

# the Career Counselor 2015

A publication of the Arkansas Department of Career Education  
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## Reaching Out, Opening Doors, Recognizing Success



Arkansas Teacher of the Year Finalist



National New Teacher of the Year



FFA Students at State Fair



Barber sets up own shop with ARS assistance

## Year-End Edition

A public information pamphlet of the Arkansas Department of Career Education

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*The thing that lies at the foundation of positive change, the way I see it, is service to a fellow human being. – Lee Iacocca*



National Disability Awareness Month



College Application Week



Adult Education staff attend national conference



ARS Community Connections

## Arkansas Department of Career Education

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Arkansas Department

**ACE**  
of Career Education

Adult Education

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

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Office of Skills Development

*Turn the page to read more...*

# A Year of Accomplishments

by Director Charisse Childers

## 2015 is a year of many successes!

This success is the result of teamwork with all of our team here at ACE doing the best that you can – to achieve the best that you can become. The interest in our agency is elevated and our communication with partners and stakeholders has increased. Stay the course and keep up the good work!

Key accomplishments for 2015 include:

✓ **Industry-focused career and technical skills training** throughout all of our divisions, including the newly created Office of



Skills Development.

✓ Thorough assessment of current policy and procedure to **increase effectiveness of program delivery and outcomes.**

✓ **Record-breaking numbers of students and clients** being served through Adult Education, Career and Technical Education, and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

✓ **Increased communication within our agency and with those that we serve throughout the state.**

## Adult Education Staff Represent State at National Conferences

**Adult Education Deputy Director Trenia Miles, Ed.D., and Program Advisors Regina Kimbrough and Bridget Bullard** attended the **2015 National Meeting for Adult Education State Directors** in Alexandria, Virginia August 25 - 27. The trio learned about WIOA implementation techniques, programs and services to support career pathways and performance accountability.

**Arkansas GED® Testing Program** staff members **Janice Hanlon**, program coordinator, and **Tambra Nicholson**, Administrative Analyst, (pictured below, l-r) attended the national **GED® Annual Conference** in Bloomington, Minnesota, July 28 - 30, where Hanlon presented two breakout sessions.



## Arkansas Businesses, ARS Team Up to Highlight Disability Employment Awareness

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) hosted a business employment summit in October at Pulaski Technical College in Little Rock. This year's theme was "A Better Bottom Line Employing People with Abilities."

In celebrating October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ARS teamed up with leaders of Arkansas's business community to discuss the benefits of hiring people with disabilities. Representatives such as Walmart, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, J.B. Hunt and City of Little Rock were in attendance to lead the dialogue.

ARS' Business Relations staff members, who help companies recruit and accommodate employees with disabilities, were on hand to discuss additional services available through the agency.



Guest speaker **John Register** with **Business Case for Hiring People with Abilities** and a former 4 time All-American, Gulf War Army Veteran, Amputee and Paralympic Long Jumper (center) with ARS Business Relations Representatives (l-r): **Clara Taylor, Yvonne Rowland, Stephanie Bennett, Jill Turner, Jacqueline Balti, Laura Kimbrell, Denise Wilson, Ashley Cross, Wanda Thomas and Ben McGee**

## FFA on the Go Around the State...



### Arkansas Student Named National FFA President!

Taylor McNeel, a junior majoring in agricultural business at Southern Arkansas University, was elected National FFA President at the 88th National Convention & Expo in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Vilonia native has been very active in Arkansas FFA, having served as the 2013-14 Arkansas FFA President.

"I cannot wait to get out on the road to meet you!" said McNeel in an Instagram video post to FFA Members.

McNeel's ascendancy to the post was emotional not only for members but also for Arkansas FFA advisors. Jenna Guidry, one of the state advisors, taught McNeel when she was a student at Vilonia High School. Guidry said she can never forget McNeel's passion for agriculture as early as ninth grade.

"Taylor has always been a good one. She's very prepared. You could always tell that she had a specific drive. I told her after she was elected that I always knew she would do great things no matter where her path took her. I was just happy that I could show my love for FFA and it led to this accomplishment," Guidry said.

McNeel credits Victoria Maloch, the previous National FFA Secretary also from Arkansas, for paving the way for McNeel. Maloch is studying agricultural business with a pre-law concentration at the University of Arkansas. She hopes to continue at the U of A to earn a law degree with an emphasis in agriculture and food law.

"Victoria definitely set the bar high for all of the candidates from Arkansas. It takes a special individual to serve over 620,000 members, and she definitely set that bar very high. I see a lot of similarities in Victoria and Taylor. I'm just glad that Victoria was there to support Taylor and to open that door and to show Arkansas students that we have the capabilities to serve on a national level," Guidry said.

McNeel will be busy as National FFA President. She will travel the country and abroad to advocate for the organization. Her commitment to FFA will require her to forego a year of school to serve.



## Arkansas FFA Aims to Diversify Membership



At the Arkansas State Fair, there are always long lines of excited folks ready to enjoy the sights and sounds of the annual

attraction. Youngsters long to jump on the stomach-flipping rides, while their parents look to enjoy the food and the musical acts. It's ten days of fun – and in 2015, fair officials embraced the record crowds and spectacular weather.

Another draw to the fair is the "Ag in Action" display organized by Arkansas FFA. Each year, students from nearly a dozen FFA

chapters from across the state come to the fair to manage the display. This is a time in which the students help to feed and care for animals, such as chickens, ducks, and goats. Fairgoers can visit the exhibit and even feed the animals. Visitors can also see how crops are harvested.

"I love agriculture, and I think it's a vital part of our system," **Ebony Murrow** (pictured left, at the fair), a junior and treasurer of Hope FFA.

*DIVERSITY continued on page 4*

**DIVERSITY** *continued from page 3*

Murrow's love for agriculture has developed over the years, even though she has not grown up on a farm. She describes her mother as a "city girl," and as a result, Murrow has lived in St. Louis and parts of Tennessee, where she was not exposed to farming or agricultural practices. She was introduced to agriculture while in Hope and has never looked back.

"We need agriculture, and when everything else is gone, agriculture will be here," Murrow said.

But Murrow admits being a member of FFA can be quite lonely. Over the past summer, she participated in the Arkansas FFA Leadership Camp at Lake Hamilton, and she was the only African American out of 200 students. *African Americans are not only in the minority in Arkansas. The National FFA organization reports that only eight percent of its members is either African American or American Indian.*

"I try to emphasize the need for more ag students, and we need more people educated in it. It's a great opportunity," said **Michael Henagan**, Hope High School's ag teacher and FFA advisor.

Henagan, who is black, said he was one of two black students when he started college at Southern Arkansas University. After Christmas break, he was the only one for a number of years. Since then, he has always tried to encourage other blacks to consider joining FFA.

"I tell my students that *everything is ag*. Everything we do is pretty much agriculture: the air we breathe, the water we drink, the

## Arkansas Schools with FFA Programs Recognized for Gardens

The Arkansas Agriculture Department and Farm Credit recognized four schools in the state for placing in the Arkansas

Grown School Garden of the Year contest. A program of the Arkansas Agriculture Department, this initiative promotes food and products grown in the state by the state's producers.

Three of the four schools honored have viable FFA programs in which the students are heavily involved in learning agricultural practices, as outlined in the mission of Arkansas FFA and the National FFA Organization.

Below are the recognized schools:

- ▶ Overall School Garden Winner: **Yellville-Summit Schools**, Yellville
- ▶ Best Nutrition Education Based School Garden: **Kingston School**, Kingston
- ▶ Best Community Collaboration School Garden: **Magnet Cove High School**, Malvern

Yellville-Summit will receive a \$1,500 donation and the top prize, while Kingston and Magnet Cove will each receive \$500. The money is provided by Farm Credit.

The schools produce fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers for the local community. Yellville-Summit's

**GARDENS** *continued on page 5*

food we eat, the clothes we wear, the chairs we sit in," Henagan said.

Morrow, an aspiring agricultural attorney, said she hopes to change the mindset of her generation.

"You have to get rid of the stereotypical beliefs. I have recruited a lot of people," she said.

Morrow believes her love for agriculture will benefit her as she pursues a career in ag law. She wants to stand up for farmers and ensure them that their job is valuable.

"Small farms don't get enough recognition for what they do and they do so much," she said.

Murrow said explaining the agricultural process to other students is one way to increase membership, even among minorities.

"When you think about McDonald's, it's easy to get food from there but we have to tell them where it comes from. You have to think about the people on the farm who work so you can get that food," Murrow said.



**GARDENS** *continued from page 4*

garden provides food for the school cafeteria. Kingston students help plant and harvest food for the community, and Magnet Cove students produce food that goes to local food banks and agencies to support needy families.

"I think it shows you how FFA is active in the community," said **Marion Fletcher**, State FFA Advisor. "We need more people talking about these issues and doing these things. Other schools across the state are doing this, but they just aren't filling out the application," Fletcher added.

In a news release, Farm Credit Midsouth President & CEO James McJunkins said the following: "The interest in local foods continues to expand. It is exciting to support partners in the education system that are increasing knowledge in food production. Together, we will create opportunities that build upon and strengthen agriculture and the important role it plays in Arkansas."

The Arkansas Agriculture Department and Farm Credit launched this contest to raise awareness about including young people in growing and harvesting fresh food.

## Michael Rogers of Siloam Springs Named Teacher of the Year Finalist

Michael Rogers, an agricultural teacher at Siloam Springs High School (pictured near right with ACE Ag Program Manager Marion Fletcher), was one of four finalists selected to become the 2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year. A panel of leaders at the Arkansas Department of Education selected Rogers and three other teachers from a group of fifteen who served as regional finalists for the recognition.

Rogers is in his nineteenth year of teaching, and his entire career has been spent at Siloam Springs High School. He said he has enjoyed his time in education, and he loves empowering his students.

He said he never expected this honor.

"It set me back a minute because I'm just doing my job. I'm not trying to get any recognition. I'm just trying to figure out the best way to connect my students with a job," Rogers said.

Each of the regional finalists received a certificate and a \$1,000 grant, provided by the Walton Family Foundation. Shortly after those presentations, the four finalists were announced. In addition to Rogers, the finalists included the following: Meghan Ables, an eleventh grade English and literacy teacher at Stuttgart High School; Brenda Galliher, an 8th grade social studies teacher at Nashville Junior High School; and Stephanie Goodman, a sixth grade mathematics teacher at Hot Springs Intermediate School. In the end, Ables was named the 2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year. She will now represent the state and will vie for National Teacher of the Year.

"The excellence these teachers



present on a daily basis for their students and demand from their students is all what we should aspire to do. These finalists couldn't do this without the critical support of their colleagues and their administrators," said Commissioner Johnny Key.

Arkansas FFA Advisor Marion Fletcher said Rogers' selection as a finalist indicates that it is an exciting day for career and technical education (CTE) in Arkansas.

"It shows his dedication and commitment to agriculture education because he's worked to develop that program at Siloam Springs into a class act – facility-wise and student-wise," Fletcher said.

The finalists had to undergo a very rigorous process. Panelists had to review the finalists' comprehensive application, conduct a thorough interview, and observe the candidate in the classroom setting. The panel included educators and the current 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

The Arkansas Teacher of the Year Program is part of the National Teacher of the Year Program, which started in 1952.

## Barber Pursues Dream in Spite of Health



**Corey Slater** spends seven days a week working on his feet. It does not bother him, though, because he is living out his dream, doing something that he loves. He is the owner of A-State Fades, a barbershop in southwest Little Rock.

"I have three boys. I was just cutting their hair at the house, and one time, my cousin came to the house and said, 'You might as well get into school. You know a little bit about it.' I enrolled in school and took off from there," Slater said.

Slater finished Washington Barber College – an accomplishment all by itself. But Slater managed to earn his license while enduring intense pain as a result of kidney failure. He has been on dialysis for nearly twenty years. He goes in for treatment three times a week.

"I come here [to the shop] from dialysis, and I sit here until I feel better. If I don't feel well, then I go home," he said.

Slater, 38, has not allowed his condition to stop him. In fact, his tenacity in the midst of his personal health battles is what led Slater to learn about Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. He heard about the division's services and how ARS could help him toward his ultimate goal: owning a barbershop.

"After talking to my classmate and my instructor, I called ARS, and they got me connected with [Field Counselor] **Stacy Gravett**, and we set up an appointment. She came down and told me everything she could do for me. After that, I went after my dream," Slater said.

After Slater's meeting with Gravett, he created and submitted a business plan to the agency's Small Business Program, a program in which **Jeff Jackson** oversees. This service allows clients with entrepreneurial pursuits to seek self-employment as a realistic goal.

"Stacy was impressed by Slater's work habit, his determination to make it work, and his story. I make sure the counselor and I stay compliant. I read the business plan. I thought it was a great idea, but you



**Slater (center) with Counselor Stacy Gravett and Small Business Program Manager Jeff Jackson**

know a barbershop is a barbershop. It takes a lot of passion," Jackson said.

Jackson admitted he was not totally sold on Slater's idea. The building Slater selected, according to Jackson, was not the best looking facility. Jackson recounted his initial assessment of the building.

"I looked at it, and I said 'Wow! I'm not sure you're going to be able to get six chairs in here.' [Slater] explained where the chairs would be, where the sinks would be, and where the clients would sit. The building was in terrible shape. It was an abandoned building. He said he would repaint. He said everything he would do. He said it with so much passion," Jackson remembered.

Slater's passion and the revisions to his business plans are what sold Jackson and led to the creation of A-State Fades.

"I left saying 'We've got to fund this guy.' He showed us some of the things he had purchased already. He had already invested in it. It's good to see a client who's already invested in themselves. He called back a few weeks later for me to come out and look. He had already started painting," Jackson said.

ARS helped Slater purchase equipment for his shop, which Slater installed himself.

"ARS didn't give Corey anything. He worked for this. That's what makes me happy – knowing that we were able to assist someone who deserved it. He

**BARBER** *continued from page 6*

really deserved it," Gravett said.

Seven months as the owner of the barbershop, Slater has welcomed two other barbers into his shop. He is living his dream and investing in his community.

"ARS really was a help to me, and I'm thankful that God sent me to them. God put us together, and we made this. As a team, we made it. They helped me with all of my equipment. They helped me with some of my mortgage. I tell everyone that comes in this shop that it is a blessing to me, and I have to keep blessing others," Slater said.

Slater is spreading goodwill by helping other barbers get on their feet. He is also referring clients to ARS, making them aware of what the division offers people with disabilities.

"It feels really good knowing who Corey Slater is. Corey Slater is a father. He's a husband. He's a hard worker. He is on dialysis. He has not let his disability stop him," Gravette said.

As long as his health allows him, Slater plans to be in his happy place – at his shop, with his clippers, doing something that he loves.

"Our motto is 'We chop 'til we drop!'" he said.

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## Fordyce Teacher's Passion for Giving Back Earns Her National Award

Jessica Young has just about done it all in the medical field. She has tended to patients as a nurse, and she serves a part-time ambulance driver throughout Dallas County. Taking the advice of a church member, she chose to go into education by preparing the next generation of health professionals. After all, the flexible schedule would allow her to be home more often with her family.

"All throughout industry and nursing, you're always involved in patient teaching, so it would be a natural transition to go to that aspect into a classroom realm," Young said.

The first two weeks of school proved to be overwhelming for her. Teachers have to design their lesson plans to meet state-required frameworks, create end-of-course exams, and grade using a rubric. That's not what she expected.

"I didn't know what those things were. I looked up at



**Jessica Young and her husband, Michael, at the ACTE Conference in New Orleans in November with her awards.**

God and said, 'What were we thinking?' I had a big girl cry," she said.

Then one day it hit her. Standing before her class, she grew out of breath while teaching. Divine intervention clicked in.

"All my life, I've heard: 'Use your talents. Use your talents.' I don't have any! I would think. That day, I knew that [teaching] was it. Since that day, I've been

on fire," Young said.

In late November, Young's peers validated her career choice as the right profession for her. She now reigns as the 2016 Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) New Teacher of the Year.

"Utter shock! I could not believe they called my name," she said, still in disbelief.

When you talk to Young's students, they feel it was a no brainer to honor Young with the recognition.

"When I found out she won, I was floored. The world finally knows how great of a person we all know her to be," said Savannah Shankles, a senior at Fordyce High.

Young's course load consists of the following: Human Anatomy and Physiology, Introduction of Medical Professions, Medical Procedures, and Medical Specialization.

"Seven of the ten top jobs

**YOUNG** *continued on page 11*

## College Application Week Registers High School Seniors across the State

At Pine Bluff High School, the sound of the band made everybody move to the beat.

But the cheers and shouts were not to root the two-time defending Class 6A championship football team on to another victory. This pep rally served to motivate the school's Senior Class of 2016 to apply for college.

"I want to attend UAPB and major in agricultural business," said **Daniel Ryles** (pictured, top right), a senior at Pine Bluff High School.

Ryles was one of hundreds of seniors who took time out of class to apply for college. He said he wants to stay local so that he can continue to develop his bond with his younger relatives and serve as a role model for them.

"I consider myself to be the youngest of the oldest. I am an example for the younger ones. Plus, UAPB is a great agricultural school," he said.

Ryles' love for agriculture started years ago when he looked at how vast careers are in agriculture. While he doesn't know what avenue in agricultural business he will take, Ryles knows for sure that the field is right for him.

"It's a major that has a lot of job opportunities. Everyone needs food in their mouths at some point. It's a career that will never die," he said.

This all took place during **Arkansas College Application Week**, which was held in conjunction with American College Application Week. The initiative is a program launched by the American Council on Education to increase the number of students applying to college in their senior year, with a

focus on first-generation, college-going students, low income students from rural communities, and minorities.

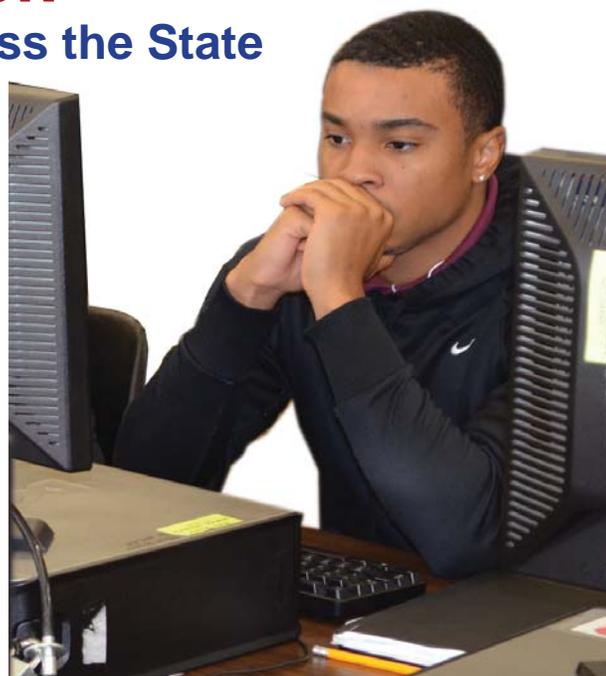
This is Arkansas's second year to participate in this project. Last year, students in 38 high schools participated in this campaign. More than 3,000 applications were submitted.

"This College Application Campaign allows us to do an extra push, especially for our students who are first-generation college students who would not normally apply for college," said **Dedric Jones**, a career coach for the Pine Bluff School District.

This year, the Arkansas College and Career Coaches Program sought to focus media attention for the campaign at **Blytheville New Tech High** (pictured bottom right) and **Pine Bluff High** schools.

Jones said College Application Campaign Week allows students to see that everyone is rooting for them. At Pine Bluff High School, local college representatives, school board members, and even members of the state legislative delegation supported the effort.

"It takes a whole village to raise a child. All state and local entities came together to make sure our students have a positive chance and good backup. Their presence



shows the students that they have a village behind them to push them to higher education and to pursue their respective career choices," Jones said.

Ryles, who is ready to graduate and to work toward his career, said he is excited about college and the possibilities that come afterward.

"My family has always encouraged me to go to college. When I was younger, I never knew why they kept talking about it. Now I know. I know there are a lot more opportunities and connections," he said.



# Arkansas JAG Programs Receive Grants

Leaders from four school districts with **Jobs for Arkansas Graduates (JAG)** programs were recognized for their commitment in ensuring student success and were presented checks to continue their work in improving the state's graduation rate among at-risk youth.

The **Clarendon School District** and the **Lakeside (Chicot County) School District** each received a \$20,000 grant from the **Delta Regional Authority**. The **Russellville School District** and the **Paragould School District** each received \$15,000 from **AT&T**. JAG representatives from the respective districts accepted the funds at a check presentation ceremony at the Arkansas State Capitol the morning of November 12.

"The JAG program is a program that has been recognized nationally," said **Christopher Masingill**, federal co-chairman for the Delta Regional Authority Board. "It works because it touches the most at-risk young people in our system. It gives them an opportunity to think about what the future looks like for them," he said.

JAG, a state affiliate of the National Jobs for America's Graduates,



provides support to at-risk youth while encouraging them to achieve high school graduation. Along with academic support, JAG also provides work-based learning experiences that will lead them to further education and training for rewarding careers.

**Governor Asa Hutchinson** serves as a board member for the national JAG organization.

AT&T Arkansas President **Ed Drilling** said the telecommunications corporation remains committed to improving the graduation rate in the state and credits JAG as a program that is successful in doing that.

"It gets good results. It gets young people to graduate and to find a job. That's the kind of thing we want to be associated with," Drilling said.

National JAG President and CEO **Kenneth Smith** commended the efforts of the Arkansas affiliate.

"Across our 32 states [that have a JAG program], it ranks up at the top of the list – not only in performance, but also the consistency in performance over a long period of time. Arkansas has great success stories, and we hold it out to others as an example of what can be done," Smith said.

JAG is one of the various programs under ACE's Career & Technical Education division.

# ARS: “Connecting” with the Community

Arkansans learned a great deal of information about ARS as the division hosted “**Community Connections**” at field offices in the following 11 cities: Conway, Fort Smith, Russellville, Pine Bluff, Benton, Little Rock, El Dorado, Monticello, Lonoke, Texarkana, and Booneville. This event was ARS’ proactive effort to have the community walk away with a wealth of information and a greater understanding of what it does and how it can help citizens find meaningful employment. Each “Community Connections” featured “success stories,” in which clients gave testimonies about accessing the opportunities provided by ARS.

More “Community Connections” events are planned at the remaining field offices across the state. The function continues the year-long celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, created to eliminate discrimination and to foster equal opportunity for people with disabilities in every aspect of life. ARS prides itself on leading clients to their desired career fields and providing them with the tools they need to function independently.



Russellville



Texarkana



Fort Smith



Lonoke



Monticello



Booneville



Benton



Little Rock



Pine Bluff



El Dorado



Conway

## Adult Education Staff Members attend AACAE Conference

The 2015 Arkansas Association of Continuing & Adult Education/Arkansas Literacy Councils (AACAE/ALC) Conference was held November 12 -13 at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Little Rock. The conference theme was ***Moving on Up: Progress, Partnerships and Possibilities***. AACAE is the professional organization for adult educators in the state. Approximately 200 members from all across Arkansas attended the professional development and networking event.

Along with nationally recognized speakers and peer presenters, Adult Education Division (AED) staff was involved with the conference at every level—serving as speakers/presenters and on organizational committees. **Dr. Trenia Miles** (Deputy Director, AED/ACE) spoke to the group during one of the general sessions; her address was motivating and challenged the educators to continue making a difference in student lives. Some of the other AED state staff contributions included:

- ☞ **Randy Morris & Kimberly Freeman** presented a breakout session on **“Student Job Readiness”** which focused on preparing students to be the job candidates and employees that companies need and desire.
- ☞ **Dr. Trenia Miles & Bridget Bullard** presented a breakout session on the **student data collection system** used by local adult education centers. They shared methods for analyzing data and identifying trends.
- ☞ **Sarah Yager** (pictured below, far right) led a breakout session on **engaging and progressing ESL students**. Teachers and administrators heard research-based strategies to improve student retention and involvement.



- ☞ **Reginia Kimbrough & Joey Walter** presented a session on the federal **College and Career Readiness (CCR) Framework**. The duo helped session attendees better understand the framework standards as they relate to adult education programs and students.
- ☞ **Reginia Kimbrough** also presented a **“Distance Learning for Literacy Councils and Adult Education Programs”** session going over program policies and tools that can be used for students.
- ☞ **Janice Hanlon** presented an overview of **GED® Testing in Arkansas**. The breakout session included briefings on state and national statistics, accommodations to testing, policy updates and best practices.
- ☞ **Laura McNeel** made a presentation on **“Marketing WAGE™ to Business and Industry”**. The breakout session covered several ways to establish relationships between local companies and students in local WAGE™ programs.

*YOUNG continued from page 7*

in 2015 are in health care. Without a doubt, I am aware that my contents are relevant. My students are excited about coming to these classes because it’s new and it’s fresh,” said Young.

Mason Nutt, a junior, is taking Young’s Introduction to Medical Professions class. She credits Young for confirming her desire to go into the medical field.

“Being in her class, I learned you don’t have to be a doctor to be in the medical field. There’s always the business end of it – the reports, the charts, and even therapy. She’s shown me it is about helping people. She’s helped me gain confidence in myself,” Nutt said.

Young’s journey to becoming ACTE New Teacher of the Year comes after winning the top spots on the state and regional levels. She had to submit letters of recommendation, write essays explaining her teaching methodology, and participate in rounds of interviews.

## Miles Named Deputy Director

**Trenia Miles, Ed.D.**, has been appointed as the Deputy Director of Adult Education, a division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education.

Dr. Miles has been instrumental in the operations of adult education for the agency while ensuring that the adult education programs and the state office are functioning effectively and efficiently. In addition, she has worked tirelessly to provide quality services and programs to the citizens of the state.

Her accomplishments during the five years as Associate Director for the Adult Education division include the closing of Arkansas' Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and the financial audit from the Office of the Inspector General. She went on to develop the Components of a Quality Adult Education Program and the update and reinstatement of the Statistical Data Book.

With over twenty years of experience in higher education and adult education, Dr. Miles will continue to bring value to the agency while working with students, counselors, program directors, and

employers.

"I am very excited to serve in the role of Deputy Director for the Department of Career Education, Adult Education Division," Miles said. "Not only do we help individuals earn a high school equivalency diploma and improve basic academic skills, but we also assist them in transitioning to postsecondary education and training and employment. We have some great opportunities ahead of us to improve the economic prosperity and career success for low-income youth and adults throughout the state of Arkansas," she said.

"Dr. Miles' vision and leadership, as well as her commitment to adult education, is demonstrated through her passion and energy," said Charisse Childers, Ph.D., Director of the Arkansas Department of Career Education. "She is truly deserving of this very important role."



## Project SEARCH Shows Gratitude for Arkansas Children's Hospital Internships, Donates Original Art

Earlier this year, Arkansas Children's Hospital welcomed 13 interns with Project SEARCH, a program that provides job training through internship opportunities to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Funding for the program is provided by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. ACCESS Schools is the Educational partner and provides the staff to run the program.

As a thank you to ACH, the interns worked with ACH Child Life artists-in-residence to create a collaborative artwork that was donated and will be displayed in the hospital to commemorate the first year of the ACH Project SEARCH.

ARS Commissioner Alan McClain said, "The ARS and ACCESS partnership has resulted in the implementation of this site, which is our first of eight expansion sites! This is just the beginning of what will be many success stories of changed lives." McClain went on to say, "Project Search is a very important 'next step' in the lives of many of our clients with intellectual and developmental disabilities to enter the workforce, earn competitive wages and benefits."



**ARS Commissioner McClain (right) with ACH SVP & Chief Operating Officer David Berry and Project SEARCH Arkansas Director Jenny Adams, and the donated artwork**



## Arkansas Department of CAREER EDUCATION

### Career Education and Workforce Development Board

**Michael Garner**, *Chairman, Hensley*; **Hugh McDonald**, *Vice Chairman, Little Rock*; **Dan Serrano**, *Lowell*; **Jeff Standridge**, *Conway*; **Dr. Keith Vire**, *Fayetteville*; **Burton Weis**, *Fort Smith*; **Gina Radke**, *Sherwood*; **Dr. Adam Arroyos**, *Fayetteville*; **Dr. Steven Collier**, *Augusta*; **Stacy Gunderman**, *Batesville*; **Troy Keeping**, *Marion*; **Jenifer Price**, *Springdale*; **Scott Copas**, *Little Rock*  
 Ex-Officio Members: **Dr. Brett Powell**, *Director, Dept. of Higher Education*; **Johnny Key**, *Commissioner, Dept. of Education*; **Bill Stovall**, *Executive Director, Arkansas Community Colleges*; **Mike Preston**, *Director, Arkansas Economic Development Commission*; **Daryl Bassett**, *Director, Dept. of Workforce Services*; **Dr. Paul Beran**, *Chancellor, UA Fort Smith*; and **Dr. Richard Abernathy**, *Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators*

### Senior Management Team

**Charisse Childers, Ph.D.**, *Director*; **D. Alan McClain**, *Commissioner for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Kathi Turner**, *Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education*; **Trenia Miles, Ed.D.**, *Deputy Director for Adult Education*; **Lorna Claudio**, *Chief Financial Officer, Department of Career Education*; **Kathy Edgerton**, *Director of Communications*; **Joseph Baxter**, *Chief Financial Officer/Associate Commissioner, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Carl Daughtery**, *Chief of Field Services/Associate Commissioner, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Jonathan Bibb**, *Administrator/Associate Commissioner, Arkansas Career Training Institute, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Sonja Wright-McMurray**, *Associate Director for Career and Technical Education-Special Programs*; **Linda Morgan**, *Associate Commissioner for Access & Accommodations, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Robert Treviño**, *Associate Commissioner, Program, Planning Development & Evaluation, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **DeCarlia Smith**, *Human Resources Administrator*

#### ADULT EDUCATION

(501) 683-2341

GED®

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#### ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES

Arkansas Career Training Institute

(501) 624-4411

Field Services Offices:

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(870) 793-4153 \* TDD (870) 793-4224

**Benton**

(501) 317-1390

**Booneville**

(479) 675-3835

**Conway**

(501) 730-9725

**El Dorado**

(870) 862-5451 \* TDD (870) 862-4002

**Fayetteville**

(479) 582-1286 \* TDD (479) 582-1261

**Fort Smith**

(479) 755-3300 \* TDD (479) 452-6801

**Harrison**

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(870) 773-2807 \* TDD (870) 773-3074

**West Memphis**

(870) 735-4725 \* TDD (870) 735-7399

Assistive Technology at Work (AT@Work)

(501) 683-0719

Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN)

(501) 666-8868

Retaining a Valued Employee (RAVE)

(501) 683-6052

Services for the

Deaf & Hard of Hearing (SDHH)

(501) 324-9521 \* TDD (501) 686-9421

TAP (Telecommunications Access Program)

800-981-4463

#### CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(501) 682-1040

#### Arkansas Works

(501) 683-4432

Occupational Programs

Agricultural Science and Technology

(501) 682-2561

Business/Marketing Technology

(501) 682-1768

Family & Consumer Sciences Education

(501) 682-1115

Office of Skilled and Technical Sciences

(501) 682-1271

State Approving Agency for Veterans Training and Education

(501) 324-9473

Career and Technical Student Organizations contacts

FFA (Agricultural Education)

(501) 682-1598

DECA/FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America/PBL (Phi Beta Lambda)

(501) 682-1768

FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America)

(501) 682-1115

SkillsUSA

(501) 682-1125

HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)

(501) 682-1907

TSA (Technology Students of America)

(501) 683-0099

#### OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

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