



**SHARE YOUR STORY
EQUITY AND ACCESS FOR HIGH QUALITY CAREER PATHWAYS**

Oklahoma State Department of Education New Skills for Youth Academic Affairs and Planning

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Innovative Practice

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CN) in partnership with the Kiamichi Technology Centers (KTC) received funds to develop and implement the Pipeline for Advanced Training in Health Sciences (PATHS): The PATHS Academy of Advanced Bioscience and Medicine. This program is designed to help minority populations to overcome barriers experienced at the beginning of the workforce pipeline by enrolling them in a hands-on, rigorous training during high school. Examples of major barriers include the lack of exposure or awareness of health career opportunities, lack of STEM academic preparation, poor academic and life skills, and poverty or financial need. This program provides students with the academic foundation and student support services necessary to enter into post-secondary education or advanced training.

Purpose

The long-term goal of PATHS is to increase the number of minority students in southeastern Oklahoma who enter health career pathways.

Grade Level(s)

10th – 12th grade

PATHS Career Counselors, Academic Teachers and KTC personnel provide career awareness activities to 8th – 12th students at public high schools throughout the Choctaw Nation tribal service area. Students are informed at an early age about necessary courses to complete prior to applying to the PATHS Biomedical Science Academy during their freshman year. Students are evaluated for acceptance based on career interest, completed application (test results, attendance, high school transcript, teacher recommendation and interview)

Expected Results

By the end of the 5-year project period, the goal of PATHS is to enable 60 minority students to obtain an industry recognized credential and employment in a health career and/or successfully transition into an advanced post-secondary training program for entry into a health profession.

Evidence of Success

Year 1 Success: PATHS Academy was approved by the Oklahoma Career Tech and Oklahoma State Department of Education to enroll students as early as the sophomore year. Students are approved to enroll in PLTW course work as well as the necessary core academic subjects. A total of 149 students expressed interest and were interviewed to begin the PATHS Academy starting the 2016-17 school year.

Year 2 Success: 112 students began Year 2 to yield 75% recruitment retention. The grant anticipated a fluctuation in numbers at the onset of Year 2 due to scheduling and transportation conflicts, but predicted the enrollment numbers to remain above the target (15-30 per year). A total of 96/112 (86%) students from Cohort 1 completed one full year in the PATHS program, which exceeded the target. The race/ethnic breakdown of Cohort 1 included: 10% Hispanic American, 3% Black (African American), 58% White, 25% American Indian, 2% Asian-American and 1% Pacific Islander. According to data collected 63/96 (66%) of the students met the financial free & reduced criteria. 5/5 (100%) seniors completed one full year of PATHS program and are currently enrolled in college courses.

Training

Teachers - Required to complete the necessary PLTW Biomedical Science training and AP certification prior to teaching program material

Students (10th) - Enroll in PLTW Principles of Biomedical Science, AP Biology & an advanced math course (Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra II, Honors Trigonometry, Honors Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus)

Students (11th) – Enroll in PLTW Human Body Systems, Honors Anatomy/Physiology & an advanced math course or advanced laboratory science course

Students (12th) – Enroll in PLTW Medical Interventions / Biomedical Innovations, Honors Microbiology & advanced math or advanced laboratory science course

Staff Needed

Currently have six individuals as part of the grant program. Additional math instructors at each location are needed for long-term growth.

Resources Needed

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Kiamichi Technology Centers received a five year grant from DHHS / Office of Minority Health in the amount of \$485,000 per program year. A portion of funds was used to hire and train three classroom instructors, two counselors/recruiters, and provide resources to supply three additional labs for the PLTW Biomedical Science program at three campus locations in Poteau, McAlester and Durant.

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