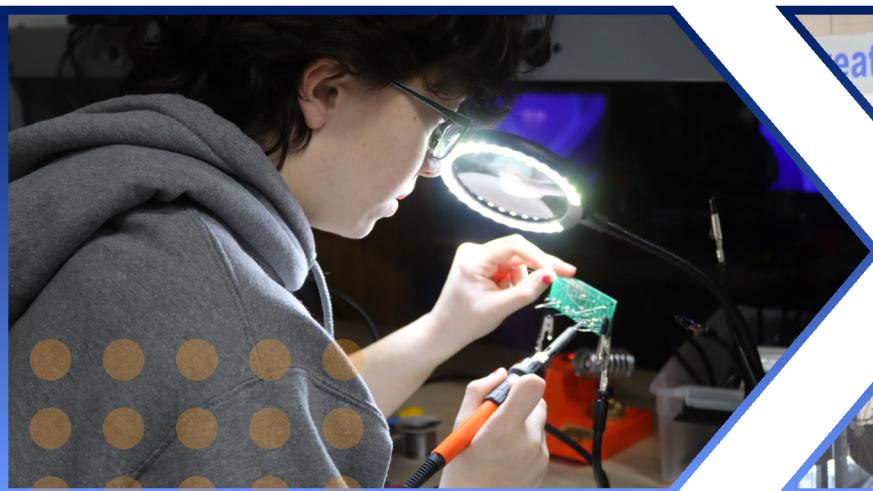


Advisory Committees Member Opportunities

Advisory committees meet in formal, documented sessions at least twice each year—once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed by the instructor(s) or committee chair.

As an advisory committee member, you may:

- Attend fall and spring meetings, actively participate in discussions, and serve on subcommittees when appropriate.
- Review and thoughtfully consider any issues or recommendations presented to the committee.
- Share current industry trends, practices, and standards with instructors to help keep programs aligned with workforce needs.
- Provide guidance on the development, operation, and evaluation of programs to ensure students receive high-quality, relevant education.



Our History

Great Plains was established in Comanche County in September 1971 as Great Plains Area Vocational and Technical School to provide enhanced vocational training for high school juniors and seniors. Great Plains began its first semester with 531 students enrolling in seven programs. A second campus in Frederick was opened in 1989 to serve Tillman and Kiowa Counties.

In 2000, Great Plains Vo-Tech changed its name to Great Plains Technology Center. Today, Great Plains educates and trains more than 1,100 secondary and adult students from 16 public high school districts (plus private schools and home-schooled students) in more than 70 career majors. The tech center also provides nearly 500 professional and personal development “short term” classes annually.. Additionally, Great Plains serves another 10,000 residents through its customized industrial training and business services. The Lawton campus also includes a firefighter training complex and E-911 Emergency Communications Center.

Great Plains is part of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technical Education, (Career Tech), a network of 29 technology centers across the state. Partner school districts include Big Pasture, Cache, Chattanooga, Elgin, Fletcher, Frederick, Geronimo, Grandfield, Indianhoma, Lawton, Snyder, Sterling and Tipton.

The relationships Great Plains has with the partner schools within its district is critical to a successfully outcome for our students. High school students who live within the Great Plains district may attend full-time programs tuition free.

Great Plains also partners with Cameron University, Western Oklahoma State College and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology.



Industry Interactions Defined

Career Chats: Utilize multimedia resources to record an interview with GPTC that can be shown in classes throughout the year. This could be a recorded Zoom session or allowing a camera to come and video a tour of your facility.

Career & College Fair: Attend the Career & College Fair in March to showcase opportunities for students.

Guest Speaking/Instructing: Visit GPTC classes to discuss topics ranging from what to expect to how to be best prepared to work in the industry.

Industry Tours/Visits: Allow classes or small groups to visit your place of employment to see first-hand how the industry operates.

Industry Simulation Experience: Students are trained to use industry-specific equipment and can simulate real-world scenarios. Examples: Flight Simulators, Emergency Dispatch Simulations, Manufacturing Plant simulators

Job Shadowing: Allow a student to come to your site and observe. This could be anywhere from a few hours to a few days.

Mentorship Partners Project: Mentors will partner with a student(s) to advise on an in-depth classroom assignment/project. This could be in person, through Zoom, or by email.

Mock Interviews: Set up through Career & College Connections, interview a select small group of students interested in your industry to allow them to practice interview skills.

Signing Day Participation: Attend the Signing Day event as an industry representative to interact with new students and parents.

Tech Showcase Support (for Sophomores): Display industry exhibits for potential GPTC students to view garnering interest in training in your industry.

Work-Based Learning:

Apprenticeships/Clinicals/Externship/Internships/On-Job Training: This training allows students to apply theoretical knowledge, develop practical skills, and familiarize themselves with the challenges and scenarios they will encounter in their careers by gaining real-world experience in professional settings.



Stakeholder Steps to Success

Career Intro

Teacher-Student Discovery

- Career Pathway
- Career Tree
- Employability Skills
- Signing Day Participation



Awareness

Teacher Leads all Students

- Career Chat/Mentor
- Career Fair
- Career Pathway Assignment
- Industry Tours/Visits
- Sophomore Showcase Support



Exploration

Student Outreach

- Guest Instructors
- Guest Speakers
- Job Shadowing



Preparation

With Industry Partner

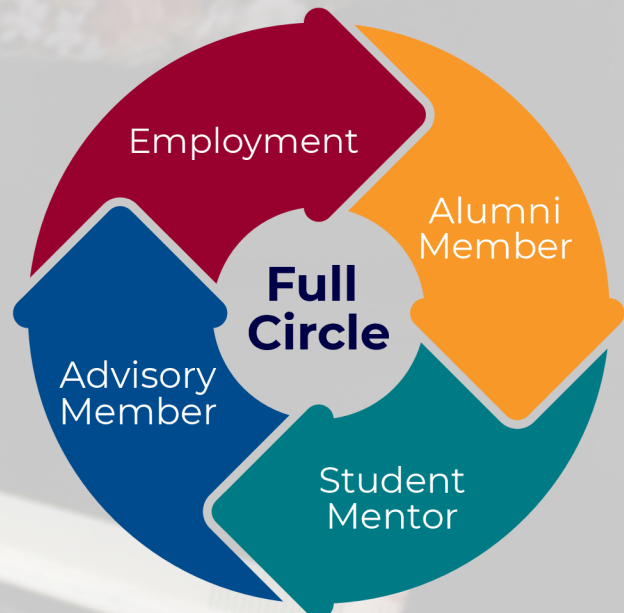
- Industry Simulation Experience
- Mentorship Partners Project
- Mock Interviews



Training

Training Agreement

- Apprenticeships
- Clinicals-Health Only
- Internships
- OJT



One of the most effective ways of providing a link between the community, employers and the technology center is through career program advisory committees. GPTC has 28+ career programs you can participate in as an employer.

- 3D Animator
- Automotive Service Technician
- Aviation Maintenance
- Biomedical **H**
- Carpentry Level I
- Carpentry Level II
- Combination Collision Repair Technician
- Combination Welder
- Construction Trades
- Cosmetology **H**
- Cosmetology Master Instructor **A**
- Criminal Justice Officer
- Culinary
- Cyber Security
- Electrical Level I
- Firefighter/EMT Academy **A**
- Graphic Design and Photography
- Industrial Automation
- Information Technology Services
- Medical Office & Clinical Technician
- Nursing Services **H**
- Practical Nurse **A**
- Pre-Engineering-PLTW **H**
- Python Programming
- Residential HVAC Technician
- Service Careers **H**
- Surgical Technologist **A**
- Teacher Prep **H**
- Video Producer

A =Adult Only

H =High School Only

Advisory committees are essential to the successful initiation of technical and/or occupational programs, and they play an important role in guiding, strengthening, and improving existing programs.

Hire GPTC Grads!



To learn about other ways to connect with potential employees, contact GPTC Employment Advisor by calling Chesley Graham at 580-250-5684 or email at cgraham@greatplains.edu.



GREAT PLAINS

Technology Center

Advisory Program Engagement Opportunities

Company: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Preferred contact method: Call Email Text

Please check all areas for which you would like more information or to sign up to interact with the program and/or students.

- Career Chats
- Career & College Fair (Spring)
- Guest Speaking
- Industry Visits
- Industry Simulation
- Job Shadowing
- Mentorship Partners Project
- Mock Interviews
- Signing Day Participation (Spring)
- Sophomore Showcase Support (Fall)
- Work-Based Learning - Apprenticeships/Clinicals/Externship/Internships/On-Job Training
- Other _____

