

*I see clippings
are to be filed
and kept in this
office.*

TULSA WORLD
March 3, 1968

Tech's Graduates Remain in State

World's Own Service

OKMULGEE—Oklahoma State Tech is confident it's doing perhaps the best job of any institution supporting Oklahoma's industrial growth. And Wayne W. Miller, Tech's director, can quote graduate "retention" figures to back up this view.

A recent survey of Tech's 1967 graduates shows 82 per cent chose to remain in Oklahoma, taking jobs with Oklahoma industries.

"Probably more important," points out Miller, "is that 24 per cent of our out-of-state graduates last year also took jobs with Oklahoma concerns."

Out-of-state students taking the variety of courses offered by Tech come from every state in the nation, says Miller.

Sold on Oklahoma

Building trades graduates last year were sold on Oklahoma 100 per cent, says Miller. The same percentage figure applies to graduates in culinary arts.

Printing graduates also have no difficulty in finding employment with Oklahoma firms, and 91 per cent of 1967's seniors stayed at home to work and make their homes.

"Since the opening of Tech in 1946 as a branch of Oklahoma State University," says Miller, "we've had 8,341 complete work and many have remained in the state."

The diesel industry has gained the largest number of skilled mechanics with 1,215 completing courses and 68 per cent of them staying in Oklahoma.

Auto mechanics is second with a total of 1,105 completing study courses and 90 per cent staying in Oklahoma.

Jobs Plentiful

Electronics has turned out 973 graduates and 63 per cent of them decided on careers in Oklahoma. Drafting graduates number 681 and 66 per cent found state jobs.

"Five job offers for each graduate is not an unusual story at Tech," Miller notes. Some students join large manufacturing companies, others work for major oil firms. Others, though, cast their lots with small businesses which make up the main street of each community.

Miller feels Tech is doing a good job now. But, he stresses, the school could do a much better one. "We're not working at capacity," he said. "And we won't until mothers and fathers realize there is prestige attached to graduating from a school such as Oklahoma State Tech."

He feels society is slowly accepting the fact that graduates from technical-vocational schools do have prestige within the community.

"We could double our enrollment by a greater utilization of our facilities and hiring more faculty members," said Miller.

"We could, for instance, handle 380 in a drafting class instead of the 205 we now have."

New facilities in diesel engineering, scheduled to open in the fall, will permit Tech to increase enrollment in those courses by one-third, said Miller.

Job openings in the state, however, aren't indicative of school course needs, Miller points out. With job openings you must have student interest before an institution can plan increases in facilities and faculty.

"We are aware of what Oklahoma needs in the way of job training to build up industrial development," says Miller. "But until we can get students interested in taking courses and graduating and then going to work, job openings will continue to go unfilled."

*John
wa*