

# ICTC **Bright Spot** on the Oklahoma horizon

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## **Jeffrey Alan Holinsworth Named HOSA Outstanding Breaking Traditions Student For 2008**

The Practical Nursing Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Chapter on Indian Capital Technology Center's Tahlequah Campus, has named Jeffrey Holinsworth, Tahlequah, the HOSA Outstanding Breaking Traditions Student for 2008.

The Breaking Traditions Awards is sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education and spotlights students who have chosen specific career and technology programs because of their interests and abilities and who have not let their gender influence their decisions to prepare for nontraditional careers.

Holinsworth was married, working full-time in a job with no opportunity for advancement, and was also attending Northeastern State University, when he realized he really didn't know what he wanted to do for a career. "My wife could tell that I wasn't happy with my current position," says Holinsworth. "She knew that I

had always felt that health care and nursing was my calling. She urged me to apply for the nursing program and do what I felt was right for me.”

Holinsworth was accepted into the program and he took a part time job with the Boys & Girls Club of Tahlequah. He joined HOSA and participated in the activities and leadership programs. “I have never regretted my decision,” says Holinsworth. “After graduation I want to find a job at a clinic, and go back to school to get and RN and BSN. I would also like to specialize and get an MSN degree. I would like to one day teach nursing.”

Gender stereotyping almost kept Holinsworth from following his dreams. “I haven’t seen much stereotyping as I do my clinical training in the hospital,” says Holinsworth. Occasionally, I get the looks as if asking, why is a guy in my room, from females. I really feel it is important that people choose a career on interest and not on gender. I’m convinced that male nurses can perform the duties of the job just as well as any female and maybe even better. The job opportunities are great for both genders.”