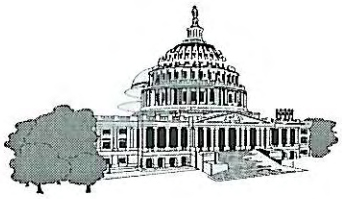
ARKANSAS
Department of
WORKFORCE
EDUCATION

AGENDA MANUAL

State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

February 1, 2007



Luther S. Hardin Building
Three Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201-1083

AGENDA

State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO)

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Offices
VR/Employment Center/Office for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired
26 Corporate Hill Drive
Little Rock, AR

February 1, 2007
9:30 a.m.

1. Action Item - Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2006
2. Action Item – Approval of 2007 Meeting Dates
3. Action Item – Authorization of Expense Reimbursement and Stipend for Board Members Performing Official Board Duties
4. Action Item – Approval to Designate ASU-Searcy Area Career Center as ASU-Searcy Regional Career Center
5. Action Item – Approval of the High-Demand Technical Fields for the Year 2007-2008 for the Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program
6. Action Item – Designation by Institution of the Technical Education Programs in the High-Demand Technical Fields for the Year 2007-2008 for the Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program
7. Information Item – Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2008
8. Director's Report

MINUTES - MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

December 7, 2006

Chairman Jack Justus called a meeting of the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO) to order at the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Administrative Offices in Little Rock at 9:30 a.m.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Jack Justus, Chairman
Mrs. Lucy Ralston
Mr. Robert McClanahan
Mr. Phil Taylor
Mr. John Wyvill, Ex-Officio Secretary

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members
None

ABSENT

Mr. Richard Smith
Mr. Terry Youngblood
Mrs. Kathy Scarsdale

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members
Dr. Linda Beene
Dr. Ken James

1. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2006

   On motion by Mr. Phil Taylor and second by Mrs. Lucy Ralston, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the minutes of October 9, 2006.

2. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE RULES FOR THE ARKANSAS ADULT EDUCATION SECTION – STANDARDIZED TESTING INSTRUMENTS POLICY

   Mr. French recommends that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve the rule changes to the standardized testing instruments policy for the adult education section.

   Mr. George French, deputy director for adult education, discussed changes to the standardized testing instruments policy for the adult education section.

   Mr. French stated that there are two general sets of changes to the adult education testing policy. The first set of changes involves the types of tests that adult education programs may use to assess students. The Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) now has forms 9 and 10, and the Basic English Skills Test (BEST) now has a version called BEST Plus. The National Reporting System (NRS) for adult education and the United States Department of Education, Division of Adult Education and Literacy (DAEL) must also approve all tests used for

performance standards accountability in federally funded adult education programs.

The second set of changes to the policy involves the times when these tests may be administered. DAEL requires that adult education programs administer the pre-test prior to 12 hours of instruction, and requires that students attend at least 60 hours of instruction (but not more than 100 hours) prior to being post-tested. Programs may post-test students who indicated they are leaving the program before the scheduled post-test time.

On motion by Mr. Phil Taylor with the stipulation that it will be approved by legislative council and second by Mr. Robert McClanahan, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the revisions to the Rules for the Arkansas Adult Education section Standardized Testing Instruments Policy . A copy of the policies and procedures is on file in the office of the deputy director for adult education.

3. ACTION ITEM – AUDIT REPORT FOR ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2005

Mr. Robert Treviño, Commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities review, accept, and file for record the audit report for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005.

Mr. Treviño reported the audit findings as stated below.

Agency Human Resources (HR) manager, Kevin Lewis, authorized improper Career Ladder Incentive Program (CLIP) bonuses totaling $4,203.90 for seven department employees, including himself. The Agency is seeking reimbursement for improperly paid CLIP bonuses.

In addition, Mr. Lewis was able to create an unauthorized salary increase of twenty-two percent or $10,406 for himself in the Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System (AASIS) by circumventing Agency control procedures. Before Mr. Lewis benefited from this improper salary increase, management detected his payroll increase in AASIS. Mr. Lewis resigned from Agency employment in October 2005. Legislative Audit recommended the Agency review and monitor internal controls associated with salary increase and CLIP bonuses.

Client case files support vocational rehabilitation services and aid provided by the Agency. Fifty-nine case files located in twelve local offices throughout the State were selected for review. Many of the deficiencies identified during the review were also identified in prior years. It was recommended by Legislative Audit to continue to develop procedures to ensure compliance with program regulations and improve the quality of documentation contained in client case files.

The Agency entered into four service contracts with two separate organizations that did not include a provision for reimbursement of travel expenses. Failure to include provisions for all expenses in a contract can lead to unauthorized disbursement of

funds and does not accurately report the total cost of the contract to DFA.

The Agency paid for college courses and related expenses during the fiscal years ended June 20, 2004, 2005 and 2006, for an employee to participate in a degree program. DFA regulations state, "The agency shall not pay for a collegiate course that leads to, or participates in a degree program for the employee unless the State agency has specific legislation providing for such payment. Prior approval in writing from the Agency head must be obtained for each employee before an agency becomes obligated to pay that employee's tuition and/or other related expenses." The Agency did not have specific legislation authorizing employees to participate in a degree program. Legislative Audit recommended the Agency seek a determination from the State Chief Fiscal Officer in regard to this matter.

Legislative Audit noted overpayments in fiscal year 2004 and 2005 to National Park Community College in the amount of $17,556 for a contract instructor teaching at the Hot Spring Rehabilitation Center. Both NPCC and HSRC have implemented procedures to insure that the actual hours worked are reconciled with the billing process. National Park Community College has reimbursed the agency in full.

The State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities also reviewed the Agency's responses to these audit findings and posed several questions that were answered by Mr. Treviño.

On motion by Mr. Phil Taylor and seconded by Mrs. Lucy Ralston, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously voted to review, accept, and file for record the audit report for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005. The audit report is on file in the office of the commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. John Davidson, deputy director for career and technical education, providing information concerning Carl D. Perkins Improvement Act of 2006. He gave an overview of four recommendations as listed below.

Consolidation of the Tech Prep funding into the Basic State Grant. The new act allows each state to make a decision regarding whether or not to maintain the Tech Prep funds in a separate program or consolidate all or a portion of the funds into the basic grant. He recommended consolidating the Tech Prep funds into the basic grant beginning with the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Split of the basic grant funds between secondary and postsecondary recipients. The act allows each state to determine the percentage of funds that flow to secondary and postsecondary recipients. He recommended dividing the Perkins funds set aside for local recipients with 75% for secondary and 25% for postsecondary.

Reserve of 10% from the local funds for state priorities or focus areas. Each state may choose to reserve up to 10% of the local funds to award grants to eligible recipients for career and technical education activities in (1) rural areas, (2) areas

with high percentages of career and technical education students, and (3) areas with high numbers of career and technical education students. He recommended no to use the 10% reserve during the 2007-2008 fiscal year but rather distribute the entire amount of local funds through prescribed formulas.

Make-up of the secondary and postsecondary consortia – districts/institutions moving in or out or a consortium at will or to avoid sanctions for poor performance. A district that receives a grant of at least $15,000 or a postsecondary institution that receives a grant of at least $50,000 may choose to keep their own funds and operate their own Perkins activities/projects. Districts and institutions that receive less than these minimums must assign their funds to a consortium in order to receive services from the Perkins funds. Once the funds are assigned to a consortium, the funds lose their identity and the consortium operates programs and activities that are of benefit to all members. The consortium becomes the recipient rather than the member districts. He recommended that consortium membership during the 2007-2008 fiscal year will continue to be the consortium membership throughout the life cycle of Perkins IV with the following exceptions: (1) If a recipient's grant falls below the minimum required to remain outside a consortium, then the recipient will be allowed to join a consortium; however, if the recipient's performance levels cause the consortium performance to drop, a two-year grace period will be allowed for the consortium on each of the indicators negatively affected. (2) If a recipient with a grant that is above the minimum desires to join a consortium, the recipient to move out of the consortium must agree and must prove through written documentation that the recipient's performance will not negatively impact the performance of the consortium. (3) If a consortium member receives a grant above the minimum and desires to move out of the consortium, the district/institution must prove through written documentation that this move will not negatively impact the consortium performance. If a district/institution moves in or out of a consortium for any reason other than #1, only one such move will be allowed during the life cycle of Perkins IV.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL'S FIVE-YEAR ENROLLMENT HISTORY

   Mr. Charles Brown, associate director for finance and Mr. John Davidson, deputy director for career and technical education provided information concerning technical institutes and vocational technical school's five-year enrollment history.

   Mr. Brown noted that there was a spike in the 2004-2005 enrollment and decline in the 2005-2006 enrollment due to involvement with business and industry. Mr. Brown brought attention to the fact that there are only three technical institutes.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – SECONDARY AREA VOCATIONAL CENTERS' FIVE-YEAR ENROLLMENT HISTORY AND A COLLEGE BASED CENTERS' CONCURRENT CREDIT HISTORY

   Mr. Charles Brown, associate director for finance and Mr. John Davidson, deputy director for career and technical education provided information concerning secondary areas vocational centers' five-year enrollment history and college based centers' concurrent credit history.

Mr. Brown stated that there were 8,310 students enrolled in 2005-2006 school year and included 169 school districts. The trend is positive and we will plateau out due to money and fiscal capability of the centers to house students.

Mr. Davidson noted that most of the growth is due to new centers.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wyvill reported on the following items:

The Department of Workforce is compliant with the executive order signed under the Clinton Administration regarding minority purchasing and vendor contracts, which requires we meet a goal of 10% for minority vendors.

Budget hearings set for December 12, 2006 and December 21, 2006.

Mr. Wyvill drew attention to a memo concerning the apprenticeship program and ratio issues, which the board members could be read later.

Mr. Wyvill noted that he and Mr. Davidson are working on the state pay plan. One issue is that the department teachers are not paid the same as the public school teachers. The department is in the process of trying to make a request to OPM to adjust the pay plan for teachers so they can be paid the same as employees at the Department of Education.

Mr. Wyvill provided a litigation report involving Arkansas Rehabilitative Center in Hot Springs and a computer person who felt like she should be paid very similar to frontline highest paid computer folks in the central office. This matter goes to the next General Assembly in January for consideration of payment of the full amount ($79,081) or the Claims Commission amount ($8,978.52). (Attachment A)

Director's report package contains several success stories that includes disaster preparedness and CPR training.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Justus adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

John Wyvill, Ex-Officio Secretary
State Board of Workforce Education
and Career Opportunities

Jack Justus, Chairman
State Board of Workforce Education
and Career Opportunities

STATE OF ARKANSAS

Mike Huckabee
Governor

Department of Workforce Education

John C. Wyvill
Director

Memorandum

To: State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

From: John C. Wyvill

Date: December 7, 2006

Subject: Litigation Report/ Stacy Corley vs. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

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On Jan. 22, 2001, Stacy Corley began working in the Information Technology Department at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center as a Grade 13 document examiner making $17,143 per year. With no prior IT experience and an associate degree in health information technology, her principle duties consisted of helping to assemble computers, trouble shooting user errors, and printing reports. On July 10, 2002, Ms. Corley's supervisor, Mr. Scott Thompson (who subsequently became her husband), requested a job audit, claiming that Ms. Corley's experience and job duties more closely matched that of a PC Support Specialist (Grade 18). He made no mention of back pay, which is prohibited by state law. (In her evaluation dated June 20, 2002, Ms. Corley stated that she was doing the work of a PC Support Specialist.) At the recommendation of the IT Manager the request was denied since no documentation was provided to justify the upgrade.

Ms. Corley continued requesting a job audit and upgrade. On Nov. 6, 2003, she sent an e-mail to the Commissioner, asking to be upgraded to a User Support Analyst (Grade 20), a position she claimed she had been performing since January 2001. Her request was denied at that time pending a reorganization of the IT department. Mr. Thompson and Ms. Corley then contacted Sen. Terry Smith to request a legislative job audit. That review, performed by legislative staff, consisted of meeting with these two individuals and making a few telephone calls. The legislative staff concluded that Ms. Corley should be upgraded to a grade 20 User Support position. Sen. Smith contacted the Commissioner and requested that the agency give Ms. Corley the upgrade. In a due diligence review, the HSRC administrator, chief of staff, and IT supervisor all objected to such a pay increase for Ms. Corley. But after discussing the matter further with Sen. Smith, the Commissioner agreed to upgrade Ms. Corley to a grade 20 position paying $27,707 – the amount allowable by state law – with job duties comparable to that of a grade 14 computer technician.

Upon learning of her salary upgrade, Ms. Corley quit. She subsequently filed a complaint with the EEOC, which was dismissed, and then filed a claim for $79,081.42 from the Claims Commission. In her claim, she requested back pay to January 2001 reflecting the difference in her actual pay and that of a Grade 20 at the labor market entry rate of $34,810. (The average salary for User Support IT personnel in the Central office, all of whom had considerably more technical job duties and education/experience than Ms. Corley, was $34,771.)

The Claims Commission awarded $8,978.52 to Ms. Corley, who then appealed her claim to the Claims Review Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council. The committee heard the case and, upon the request of Sen. Sue Madison, continued its hearing so it could get more information from the agency. At the next hearing, in which it allowed no more testimony or discussion, the committee awarded $79,081, the full amount requested by Ms. Corley. This matter goes to the next General Assembly in January for consideration of payment of the full amount or the Claims Commission amount.

jma

(501/682-1796)

07/JCW/0314

STATE OF ARKANSAS

Department of Workforce Education

Mike Beebe
Governor

John C. Wyvill
Director

February 1, 2007

TO: State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

FROM: John C. Wyvill, Director

SUBJECT: ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MEETING DATES FOR 2007

ACTION RECOMMENDED: It is recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities set meeting dates for 2007.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: A.C.A. 25-6-302 states "The board shall meet at least once during each calendar quarter and at such other times upon call of the chairman or any other three (3) members."

The following dates are proposed meeting dates for 2007:

Thursday, February 1, 2007
Thursday, March 15, 2007 – Special Board Meeting (Carl D. Perkins)
Thursday, April 5, 2007
Thursday, June 7, 2007
Thursday, August 2, 2007
Thursday, October 4, 2007
Thursday, December 6, 2007

STATE OF ARKANSAS

Department of Workforce Education

Mike Beebe
Governor

John C. Wyvill
Director

February 1, 2007

TO: State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

FROM: John Wyvill, Director
C. L. Brown, Associate Director for Finance

SUBJECT: ACTION ITEM – AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT AND STIPEND FOR BOARD MEMBERS PERFORMING OFFICIAL BOARD DUTIES

ACTION RECOMMENDED: It is recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve by a majority vote the authorization of payment to its members a stipend not to exceed eighty-five dollars ($85) per meeting attended. The Board action will be effective January 1, 2007, as required by Ark. Code Ann. 25-16-904.

It is also recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve by a majority vote the authorization of expense reimbursement for each board member for performing official board duties. This vote (as required by Ark. Code Ann. 25-16-902) indicates that board members will comply with an expense reimbursement that will not exceed the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations.

Per Ark. Code Ann. 25-16-906, no state employee may receive any stipend. Those persons who are paid a salary for serving as a member of a state board shall continue to receive such salary and shall receive no stipend.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: During the 1995 Legislative Session, a special subcommittee of the Joint Budget Committee was formed to study the number and costs of the various boards and commissions required by state law. Act 1211 of 1995 is one result of that study. Every board and commission is to vote during the first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year to authorize its members a stipend (if eligible) and to authorize expense reimbursement.

This law also states that travel expense reimbursement for board and commission members will not exceed the rate established for state employees as set forth by state travel regulations.

STATE OF ARKANSAS

Mike Beebe
Governor

Department of Workforce Education

John C. Wyvill
Director

February 1, 2007

TO: State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

FROM: Lee Griffith, Associate Director for Workforce Training

SUBJECT: ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL TO DESIGNATE ASU-SEARCY AREA CAREER CENTER AS ASU-SEARCY REGIONAL CAREER CENTER

ACTION RECOMMENDED: It is recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO) approve designating the ASU-Searcy Area Career Center as the ASU-Searcy Regional Career Center.

RATIONALE: As it is currently structured, the ASU-Searcy Area Career Center serves high schools within a 25 mile radius of the center. ASU-Searcy is a part of the ASU-Beebe system which is made up of five campuses serving eight counties.

By changing "area" to "regional", programs and services would be more readily offered from each campus to high schools in the ASU-Beebe service area.

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ARKANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY
SEARCY

A Technical Campus
of ASU-Beebe

P. O. Box 909
Searcy, AR 72145

Phone:
501-207-4000

Fax:
501-207-0263

January 5, 2007

Mr. Lee Griffith, Associate Director
Department of Workforce Education
Three Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201-1083

Dear Lee:

I have reviewed Preston's request for "Regional Center" designation and I am supportive and excited about the possibilities of expanding services to students that are currently not being served by our center.

Thank you for your assistance in securing approval as a "Regional Center".

Sincerely,

Don Harlan
Vice Chancellor
ASU-Searcy

DH/ph

ARKANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY
SEARCY

A Technical Campus
of ASU-Beebe

P. O. Box 909
Searcy, AR 72145

Phone:
501-207-4000

Fax:
501-207-0263

January 5, 2007

Mr. Lee Griffith, Associate Director
Department of Workforce Education
Three Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201-1083

Dear Lee:

Please consider this a request for the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities to approve the ASU-Searcy Area Career Center to be designated a Regional Career Center. As a result of our merger with ASU-Beebe a "regional designation" would enable the ASU-Searcy Regional Career Center to expand its services to school districts in the ASU-Beebe service area that may not currently be considered a part of the service area. A designation of "ASU-Searcy Regional Career Center" would facilitate the expansion of service to other local school districts located in the ASU-Beebe service area with the understanding that expansion would be limited to the ASU-Beebe service area.

A "regional" career center designation would allow the opportunity to place programs on various campuses thus expanding services to students within the service area of the ASU-Beebe system. Schools could be served in locations that currently receive no services from an area career center. A regional designation would allow the opportunity for the ASU-Searcy Regional Career Center to expand services to at least seven additional school districts including Cabot, Carlisle, Des Arc, DeValls Bluff, England, Hazen and Lonoke. New programs established in these areas may provide the opportunity for high school students to receive concurrent college credit that will link to college programs of study within the ASU-Beebe system. In some instances the facilities, equipment, and instructors can be shared between the postsecondary and secondary programs increasing the efficiency of operation and expanding course offerings for students.

The ASU-Searcy Area Career Center was formerly the Foothills Vocational Center until the merger with ASU-Beebe in 2003. Merging with a two year college enabled the ASU-Searcy Area Career Center to serve a larger area than the current twenty five mile limit of an Area Career Center. The ASU-Beebe system includes the ASU-Searcy Area Career Center located in Bald Knob and four university campuses located in Beebe, Heber Springs, Little Rock Air Force Base, and Searcy. The service area includes parts of White, Cleburne, Independence, Jackson, Woodruff, Prairie, Lonoke, and Faulkner counties. At this time there are secondary programs on three of the ASU-Beebe campuses. The Searcy and Bald Knob locations were part of the original Foothills programs. The Heber Springs campus area was implemented in 2004 as a satellite of the ASU-Searcy Area Career Center through the Arkansas Department of

Workforce Education. When the ASU-Searcy Area Career Center applied for a satellite location at ASU-Heber Springs, all of the necessary agreements were made with an agency that was a part of the same system. The agreements were ASU-Beebe agreements with ASU-Beebe. Although the campuses are located in different towns and counties, they are a part of one system which shares a central purchasing system, human resources, and an academic affairs department provided by ASU-Beebe. The director of the ASU-Searcy Area Career Center reports to the Vice Chancellor of the ASU-Searcy campus. The Vice Chancellor of Searcy is responsible for the ASU-Searcy Area Career Center, but he reports to the Chancellor of ASU-Beebe. A "regional designation" would eliminate repetition of agreements each time the ASU-Searcy Area Career Center needs to start programs at different locations within the region served by the ASU-Beebe system.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Preston Haynie

Preston Haynie, Director
ASU-Searcy Area Career Center

PH/ph

STATE OF ARKANSAS

Department of Workforce Education

Mike Beebe
Governor

John C. Wyvill
Director

February 1, 2007

TO: State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

FROM: John C. Wyvill, Director
Charles Brown, Associate Director for Finance CE Brown

SUBJECT: ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF THE HIGH-DEMAND TECHNICAL FIELDS FOR THE YEAR 2007-2008 FOR THE ARKANSAS TECHNICAL CAREERS STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

ACTION RECOMMENDED: It is recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve the continuation of Computer/Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, and Biomedical/Biotechnology as the high-demand technical fields for the year 2007-2008.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: Arkansas is experiencing an increasing demand for a workforce qualified in various technical occupations. As a result of this demand, A.C.A. 6-50-205 was enacted to create a financial incentive for postsecondary education for people interested in pursuing technical careers in Arkansas.

Advanced Manufacturing, Biomedical/Biotechnology, and Computer/Information Technology are anticipated to be high-demand technical career fields in the state; therefore, technical education programs leading directly to employment in one of these three fields should be eligible for the Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program.

STATE OF ARKANSAS

Department of Workforce Education

Mike Beebe
Governor

John C. Wyvill
Director

February 1, 2007

TO: State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

FROM: John C. Wyvill, Director
Charles Brown, Associate Director for Finance

SUBJECT: ACTION ITEM – DESIGNATION BY INSTITUTION OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE HIGH-DEMAND TECHNICAL FIELDS FOR THE YEAR 2007-2008 FOR THE ARKANSAS TECHNICAL CAREERS STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

ACTION RECOMMENDED: It is recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities designate by institution technical education programs in the high-demand technical fields of Advanced Manufacturing, Biomedical/Biotechnology, and Computer/Information Technology. The list of programs recommended by the departments of Workforce Education, Higher Education, and Economic Development is being provided to you at the Board meeting.

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: A.C.A. 6-50-205 requires that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities annually develop and publish a list of technical education programs that are eligible for the Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program. These designated programs must be offered at a postsecondary institution which has been approved by either the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, or the State Board of Private Career Education.

The presidents and chancellors of these institutions were mailed information packets describing the high-demand technical fields and requested to submit any changes in their institutions' technical education programs in the fields of Computer/Information Technology, Biomedical/Biotechnology, and Advanced Manufacturing.

STATE OF ARKANSAS

Department of Workforce Education

Mike Beebe
Governor

John C. Wyvill
Director

February 1, 2007

TO: State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

FROM: John C. Wyvill, Director
John Davidson, Deputy Director for Career & Technical Education

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEM – CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

INFORMATION/RATIONALE: The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) was signed by President Bush on August 12. A one-year transition plan must be submitted no later than April 16, 2007, to the U.S. Department of Education.

The staff will share information at the meeting regarding the following issues:

- High wage, high demand, and high skill programs of study
- Continuous improvement – both for the state and local recipients
- Design for projects/activities approved for funding at the local level