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Three Tech Centers Roll Out Cyber Security Courses

The national homeland defense effort will advance across Oklahoma because of a partnership between the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education and the University of Tulsa. The Oklahoma *CareerTech* system will roll out a new series of cyber security training courses to prepare information technology students and professionals.

The state *CareerTech* agency has partnered with the University of Tulsa to design and implement the new cyber security courses. As a National Security Agency Center of Academic Excellence for Information Assurance Education, TU was recently chosen as one of two national centers designated to train educators and college professors to develop their cyber security expertise.

The new cyber security courses will be offered at Central Technology Center, Drumright; Francis Tuttle Technology Center, Oklahoma City; and Tulsa Technology Center beginning in the fall of 2003.

Key courses include “Principles of Information Assurance,” “Secure E-Commerce,” “Network Security,” “Enterprise Security Management” and “Cyber Forensics,” said Dr. Sheryl Hale, coordinator of Adult and Career Development at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education. Eventually, these courses or cyber security concepts will be integrated into existing information technology training

programs throughout the statewide network of 54 *CareerTech* campuses. In FY02, enrollment in *CareerTech* programs totaled 465,871 enrollments. These programs serve middle school, secondary, adult, and business and industry clients. Students who enroll in the cyber security courses may be eligible for college credit at several state colleges, including Tulsa Community College. We also expect many of these students to join the Cyber Corps Program at the University of Tulsa and complete bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees, Hale said. These courses will also be available to industry, government, and military personnel responsible for securing our homeland.

“Three of our *CareerTech* educators are completing a nine-month training program at TU and designing these courses,” Hale said. They are David Greer, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education; Clinton Webb, Central Technology Center; and Joe Elkins, Francis Tuttle Technology Center.

These educators will use Oklahoma's *CareerTech* Learning Network, an online learning delivery system, to support the training initiative.

Hale said there continues to be a huge demand for IT workers with information security skills. “Our economy and national security are dependent upon information technology and the information infrastructure,” she said. “These workers will play a critical role in implementing the national strategy to secure cyberspace. The *CareerTech* system takes great pride in supporting the nation's and Oklahoma's homeland defense strategies.”