



Arkansas Department of Career Education

Dr. Charisse Childers, *Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of Skills Development Announces First Training Grants

LITTLE ROCK – The Office of Skills Development, a newly-created division within the Arkansas Department of Career Education, is issuing training grants to twenty-one companies, mostly manufacturing firms, in order to meet employer training needs as well as invest in improving the quality of the Arkansas labor pool. Issuance of the grants is a collaborative effort of the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet for the Arkansas Economic Development Commission’s Existing Workforce Training Program. The Governor’s Workforce Cabinet includes the directors of the Arkansas Department of Education, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and the Arkansas Department of Career Education. The funds, totaling nearly \$50,000, are to be paid out of the Skills Development Fund, which the Office of Skills Development administers.

The Office of Skills Development was created during the 2015 Legislative Session to enhance state workforce development efforts. Among other things, the Office of Skills Development is purposed with administering funds targeting workforce needs, as informed by employers, and working to improve coordination among various state agencies and resources that are working to address similar needs.

In July, ACE Director Dr. Charisse Childers appointed Brian Rogers as the Deputy Director of the Office of Skills Development.

About the Arkansas Department of Career Education: The Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) provides leadership and contributing resources to serve the diverse and changing career educational needs of Arkansas youth, adults, and persons living with disabilities. For more information about ACE and other programs please visit the website www.ace.arkansas.gov or follow us on Twitter at @ARCCareerEd.