

AGENDA

State Board of Career Education (SBCE)

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
525 W. Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas

August 7, 2014
10:00 a.m.

- TAB A Action Item – Approval of Minutes of June 5, 2014
- TAB B Action Item – Approval of Change for GED® Retest Policy
- TAB C Action Item – Northwest Technical Institute Proposal to Develop and Implement a Post-Secondary Welding Program for the Northwest Arkansas Community

Director's Report

MINUTES - MEETING OF THE
STATE BOARD OF CAREER EDUCATION

June 5, 2014

11:00 a.m.

The State Board of Career Education (SBCE) was called to order by Chairman Phil Taylor. The meeting was held at The Lodge at Mount Magazine, 16878 Highway 309 South, Paris, Arkansas.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Phil Taylor, Chairman
Mr. John Riggs, Vice Chairman
Ms. Margarita Solórzano
Dr. Ann Bain (by telephone)
Ms. Martha Dixon (by telephone)

Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary

ABSENT

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Richard Smith (ill)

Dr. Tom Kimbrell
Mr. Shane Broadway

A. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2014

On a motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Ms. Solórzano, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the minutes of February 6, 2014.

B. ACTION ITEM – ADOPTION OF THE 2014-2015 AGENCY BUDGET – DEPARTMENT OF CAREER EDUCATION

Ms. Lorna Claudio, deputy director of finance, recommended that the State Board of Career Education approve the 2014-2015 budget as presented.

Ms. Claudio provided the board members with the following major budget components:

Public School Fund – Adult basic and general adult education, workforce coordinators/counselors, new program start-up, adult literacy, and vocational center aid (state funds)

Agency Operations (state funds)

Federally Funded Programs – federal vocational, Veterans Approving Agency, and adult education

Cash-Supported Operations – Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation grant, Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO), and alternate retirement programs

Trust Funds – Construction trades training

On a motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Ms. Dixon, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the adoption of the 2014-2015 agency budget.

C. ACTION ITEM – ADOPTION OF THE 2015 OPERATIONAL BUDGET – ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES

Mr. Joseph Baxter, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services chief financial officer, recommended that the

State Board of Career Education approve the 2015 operational budget as presented.

Mr. Baxter provided the board members with the following major budget components:

Operational Budget – Highlights

Mr. Baxter stated that the operational budget is based on estimates of several revenue sources, including vocational rehabilitation, supported employment, independent living, technology access programs, social security reimbursements, stimulus funding, special revenue, general revenue, and various cash funds. The following schedule summarizes these funds:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Federal	\$50,008,072.00
Special	461,000.00
General Revenue	13,261,758.00
Other	<u>1,580,000.00</u>
Total	\$65,310,857.00
Federal VR 110 Reserve	<u>\$11,000,000.00</u>
Total Funding	\$76,310,857.00

Mr. Baxter also provided information for special projects that are expected to be funded as part of the SFY2015 budget expenditures:

Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) water system repairs and armory renovations - \$6,000,000

On motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Ms. Solórzano, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' request for the 2015 operational budget.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Walker informed board members that Mr. Randy Lavery retired as commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services in June and that Mr. Jonathan Bibb would serve as interim commissioner.

Director Walker informed board members that Governor Beebe had a meeting with business leaders from around the state to address the issue of workforce training.

Director Walker made the following announcements:

August 7, 2014 – State Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary
State Board of Career Education

Phil Taylor, Chairman
State Board of Career Education



Department
Of Career Education

Mike Beebe
Governor

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Director

August 7, 2014

TO: State Board of Career Education

FROM: William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Director
James H. Smith, Jr., Deputy Director for Adult Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Walker, Jr.", written over the "FROM:" line.

SUBJECT: ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF CHANGE FOR GED® RETEST POLICY

The GED Testing policy to approve a change in GED® Retest policy will be on public review for thirty days. Current policy reads as follows:

~~Test takers scoring at least 149 points on each area of the first Official GED® test may retest at the next scheduled test date without retaking the Official GED® Ready™ Test.~~

~~If the score is 130-148 on any area of the test or the test-taker has been retested one or more times, the test-taker must wait three months **OR** complete 30 hours of instruction through an approved Adult Education program **AND** pass the Official GED Ready™ Test with a score of 155 in each area to be retested.~~

~~If the score is 129 or below on any area of the test the test-taker must wait six months **OR** complete 60 hours of instruction through an approved Adult Education program **AND** pass each part of the Official GED Ready™ Test with a score of 155 in each area to be retested.~~

New policy would read as follows:

The Adult Education Division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education will set retest requirements for GED® testing.

ACTION/RATIONALE: Retest requirements for the new 2014 GED® test were set prior to the availability of test scores. Now that data is available on both the 2014 GED® test and GED Ready™ (practice) test, retest requirements for GED® test-takers will need to be changed periodically as time progresses and more data can be analyzed.

STATE OF ARKANSAS



Department of
Career Education

Mike Beebe
Governor

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Director

August 7, 2014

TO: State Board of Career Education

FROM: William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. Director
Sandra Porter, Interim Deputy Director, CTE

Handwritten signature of William L. Walker, Jr. in black ink, with a blue ink signature of Sandra Porter below it.

SUBJECT: ACTION ITEM – NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A POST-SECONDARY WELDING PRORAM FOR THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY

ACTION RECOMMEND: It is recommended that the State Board of Career Education approve the proposal of the Welding Technology program at Northwest Technical Institute.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: Northwest Technical Institute is requesting approval from the Arkansas Department of Career Education to begin a post-secondary Welding Technology program beginning no later than the fall of 2015. There is a high demand in the Northwest Arkansas area and nationwide for highly trained, experienced, and educated welders. According to workforce data from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, this need will continually increase overtime as well. In addition to a growing need, many current professionals in this field are nearing retirement age. The high demand for TIG welders and MIG welders in Northwest Arkansas is driven by local manufacturing and poultry businesses. NTI community and industry surveys strongly indicate the critical need for a Welding Technology program in Northwest Arkansas. A Post-Secondary Welding program is needed to keep up with local and national demands. According to the Bureau of Labor Statics accessed in July 2014, "Overall job prospects will vary with the worker's skill level. Job prospects should be good for welders trained in the latest technologies. Welding schools report that graduates have little difficulty finding work, and many employers report difficulty finding properly skilled welders. However, welders who do not have up-to-date training may face strong competition for jobs."