#OKSTATEHASANAPP4THAT: Engaging Students, Community, and Enterprise

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#OKSTATEHASANAPP4THAT is an interdisciplinary alliance of educators determined to bring the latest in technology and dynamic teaching to students at Oklahoma State University (OSU). Additionally, this team of investigators is committed to understanding the impact of their teaching styles on students and stakeholders by investigating relevant research questions and testing existing theories. Using Project-Based Learning (PjBL) and Service-Learning (SL), students from two academic programs will be engaged in evaluating, communicating, creating, enhancing, and implementing mobile applications designed for the hospitality industry. This ambitious series of exercises is specifically designed to give students the opportunity to engage in work as leaders, researchers, communicators, entrepreneurs, consultants, and innovators. Through active guidance and generous partnerships, #OKSTATEHASANAPP4THAT will foster learning environments designed for the next generation... today!

#OKSTATEHASANAPP4THAT has developed a PjBL experience that generates collaboration in teaching, market research, and student learning to ensure that future leaders are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the “uncharted waters” that lie before them. PjBL is built upon authentic learning activities that engage students’ interest and motivation. The activities are designed to solve a problem or answer a question and reflect the activities and exploration of work people do everyday outside of the classroom. The PjBL adventure being undertaken simultaneously serves a real world need and satisfies the demand for a skilled technological workforce.

The nexus of this collaboration is in how the students in the School of Hotel & Restaurant Administration (HRAD) act as clients to the students in Computer Sciences (CS), who act as contractors. The final product is a “beta” version of a mobile application.
References
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About the Authors
Blayne Mayfield is a faculty member at Oklahoma State University in the Computer Science Department. His primary research interests lie in the areas of artificial intelligence, computer graphics, and mobile computing. He earned his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Missouri University of Science & Technology.

David W. Davis is a faculty member in The School of Hotel and Restaurant Administration at Oklahoma State University. His research interests involve effective teaching techniques applied to hospitality curriculum and determining the right course of action for an education revolution. He holds an M.S. degree in Hospitality Management from the University of Houston.

Steven M. Ruby is a clinical assistant professor overseeing student events, internships, and alumni relations. He also teaches courses and advises student groups in event management, professionalism, leadership, human resources, as well as law and ethics. He holds a J.D. in Law from the University of Oklahoma.

Penny Thompson is a faculty member in the Educational Technology program in the College of Education at Oklahoma State University. Her research interests center on the reciprocal relationship between technology and human cognition. She earned her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and Educational Technology at Michigan State University.

Yoonjung Cho is associate professor of educational psychology at Oklahoma State University. Her research is focused on students’ achievement motivation and self-regulated learning process and teachers’ motivation and its impact on instructional practices, both in traditional classroom setting and online instruction. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin.