

Students Win, State Wins with Kuder

Results to Date Show Highest Interest in Law/Public Safety/Security and Agriculture Career Fields

Beginning this school year, Arkansas is the first state in the nation to provide all of its school districts and community colleges with an online career assessment tool that will help students and adults develop an electronic career portfolio that they can keep for life. It will also provide the state with information on the interests and needs of the current and emerging workforce.

Using the Internet-based [Kuder Career Planning System](#), users can plan smart for the future by recording career interests, skills, and work value assessments beginning in the seventh grade. All information is based around the [16 occupational career clusters](#).

Kuder users will also be able to document career development activities, education and work-related experiences, community service, special skills, honors, and goals in their electronic portfolio. Students can retrieve this information at any time as they apply for jobs, internships, college, scholarships, or other opportunities where a record of these activities is essential. With access to the Internet, they will be able to access their portfolio at any time and from any location.

Another advantage of the Kuder system is that educators and employers will be able to access



(Above) Ed Harrington of National Career Assessment Services, Inc., in Adel, Iowa, and (below) Dr. Steve Franks, Director of the Department of Workforce Education, gives an analysis of the results of the pilot testing in Arkansas schools during a press conference at the Department of Higher Education.



composite assessment results of student interests and plan accordingly. Database information may be used to assist a school in career counseling, planning career fairs, scheduling classroom speakers, or assigning work site visits. Courses can be planned for both high school and college to help match student career and educational choices. Employers and others involved in state and local economic development efforts

will be able to better match career interest information with present and future internships and job opportunities.

Over 8,700 students and their schools piloted the Kuder system last spring. As of April 2, over 44,000 students and adults have taken advantage of Kuder.

The two career clusters of Law, Public Safety, and Security and Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources topped the list of the 16 clusters where students had the most interest – nearly 23 percent of those taking the assessment. Careers in Business, Management, and Administration; Health Science; and Architecture and Construction captured the interest of over 25 percent of the students. The implementation of the Kuder system is a partnership of the [Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges](#) and the state's three education agencies – [Education](#), [Workforce Education](#), and [Higher Education](#). With funding from Workforce Education and the Arkansas Legislature, the state is investing in the Kuder project to allow users to access the system through their school districts and community colleges at no cost.