ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CAREER EDUCATION

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Mike Beebe
Governor

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Director

Arkansas Department
ACE
of Career Education

Mike Beebe
Governor

William L. “Bill” Walker, Jr.
Director

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CAREER EDUCATION

December 10, 2010

To: The Honorable Mike Beebe, Governor
The Honorable Members of the Arkansas Legislature
The Honorable Statewide Elected Officials
The Citizens of Arkansas

I am pleased to submit to you on behalf of the Arkansas Department of Career Education and the State Board of Career Education the 2010 Annual Report. This report contains financial and statistical information, along with highlights of our programs.

The State Board of Career Education is the governing board for the Department of Career Education and establishes and maintains system-wide policy and direction in the three areas of agency responsibilities: Career and Technical Education, Adult Education, and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. The Department of Career Education provides day-to-day leadership, technical assistance, and resources to prepare the state's youth and adults to become productive, informed, creative citizens, workers and, most importantly, leaders.

On behalf of the Board and the Arkansas Department of Career Education staff, I thank you for the work that you have done and will continue to do to improve the education opportunities in our great state. I look forward to working with you next year in support of our schools, teachers, students, and communities.

If you would like to view this report online, visit ace.arkansas.gov. Please do not hesitate to call upon me or my staff to further assist you regarding the contents of this annual report or any other information that you may need.

Sincerely,

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Director

The State Board of Career Education is the governing board for the Department of Career Education.

The State Board of Career Education (SBCE) is composed of seven members appointed by the governor subject to confirmation by the Arkansas Senate. Act 803 of 1997 requires the appointment of one member from each congressional district and three members from the state at large. The members are to be selected from among parents, business, industry, labor, persons with disabilities, minorities, and other groups representative of the many career opportunities available in the state.

The directors of the Department of General Education and the Department of Higher Education serve as ex-officio members, and the director of the Department of Career Education serves as ex-officio secretary.

Board Members

Phil Taylor, Chairman/ Jonesboro

John Riggs, IV, Vice Chairman/ Little Rock

Richard Smith/ Tillar

Lucy Ralston/ Fayetteville

Martha Dixon/ Arkadelphia

Dr. Thomas Flowers/ Center Ridge

William L "Bill" Walker, Secretary
Director, Department of Career Education

Dr. Jim Purcell, Ex-Officio Member
Director, Department of Higher Education

Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Ex-Officio Member
Director, Department of Education

Jack Justus Retires from the Board

Jack Justus, who had served as SBCE chairman since 1998, retired April 1, 2009. On May 25, 2009, the conference rooms in the Luther S. Hardin Building at #3 Capitol Mall and the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division's central office at 525 W. Capitol Avenue were renamed in his honor to recognize his long service to the SBCE.

New Board Chairman and Vice Chairman Elected

With the retirement of Justus, a new SBCE chairman and vice chairman were elected by the board at its April 1, 2009, meeting. Phil Taylor, a member of the board for 13 years and vice chairman since 2001, was elected chairman. John Riggs, IV, a former state senator who joined the board in January, was elected vice chairman.

A Year of Accomplishments

- In an effort to eliminate confusion and give the agency a clearer identity, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education officially became the Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) on July 1, 2009.
- The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division's central administrative offices moved to a more accessible facility at 525 W. Capitol Avenue in downtown Little Rock.
- Three schools earned national recognition for school performance and student achievement: Siloam Springs High School, *High Schools That Work* Pacesetter School; Mountain Pine High School, *High Schools That Work* Gold Improvement Award; National Park Technology Center in Hot Springs, T*echnology Centers That Work* Gold Readiness Award.
- Seventy-seven percent of adult education students who took both the pretest and the posttest made educational gains of two or more grade levels.
- The Arkansas Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter was recognized at the national FCCLA conference as one of the top five donor chapters in the nation in the National FCCLA Outreach Project: "Children's Miracle Network."
- Arkansas Rehabilitation Services received nearly $5.8 million in funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to be used for increasing the division's capacity to provide vocational rehabilitation. Gov. Mike Beebe awarded an additional $3.64 million toward the renovation of the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) in Hot Springs.
- The Internet-based College and Career Planning Tool (powered by Kuder®) recorded 59,399 new users and 71,223 returning users.
- A total of 98,161 test scores were recorded in the end-of-course testing for students enrolled in career and technical education classes. End-of-course testing ensures that curriculum frameworks are being followed and program standards are being met.
- Project Lead the Way added four new sites: Fayetteville High School, Camden Fairview Junior High and High School, and Paragould Junior High.
- Arkansas Rehabilitation Services entered into a grant agreement with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service to provide collaborative support relating to the AGRIbility grant, a federal grant to assist individuals with disabilities and their families engaged in production agriculture to become more successful.
- Counties served by an Arkansas Works career coach saw a significant increase in the number of students applying for financial aid to attend college. In counties with no career coach, the number of financial aid applications increased 63 percent in 2009-10 over 2008-09, while in counties with a career coach, the number of applications increased 92 percent in 2009-10 over 2008-09.
- The Department of Career Education is a member of the Arkansas Energy Sector Partnership, an initiative to provide education and training for green jobs through the state's two-year colleges and adult apprenticeship programs.
- Arkansas Rehabilitation Services selected a new case management software system (Libera) and began implementation of the system and training of field services personnel. The system streamlines the steps necessary to serve clients by transforming lengthy and time-consuming paper trails on clients to electronic files that can easily be viewed, printed, and transferred throughout the agency.
- Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates (JAG) received a $435,000 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant designed to provide special assistance to eight selected JAG sites through placement of JAG students at career-focused job sites, payment of student salaries, personal financial management training, tutoring, and on-the-job training.
- Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates (JAG) captured the "5 of 5" Award, which is presented to states or sites that achieve or surpass the "5 of 5" performance outcomes in graduation, positive outcomes, employment, full-time jobs, and full-time placement rates.
- The Monticello Middle School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter captured two national awards: 2010 National Families First Middle School Winner and 2010 National Student Body Middle School Winner.

Financial Breakdown FY 2009-2010

Career and Technical Education and Adult Education Expenditures (State FY 10*)

Central Administration	1,140,601
Secondary Career Centers	20,132709
CTE Grants	18,846,081
Career Coaches	1,571,725
CTE Program Services	4,014,821
Adult Ed Grants	25,217,870
GED	189,050
Adult Ed Program Services	788,168
Veterans Approving Agency	254,665
Other	49,484

91 percent of the funding the agency receives for career and technical education and adult education goes directly to local educational institutions to provide education and training to Arkansas's youth and adults.

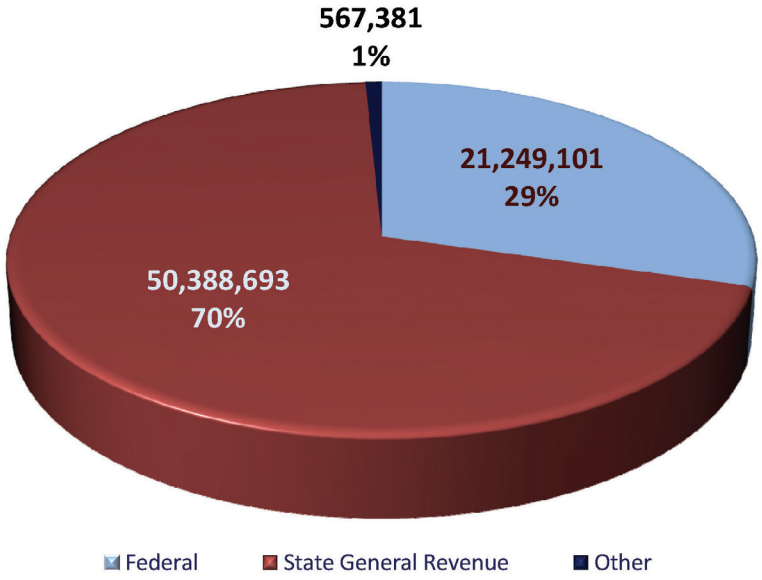
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Expenditures (Federal FY 10**)

Central Administration	4,443,076
Field Program	30,606,601
Arkansas Career Training Institute	15,422,966
Special Programs	3,701,286
Stimulus Funds	7,746,764

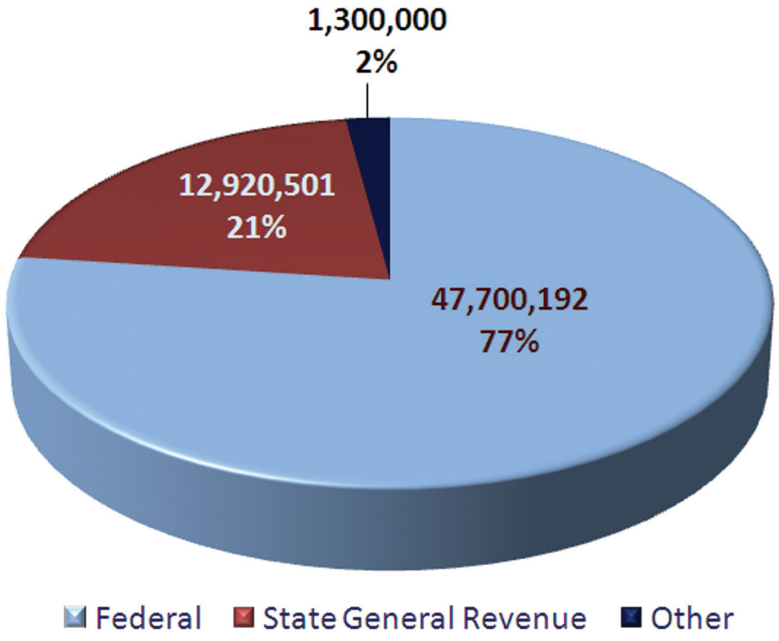
* The state fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. All Career and Technical Education and Adult Education data is state fiscal year 2009-10 unless otherwise indicated.

**The federal fiscal year runs Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. All Arkansas Rehabilitation Services data is federal fiscal year 2009-10 unless otherwise indicated.

Career and Technical Education and Adult Education Revenues



Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Revenues



More than three-quarters, or 158,890, of Arkansas high school students enrolled in career and technical education (CTE) classes.

CTE classes were taken by 150,466 students at 513 comprehensive school sites. An additional 8,424 students enrolled in CTE classes at secondary area career centers, which provide CTE programs to participating high schools within a 25-mile radius.

Career and technical education in Arkansas is delivered through high quality programs that

- integrate technical and academic education
- promote student achievement of rigorous academic and technical skills standards
- provide students with understanding of all aspects of various career fields
- prepare students for further education, meaningful employment, or both
- address the needs of individuals who are members of special populations
- provide Arkansas business and industry with graduates who have marketable job skills and national industry certifications
- provide strong linkages between secondary and post-secondary education and training

State Requirements

Under the *Arkansas Standards of Accreditation*, each high school must offer at least nine units of sequenced career and technical education courses (programs of study) representing three occupational areas. All high school students must have six career focus units in order to graduate.

Quality Instructors

A total of 3,255 CTE instructors helped students learn the skills to succeed in the world of work and in life. In addition to their teaching duties, CTE instructors serve as advisors for career and technical student organizations.

Quality Administrators

The Career and Technical Leadership Institute was established in 2009 to address an expected shortage of CTE administrators due to retirements. Educators interested in becoming CTE administrators apply for the program, and if accepted, attend quarterly training sessions on CTE topics over a period of two years. The inaugural leadership class has 42 participants who had completed half the program by July 2010.

High School Career and Technical Education Program Areas

- **Agricultural Science and Technology**—Provides leadership skills to students for a wide variety of careers in global agriculture, including production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities and resources.
- **Business and Marketing Technology**—Prepares students for careers in areas such as business and computer technology, E-commerce and E-marketing, network administration, Web services, telecommunications, entrepreneurship, and buying and merchandising.
- **Family and Consumer Sciences**—Prepares students to make informed choices regarding consumer education, food and nutrition, relationships, housing, and textiles. Provides skills for careers in the Hospitality and Tourism, Education and Training, and Human Services career clusters.
- **Skilled and Technical Sciences**—Offers programs that prepare students for rewarding careers in high-skill, high-demand, high-wage occupations in the following career clusters: Architecture and Construction; Arts, A/V Technology and Communications; Health Science; Information Technology; Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security; Manufacturing; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; or Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics.

Special Programs

- **Career Guidance, Exploration, and Preparation**—Offers opportunities for students to learn about careers through a progression of activities and courses designed to focus on career awareness (K-5), exploration (middle school), and preparation (high school and post-secondary). These activities and courses include career orientation, career action planning, internships, environmental and spatial technology (EAST) and workforce technology, keystone/capstone projects, senior seminars, and workplace readiness.

- **Support for Special Populations**—Provides vocational assessment, guidance, counseling, and career development to students identified as members of special populations in order to ensure their success in their career focus programs of study. Transition services to help students move from high school into college or the workplace and other support services are offered to ensure student success.
- **Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates (JAG)**—Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates is the Arkansas affiliate of the national organization, Jobs for America's Graduates. JAG is a school-to-career program that has as its mission to help at-risk youth achieve high school graduation and acquire work-based learning experiences that will lead them to further education and training and rewarding careers.

CTE Enrollment by Grade

Grade	CTE Enrollment	Total Enrollment	Percent Served
7th	26,804	36,113	74%
8th	33,086	35,715	93%
9th	25,250	37,556	67%
10th	25,418	35,523	72%
11th	23,984	32,567	74%
12th	24,348	30,567	80%
TOTAL	158,890	208,041	76%

CTE Enrollment by Occupational Area

Occupational Area	Number Enrolled	Percentage Enrolled
Agriculture	34,971	11%
Business & Marketing	117,161	38%
Arts & Communications	4,186	1%
Family and Consumer Sciences	68,591	22%
Skilled and Technical Sciences	38,445	13%
Support Programs	46,832	15%
TOTAL *	310,186	

* Duplicated Count because some students enroll in more than one program at the same time

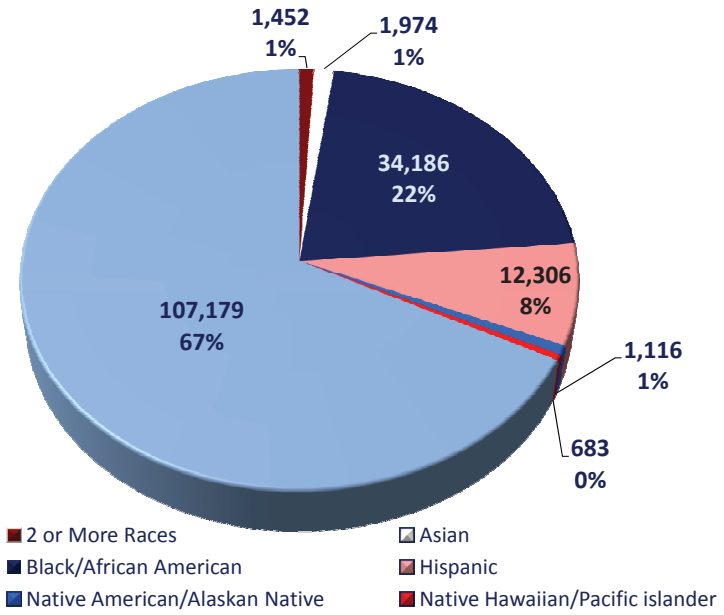
Concurrent Credit

A total of 4,925 students who were enrolled in secondary career centers earned 31,484 concurrent credit hours by successfully completing college-level career and technical courses while they were still in high school In addition to receiving high school credit for these courses, students also received college credits representing a tuition savings of $2.5 million.

Secondary Career Centers

- **Twenty-four career centers offer career and technical education programs** to high school students within a 25-mile radius. Centers are sponsored by two-year colleges, education services cooperatives or high schools. Career centers expand opportunities for students by offering high-cost programs that smaller schools are often unable to afford.
- **The 24 centers served 8,424 students** from 172 high schools.
- **The budget for the 24 centers was $20,136,383.** Of that amount, $9,512,504 was pass-through funding to high schools.

CTE Enrollment by Ethnicity



Arkansas offers both youth apprenticeship programs for high school students and traditional apprenticeship programs for adults.

Adult Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship programs provide on-the-job training and related classroom instruction through which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation.

Apprenticeship programs are sponsored by joint employer and labor groups, individual employers, and/or employer associations.

A total of 3,675 adults enrolled in apprenticeship programs — 56 percent in electrical, 34 percent in plumbing, and 10 percent in other crafts.

Total expenditures were $1,104,211.26, for an expenditure per apprentice of $300.46.

Youth Apprenticeship

Youth apprenticeship programs offer high school juniors and seniors a coherent sequence of rigorous academic and technical courses along with a structured work-based learning component so that they will be prepared to successfully meet state academic standards and prepare for education and training beyond high school in areas relating to their career interests.

There are 16 programs in the following areas: plumbing, electrical, certified nursing assistant (CNA), electrical engineering technology, automotive service technology, office administration, lodging management and food services, aerospace, carpentry and construction, diesel mechanics, and welding.

A total of 91 students enrolled in youth apprenticeship programs.

Total expenditures were $607,605.19.

Student Organizations

DECA:
An Association of Marketing Students

HOSA:
Health Occupations Students of America

FCCLA:
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

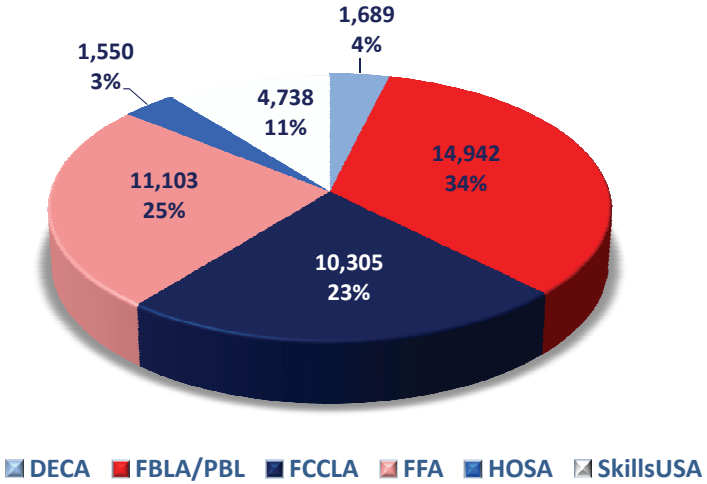
SkillsUSA

FFA:
Future Farmers of America

FBLA & PBL:
Future Business Leaders of America and Phi Beta Lambda

CTSO Participation

Total CTSO Membership: 44,327



Career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) **help students connect classroom learning with real-life applications and develop leadership skills. The relevance and hands-on experiences help students stay engaged in learning so that they achieve the proficiencies that they will need to be successful in education and training beyond high school and in careers.**

In Arkansas, 44,327 students enrolled in career and technical education classes participated in CTSO activities at the middle- and junior-high-school, high-school, and postsecondary levels.

ARKANSASWORKS

On Nov. 9, 2009, Gov. Mike Beebe announced the kickoff of the Arkansas Works project, a Workforce Cabinet initiative led by the Department of Career Education.

Arkansas Works is a collaborative effort among the departments of Education, Career Education, Higher Education, Workforce Services, and Economic Development; the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority; and the Association of Two-Year Colleges.

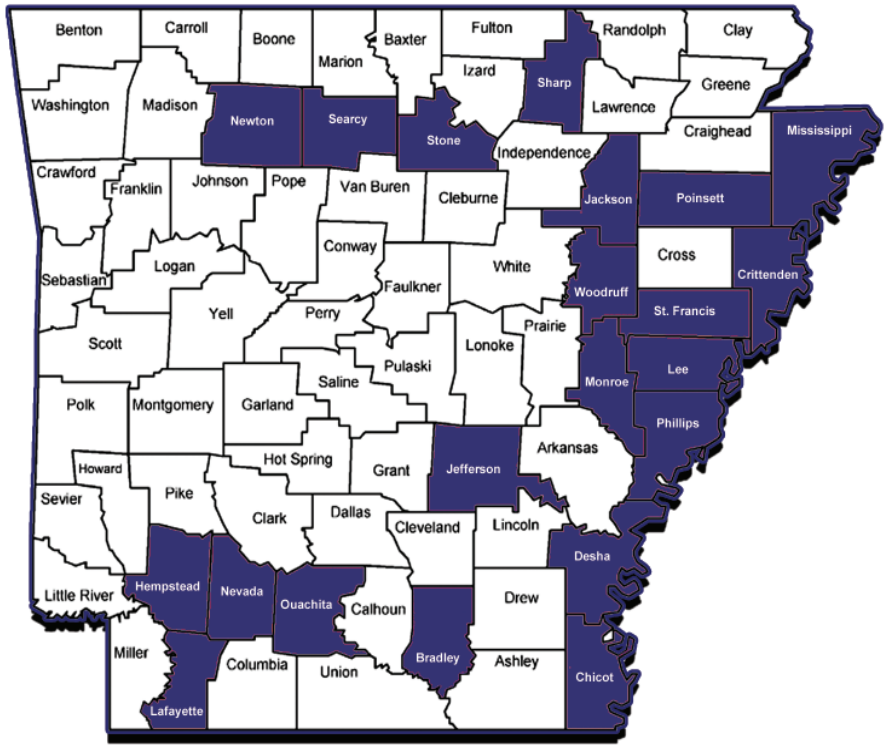
Arkansas Works has three components:

The Arkansas College and Career Planning System, a Web-based career planning system powered by Kuder™, is free of charge to any Arkansan and provides a variety of tools such as individual online portfolios; research-based interests, skills, and work values assessments; information on higher education and job training options and costs; financial aid information; and tools for résumé writing and other job search assistance. The Navigator section is designed for middle- and high-school students, and the Journey section is designed for adults.

Grade	Number of Initial Contacts (Unduplicated) *	Percentage	Grade	Number of Initial Contacts (Unduplicated) *	Percentage
7	259	4%	11	4,534	88.90%
8	2,816	49.20%	12	5,372	99.30%
9	2,738	43.90%	*TOTALS*	19,450	55.90%
10	3,731	59.30%			

✪ *First-time contacts by career coaches through one-on-one and small group sessions and presentations.*

Counties Targeted for College and Career Coaches Program



The Career Coaches Component is a pilot program funded by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding. The College and Career Coaches Program is designed to motivate and support Arkansas students from 21 counties in which unemployment and poverty are high, and the college-going rate is low. Students in the 8th through 12th grades are served by coaches assigned to middle and high schools in those counties. Coaches provide information and assistance in areas such as academic tutoring, career counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other supports necessary for educational access and retention.

The ACT Academy Program was implemented in the summer of 2010 as a means to increase the ACT scores of students in the 21 identified counties, as well as to reduce college remediation rates and improve the effectiveness of college and career information given to students and their families. ACT academies will operate during the summer as well as during the academic year.

Seventeen out of the 21 targeted counties participated in the Summer ACT Program, with the two-year colleges in those counties working with their assigned high schools to provide ACT preparation and remediation to high school students. Results from the summer program are as follows:

- Of the 586 students who registered, 474 (81 percent) completed.
- Of the 474 completers, 331 (64 percent) increased their ACT composite scores by at least 1 point.
- Of the 331 who increased their scores, 290 (87 percent) increased their composite scores to a 19 or higher. (Students who score 19 or higher are not required to take remedial courses.)

STEM

Strengthening Skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, high demand careers. STEM nurtures students to become creative problem-solvers, innovators, and inventors; analytical thinkers; and strong communicators.

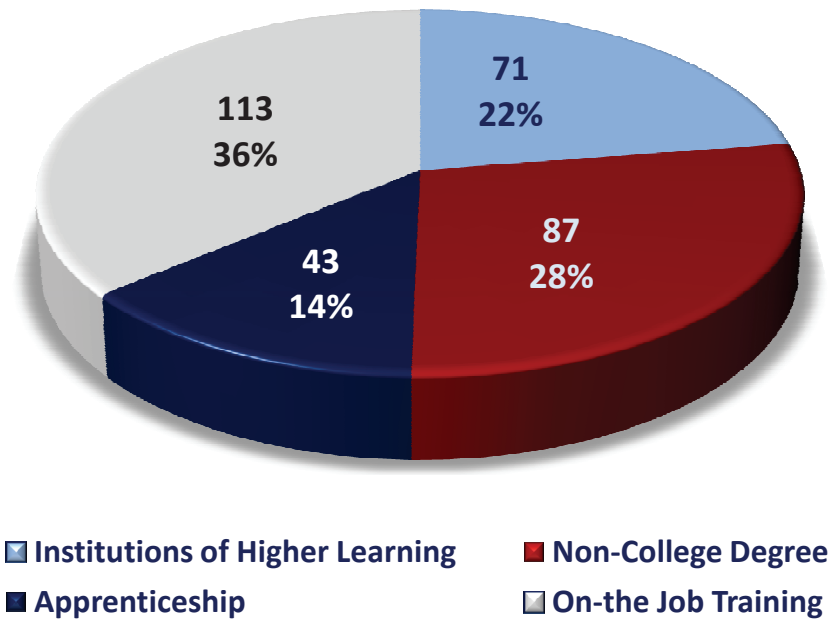
Arkansas participates in the national initiative **Project Lead the Way** (PLTW), which is designed to provide high school students hands-on curriculum and practical applications in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. **Gateway to Technology** (GTT) is Project Lead the Way's middle school program. There were 25 PLTW school sites in 16 school districts.

State Approving Agency for Veterans' Training

The State Approving Agency for Veterans' Training (SAA) operates under contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to approve or disapprove education and training programs that enroll veterans, to prevent abuses, and to promote quality in veterans' education by evaluating and monitoring education and training programs.

SAA conducts onsite supervisory visits to approved institutions and to those seeking approval, provides technical assistance to all interested parties, and is engaged in outreach activities to encourage eligible individuals to use the benefits provided by the Montgomery GI Bill, often referred to the "GI Bill."

State Approving Agency for Veterans' Training
Number and Type of Approved Providers
Total Providers: 314



JUDGE

Adult Education Delivery System

Adult education services are offered in all 75 Arkansas counties through a network of adult education centers and literacy councils.

Adult education centers extend adult education services in communities within their service areas through satellite sites as a need arises. The number of satellite sites varies according to demand, but there are usually more than 330 satellites operating at any time.

Location of Adult Education Centers	
Two-Year Colleges	24
Four-Year Colleges	1
Public School Districts	23
Technical Institutes	2
Correctional School District	1
Total	51
Literacy Councils	21

Adult Education Enrollment

- **50,354 students were *served* (less than 12 hours of instruction) in adult education/literacy programs.**
- **31,550 of those students were *enrolled* (12 or more hours of instruction).**

Adult education provides programs to meet diverse educational needs, ranging from basic academic skills to workplace education. All classes are offered free of charge, and flexible scheduling is offered to accommodate students with work and family responsibilities. The following programs are offered:

Adult Basic Education—Provides basic skills instruction in reading, writing, and math to adult learners functioning below the 9th-grade level.

General Adult Education/General Educational Development GED® Prep—Provides instruction to adults functioning between the 9th- and 12th-grade levels. The purpose of these classes is to assist individuals in improving their educational skills, preparing for the GED Tests, or preparing for postsecondary standardized entrance exams. Five areas of instruction are offered: writing skills, social studies, science, reading, and mathematics. Individual instruction is based on the student's entry level and needs.

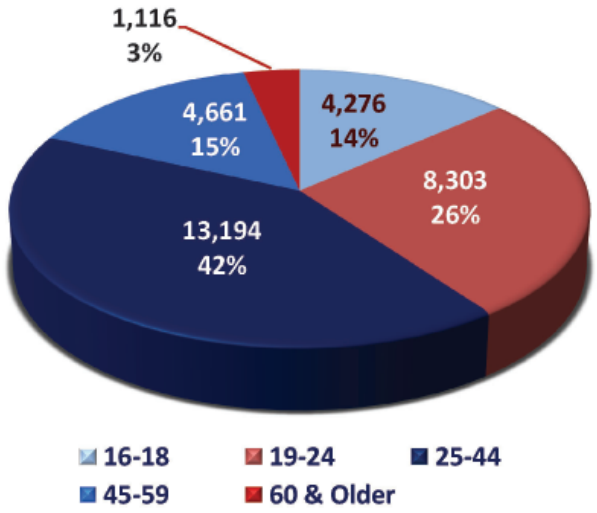
English as a Second Language (ESL)—Provides instruction in speaking, reading, and writing in English to adults whose native language is not English. Adults in ESL classes also receive instruction in learning how to cope in American society. Beginning, intermediate, and advanced ESL classes are available to immigrants at all levels of proficiency in English. English Literacy and Civics Education classes provide instruction to prepare immigrants for the United States citizenship examination.

Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy™ (WAGE)—Provides academic and basic skills instruction to unemployed and underemployed Arkansans to prepare them for entry-level jobs. An individual who successfully completes the program earns a state-issued certificate in one or more of four areas: Industrial, Clerical, Banking, or Employability.

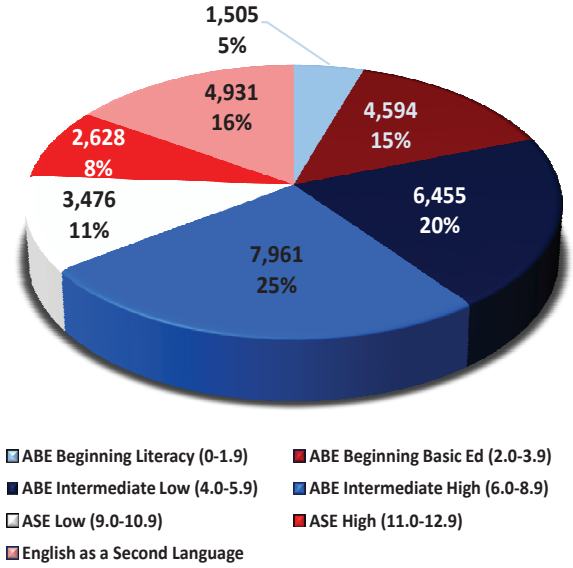
Workplace Education—Consists of academic skills classes provided at the worksite; customized classes based upon the results of the literacy task analysis performed for that company; or basic education skills classes such as mathematics, reading, and ESL taught in the context of that workplace.

Computer Literacy—Provides an introduction to the operation of the computer; basic computer terminology; and uses and applications, including a brief introduction to word processing, spreadsheets, and database management. Computer literacy classes are provided for students enrolled in adult education programs or workplace classes.

Age of Individuals Enrolled in Adult Education



Grade-Level Equivalent of Adult Education Students



Family Literacy—Provides intergenerational programs to improve the educational opportunities of children and adults by integrating their needs into a unified program. These programs include four components: child development activities, basic skills instruction for the adults, parenting and life skills development, and parent/child interaction time.

Correctional Education—Provides adult education instruction to inmates of local, regional, state, and federal correctional facilities. These services are provided by local adult education programs and also through a grant to the Arkansas Correctional School District.

Employees

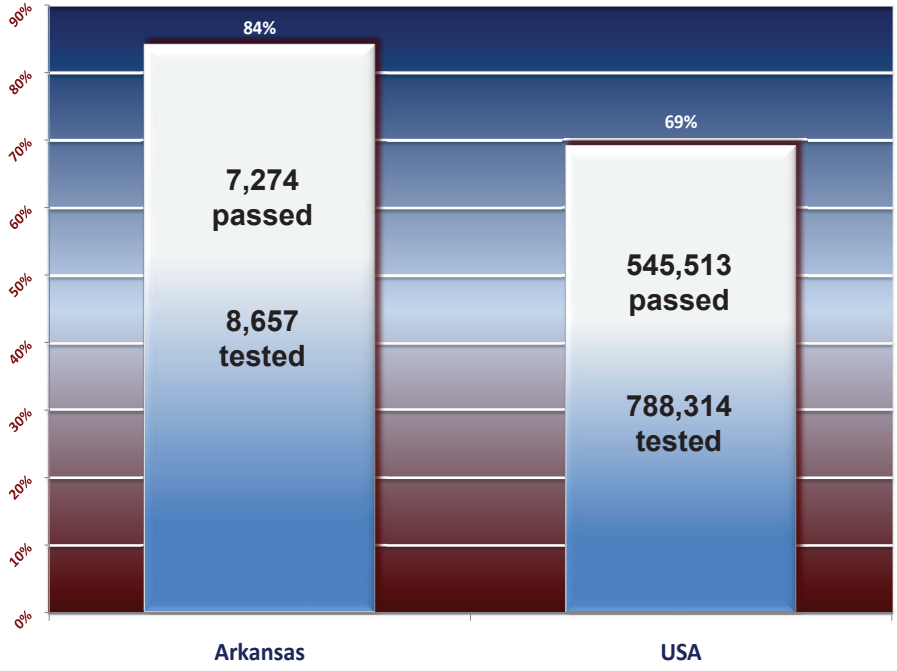
Adult education and literacy services are provided by teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, state and local administrators, and volunteers. Every adult education teacher holds a state teaching license.

Adult education and literacy services were delivered by 348 full-time employees, 458 part-time employees, and 920 volunteers.

Adult Education

GED® Test Pass Rate

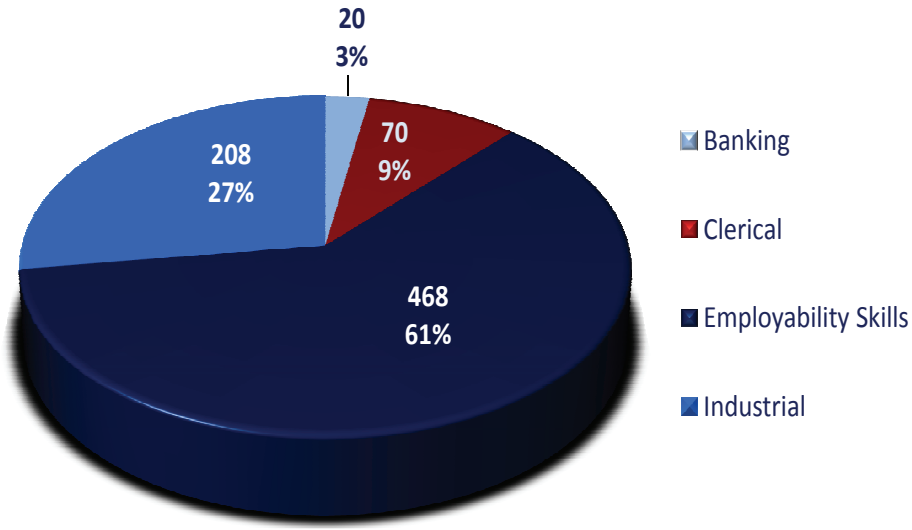
The Arkansas GED test pass rate is consistently higher than the national average pass rate



Number of GED Testing Centers	62
Number of Satellite Testing Centers	95
Number of Individuals Certified to Administer the GED Tests	155

WAGE Certificates Awarded

Total: 766



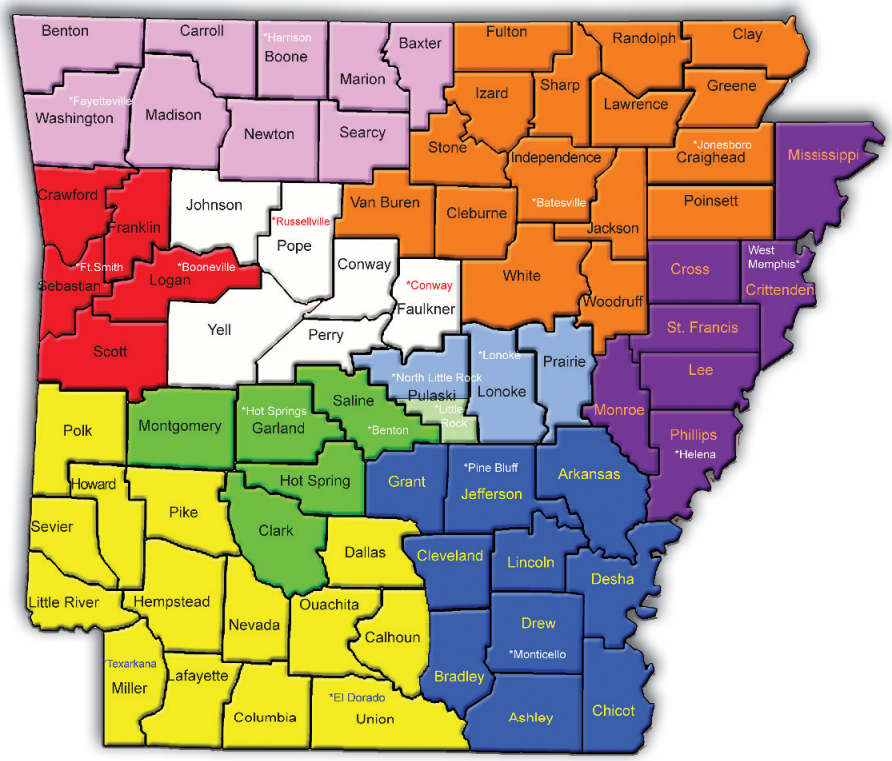
Our Mission

To provide services resulting in meaningful employment and independence for Arkansans living with disabilities.

ARS Districts and Field Office Locations

- District I
- District II
- District III
- District IV
- District V
- District VI
- District VII
- District VIII
- District IX
- District X

* Field Offices



ARS Field Program

ARS field offices are located throughout the state and serve people with severe disabilities in all 75 counties. As mandated by federal legislation, a network of vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors assists individuals with disabilities in accessing services.

Upon determining that an individual is eligible for services, the VR counselor assesses the individual's work potential and functional assets and collaborates with him or her to develop a comprehensive plan of services and ongoing case management leading to successful employment.

The individual's plan consists of a coordinated set of activities designed to help him or her prepare for and achieve gainful employment. These activities can consist of postsecondary education, vocational training, integrated employment, continuing employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, and independent living services.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Interpreter Services Program

The program provides sign language interpreters and video interpreting to assist individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. Interpreters are located at the following sites:

- Arkansas Career Training Institute—Two interpreters assist students in the classroom, as well as in medical, counseling, evaluation, or other venues.
- Field Program—Three interpreters located at the Corporate Hill field office in Little Rock assist deaf employees and clients. Staff interpreters completed more than 1,000 assignments ranging from one hour to several days.
- Video Interpreting Service—Implemented in 2009, the video interpreting service enables an interpreter to provide services via the Internet to any location in the state with SKYPE capability.

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)

TAP provides free specialized telephone equipment to eligible Arkansans who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, or who have a speech, visual, mobility, or cognitive impairment that prevents them from using a standard telephone.

2,022 pieces of equipment were distributed.

Arkansas Transition Program

The Arkansas Transition Program encourages partnerships between vocational rehabilitation counselors and high schools to better equip high school students with disabilities with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to achieve successful transition from high school to adult life.

There are four vocational rehabilitation transition counselors assigned to seven schools in six school districts in Crittenden, Jefferson, Drew, Pulaski, and Washington counties.

317 high school students with disabilities were served (31 percent of the eligible population of 1,011).

Supported Employment

Supported employment facilitates competitive work in integrated work settings for individuals with the most severe disabilities for whom competitive employment has not traditionally occurred, and who, because of the nature and severity of their disability, need ongoing support services in order to perform their job. Supported employment provides assistance such as job coaches, transportation, assistive technology, specialized job training, and individually tailored supervision.

Return on Investment

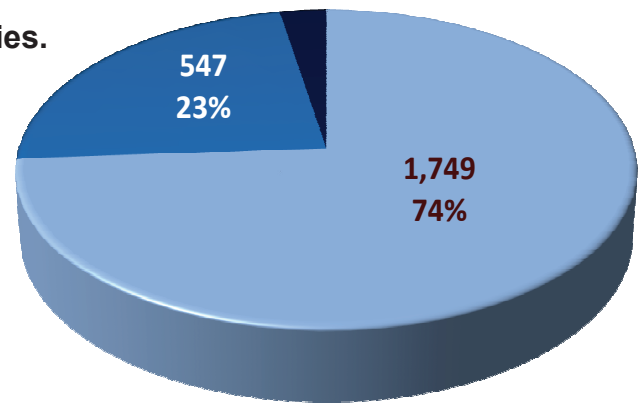
For the 2,361 individuals living with disabilities who became successfully employed after vocational rehabilitation (VR) services

- The mean weekly earnings increased 30 percent, from $298 to $386.
- 639 received employer-provided health-care coverage.

The collective earnings of these individuals was $47,389,992, meaning that they paid an estimated $6,337,919 in taxes to the Arkansas and federal treasuries.

84.4 percent of those individuals were classified as having **severe disabilities.**

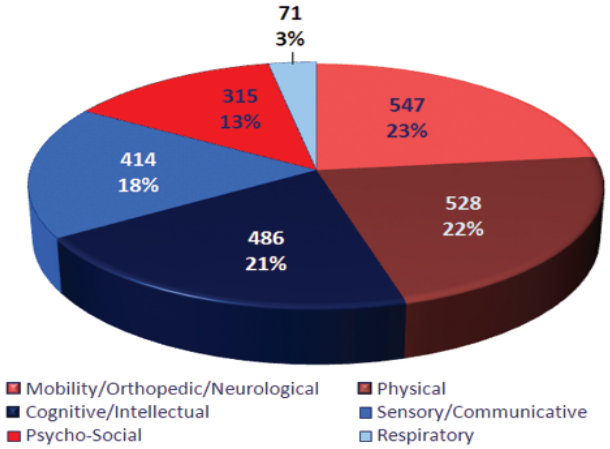
Ethnicity



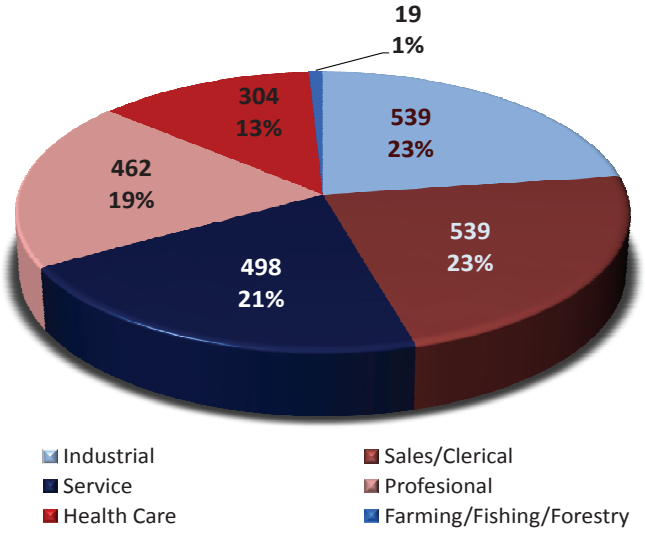
White African American Other

OTHER *includes Native American, Asian, Pacific islander, and Hispanic/Latino*

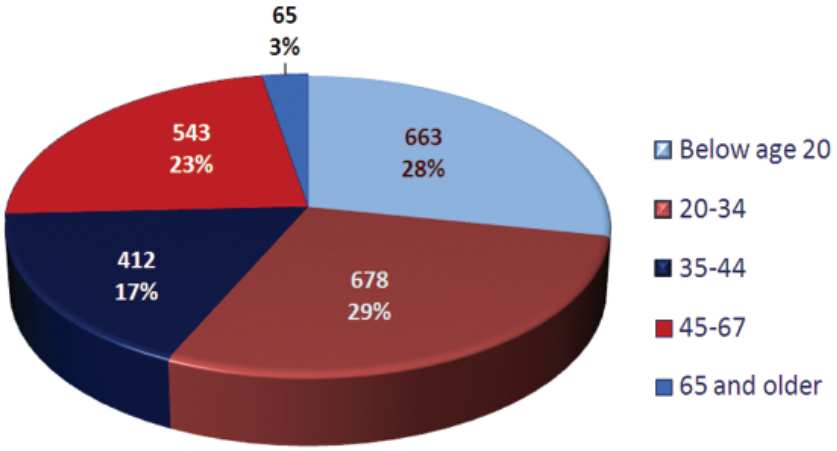
Disabling Condition



Occupational Field in Which Individuals Receiving VR Services Became Employed



Age When Applying for Services



Data is from federal fiscal year 2008-09, the latest year for which data was available at the time of publication.

The Arkansas Career Training Institute

The Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) is a comprehensive rehabilitation center, one of eight in the United States and the only one west of the Mississippi River. A center of excellence, ACTI is a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week residential facility with the capacity to accommodate up to 320 residential students. The mission of the center is consistent with the agency mission to provide comprehensive VR services to persons with disabilities. The center receives referrals from field counselors in all 75 counties in Arkansas.

The center provides services that include

- counseling and case management
- vocational assessment and evaluation
- vocational training
- employability skills development
- recreation and student living services
- behavior enhancement and social skills development
- psychological and medical services
- job placement

ACTI admitted 447 residential students during state fiscal year 2009-10.

Career and Technical Education Programs

ACTI provides career and technical education in 16 career pathways and more than 20 speciality areas within these pathways.

Several programs are pursuing national certification standards.

Adult education services are provided to support students in their training area and to assist them in earning the GED credential.

Programs Offered

- Auto Collision Repair
- Auto Parts Counter Person
- Automotive Maintenance Technology
- Business Education
- Construction Technology
- Cosmetology
- Environmental Systems Services/Laundry
- Food Service
- Medical Office Technology
- Nursing Assistant Training
- Outdoor Power Equipment Technology
- Pre-Press
- Printing and Bindery
- Printing and Offset Press
- Sales and Marketing
- Welding

ACTI placed 130 graduates in jobs during federal fiscal year 2009-10.

Medical Services

Medical services are available to all ACTI students through the onsite hospital. Medical services include

- physical and occupational therapy
- speech/language pathology
- dental services
- pharmacy services
- specialty clinics—orthopedic, amputee, spinal cord, urology and psychiatry

The hospital is a 28-bed facility with 24-hour nursing care for acute inpatient and outpatient medical services. The hospital provides medical treatment for traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, amputations, stroke, orthopedics, mental impairments or emotional illnesses, and urological and neurological diseases, as well as physical, speech, and occupational therapies.

Hospital Statistics

Number served in acute inpatient rehabilitation care	42
Number served in 24-hour attendant hospital care	51
Total patient bed days	3,658
Average days hospital stay	20
Individual outpatient clinic for medical, psychological, dental, orthopedic services	6,495

ACTI Holds 50th Anniversary and Groundbreaking Celebration

In a June 23, 2009, celebration entitled "Honoring the Past, Building for the Future," ACTI marked its 50th anniversary and held a symbolic groundbreaking for infrastructure improvements being funded by the state and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Renovations to the facility began with the release by Gov. Mike Beebe of $500,000 in state general improvement funds. An additional $3.6 million from Arkansas's State Fiscal Stabilization Fund under the ARRA was released by the governor to fund repairs and upgrades to water systems, roofs, electrical systems, and safety and security systems.

Special Programs

Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission *

The Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission (AKDC) provides assistance to Arkansans who have been diagnosed with end stage renal disease requiring regular kidney dialysis treatments or who have received kidney transplants.

Services Provided					
Number of clients receiving payment assistance for prescription drugs	1,068	Cost of prescription drugs assistance	$854,591	Average cost per client	$800.18
Number of clients receiving pre-transplant dental services	39	Cost of pre-transplant dental services	$30,723	Average cost per client	$787.77
TOTAL	1,107		$885,314		

** State Fiscal Year 2009-10*

Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities

The Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities (AGCPD) assists the governor in designing and responding to policies that affect the lives of all Arkansans living with disabilities, regardless of age or type of disability. The AGCPD participates in four major activities:

- AGPD Scholarship Program
- Youth Leadership Forum
- Disability Awareness Month
- Disability Mentoring Day

Increasing Capabilities Access Network *

Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN) is a 100-percent federally funded grant program that provides assistive technology (AT) access, information, and training to Arkansans with disabilities of any age to help them learn, work, communicate, and live more independently.

Services provided

- 1,542 individuals received information and/or referral services.
- 116 individuals were provided AT demonstrations in the ICAN Clearinghouse.
- 34 training sessions were provided or sponsored.
- 724 pieces of equipment were loaned.
- 779 pieces of donated equipment with a total retail value of $440,760 were cleaned or refurbished to be provided to Arkansans in need through the program's equipment reutilization program.

** Federal Fiscal Year 2009-10*

Assistive Technology @ Work *

The Assistive Technology @ Work (AT @ Work) program is designed to assist ARS clients and their referring vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors in selecting and obtaining the appropriate assistive technology.

Services include

- evaluation/assessment
- assistive technology device selection and procurement
- training
- technical assistance as relates to work, school, or home.

Services were provided to 102 individuals.

** Federal Fiscal Year 2009-10*

Rehabilitation Initial Diagnosis and Assessment for Clients *

The Rehabilitation Initial Diagnosis and Assessment for Clients (RIDAC) program provides psychological and medical assessment and consultative services relating to ARS clients who have been referred by their VR counselors.

Services include

- psychological evaluations
- vocational evaluations
- educational diagnostic assessments
- general medical assessments
- psychological consultation
- medical consultation

Services Provided	
Clients served	7,194
Psychological assessments/consultations	3,715
Medical evaluations/consultations	4,971

** State Fiscal Year 2009-10*

Learning and Evaluation Center *

The Learning and Evaluation Center (LEC) provides comprehensive diagnostic and educationally focused psychological and neuropsychological evaluations regarding individuals referred to the program by agency VR counselors.

LEC completed evaluations and provided feedback sessions regarding 86 individuals.

The LEC also employs a deaf educator who provides sign language and other trainings related to hard of hearing and deafness to agency staff, other professionals, and the public. LEC provided 14 sign language classes and 4 conference presentations.

** State Fiscal Year 2009-10*

Supported Housing Office

The Supported Housing Office assists ARS clients in obtaining affordable, permanent and, when needed, accessible housing to live stable, productive, and independent lives. Services include

- Information and referrals
- Pre-development consultation
- Training for nonprofit service providers, public agencies, and others interested in affordable, accessible housing development

Disability Management/Return-to-Work

The Disability Management/Return-to-Work (DM/RTW) program provides assistance primarily to state agencies and, in certain instances private employers, in reducing the costs associated with health and disability issues in the workplace. The DM/RTW program assumed a lead role in the implementation of the ARS pilot program, Retaining A Valuable Employee (RAVE), which assists state employees who experience occupational injury or illness in returning to work as soon as it is safe and medically feasible. The program is being piloted with the Arkansas Insurance Department's Public Employee Claims Division.

Business Relations Program

The Business Relations Program was begun in 2008 to assist business owners and employers in developing short- and long-term strategies relating to disability issues in the workplace. Business relations representatives located throughout the state are available to assist with

- Staffing
- Education
- Financial incentives for hiring individuals with permanent injury, illness, or impairment
- Ensuring accessibility

Number of business relations representatives	9
Number of counties served	75
Number of client placements *	324
Number of closures **	318

* Placement: Client is employed

** Closure: Client remains employed after 90 days

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CAREER EDUCATION
MISSION STATEMENT

To provide leadership and contribute resources to serve the diverse and changing career educational needs of Arkansas youth, adults, and persons living with disabilities.

Three Capitol Mall • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
Telephone: 501-682-1500 • Fax: 501-682-1509
http://ace.arkansas.gov