



DRTC.ORG

QUARTERLY

MARCH 2020

SPRING EDITION

A NEW SWAGGER

pg 3



**THIS TEAM MEANS
BUSINESS!**



Deborah Copeland, M.Ed.
Executive Director

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The theme for this New Year is 2020 Vision, which is especially meaningful given the transition we are in as an agency, workforce and community. I believe 2020 will be an exciting time to be part of Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) as we forge ahead into the next era; remembering our legacy while breaking new barriers in the years to come. At the heart of our legacy at DRTC is a truly innovative and groundbreaking spirit demonstrated by our founders, namesake, as well as our leadership. We have always been pioneers.

Later this year, the Board of Directors and Leadership staff will be discussing plans for the future in strategic planning for the agency. More than a roadmap, the strategic plan is a way to define our vision and direct our steps at DRTC.

However, our mission remains the same, as does the dedication of our employees and Board. I believe employment makes you the hero of your own life and allows people to write their story. Every day I see people with disabilities who have earned job opportunities and made choices for work they find meaningful. DRTC is about employment and including people with a diverse and wide-range of abilities in the workforce and in the community. We not only offer multiple types of employment, but also the support to connect people with employers in the community.

It is a great honor to be here. In the months ahead, I will be meeting with more of our employees, clients, families, and community partners. We hope you enjoy our new design for the 2020 Quarterly, as this edition focuses on main-campus providing a variety of work opportunities. Future editions will highlight our work in the community, which accounts for more than 91% of DRTC's services.

From everyone here at DRTC, we hope you have a great year.

Deborah Copeland, M.Ed.



Allen Brown

DRTC Board President

Deborah Copeland, M.Ed.
Executive Director

Michael T. Jones
PR/Marketing Manager

James Helm
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Brian Landreth
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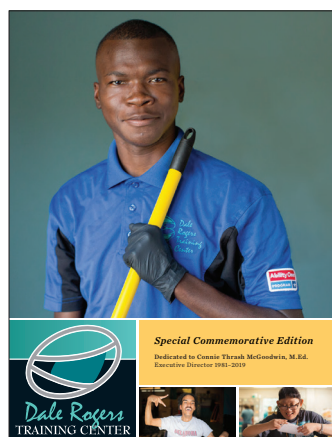
FROM CONNIE

A heartfelt "thank you" to all of you who have reached out after our publication of the Special Commemorative Edition honoring my nearly 40 years as DRTC's Executive Director. It was fun looking back on all of our accomplishments and how we're continuing to advance the mission of DRTC. In lieu of an awkward retirement party, staff organized a "week of Connie," complete with a Dirty Santa trick. I thought I was

being clever in re-gifting items from my closet, but it turns out, all the gifts were for me! Even my own re-gift! So much for cleaning the closets.

I've transitioned into my part-time role at the agency, and will be here through June working on special projects, documenting agency history, and self-laughing all the way.

Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed.



Read our Special Commemorative Edition dedicated to Connie Thrash McGoodwin at DRTC.org.

HAVE A QUESTION? 405-946-4489



A NEW SWAGGER AT DRTC

Youth sporting over-sized, custom championship rings; working professionals taking meeting notes in pad folios; agencies handing out branded health-related promotional items at trade shows. What do they all have in common? The Swag Team working in DRTC Promotional Items.

Our detail-oriented team carefully inspects each item that passes through DRTC, ensuring quality while providing an extra level of benefit for customers across the state and beyond Oklahoma's border. Promotional items companies typically ship orders directly to customers. At times there can be errors with the imprint, functionality, or even quantity; at DRTC, you know your order is 100%!

On this day, a large order takes over most of one work floor. Individuals are removing pad folios from a cardboard box, inspecting the zipper, and making sure they include a pad of paper—300 in all. Each one is pored over, looking for imperfections. If it doesn't pass the test, it doesn't go to the customer.

"We catch issues with the items," said Shon, who proudly

recounts providing quality control. She says depending on the item ordered, she can go through a whole box of up to 1,000 items.

"I like to have fun with it," added Shon.

Dennis enjoys the pace of the job. "It's fast and furious," he jokes.

Lindsey agrees. She's also on the Swag Team and has helped check all kinds of items, from custom-branded apparel to medicine containers and even emergency kits.

"I think it's pretty awesome," said Lindsey.

Their work is well known and greatly appreciated.

Among the most notable jobs: custom youth baseball championship rings. Moore Youth Baseball Association (MYBA) is a repeat supporter of DRTC. Last year, MYBA ordered 2,400 championship and finalist rings for its tournament. In 2020, they ordered 4,000.

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HAVE A QUESTION? DaleRogers@drtc.org



Continuous Quality Improvement

When it comes to quality, companies in Oklahoma and throughout the United States trust the fine folks at DRTC to deliver—and we are happy to not only exceed expectations, but also change preconceptions on a daily basis.

If you tour DRTC's main campus at 2501 N. Utah Ave. in Oklahoma City, you will see first-hand the highest quality standards in producing custom picture frames, manufacturing beautiful acrylic awards, and completing contracted jobs for businesses (180+ subcontracts completed every year).

Before we get to the finished product, dedicated staff first must train our team of detail-oriented workers what to look for and/or how to complete the job. This can involve live demonstrations, recorded time study videos and observation. "Safety and quality are at the top of our checklists at Dale Rogers Training Center," says Sales Manager Mark Claunch. "We have an extremely high success rate for subcontracting jobs, ensuring top quality for those who trust DRTC with their products."

Screen printing apparel involves several quality checks: ensuring screens are lined up correctly, ink, t-shirt sizes and colors, and also durability of the cured item. Every job provides skills-building opportunities, allowing individuals at DRTC to equip themselves with valuable experience to reach their employment goals.

"There's no mistake we do quality work at DRTC," added Claunch. "We just happen to also be a highly inclusive workforce. Any workforce in the community can open the door wider to include people with disabilities." 🌐

#PWDAD2020

You might notice more green in the community and office in March. The annual People with Disabilities Awareness Day (PWDAD), normally held at the Oklahoma Capitol, will have a different approach this year. Due to extensive construction, the first and fourth floors will be inaccessible. That won't stop us from raising awareness of disability rights. We'll wear green on March 10, and also contact lawmakers as usual, but through phone, letter or email, to let them know the importance of funding vital programs. Follow DRTC on social media as we share our own stories, and look for #PWDAD2020 trending soon! 🌿



Ask the Director

DRTC Executive Director Deborah Copeland is voluntarily jumping in the hot seat for a new segment called, "Ask the Director." Deborah will be fielding questions from on-campus clients and staff, as well as employees and others as she settles into her new role with the agency. Deborah was asked about having new time clocks in Vocational Services Program. In the video, Deborah said she would look into it as they currently use timesheets.

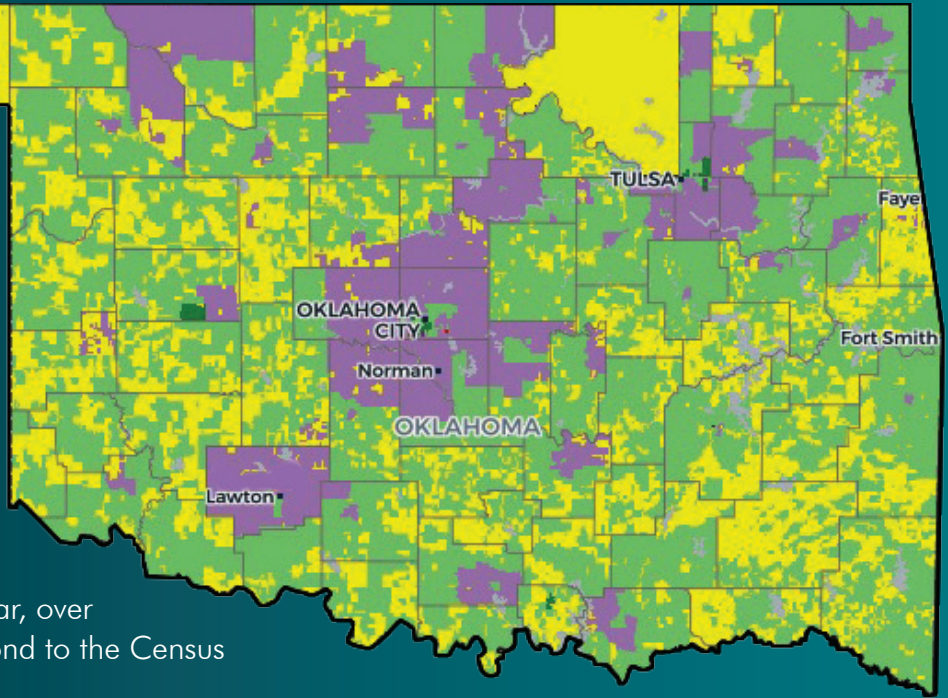
The answer is: yes, clients will soon have new time clocks for more hi-tech timekeeping. Look for Ask the Director on our Facebook and YouTube pages! 🌿



HAVE A QUESTION? 405-946-4489

IT MAKES CENSUS

Efforts to count every person living in the United States is well under way through the 2020 Census—make sure you're counted! The decennial census is tied to many things, including how more than \$800 billion in federal funds will be distributed. Those funds impact services used by individuals at DRTC and beyond. It is estimated each person counted is worth \$1,675 each year, over \$16,750 over the next decade. Respond to the Census online, by mail or phone.



Employment - making heroes



Yes - We Are Hiring!

DRTC provides opportunities for employment at Tinker Air Force Base, FAA, and federal buildings in downtown OKC.

We specialize

in helping provide on-the-job accommodations for limiting conditions such as PTSD, anxiety disorder, ASD, hearing impairment or developmental disability. Also, students (18 years old or older) on an IEP or 504 may qualify for jobs with competitive wages and benefits.

No referral needed!

APPLY TODAY - [DRTC.org/apply-now](https://drtc.org/apply-now)

Read success stories at DRTC.WordPress.org of people employed gaining experience while earning competitive pay & benefits. 🍷

NEW SWAGGER - CONTINUED FROM PG 3



"Those went over like a hit," said MYBA Tournament Director Matt Purser. "It's been a smashing success." MYBA first started working with DRTC in 2011 through a trophy order. Over the years, though, the need for tournament trophies shifted to championship rings. The larger-than-life rings feature a custom MYBA design in various colors and stand out for the young athletes who earn them on the field. For Matt, the partnership extends beyond the diamond.

"We try to do as much local (business) as we can," said Matt. "You guys are running a good business and that's why we keep coming back."

Back at DRTC, the Swag Team is bringing a new kind of swagger to businesses, agencies, and nonprofits alike. How can your group provide more work opportunities at DRTC? Email PromoSales@drtc.org, visit our website PromoPlace.com/DRTCpromos, or stop by in person to learn more. 🍷

GOVERNOR AWARDS

Home Depot co-workers join Salar and Jason, store manager, (4th and 5th from the left) at the Governor's Awards.

Recognizing success

Congratulations to all of the 2019 Governor's Disability Employment Awards winners! DRTC was well represented at the 34th annual awards ceremony held at the Governor's Mansion: five Employment Services Program participants and seven partnering businesses received honors. DRTC's Employment Services Program works with OKDRS to match individuals' capabilities and skills with job openings in the area, helping them learn the job at no additional cost to the employer. Do you own a business and want to partner with our award-winning program? Email SupportedEmployment@drtc.org.

GONE CAMPING

DRTC is aiming to make 2020 the best Camp Tumbleweed experience yet, but we're missing one thing: **YOU!**

This year's summer day camp for teenagers and young adults with disabilities ages 14-21 will focus on building independency through healthy meal preparation, social skills and more—while still enjoying traditional camp elements like organized field trips and fun activities. Camp Tumbleweed staff, who also work in DRTC's Transition School-to-Work program, are dedicated to meeting the needs of each camper and ensure safety is their top priority.

Camp is divided into two sessions—June and July, with the option for an intersession June 29-July 2. Multiple funding options are available.

Do you own a business that would like to welcome our group for a site visit, or have a passion for volunteering? Contact our Camp Tumbleweed coordinator at CampTumbleweed@drtc.org. 📧



Registration is now open online.

Visit drtc.org/programs/#camp-tumbleweed or email CampTumbleweed@drtc.org for more information.

**Interested in employment as Transition staff?
We're hiring! Apply today!**

HAVE A QUESTION? 405-946-4489



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First Lady Sarah Stitt meets the DRTC team of hard working Oklahomans



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