

# Arkansas Department of Career Education

## 2011 Annual Report

Mike Beebe  
*Governor*

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.  
*Director*



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*Governor*

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*Director*

# From the Director

## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CAREER EDUCATION

December 8, 2011

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 2011 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 and training opportunities in our great state. I look forward to working with you next year in support of our schools, career centers, teachers, students, clients, and communities.

If you would like to view this report online, visit [ace.arkansas.gov](http://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



# State Board of Career Education

## 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  
John Yates/ Little Rock

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

Shane Broadway, Ex-Officio Member  
Interim Director, Department of Higher Education

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

### Arkansas Workforce Cabinet

Governor Mike Beebe's Workforce Cabinet is comprised of the following agencies dedicated solely to improving Arkansas's educational system and advancing the economic development of the state: the Department of Career Education, Department of Education, Department of Higher Education, Department of Workforce Services, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Arkansas Science and Technology Authority, and Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges.

In August, Governor Beebe and the Cabinet announced a pilot program--STEM Works--focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

education in high schools and universities and designed

to address the long-term, escalating demand for employees in high-tech fields.

The announcement was applauded by (pictured l-r) Dr. Ed Franklin, director of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges; Ken Ferguson, director of the Workforce Investment Board; Bill Walker, director of the Department of Career Education; the late Maria Haley, director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission; Shane Broadway, interim director of the Department of Higher Education; and Martin Slark, CEO of Molex, Inc.



Governor Beebe announces STEM Works

# Another Year of Accomplishments

- Three programs were noted in the Rehabilitation Services Administration's (RSA) Fiscal Year 2011 Monitoring Report as "emerging practices," which the RSA defines as practices "that have been successfully implemented and demonstrate the potential for replication by other VR agencies." Retaining a Valued Employee (RAVE) was noted for its success in assisting employees in returning to work. The Arkansas Transition Program was cited for its success in providing specialized VR services to high school students with disabilities in 10 targeted schools. The ACE Expos, held in various cities across the state, received recognition for community outreach.
- Thanks to a grant from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Arkansas Works was able to place three career coaches in three Little Rock schools with graduation rates consistently below 60 percent--Hall, J.A. Fair, and McClellan. The Rockefeller Foundation also provided funding to support career coach positions for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Arkansas and Pfeifer Camp.
- The 2011 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference set an attendance record with more than 2,800 students and advisers. Nationally, Arkansas Mid-level FBLA was recognized as the first-place state in membership. Aaron Carroll, a student at Arkansas State University, was elected Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) Southern Region vice president.
- The Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy™ (WAGE) added two new certificate programs, Customer Service I and II.
- Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) student Staci McCollough earned ACTI's first Platinum Career Readiness Certificate. Platinum Level indicates possession of the necessary skills for 99 percent of the 16,000 jobs in the ACT WorkKeys Occupational Profile Database. The National Career Readiness Certificate, powered by ACT's WorkKeys, is an initiative of Governor Mike Beebe's Workforce Cabinet.
- Arkansas has joined a 12-state consortium, Preparation for Tomorrow—Joining a College-Ready Academic Core with Intellectually Demanding Career and Technical Courses. Career and technical education has been heavily involved in planning for the implementation of the Arkansas Common Core Standards.
- The Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) was awarded a \$10,000 SkillsUSA Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation grant, the only school in Arkansas to receive a Lowe's grant in 2011.
- Career and technical student organizations, adult education administrators, and Arkansas Works career coaches and their students demonstrated what they are learning and shared their stories with legislators at three special legislative events during the 2011 legislative session.
- Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates (JAG) earned for the third consecutive year the "5 of 5" National Performance Award, which is given to only those programs that exceed a 90 percent graduation rate and an 80 percent success rate (graduates on the job, in college, or some combination).
- Arkansas's GED graduates received an average 15.6 percent increase in salary despite the current economic conditions.
- A significant change to the Policies and Procedures for Secondary Technical Centers was enacted to provide better utilization of funds. In centers and satellites in which more than 60 percent of the students are from one high school, the eligible full-time equivalent (FTE) count on which center funding and pass-through funding is based will now be limited to 60 percent, with the local school contributing from local funds for the remaining FTE count over 60 percent. With this change, host high schools whose students comprise 60 or more percent of the FTE will bear some of the cost of the centers' programs.
- Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Field Services reduced counselor caseloads by 21 percent, and the average caseload is now 136 cases below the national average.
- Arkansans captured two recognitions at the national Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Conference. Elected national vice president of community service was Alex Durham, a student at Spring Hill High School in Hope. Wauleai Huckabee, Spring Hill FCCLA adviser, was named national FCCLA Executive Council adviser.
- Ninety-eight percent of the individuals who applied for services through the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Field Services received a determination within 60 days of their eligibility for services.
- A total of 97,978 test scores were recorded in end-of-course testing for students enrolled in career and technical education classes. Note: The number of test scores does not reflect the number of students tested because some students took end-of-course exams in more than one course.

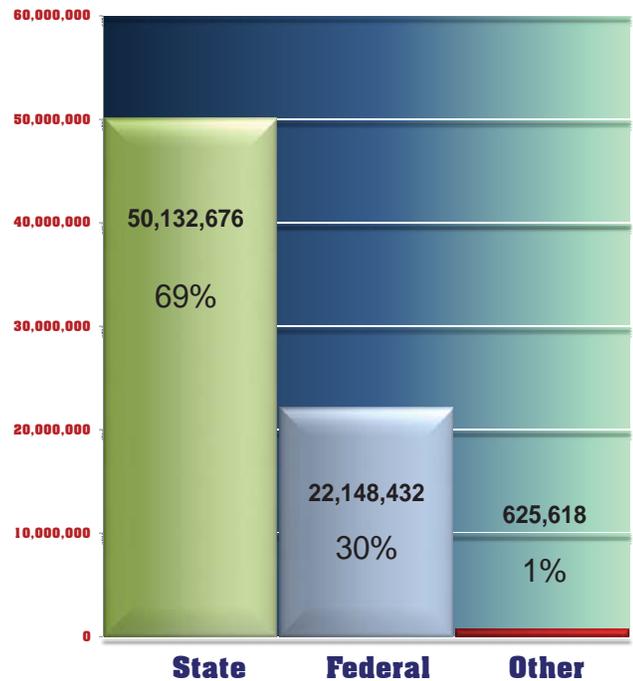
# Financial Breakdown FY 2010-2011

## Career and Technical Education and Adult Education Expenditures (State FY 11\*)

Central Administration .....	4,544,749
Secondary Career Centers .....	20,127,693
CTE Grants .....	15,899,606
Arkansas Works .....	4,076,235
CTE Program .....	1,390,686
Adult Ed Grants .....	25,752,723
Adult Ed Program Services .....	796,492
Veterans Approving Agency .....	252,851
Other .....	65,691
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>72,906,726</b>

## Career and Technical Education and Adult Education Revenues

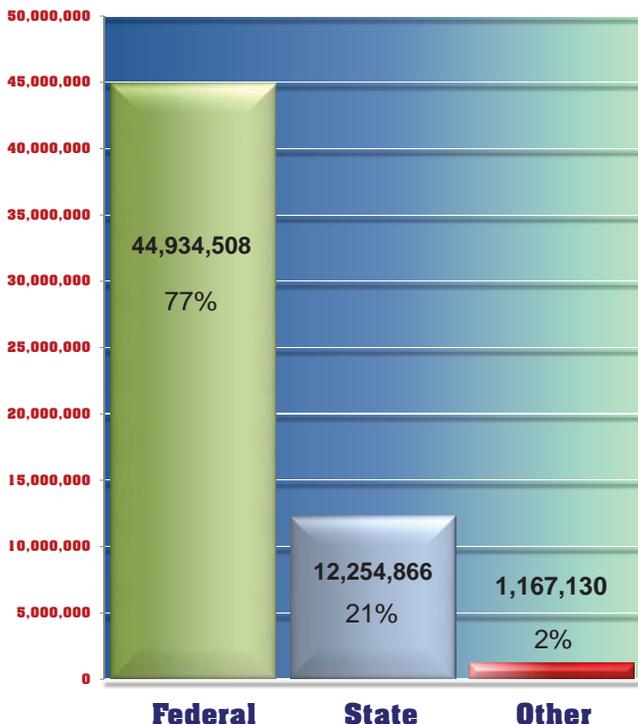
Total: 72,906,726



*90.1 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 Revenues

Total: 58,356,504



## Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Expenditures ( Federal FY 11\*\*)

Central Administration .....	4,801,155
Field Program .....	28,177,943
Arkansas Career Training Institute .....	15,337,036
Special Programs .....	2,311,365
Stimulus Funds .....	7,729,005
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>58,356,504</b>

\*The state fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. All Career and Technical Education and Adult Education data is state fiscal year 2010-11 unless otherwise indicated.

\*\*The federal fiscal year runs October 1 to September 30. All Arkansas Rehabilitation Services data is federal fiscal year 2010-11 unless otherwise indicated.

# Career and Technical Education

**More than three-quarters, or 157,919, of Arkansas high school students enrolled in career and technical education (CTE) classes.**

CTE classes were taken by 157,919 students in more than 500 school sites. Of that total, 8,963 students were enrolled in CTE classes at secondary area career centers, which provide CTE programs to participating high schools within a 25-mile radius.

Arkansas Career and Technical Education (CTE) has adopted a bold new national vision for career and technical education. This vision was developed by the National Association of State Directors of the Career and Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) to emphasize the critical role that CTE plays in our nation's educational advancement and economic competitiveness. The theme for this new vision is "Reflect...Transform...Lead." It is based on five principles:

- ☐ CTE is critical to ensuring that the United States leads in global competitiveness.
- ☐ CTE prepares students to succeed in further education and careers.
- ☐ CTE is a results-driven system that demonstrates a positive return on investment.
- ☐ CTE is delivered through comprehensive programs of study aligned to the National Career Cluster framework.
- ☐ CTE actively partners with employers to design and provide high-quality, dynamic programs.

## 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

More than 2,400 CTE teachers 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 current class has 28 participants.



# Career and Technical Education

## High School Career and Technical Education

- ▣ **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 (STEM); and Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics.
- ▣ **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 postsecondary). 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 (JAG) is the Arkansas affiliate of the national organization, Jobs for America's Graduates. JAG teams educators and employers to provide selected secondary career and technical education students with academic and workplace skills in order to prepare them for success in careers and/or further education and training after high school graduation.

There are 81 JAG programs in Arkansas, serving more than 2,000 students in senior, multi-year, alternative, and middle-school programs.



## CTE Enrollment by Occupational Area

## CTE Enrollment by Grade

Grade	CTE Enrollment	Total Enrollment	Percent Served
7th	27,068	36,306	75%
8th	33,336	36,237	92%
9th	24,971	37,807	66%
10th	24,741	35,280	70%
11th	23,507	32,739	72%
12th	24,296	30,330	80%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>157,919</b>	<b>208,699</b>	<b>76%</b>

Occupational Area	Number Enrolled	Percentage Enrolled
Agriculture	23,604	10%
Business & Marketing	94,530	39%
Arts & Communications	4,898	2%
Family and Consumer Sciences	49,896	21%
Skilled and Technical Sciences	26,835	11%
Support Programs	40,950	17%
<b>TOTAL *</b>	<b>240,713</b>	<b>100%</b>

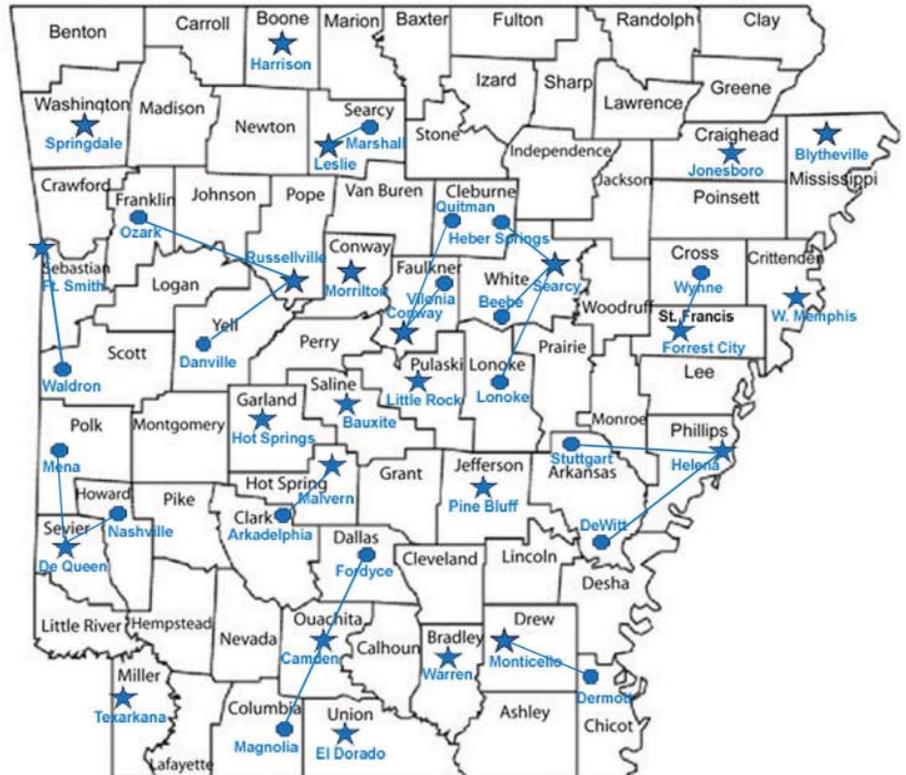
\* Duplicated count because some students enroll in more than one program at the same time

## Concurrent Credit

A total of 5,304 students who were enrolled in secondary career centers earned 31,293 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 8,963 students from 173 high schools. Student in 68 high schools lack access to career center programs.
- The budget for the 24 centers was \$20,127,693. Of that amount, \$9,628,952 was pass-through funding to high schools.



- ★ Secondary Career Centers
- Satellite Locations

# Career and Technical Education

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 3,955 adults enrolled in apprenticeship programs — 2,048 in electrical, 1,332 in plumbing, and 575 in other crafts.

Total expenditures were \$1,055,265, for an expenditure per apprentice of \$267.



## 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 service, aerospace, carpentry and construction, diesel mechanics, and welding.

A total of 102 students enrolled in youth apprenticeship programs.

Total expenditures were \$525,166.

# Career and Technical Education

## 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: 45,564



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, 45,564 students enrolled in career and technical education classes participated in CTSO activities at the middle- and junior-high-school, high-school, and postsecondary levels.

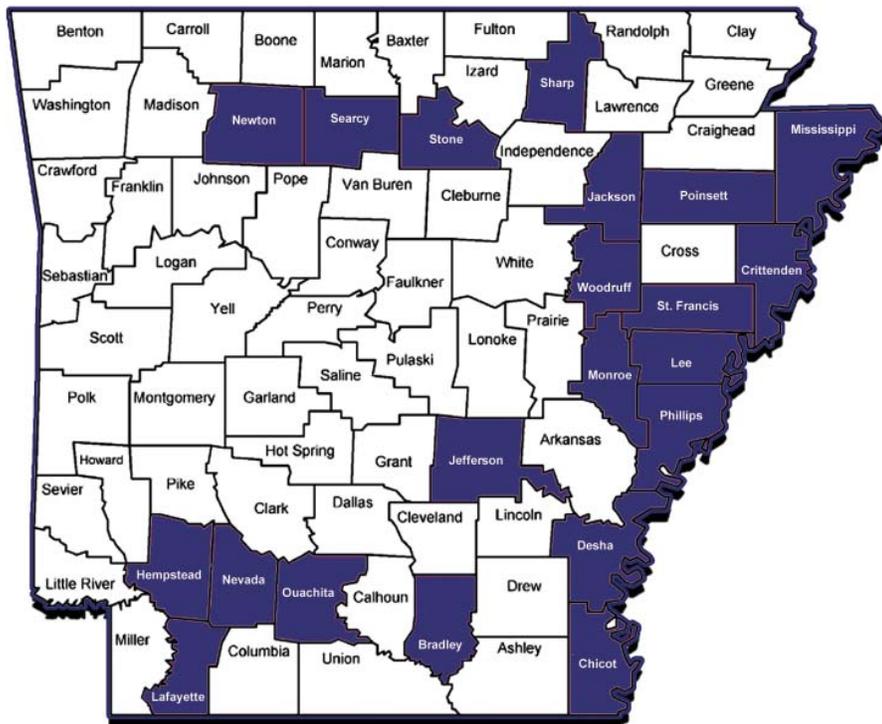
# Career and Technical Education



# ARKANSASWORKS

**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.



**Counties Targeted for College and Career Coaches Program**

**The College and Career Coaches Program** 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 supports Arkansas students in 57 school districts in 21 counties in which unemployment and poverty are high, and the college-going rate is low, as well as in three Little Rock high schools. Students in the 8th through 12th grades are served by coaches assigned to middle and high schools in those counties.

Career 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 operate during the summer as well as during the academic year.

**Performance Measure:  
Smart Core Enrollment**

Increased from 79.97% to 82.21% (2.24%)

**Performance Measure:  
College-Going Rate (First-Time Freshmen)**

Increased from 33.10% to 51.73% (18.63%)  
State average increased from 46.9% to 51.7% (4.8%)

**Performance Measure:  
Applications for Financial Aid**

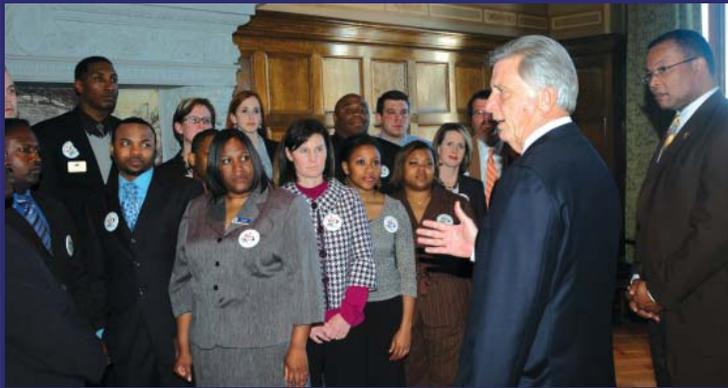
Increase from 91% to 96%\*  
State average increased from 77% to 80%

\*Student enrollment in the 21 counties declined by 1,724 students.

## Performance Measure: Increase ACT Score and Reduce Remediation

- **ACT Score (First-Time Freshmen):**
  - Increased from 19.6 to 19.86 (.26 points\*)
  - State average increased by .14 points
- **Remediation Rate: (First-Time Freshmen):**
  - Decreased from 68.49% to 63.58% (-4.9%\*)
  - State average decreased by -4.77%

*\*The number of students taking the ACT exam increased from 2009 to 2010 by 1,971. Students from AR Works counties, who comprise less than 20% of the state's student population, accounted for 47% of the increase. The number of students taking the ACT within the AR Works counties increased by 65%.*



*Governor Beebe speaks with Career Coaches during Arkansas Works Legislative Day March 1, as Director Walker looks on.*

## STEM Initiatives

**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.

### Project Lead the Way Becomes an Integral Component of STEM Works

The Department of Career Education set aside \$500,000 for support of **Project Lead the Way (PLTW)**, a national initiative designed to better prepare students for high-demand jobs in STEM areas. Eleven high schools and nine middle schools have PLTW programs.

PLTW's hands-on, Activities-, Project-, Problem-Based (APPB) curriculum aligns with national

standards and is collaboratively developed and updated by subject matter experts representing a variety of STEM fields.

PLTW programs emphasize critical thinking, creativity, innovation, and real-world problem-solving. The hands-on learning engages students on multiple levels, exposes them to areas of study that they might not otherwise pursue, and provides them with a foundation for further education and training and career success in STEM-related fields.

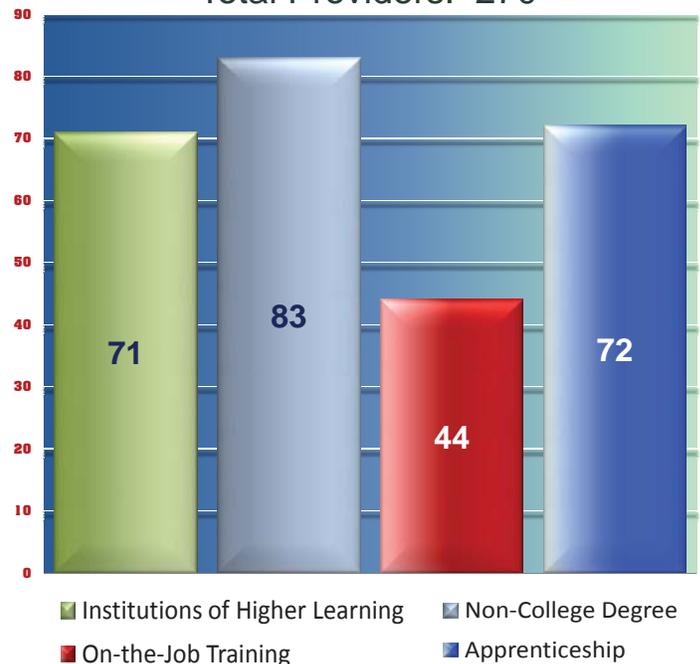
## State Approving Agency for Veterans' Training

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."

## Number and Type of Approved Providers

Total Providers: 270



# A Year in Pictures



**Greenhouse Effect:** (left) The Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), was awarded a \$10,000 SkillsUSA Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation grant to fund the construction of a 16-by-20-foot greenhouse on campus. The structure was built by construction technology students and will be the centerpiece of a new horticulture skills curriculum. Other SkillsUSA focus areas such as sales and marketing will collaborate on future greenhouse projects.

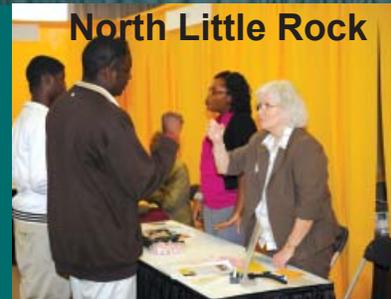
(Below) The agency hosted five day-long "ACE Expos" (pictured below) where information about the agency's many services was made available to the citizens of North Little Rock, Helena-West Helena, Fayetteville, Monticello, and Texarkana. More than 1,000 people have been provided assistance.



Monticello



(Above) Arkansas FFA incorporated QR (quick response) codes into its annual "Ag in Action" displays at the Arkansas State Fair. When the codes were scanned by smart phones using a free application, users were immediately shown an informative video showing the animal and student handler.



North Little Rock



Helena



Fayetteville



Texarkana



CTSO Day at the Capitol: Russellville High School Project Lead the Way students Parker Dew (left), Justin Vick (center) and Jian Zhang (right) demonstrate their working elevator model and controller. Lawmakers and visitors to the Capitol Rotunda were treated to demonstrations by career and technical education students of what they were learning in their CTE classes.

# A Year in Pictures



(Above) Hector Fernandez (with his wife, Jacqueline) scored 768 out of 800 on his GED test, tying for the highest score of approximately 8,000 test takers in the state. Originally from Guatemala, Fernandez's accomplishment is even more remarkable when taken into account that English is his second language.

(Right) ARS district managers and Field Services staff including (l-r) Adrienne Robinson, Vernell Jones, Sue Osburn, Sterling Hughes and Carol Ethridge, participated in team-building exercises during a scheduled summer managers meeting.



DECA members take business seriously. In Harrison, students manage and staff the high school's coffee shop, "DECA House of Grounds." In Alma, home of the Airedales, DECA students manage "Aire-Looms," a spirit items and gift shop inside the high school.



(Below) Vickie Zajac of Conway holds a sign bearing her name outside of her office at Faulkner County Realty. Zajac was a "dislocated worker" who sought



guidance and education at Conway Adult Education Center after the distribution center where she worked was closed. She now has her realty license and owns her own business.

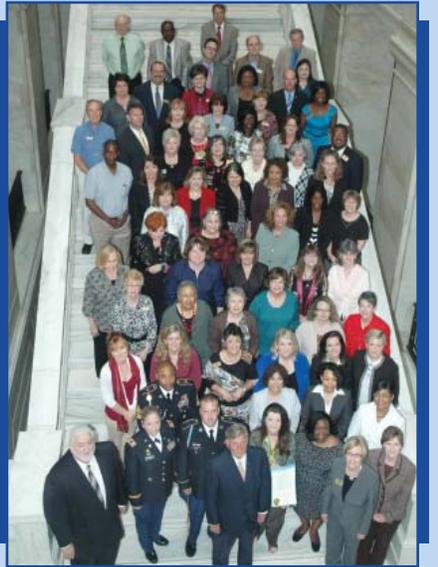
-- Photo courtesy of the Log Cabin Democrat/Courtney Spradlin, photographer



The Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities sponsored two annual student events: (left, top) The Scholarship Banquet, held June 16 at the Governor's Mansion, recognized the academic and civic accomplishments of students with disabilities from around the state. This year, the number of scholarship recipients rose to 41. Group is shown at their visit to the Capitol.



(left, bottom) The Youth Leadership Forum was held at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway the week of July 10-15. Participants attended workshops on time and money management, rights and responsibilities at college, and independent living. They also met Governor Beebe and took a tour of the Capitol during a day in Little Rock.



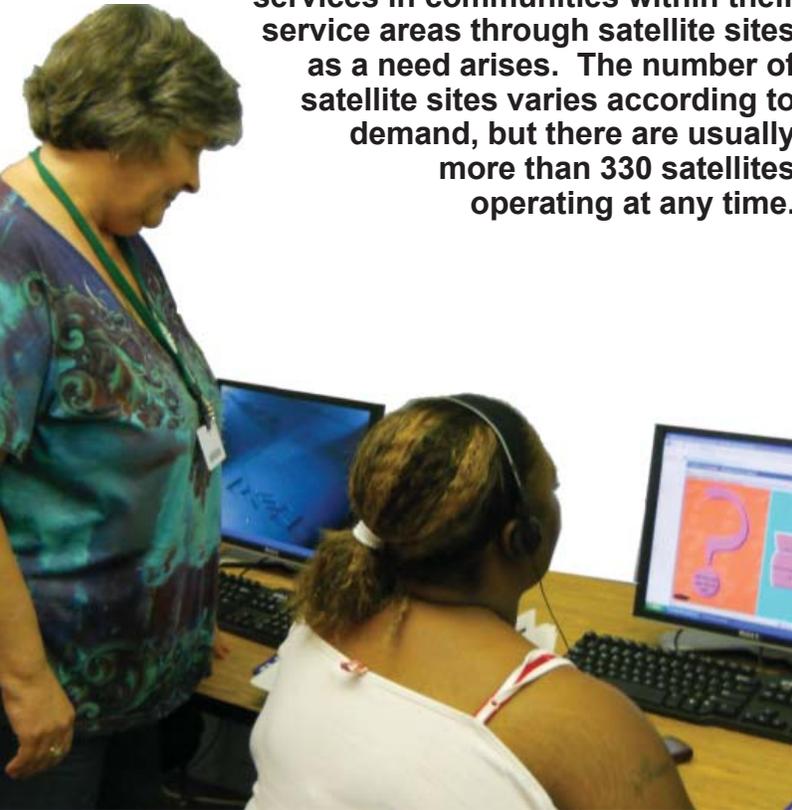
Gov. Beebe proclaims Adult Ed/GED Day

# Adult Education

## 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.



## Adult Education Enrollment

- 44,475 students were *served* (less than 12 hours of instruction) in adult education/literacy programs.
- 27,595 of those students were *enrolled* (12 or more hours of instruction).
- 1,718 were 16- and 17-year-olds for whom adult education provided a way to earn a high school equivalency certificate.

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/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.

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

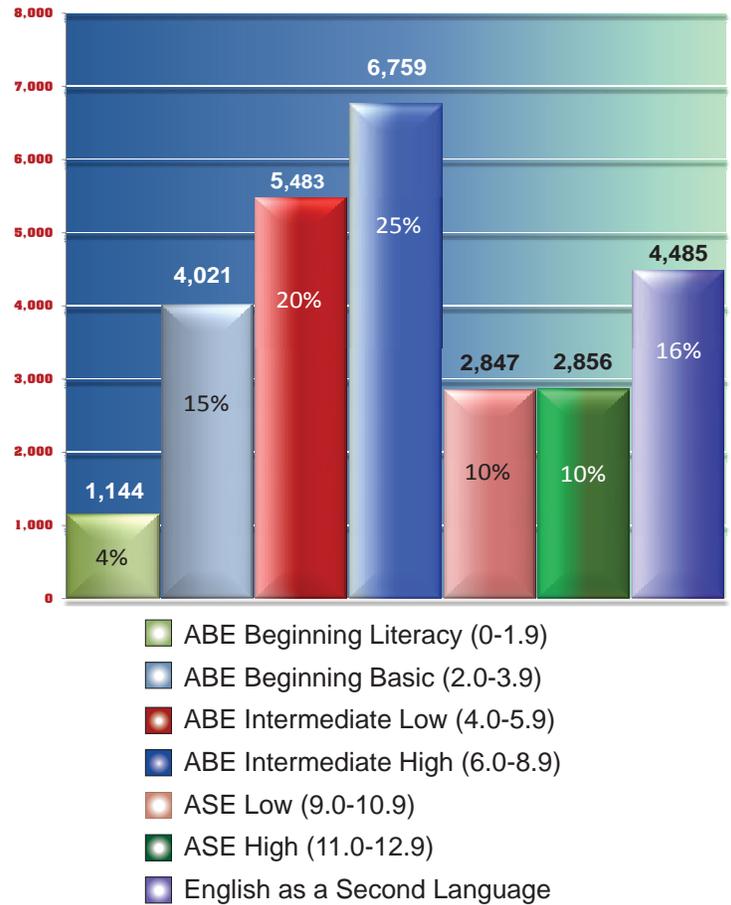
**Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy™ (WAGE)**—Provides academic and basic skills instruction to unemployed and underemployed Arkansans to prepare them for entry-level jobs. An individual who successfully completes the program earns a state-issued certificate in one or more of five areas: Industrial,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

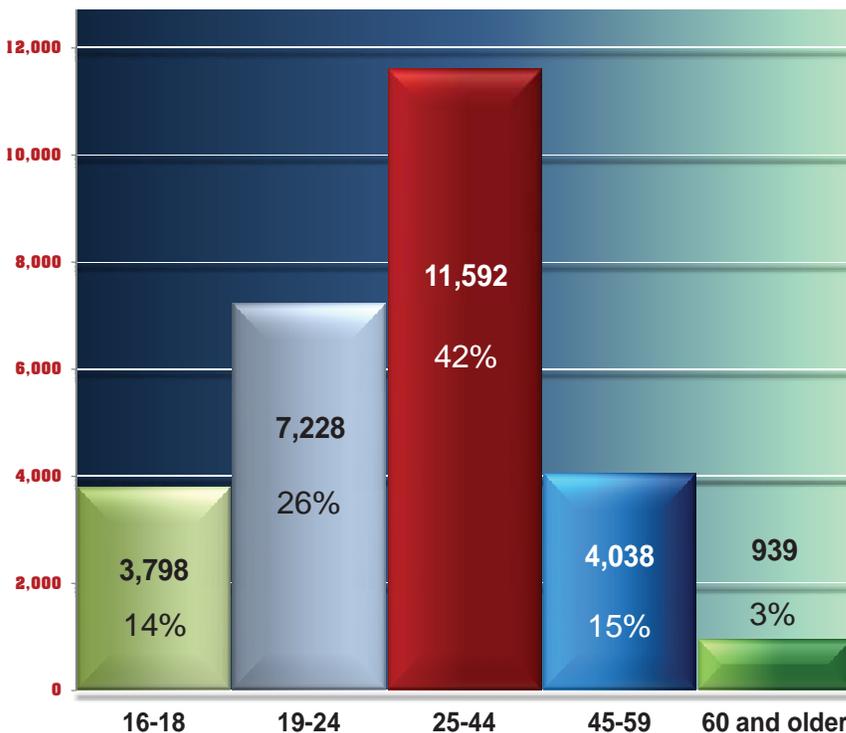
**Family Literacy**—Provides intergenerational programs to improve the educational opportunities of children and adults by integrating their needs into a unified program. These programs include four components: child development activities,

### Grade-Level Equivalent of Adult Education Students



basic skills instruction for the adults, parenting and life skills development, and parent/child interaction time.

### Age of Individuals Enrolled in Adult Education



**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

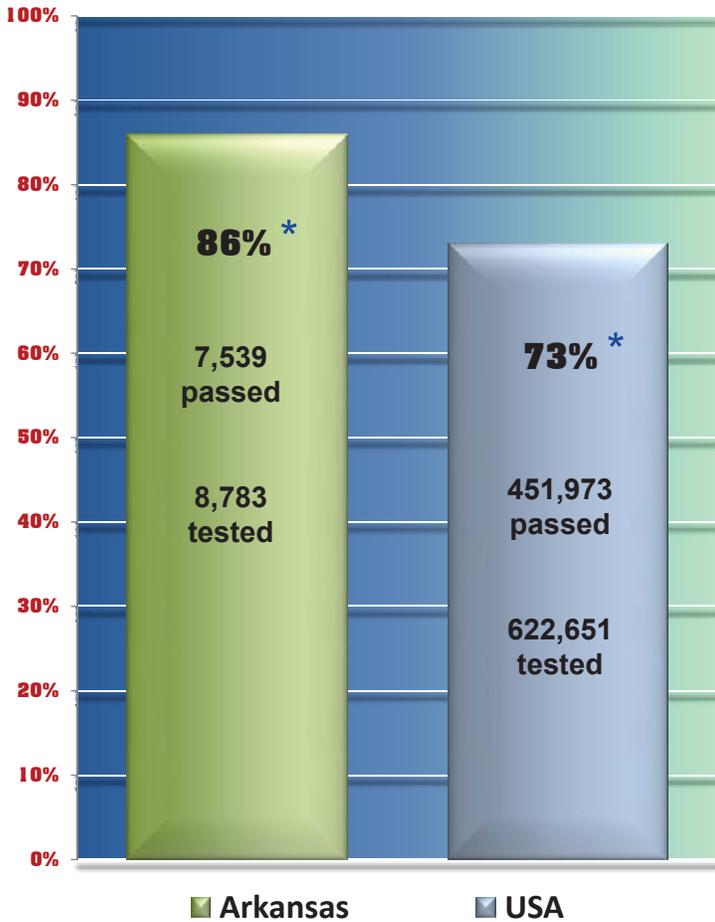
Adult education and literacy services are provided by teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, state and local administrators, and volunteers. Every adult education teacher holds a state teaching license.

Adult education and literacy instruction was delivered by 320 full-time teachers, 475 part-time teachers, and 388 -volunteers.

# Adult Education

## GED® Tests Pass Rate

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



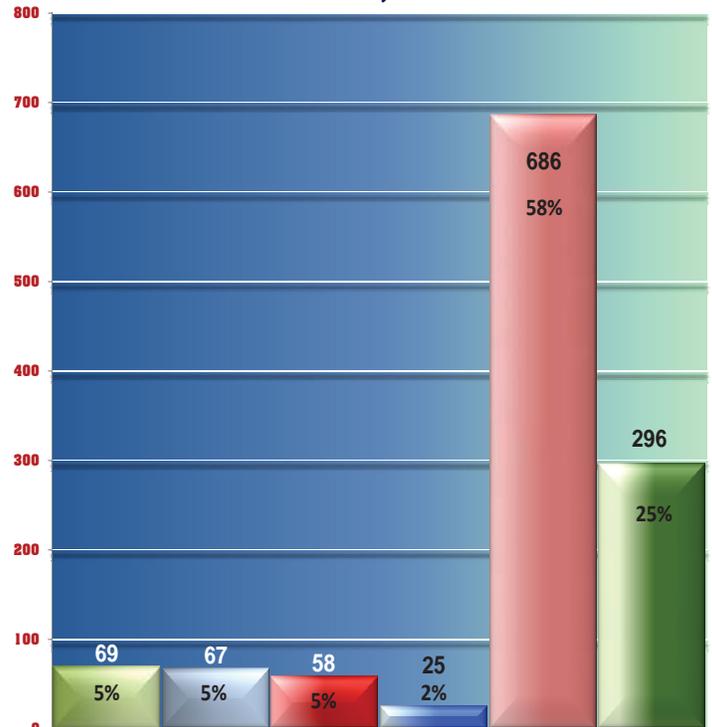
\*Calendar Year 2010

Number of GED® Testing Centers in Arkansas	61
Number of Satellite Testing Centers in Arkansas	112
Number of Individuals Certified to Administer the GED® Tests in Arkansas	153



## WAGE Certificates Awarded

Total: 1,201



- Banking
- Clerical
- Customer Service I (new 2010-11)
- Customer Service II (new 2010-11)
- Employability Skills
- Industrial

# Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

## Our Mission

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



## ARS Field Services

ARS field offices are located throughout the state and serve people with severe disabilities in all 75 counties, as mandated by federal legislation.

After determining an individual's eligibility for services, the vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselor assesses the individual's work potential and functional assets and collaborates with him or her to develop a comprehensive plan with successful employment as the ultimate goal.

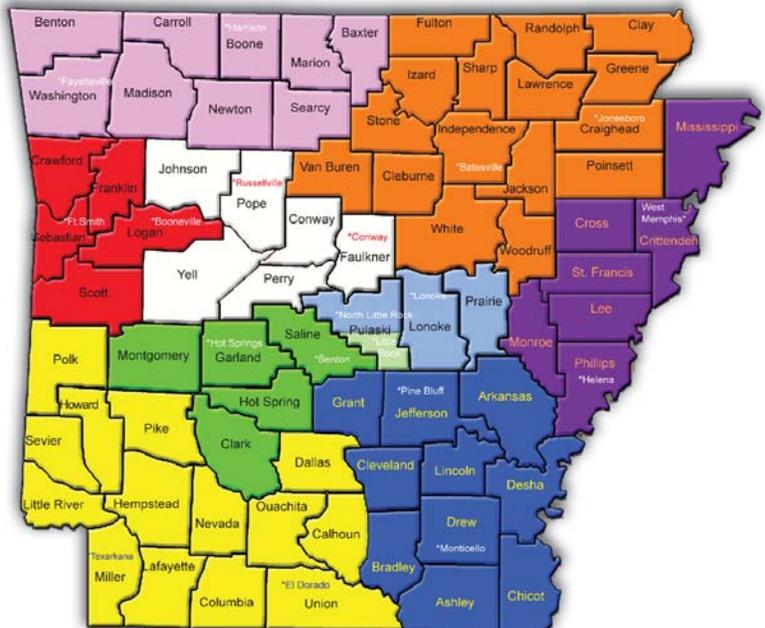
The individual's plan consists of components such as postsecondary education, vocational training, integrated employment, continuing employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, or independent living services.

To fill the need for quality VR counselors in all areas of the state, Field Services added 20 new counselor positions and 10 new placement specialist positions. Additionally, the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) training and preparation class was begun to help counselors prepare for the CRC exam.

## ARS Districts and Field Office Locations

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

### \* Field Offices



# Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Within the field program, districts were restructured and two new districts were added, increasing the number of districts from 8 to 10. As a result of the restructuring, no district now has more than two field offices, thus allowing services to be targeted more specifically to clients in smaller geographic regions than previously.

Three field offices--Jonesboro, North Little Rock, and Batesville--were relocated to larger facilities

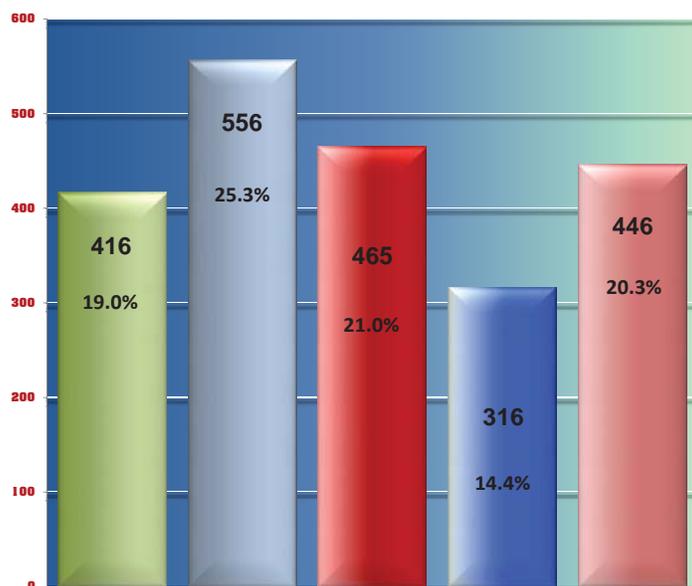
where clients' needs could be addressed more efficiently. The Texarkana and Fayetteville offices underwent renovations in order to better meet client needs.

In the area of technology, a new computerized case management software system (Libera System 7) was fully implemented, streamlining the records management process and thus providing more time for counseling of clients.

## Return on Investment

For the 2,199 individuals with disabilities who became successfully employed after VR services:

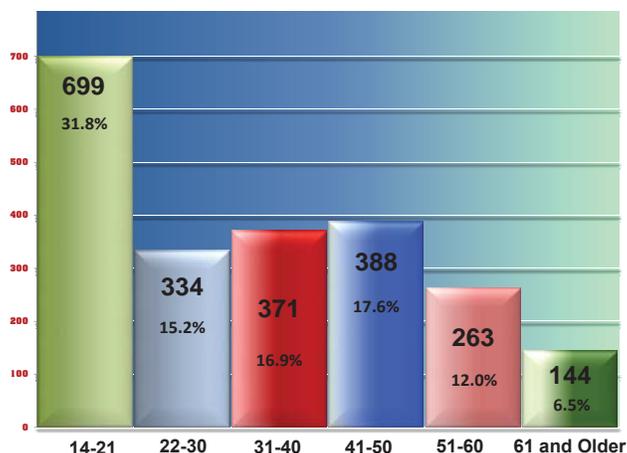
### Types of Disabilities of Rehabilitation Clients



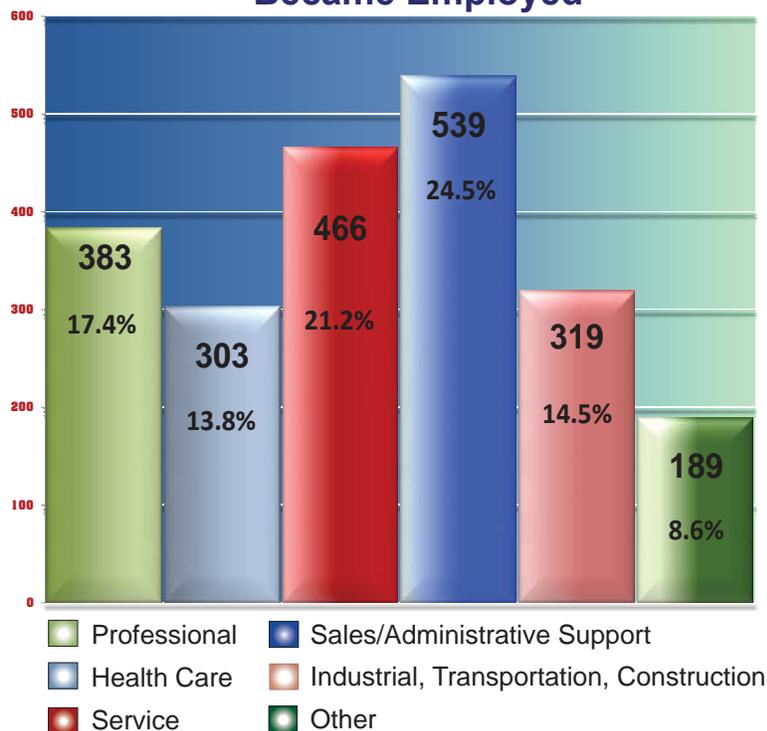
- Mobility/Orthopedic/Neurological
- Other Physical Impairment
- Cognitive Impairment
- Mental Illness
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing

- ☐ Their average annual earnings increased from \$7,401 to \$20,373, a 275 percent increase.
- ☐ The number receiving employer-provided health care insurance increased 120 percent.
- ☐ The number receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits decreased 30 percent.
- ☐ The number receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits decreased 10 percent.

### Age When Applying for Services



### Occupational Field in Which Individuals Receiving VR Services Became Employed



- Professional
- Sales/Administrative Support
- Health Care
- Industrial, Transportation, Construction
- Service
- Other

## 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.

## 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.

- 1,054 clients were served.
- 1,756 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.

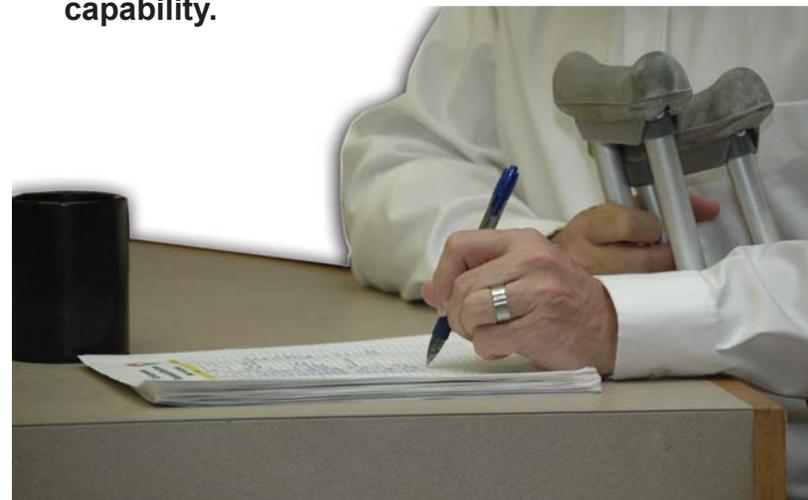
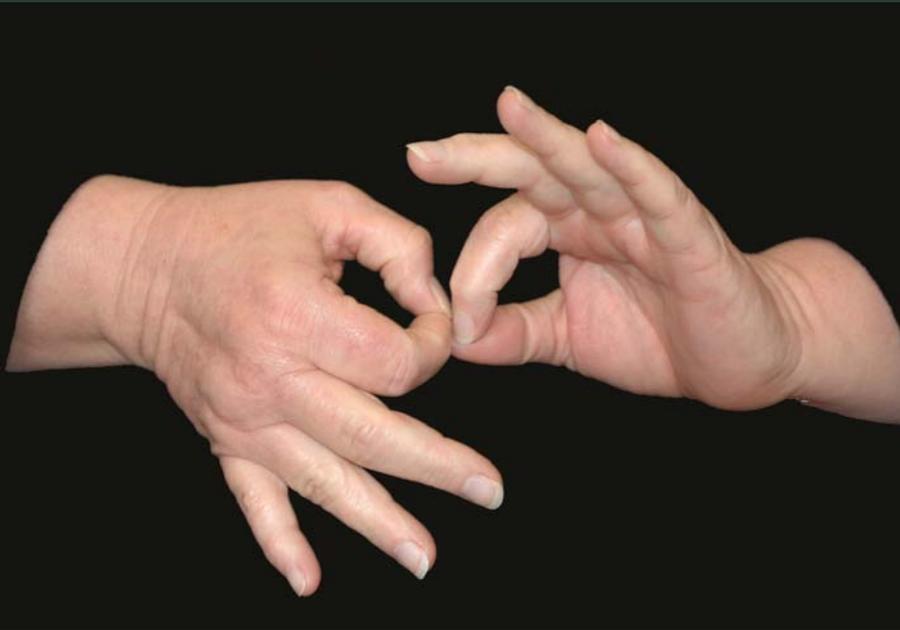
ARS assisted 1,911 transition-age youth to become employed (40.6 percent of employment outcomes exceeding the national average of 35.2 percent).

The Arkansas Transition Pilot Program is a part of the ATP. There are four vocational rehabilitation transition counselors assigned to seven schools in six school districts in Crittenden, Jefferson, Drew, Pulaski, and Washington counties.

## 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 services.
- 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.



# Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

## 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.

### ACTI 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 served 448 clients during state fiscal year 2010-11.

### Career and Technical Education Programs

ACTI provides career and technical education in 12 career pathways and more than 20 specialty areas within these pathways.

Seven programs currently have national industry-based certifications:

- ☐ Business & Marketing Technology--Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC3)
- ☐ Construction Technology--National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)
- ☐ Dietary Services--ServeSafe
- ☐ Graphic Communication--Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation (GAERF)
- ☐ Medical Office--Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- ☐ Sales and Marketing--National Retail Federation
- ☐ Welding--NCCER

Three programs are undergoing review for national industry-based certifications:

- ☐ Auto Collision Repair--National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF)
- ☐ Automotive Service Technology--NATEF
- ☐ Outdoor Power Equipment--Equipment and Engine Training Council (EETC)

Two programs lead to state licensure examinations:

- ☐ Cosmetology--State Board of Cosmetology
- ☐ Certified Nursing Assisting--Office of Long Term Care

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

In September 2011, ACTI applied for candidate status for accreditation through the Council on Occupational Education (COE), a national institutional accrediting agency for the accreditation of postsecondary occupational education institutions.

# Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

## Accomplishments of ACTI SkillsUSA

According to the national SkillsUSA organization, only 2 percent of all chapter members nationwide ever qualify to compete at the national level. In just its third year of competition, *the ACTI SkillsUSA chapter not only qualified for nationals for the third year in a row but also doubled the number of students who qualified for the national competition.* Moreover, for the first time in ACTI history, an ACTI student brought home a national title.

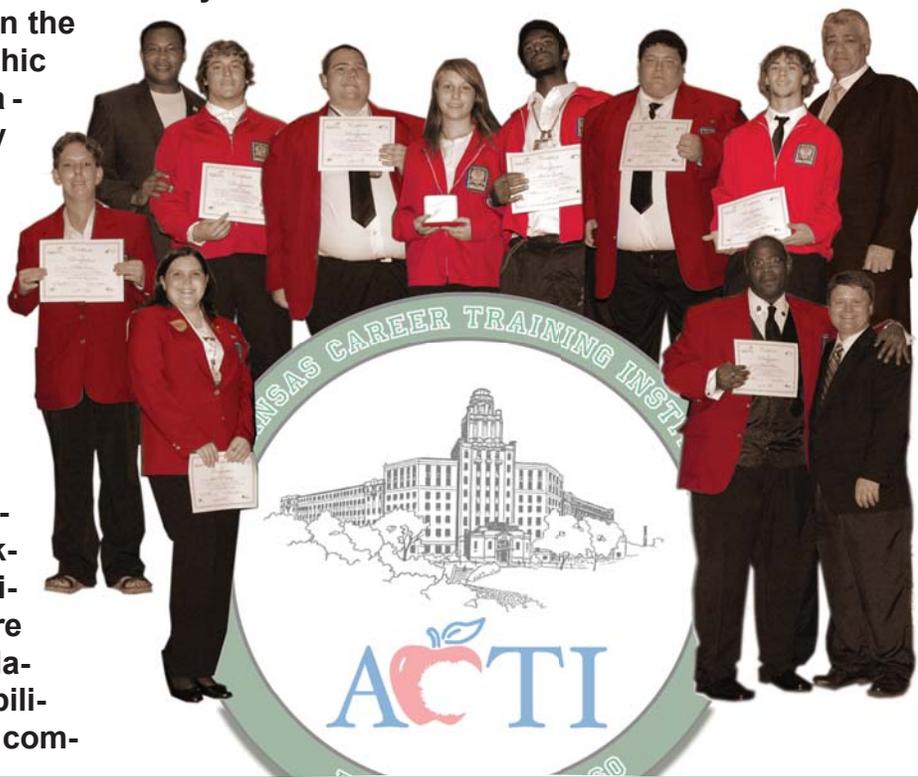
Winning bronze and placing third in the nation was Sara Newcomb, who is the student of screen printing instructor Tom Kennedy. Other ACTI SkillsUSA members also did very well: Charlie Graves placed fourth in the nation in graphic communications; Kristy Fincel placed in the top 10 in the nursing assistant competition; and Rocky Stone placed 12th (out of 22 competitors) in extemporaneous speaking. Significantly, there are no accommodations for disabilities in these com-

petitions, proving once again, that our students can compete and do just as well, if not better, than those who may not have a “different” ability.

The ACTI SkillsUSA chapter also reached another milestone at the national competition--voting rights. Three ACTI chapter members who are state officers--Jimmy Winters, Staci McCollough, and Rocky Stone--represented ACTI and the state of Arkansas as voting delegates. Ms. McCollough also represented Arkansas SkillsUSA at a meeting in Washington D.C., where she met with Sen. Mark Pryor and with the aides to Sen. John Bozeman.

## Career Readiness Certificate Training

ACTI students who meet qualifying academic levels have the opportunity to test for the National Career Readiness Certificate (CRC). The CRC is a portable, evidence-based credential that measures essential workplace skills and is a reliable predictor of workplace success. Depending upon their scores, students may be awarded a platinum, gold, silver, or bronze certificate.



## Medical Services

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

- ☐ general outpatient medicine
- ☐ rehabilitation nursing
- ☐ physical and occupational therapy
- ☐ speech/language pathology
- ☐ social and psychological services
- ☐ dental services
- ☐ pharmacy services
- ☐ radiology services
- ☐ laboratory services
- ☐ specialty clinics—orthopedic, amputee, wheelchair and seating, urology, and psychiatry

Twenty-four-hour nursing care is available for acute inpatient and outpatient medical services. Medical treatment is available 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.

# Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

## 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.

\* State Fiscal Year 2010-11

<i>AKDC Services Provided</i>					
Number of clients receiving payment assistance for prescription drugs	1,078	Amount spent for prescription drugs	\$835,806	Average cost per client	\$775.33
Number of clients receiving pre-transplant dental services	44	Amount spent for pre-transplant dental services	\$22,842	Average cost per client	\$519.14
Number of clients receiving transportation reimbursement assistance	153	Amount spent for transportation reimbursement	\$39,125	Average cost per client	\$255.72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,175 *</b>		<b>\$897,773</b>		

\* Unduplicated count

## 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

- ☐ 1,525 individuals received information and/or referral services.
- ☐ 335 individuals were provided AT demonstrations in the ICAN Clearinghouse.
- ☐ 35 training sessions were provided or sponsored.
- ☐ 854 pieces of equipment were loaned.
- ☐ 734 pieces of donated equipment with a total retail value of \$461,215.68 were cleaned or refurbished to be provided to Arkansans in need through the program's equipment reutilization program.

\* Federal Fiscal Year 2010-11

## 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

## 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:

- ☐ **Scholarship Program**  
*The AGCPD provided 39 scholarships at a total value of \$28,750.*
- ☐ Youth Leadership Forum
- ☐ Disability Awareness Month
- ☐ Disability Mentoring Day



# Arkansas Rehabilitation Services



**AT@Work Services include**

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

Services were provided to 104 individuals.

*\* Federal Fiscal Year 2010-11*

## 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

*\* State Fiscal Year 2010-11*

## 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 82 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 10 sign language classes and one conference presentation.

*\* State Fiscal Year 2010-11*

## 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.

## RIDAC Services Provided

<b>Clients served</b>	<b>6,705</b>
<b>Psychological assessments/consultations</b>	<b>3,478</b>
<b>Medical evaluations/consultations</b>	<b>4,701</b>

## Retaining a Valued Employee (RAVE)

Retaining a Valued Employee (RAVE) is a program designed to provide support to employers when assisting employees who experience injury or illness that results in disability in remaining at work or returning to work as soon as it is safe and medically feasible. RAVE was recently identified as an emerging practice by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

# Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

## 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 (BRRs) located throughout the state provide consultation, technical assistance, and information to businesses so that businesses will have an available source of qualified employees. BRRs also assist employers in developing solutions to disability-related issues. BRRs develop and build business relationships by providing services in these key areas:



- ☐ Staffing--recruitment and retention
- ☐ Education/awareness training
- ☐ Financial incentives
- ☐ Accessibility and accommodation options

Number of counties served	75
Number of clients employed	500
* Number of closures	450
Presentations to Businesses	100+

\* Closure: Client remains employed after 90 days

Ryan Penner (third from right) of Tyson Foods accepts an award and letter from Governor Mike Beebe recognizing Tyson Foods for its commitment to hiring individuals with disabilities. Presenting the letter are (left to right) ACE Director Bill Walker, ACE Business Relations Manager Rodney Chandler, Business Relations Representative Ashley Cross, and ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño.

## Alternative Financing Program

The Alternative Financing Program provides persons with disabilities access to extended-term, at- or below-market-rate loans for the purchase of assistive technology devices and services for use in the workplace, in school, at home, or in recreational and leisure activities. Assistive technology can improve the quality of life in these areas:

- ☐ Mobility--manual or power wheelchairs, motorized scooters, vehicle modifications
- ☐ Sensory--Closed Circuit TV, hearing aids and listening devices, electronic reading devices
- ☐ Daily Living Aids--electric feeders, power-lift chairs
- ☐ Vehicle Access--wheelchair lifts, driving aids, seating systems
- ☐ Home Modification--kitchens, bathrooms, ramps
- ☐ Computer Access--voice recognition software, scanners, readers

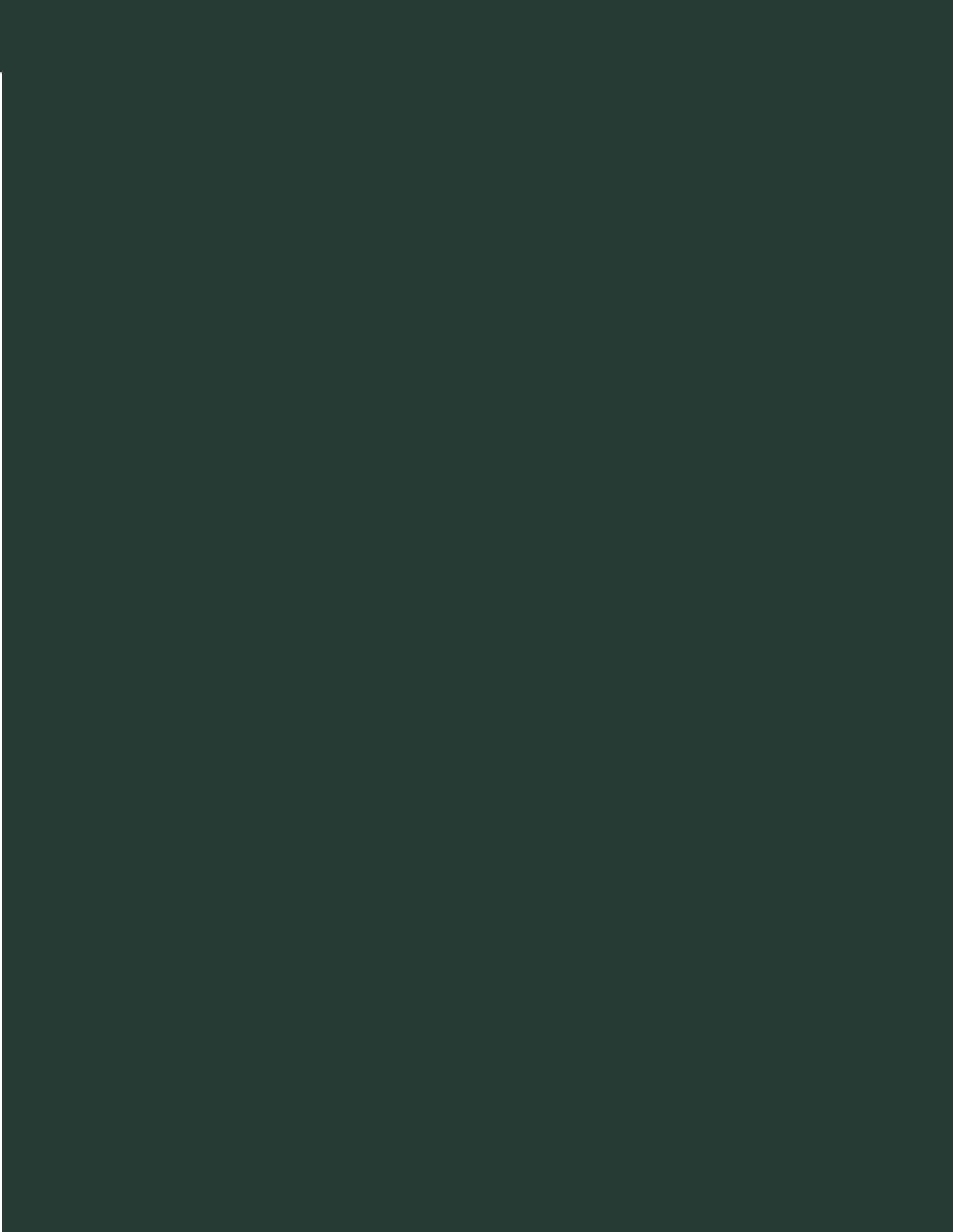


## Small Business Program

For many individuals with disabilities, self-employment can offer empowerment, control, and success. The Small Business Program is designed to assist Arkansas Rehabilitation Services clients in becoming employed in entrepreneurial or micro-business operations that can accommodate an individual's unique needs more successfully than a more traditional workplace might.

The Small Business Program helps individuals with disabilities start, grow, and manage a small business. Some of the services offered include

- ☐ Individualized technical assistance
- ☐ Consultation relating to planning, management, and technology
- ☐ Market analysis
- ☐ Business plan development
- ☐ Identification of funding sources
- ☐ Connection to other resources



**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.**



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