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ACTI Graduates Celebrate Accomplishments, Launch Careers

HOT SPRINGS – Christopher Robinson, a native of Pine Bluff, not only graduated with honors, but he has a job.



Standing with Robinson are the following: Dr. Charisse Childers, Director, Arkansas Department of Career Education; Dr. Dawn Tirado Simpson, Director of Vocational Training, ACTI; Alan McClain, Commissioner, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services; and Jonathan Bibb, Director, ACTI.

He will be working for the City of Hot Springs as a plumber.

“It’s an accomplished feeling that I achieved something like that. I’m very excited and I can’t wait to learn more,” he said.

He was one of more than seventy-two graduates that walked across the stage at the 188th Commencement Exercises. The graduates celebrated the milestone in the presence of their instructors, families, and friends.

Robinson looked among the crowd and not only saw his sister and nephew, but just a few seats over, his brother graduated with him.

He is grateful to ACTI and all that he learned while earning his construction technology degree.

“It was very fun, but I also had my rough times when it came to my books. My instructors and family members kept me on the path.

Robinson said he is ready to launch his career and to make a living doing something that he loves.

“I’m looking forward to buying me a truck,” he said, with a smile.

The Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), formerly known as the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center, is a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week residential facility with the capacity to accommodate up to 320 residential students. ACTI's mission is consistent with the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division's mission to provide comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. The center receives client referrals from vocational rehabilitation field counselors in all 75 Arkansas counties.

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 @ARCareerEd.*

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