

# the Career Counselor 2015

A publication of the Arkansas Department of Career Education  
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## Governor Hutchinson Names ACE Director: Charisse Childers, Ph.D.

**D**r. Charisse Childers took the official oath of office on January 13 to become the Director of the Arkansas Department of Career Education. She is the first woman to lead the agency.

Before this appointment, Childers served as executive director of Accelerate Arkansas.

Governor Hutchinson said Childers "recognizes the critical nature career education plays in our economy, and she has the experience necessary to lead this department under my administration."

**Tell us about the new Director of the Arkansas Department of Career Education.**

I was born and raised in Blytheville, Arkansas. I attended college at Arkansas State University and obtained a degree in business and then moved back to Blytheville and started looking for a job there. I was unable to find anything that used my business background to the level which I was interested. I was encouraged by a teacher, friend, and mentor to go back and get my master's in business education. So that's where it all started.



**So, you didn't have intentions on becoming a teacher?**

No, I did not. I never saw it, even though I always played teacher growing up. No one in my family was a teacher.

**You taught at your alma mater?**

I did. A lot of the teachers that were my teachers were still there even though it was about six years past my high school graduation. That was really exciting and fun to get to work with them. I taught for six years.

**Where did you go after that?**

I went to work at Nucor Steel. I worked in shipping for about six months, and then I went into payroll for about a year. I left there and went to Arkansas Northeastern College, which at the time was Mississippi County Community College, as their tech prep director. That's where I was able to really grow and do all of the things that I liked to do. I loved working with high school students, so it gave me the opportunity to get back into the high schools and talk to them about college and careers, and then I'd leave. (Insert

## March

A public information pamphlet of the Arkansas Department of Career Education and the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division.

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## New ARS Commissioner: *Leading from Personal Experience*

LITTLE ROCK – As a Hendrix College student, **Alan McClain** not only studied political science, but he also volunteered by working with people living with disabilities.

*He did not know it would prepare him for his current role.*

*In late January, **Dr. Charisse Childers**, head of Arkansas Department of Career Education, tapped McClain to serve as commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. In an emailed announcement, Childers said the Commissioner "...has a passion for people with disabilities and is committed to helping provide positive outcomes for the clients of ARS."*

But McClain's family structure has perhaps uniquely prepared him to lead Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. His son **Nathan** has Down's Syndrome. As a result, he understands the need for agencies to showcase and provide services to enhance the lives of people with disabilities.

"I think I'd be interested in this role even if I didn't have a son with special needs. It has certainly fueled some passions that I have," McClain said.

McClain, a husband and father of two sons, was raised and educated in Monticello. After graduating from Hendrix College in 1987, he immediately began as a Workers' Compensation claims manager. He then moved to the Arkansas Insurance Department, managing workers' compensation claims for state employees. That's where he became associated with **Jim Moreland**, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' associate director for special programs.

"I worked a lot with Jim Moreland in the late 1990s as we tried to encourage state agencies to facilitate early return to work for injured workers because it's always better for people to get to work faster. I knew the heart he and others had for getting people to work

and helping their families get back to living. That's always inspired me," said McClain.

After nearly a decade at the helm of the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission as CEO, McClain is excited to be at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, where he says Arkansans' lives are improved daily.

"At ARS, when you see the real product of your work, it causes you to feel good knowing the kind of impact the work might have on someone's life," the commissioner said.

Of the various projects in which ARS supports, Project SEARCH® has had a personal effect on the McClain household. McClain's son Nathan is one of thirteen participants in Project SEARCH®, an ARS-funded and UAMS-based program that teaches individuals with disabilities real-life employment skills to aid them in getting a job and leading an independent life. This is the second year for the program.

McClain said his son is not only enjoying the program but also building on strengths and passions that he already had.

"He's learning things, and he's pretty sociable so the participants in those classes and the people around him enjoy his being there. They feed off of each other's energy. He likes that and he likes learning new skills," McClain said.

McClain said he is quite thankful for this opportunity to lead the agency, and he has enjoyed absorbing all of the information and learning "a lot of the different roles and responsibilities within the agency."

"It has a wide-reaching impact," he said.

It's an impact that even touches him. He said the personal experience makes it easy to take the message of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services on the road.

"If ARS is touching others' lives the way it has mine, then we're doing a lot of great work. This is an opportunity for us to create ways to affect state policies to give somebody a little extra help to get them ready for the workforce, to feel productive, and to move on to the next phase of life," said McClain.

# ACTI Happenings

## ACTI Students Get Experience Before Careers Begin

HOT SPRINGS – Since its inception, ACTI – colloquially referred to as “The Big Building on the Hill” – has been the place where dreams are realized. The students who are assigned to the school do more than just go to class. They are trained to apply the skills they have learned from class into the real world.

***That’s the purpose of the school’s internship program.***

“Near the end of the student’s training when they will have developed their skills, we send them out on an internship,” said **Janice McMahon**, the school’s internship coordinator.

As internship coordinator, McMahon has built a rapport with local businesses, and she has convinced about twenty of them to allow some of the students to get practical, real-world experience. Each year, more businesses are agreeing to host students.

“Not all of the internships are going to be in their [the students’] fields, but their customer service skills will cover a lot of territory,” McMahon said.

**Travis Cross** (right) of Mount Judea (Newton County), a December 2014 graduate,

enjoyed every minute of his summer internship at Hot Springs National Park. The intense Arkansas sun did not deter him from doing his assignments. He was responsible for blazing, or marking, the mountain trails so that hikers would always know where they were.

“We took spray paint with us and we made sure we had different colors for different trails,” Cross said.

Cross, a self-described lover of the outdoors, worked with two other classmates. The trio removed fallen debris from the trails as well. The power equipment technology graduate said he learned a lot from the experience. Among all of skills he learned, he said communication will stay with him.



“I learned that teamwork is important, and you have to communicate or you’ll wound up with a lot of spray paint on you,” he said while laughing, reflecting about the group’s job of blazing trails.

**Albert Mitchell** (bottom photo, far left), a Malvern native, stayed indoors but greeted customers who came to the park to tour the bath houses. He said he enjoyed working with the public.

“I would greet them with a smile, even when they were upset. Those are customer relations skills. You will have irate customers sometimes,” the business and marketing technology graduate said.

While Cross’ internship lasted four months, Mitchell’s spanned five months. He, too, found he enjoyed working with the public and he said the experience greatly enhanced his social skills.

“I just let them [the visitors] know what services are available and try to give them the best experience,” Mitchell said.

**Lisa Allen**, who mainly oversaw Cross and his classmates on the trails, praised the trio’s work and saw growth in each of them as time progressed.



**DIRECTOR** *continued from page 1* laugh here.) No paper grading. We had a lot of work to do and lots of accountability, which came under the Department of Workforce Education. I was able to incorporate internships and job shadowing, business tours, and career expos. I got to do all of those things that I wanted to do as a high school teacher but was limited because of funding and time.

**What is your Ph.D. degree in and what made you go that route?**

When I was at Mississippi County Community College, the Vice President and College President encouraged me to work on my doctorate. I started looking around, and because of my previous background in business, I wanted something to give me flexibility than just education. I didn't know where my future would be. I looked at all of the programs in the University of Arkansas, University of Mississippi, and the University of Memphis – areas I could travel. I finally decided on a new program that was started at U of A - Fayetteville. It was an interdisciplinary program that incorporates lots of colleges, so my Ph.D. is in Public Policy with an emphasis in Education Policy. I was given the flexibility to take classes in Educational Law, Law and Policy, Economics, International Economics, agricultural classes, and classes through the law school. It gives you a perspective and overall knowledge of how all of these areas are important as they relate to public policy, especially within the state of Arkansas. I enjoyed all of that except the dissertation.

I took all of my coursework in three semesters so I was able to complete my degree in approxi-



**Dr. Childers speaks at her first CTSO day luncheon as Director.**

mately two-and-a-half years.

**Would you do that again?**

No, that wore me out! One semester, I took 19 hours. Because my administration encouraged me, we had a program that helped me with my tuition and they gave me flexibility so that I would be able to work from Fayetteville and work with my coordinator in Blytheville to make sure we continued the program. Without their cooperation, I would not have been able to do it.

As you have probably seen, I have a lot of energy. I'm very driven, so once I decide to do something, I go on and do it. I wouldn't recommend it to others the way that I did it, but it worked for me.

**How were you approached about this position?**

I have known John Davidson [former deputy director of Career and Technical Education] for years and we worked closely together. I respect him and have a strong admiration for him and all he's done for Career and Technical Education.

For many, many years, he had hoped that I would come and work for the Department of Workforce Education.

When then-Governor-Elect Hutchinson was preparing his education plan, obviously, I was keeping up with that. I was intrigued with what he was interested in doing in computer science and the importance of this agency to the workplace and job-skill training. I expressed to Hutchinson's transition team that I was interested in working in any area that he thought I would be a good fit. Here I am. This is where he decided I needed to be, and

it's a perfect fit.

**Your background is in Career and Technical Education, but how have the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and Adult Education portions been for you?**

As I came into the Director's position, I acknowledged initially that would be my biggest learning curve. I recognized I needed to get up to speed on that very quickly. Fortunately, I had the Career and Technical knowledge so it wouldn't be as hard for me to learn this side of it. It's exciting but also challenging because I have so much to learn. There's no doubt I will be able to merge the two as far as the importance of Career and Technical Education and Rehab Services working together to make sure we provide the job skills training that we need for the high schools and adults.

**What's your assessment of the agency since you've been here? What have you found that you marvel and admire?**

I'm encouraged by the passion  
**DIRECTOR** *continued on page 5*

**INTERNS** continued from page 3

"They were good workers. You could tell they were close with each other. They worked well with each other," Allen said.

Allen said she also explained trail manner to the trio. She talked to them about moving to the other side when other hikers were approaching them. She also encouraged them to interact with the hikers.

When she witnessed the guys in an exchange with hikers one day, Allen said her heart melted.

"They were telling [the hikers] about the park and what they were looking at. I felt like a proud mama! I was so happy for these boys and how they were interacting," she said.

Allen said she hated to see their internship wrap up.

"Working with these guys is something I will remember. Watching them grow and unfold and to see how they were and who they are going to be has truly touched me," Allen said.

McMahon said the internship program has had a positive effect on the students, and they return to class motivated to learn more marketable skills to take on the job. That, she said, is the purpose of the internship program.

"The internship program benefits them so much in so many ways. They're getting job experience and job references," she said.

ACTI Administrator **Jonathan Bibb** said he is pleased with the program and has plans to expand it. McMahon hopes that soon, every student will be required to participate in an internship.

Cross, who earned national Equipment Engine Training Council (EETC) certification in the two-

stroke and four-stroke engine, said he is forever indebted to ACTI. He can't forget about ACTI and what all the teachers and administrators have done for him. His appreciation for the school,

he said, will be realized once he gets a job.

"I have to pay taxes, and I know this is being run from tax dollars," Cross said.

**DIRECTOR** continued from page 4

from all divisions for what they do. That passion is important because without the passion, the performance is going to be at a low level. Passion drives performance. I haven't had the opportunity to meet everyone in all areas of the state, but from what I've seen to date, I'm impressed with the passion and the commitment to making sure these services and programs are delivered to the recipients.

***How've you been able to catch up? You go from the Legislature to meetings. What is your regimen for keeping up?***

I have been blessed with a very good memory, and I'm very logical in my thinking. I've also been blessed that I've had the opportunity to learn from my husband [former State Representative Marvin Childers] and others about the legislative process since 2001. All of those years of training have provided me with the ability and knowledge to juggle all of these things at one time. I can't even imagine what it would be like coming in and not having the knowledge of how the legislative branch operates, along with the executive branch.

***Isn't it amazing that you learned that process before this appointment?***

I believe this was God's plan.

I am guilty of trying to do things on my own and not asking for God's plan. On the Friday before the Governor called me, I said 'God, I know you have a plan for me, and whatever that is, wherever it is, I just want you to reveal that to me and to others so that I can do what You want me to do with all of these opportunities that You've provided to me throughout my life and the things that You have placed along my path that have prepared me for this moment.' I believe those [opportunities] were put there in order to prepare me for this opportunity.

***All agencies are facing a one percent cut. Everyone is saying they need the money to do this and that. How do you make sure you're louder than everyone else to vouch for funding?***

As I stated on my first day, I think it's important that we share and we make known what we're doing – all the good things and all the successes. We have to toot our horn louder than anyone else. We can't just say 'We need. We need.' We need to be able to say 'We have a program that is doing this and here are the outcomes and that's why we need more funding to grow this program.' The things you'll be asked are what are your outcomes, your success, or return on investments. We've got to be able to put that into dollars and cents, real outcome-based measures.

## Arkansas GED® Scores Survive Drastic Changes



BENTON – Situated off one of the busiest intersections in the country, the Saline County Adult Education Center – located off of I-30 – is hoping to catch some passersby needing to get on a new route. This new route, adult education leaders emphasize, is a direction that will take Arkansans to new levels as they journey through life with the goal of getting ahead, staying ahead, and taking care of their families.

Passing the GED® exam and getting the

interviewed her.)

“I’m ready to be done,” she said.

Even for the brightest mathematician, the math portion of the GED® can leave one scratching his or her head. It’s peppered with high-level mathematical concepts, such as the quadratic equations and complex geometric formulas. In fact, all four portions – mathematical reasoning, reasoning through language arts, social studies, and science – are meant to reflect the **Common**



### Students and instructors: Hard at work toward a common goal

credential are what adult education leaders and teachers said will pave the way on the road to success.

“I’m looking forward to finding a job and taking care of my family,” said **Lori Williams**, a Hot Springs native.

Williams completed the eleventh grade but chose not to finish high school. She spent several weeks studying for the GED® at the Saline County Adult Education Center. She said passing the different sections of the exam is an exhilarating feeling.

“It makes you feel better about yourself when you actually pass it. It makes you feel close to the end when you finish it,” Williams said.

Because math is not her favorite subject, Williams opted to save that section for last. (She was preparing for that section when we

**Core Standards**, a concept that’s being pushed in the nation’s public schools. In 2014, GED® rolled out this new test format.

“I think it’s hard, and if I were a lot older and had not been in school in many years, I think it would be close to impossible to pass it,” Williams said.

The previous test format, created in 2002, consisted of five parts, primarily multiple choice questions. The current exam is completely computerized, and it requires several functions, such as drag-and-drop, drop down, fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, extended response, and short answer.

The word is out that the new test is more rigorous than the previous one, and it is being reflected in the number of Arkansans walking into

## Victoria Maloch Continues Her Climb Up the Ag Ladder



LITTLE ROCK --- **Victoria Maloch's** name instantly begins a glowing conversation about her achievements and contributions to agriculture.

The Emerson (Columbia County) native is on an accelerated path to become a prominent leader in the field of agriculture. Maloch's journey reached new heights last November when she became the national FFA secretary.

"I tell everyone I was born into agriculture. I grew up on a farm and I would show cattle, but when I turned 12, it really hit me that this is what I really wanted to do," Maloch said.

At 12, while learning about states' symbols, Maloch was surprised to learn that although Arkansas is the top producer of rice, it was not recognized as the state's official grain. She went to her father, then-**State Representative Bruce Maloch**, and asked him to do what's necessary to make that happen.

"I wasn't going to file it. You know, sometimes the media may get onto us and call something like that frivolous. I ended up fil-



**Victoria receives her citation in the presence of her father, Senator Bruce Maloch (far left), Senator Larry Teague and Senator Jason Rapert.**

ing it on the last day and I told her she had to come and testify," said Bruce Maloch, who joined the state senate in 2013.

Victoria said her dad didn't lend a hand in this effort. She was committed to doing all of the research, and she testified before committees to signify Arkansas's role in producing rice. Several others joined her in this endeavor, and it led to the passage of HB 2434 of the 2007 Session. It passed overwhelmingly in both chambers.

"It turned out to be a bigger deal than we thought," Senator Maloch said.

That moment seemed to have groomed Victoria for leadership in agriculture. She joined the Emerson High School FFA and became the 2011-12 Arkan-

sas FFA President. Victoria chose to attend the University of Arkansas to major in agriculture business with a pre-law concentration. She's been busy in Fayetteville, having received the following awards and commendations while there: **Outstanding Freshman Student**

award from the University of Arkansas Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Department (2013), **Outstanding Sophomore** award from the University of Arkansas Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Department (2014), a **Wallace-Carver Fellow** with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (2014), and an agricultural business team member to travel to Dangriga, Belize, (2013) and Nampula, Mozambique, (2014) as part of the **University's Study Abroad program**.

Now as National FFA Secretary, she has put a pause on her studies to travel and to serve as an ambassador for the organization and agriculture as a whole.

"After the election, we

*MALOCH continued on page 8*

**MALOCH** *continued from page 7*

jumped right into training, made sponsor visits, and met with prospective donors,” she said.

The title will require her to log more than 600,000 miles across the globe. She just returned from the Japan, where she met with Caroline Kennedy, the U.S. Ambassador to Japan.

“It was great privilege, but more importantly, it’s great to have trade relations between Japan and America and see how an island nation depends so much on American agriculture,” she said.

Becoming a national FFA officer is nothing easy. After rounds of interviews, a written test, and extemporaneous speaking topics, the top officers emerge. Even Maloch’s impeccable résumé did not allow her to be a shoo-in. She ran in 2013 but lost.

“I was worried about her because she had taken so much time to prepare. She said ‘I have another chance,’” Senator Maloch said.

Victoria ran again, and she won. But it was more about the office in which she won: National FFA Secretary. Senator Maloch held that same office in 1976-77. This makes Victoria and her dad the organization’s first father-daughter national office holders. It’s only happened one other time – a father and son from Pennsylvania.

“It’s the God thing. It’s a sign that I’m doing what I’m supposed to do,” Victoria said.

**Chris Bacchus**, program advisor for Arkansas FFA, said no one is surprised at Victoria’s success.

“We’ve always thought she had the potential [to be a national officer] because of her work ethic. That’s the biggest contribution to her success. She has very clear goals for what she wants to accomplish and she does everything to position herself to do it,” Bacchus said.

Bacchus said Maloch’s position gives Arkansas FFA members the confidence to pursue their goals in agriculture since they know someone among them who has done it and didn’t give up.

FFA boasts of having 610,240 members, and leaders said that is a record. Maloch said she looks forward to visiting as many chapters as she can and meeting with people to explain the importance of agriculture.

“Everything you touch is a result of agriculture. Food. Clothes. We feed the world. Agriculture is more than farming. There are more than 300 careers tied to agriculture,” she said.

After graduating from the U of A in the spring of 2017, Maloch plans to stay in Fayetteville to get a law degree with an emphasis in agriculture and food law. She wants

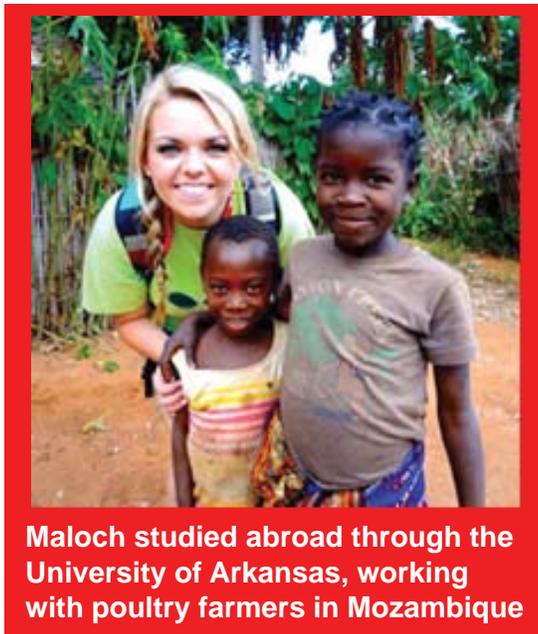
a career that requires her to be immersed in agricultural policies – particularly in Washington, D.C., having interned as a fellow with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsak.

Victoria’s impressive ascendancy in agriculture caught the attention of the Arkansas General Assembly, and they presented her with a resolution in both the House and the Senate. Lawmakers stood and thunderously applauded after Victoria’s long list of accomplishments was read.

“I’m getting tongue-tied,” joked State Senator Jason Rapert, who read the House Resolution honoring Victoria.

Victoria stays on the go, but when she does get a chance to go home, Senator Maloch said he makes sure she remains humble.

“I put her on the tractor for a little bit to try to bring her back to earth. Let her feed cows or put out a little hay,” he said while laughing. “She can still drive that tractor.”



**Maloch studied abroad through the University of Arkansas, working with poultry farmers in Mozambique**

# Honoring the Donors

LITTLE ROCK – It’s an annual ceremony that perhaps will never get old.

The **2015 Chain of Life Awards**, sponsored by the Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission, brought together five kidney donors, along with their families. It’s a celebration to show appreciation to the ones who chose to give life to someone else with the donation of a kidney.

This year, **Patsy Bass, William Cash, Robert Lusk, John Roberts**, and **Lacey Sirk** were recognized for their life-saving donation.

While they were all grateful for the recognition, they emphasized that they didn’t do it for popularity, but out of love.

“It wasn’t being noble or for grand gestures,” said Patsy Bass, who donated her kidney to her daughter. “That’s what moms do. You just do it.”

Lacey Sirk gave a kidney to her husband. The couple began dating in high school. Their direct match makes them believe they were divinely orchestrated to be together.

“Now we are having our first child. If we didn’t have the doctors and all the support we have, we wouldn’t be where we are today,” Sirk said.

In 2009, AKDC board member **Bob Abbott** recommended this ceremony to take place. **Act 268 of 2011 established the annual recognition for living kidney donors.**

**Dr. Sadhir Shah**, the director of nephrology at UAMS, was presented with the Bob Abbott Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes individuals who have



Donors honored at this year’s Chain of Life Awards event were (l-r) **Mr. William Cash, Mrs. Patsy Bass, Mrs. Lacey Kirk and Mr. John Roberts**

made substantial contributions to the kidney patient community in Arkansas. Shah has been the co-chair for World Kidney Day, which aims to draw attention to kidney disease as a growing health crisis in Arkansas and around the globe.

“For the past 25 years, Dr. Shah has dedicated himself to the Division of Nephrology to provide excellent critical care to the citizens of Arkansas, to teach the younger generation of doctors to care for patients with kidney disease, and to provide discoveries that helps patients with kidney disease,” a colleague read.

Shah said he was humbled by the award. He said he is passionate about his job and he does not want to practice in any state other than Arkansas.

“I am honored to have a service award. The goal of my life is to put the dialysis people out of business,” he said.



**Dr. Sudhir Shah** (center) accepts the **Bob Abbott Distinguished Service Award** from **Abbott** (second from right) in the company of (l-r) **Jordan Abbott, Mandy Abbott-Ware, and Dr. Scott Young**

GED® *continued from page 6*

the centers to take it.

“It’s slowed down considerably. I think it’s our job right now to convey to people, ‘You’re smarter than you think you are,’” said **Wendie Reaves**, an instructor.

Reaves said the new format even intimidated her, and she worried that she would not lead her students to a passing score.

“I felt inadequate, but once I had gone back and learned how to do a quadratic equation and felt confident in doing it myself, then I felt like I could teach it,” she said.

In addition to teaching, Reaves has had to motivate students. Many are overwhelmed and discouraged because they are struggling with the concepts. She even takes the initiative to call students who fail to show up for tutoring.

“I’ve seen a lot of them come in and they don’t have that support at home so you try to support them here as much as you can,” she said.

Nationally, only sixty-one percent of test takers have passed the exam. National GED® test leaders said they’re not alarmed by those numbers because that usually takes place whenever the format changes.

“It takes some fortitude to [create a new test]. Whenever you’re doing something new – especially when it’s perceived

to be harder or more challenging –there will be a lot of worry and outcry,” **Martin Kehe**, GED®’s vice president of assessment, told Arkansas testing center directors last December.

Arkansas’ passing rate surpasses the national, which puts the state near the top when compared to other states’ passing rates. In 2014, Arkansas boasted an eighty-three percent passing rate. As of March 2015, Arkansas has the third highest pass rate in the nation.

**Janice Hanlon**, GED® test administrator, credits the success to the structure that is in place. Before an Arkansan can take the GED®, he or she must make a certain score on the GED® Ready™ Practice Test, which Hanlon said “gives the prescription as to the exact things they need to be studying.”

“A person can no longer just walk into an Adult Education Center and in a week take the test. They have to study and learn

material. With the old test, they could read a passage, glean the information from that passage, and answer a lot of the questions,” Hanlon said.

Reaves said the crowning moment for her is not only to celebrate with her students after they pass the test and get their GED®, but also to see them afterward and to hear about their current status – particularly their careers.

“It does the heart good to know you played a part in their success in life. You’ve helped them achieve something they may not have otherwise. It’s a very rewarding job,” she said.

Imagine the feeling for student like Lori Williams (pictured below, right), whom we interviewed. After dreading the math portion, she passed it! She will be receiving her diploma.



# Governor, Director Helped Celebrate CTSO Day

## February 18 at State Capitol



**SkillsUSA** (above): Director Childers; Chip McAfee, *State SkillsUSA Director*; Kierra Brown, *State President*; Governor Hutchinson; Marcos Olvera, *State Vice-President*; Jessica Young, *State Officer-Advisor*; and Anne Tucker, *Corporate Member*



**FFA** (above): Chris Bacchus, *ACE Program Advisor*; Rodney Wiedower, *Greenbrier Advisor*; Brodie Lovelace, *Paris*; Brandon Fields, *Paris*; Director Childers; Governor Hutchinson; Matthew Smith, *State FFA Reporter*; Sam Harris, *Greenbrier*; Abbie Crawford, *Paris*; Jenna Guidry, *ACE Program Advisor*; and Jason Binz, *Paris Advisor*



**DECA** (above): Director Childers; Gail Betts, *ACE Program Advisor*; Rebecca Aguilera, *Governor Hutchinson*; James Brock, *ACE Program Coordinator*



**FBLA** (above): Sandon Williams, *ACE Program Advisor*; Kim Bayliss, *ACE Program Advisor*; Rachel Dawson; Shelby Anderson; Director Childers; Governor Hutchinson; Matti Huber; Jim Brock, *ACE Program Coordinator*; Noah Heffron



**PBL** (above): Sandon Williams, *PBL State Advisor*; Governor Hutchinson; Robert McCarville; *PBL State President*; and Director Childers



**HOSA** (above): Melissa Castleberry, *Conway Area Career Center HOSA Advisor*; Manahil Kazmi, Kaleigh Cloud, Greimante Garner, *outgoing AR HOSA V-P*; -- all from the Conway Area Career Center; Governor Hutchinson; Kevin Urdaneta, *newly elected AR HOSA President* and Jasmine Mosby-Gray -- both from the Conway Area Career Center; Barbara Dimon, *State HOSA Advisor*; Director Childers



**TSA** (above, left): Tim Johnston, *ACE Program Coordinator*; Noah Simon, *Vilonia*; Logan Bridges, *Vilonia*; Melanie Craig, *Cabot*; Gustave Fazen, *Cabot*; Solona Islam, *ACE Program Advisor*; and Director Childers

**Apprenticeship** (below): Director Childers; Randy Prather, *ACE Program Coordinator*; Governor Hutchinson; Rocky Mantooth, *ACE Program Advisor*; Glenn Curry, *ACE Program Advisor*



**Arkansas Works** (above, right): Director Childers; Stephanie Rizzo, *Career Coach/College of the Onachitas*; Grace Ann Williams, *Glen Rose High School*; Maria Elena de Avila, *ACE Career Coach Program Advisor*; Josh Hayes, *ACE Career Coach Program Advisor*; Roberto Candelaria, *Career Coach/Little Rock School District*; Jon Lee, *ACE Adult Education Career Coach/Little Rock and Pulaski County School District*



**FCCLA** (above): Director Childers; Candace Casey, *Vice-President of Public Relations, White Hall High School*; Jaylin Finley, *President, Spring Hill High School*; Governor Hutchinson; and Alex Stroud, *Parliamentarian, Vilonia High School*



Sandra Porter, *interim deputy director for Career and Technical Education*; Dave Fisher, *ACE Program Advisor*; Governor Hutchinson; and Director Childers pose with proclamation claiming the day "CTSO Day"



**From Cabot High School TV Program** (above): Chuck Massey, *Instructor*; Nathan Hatler, *Governor Hutchinson*; Anel Melby; Clayton Holderfield; and Director Childers. (The students are producing a video of CTSO Day to place on the ACE, ACTE, and SkillsUSA websites)



## Arkansas Department of CAREER EDUCATION

### State Board of Career Education

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### Senior Management Team

**Charisse Childers, Ph.D.**, *Director*; **D. Alan McClain**, *Commissioner for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Sandra Porter**, *Interim Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education*; **James Smith**, *Deputy Director for Adult Education*; **Lorna Claudio**, *Chief Financial Officer, Department of Career Education*; **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 Arkansas Works*; **Dr. Trenia Miles**, *Associate Director for Adult Education*; **Jim Moreland**, *Associate Commissioner for Special Programs, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Robert Treviño**, *Associate Commissioner, Program, Planning Development & Evaluation, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **DeCarlia Smith**, *Human Resources Administrator*

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#### Arkansas Career Training Institute (formerly Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center)

105 Reserve  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
(501) 624-4411

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