

the Career Counselor 2015

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Career and Technical Student Organizations Spring Conferences Bring Out the Best



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Summer

A public information pamphlet of
the Arkansas Department of Career
Education

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Office of
Skills Development

Dr. Charisse Childers **Director's Message**



It's hard to believe it's been eight months and that we are nearing the last quarter of 2015. While it's been busy, I can honestly say that we have been able to accomplish some great things, and for that I am proud of each of you. We added some members to our staff that make up the senior management team.

✓ **Alan McClain** has been serving as the Commissioner for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services since February. He has a passion for people with disabilities and is committed to helping provide positive outcomes for the clients of ARS. He is actively involved in several organizations focused on children and adults with disabilities and their families. In addition, Alan brings an incredible amount of knowledge of state government, regulatory, and supervisory experience to our agency. Most recently, Alan has worked as the Regional Director of the Workers' Compensation Research Institute. Prior to the Institute, he worked with the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission for thirteen years and was the CEO of that commission for almost nine years.

✓ **Kathy Edgerton** joined ACE as the Director of Communications. She will be instrumental in getting our agency's story out so that Arkansans will know what we do and remind them that we are here to serve. Edgerton comes to us from the University of Arkansas, where she led the University's efforts to establish the first regional office outside of Fayetteville. In addition, she has been a leader in strategic planning input for a number of organizations including the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute.

✓ **Kathi Turner** serves as the Deputy Director of Career and Technical Education. She joins ACE after twenty-nine years as the Coordinator of Career and Technical Education at Crowley's Ridge Educational Service Cooperative. She knows the importance of making sure the programs of study in our schools teach the skills that will be used on the job. I'm so glad she decided to join us at ACE.

✓ **Sonja Wright-McMurray** partners with Kathi Turner as the Associate Director for Career and Technical Education.

She understands that our programs must prepare students for jobs. Sonja did an exceptional job with Arkansas Works®, and she developed many contacts and knowledge as she navigated through the Capitol during the legislative process. She's been with the agency since 2009. In her new role, she will oversee the special projects within Career and Technical Education.

✓ **Linda Morgan** has also joined the agency's senior management team as Associate Commissioner of Access and Accommodations (formerly Special Programs) for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. Morgan has been an occupational therapist for nearly two decades with the bulk of her career spent at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. For ARS, she has provided assessments in the area of assistive technology (AT) and ergonomics as part of AT@ Work and Retaining a Valued Employee (RAVE) programs. She has a wealth of knowledge, and we look forward to utilizing her expertise.

✓ Numerous hours were spent at the Capitol during the 2015 Legislative Session as lawmakers addressed the need and desire to create opportunities for Arkansans to be employed in meaningful jobs and careers. As a result, the General Assembly passed Act 892 and a new board along with the Office of Skills Development were created. This office is responsible for aligning career and technical education programs with the skills needed by business and industry. **Brian Rogers** leads this division. He comes to us from Arkansas State University, where he served as Director of Technology Transfer and Director of Catalyst, a science and technology focused business incubation program. He had direct involvement in various educational and applied

ARS

ARA Conference Explores “Waves of Change: Taking Charge of Tomorrow”

Rehabilitation professionals from all across the state flocked to Hot Springs for the 2015 Arkansas Rehabilitation Association (ARA) Training Conference in May. It was a homecoming of sorts, as it was the first time in two years that the conference took place at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs. This year’s theme was “**Waves of Change: Taking Charge of Tomorrow.**”

While many were excited to be back in Hot Springs, ARA President **Amanda Connell** said it’s more important to just have the conference.

“They [the rehabilitation professionals] have to have continuing education, and this is a fun and exciting way to do that instead of just getting a book and taking an online test,” Connell said. “You get here and mingle with people that you only know by their email names. You finally get to put a face to a name.”

The training conference opened on May 18 with a speech by Representative **Mary Broadaway**, D-District 57. She talked about her own son who lives with a disability. It’s been her mission in the Legislature to sponsor bills to create opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

“Every parent wants their child to be happy, to be self-supporting, and to have their own life. Options are so limited and their opportunities for independence are limited. We want them to have a good quality of life,” she said.

Breakout sessions were wide-ranging, from policy issues, personal ways to deal with

stress and change, assistive and computer technology, and student transition, to name only a few. In addition, Wednesday’s awards luncheon honored those in the field of rehabilitation who exemplify

the mission of promoting “ethical and state of the art practice in rehabilitation with the goal of the personal and economic independence of persons with disabilities.”



Adam White, transition counselor in the ARS Fayetteville field office, was presented the **Counselor of the Year** award from ARA Board member **Dr. Penny Willmering**



Hot Springs Field Office Counselor **Abigail Fryar** (left) presented the award for ARA Rehabilitant of the Year to her former client, **Kitsonia Jones**, who now works as an Independent Living Advocate for SAILS (Spa Area Independent Living Services) in Hot Springs.



Kathy Mansker (left), recently retired as Administrative Specialist at the Hot Springs field office, received the ARA Support Staff award from ARA President **Amanda Connell**, who noted Mansker’s many years serving ARA in a number of offices.



Above: The Arkansas Association of Rehabilitation Technicians and Specialists (AARTS) selected two ACTI students to receive the Ken Musteen Scholarship to help further their education. Pictured above: AARTS member **Cheryl O’Dell**, ACTI Counselor **Sarah Cabello**, recipients **Mayra Cristobal** and **Juan Valdez**, and AARTS member **Jimmy Hatmaker**



Above: ARA annually awards scholarships to deserving students studying in the Rehabilitation field. Those chosen this year are (l-r): **Bobbie Campbell**, UALR Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling, *Butch Barnes Scholarship*; **Dusty Ford**, UCA Occupational Therapy, *ARA President’s Scholarship*; **Rachel Roberts**, UCA Physical Therapy, *ARA President’s Scholarship*; **Savannah Motzko**, UCA Speech Language Pathology, *Rick Fleetwood Scholarship*; **Megan Mitchell**, ASU Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling, *Harold Thomas Scholarship*; **Katie Warren**, ATU Rehabilitation Science, *R. Lewis Urton Scholarship*; **Denise Christopher**, UA-Fayetteville Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling, *Vince Bond Scholarship*. Not present: **Shara Kenney Davis**, UALR Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling, *Russell Baxter Scholarship*.

CTE

**Rev Your Engines:
Grooming Who Goes Under the Hood**

LITTLE ROCK – A 2014 study released by IHS Automotive, an auto industry research firm, shows that there are 253 million vehicles on U.S. roads. That’s a record number of cars and trucks traveling the nation’s streets and highways. In addition, the average age of vehicles is just over eleven years.

The numbers offer a mixed bag about vehicles in the country: While there are more automobiles on the road, drivers are keeping them longer. As Americans become more cognizant of their spending habits following the recession, analysts predict the vehicles on our country’s roadways will, in the foreseeable future, increase in age.

Whether it is a new or used vehicle, it is perhaps more important there is a skilled technician who can repair the automobile in the event it malfunctions.

Hence the need for the Ford/AAA Auto Skills Competition.

“One of the things a motorist needs when their car breaks down is a good repair. What we’re trying to do is encourage youngsters to make a career out of automotive technology,” said Mike Wright, a representative of AAA.

At Pulaski Technical College-South Campus, the hoods of ten 2015 Ford Fiesta were up as ten teams of two high school students had ninety minutes to repair the car that had been disabled by certified Ford technicians. The teams, made up of students from across the state, were selected based on their score on a



written exam prepared by Ford/AAA earlier in the year. It was an exam taken by 337 students from twenty-one schools.

“It’s a profession. It’s one of the professions that changes often with new vehicles and technology. The technology that affects people mostly comes from the automotive industry. You need to be skilled in diagnostics and mechanics to fix these cars,” Wright said.

A lot is at stake in the competition. The winning teams are entitled to scholarships from various technical colleges around the country. Most significantly, the winning pair from each state will

travel to Dearborn, Michigan – the home of Ford Motor Company – in hopes to win the national championship.

Watson Chapel High School students John Wauters and Hudson White will represent Arkansas in that competition.

“It feels amazing,” said Wauters, moments after learning his team won.

He credits his fellow teammate and his teacher, Shaun Poindexter, for the victory. He said it took a lot of time and dedication to prepare for the competition.

“Ever since we found out we qualified, he [Poindexter] has been training us as best he could. Every day when we came to school, we knew what we were doing,” Wauters said.

Wauters has a lot on his mind as he prepares for the next phase of his life. He has not only been awarded a scholarship to study mechanical engineering at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, but he is also being

offered scholarships to various technical schools for automotive technology.

Anne Tucker, program adviser for the Arkansas Department of Career Education, said all of the teams are winners.

“All made it to the finish line [in time], which makes it exciting because a lot of times, the competition is too difficult for the students. The spectators enjoyed it, and we are all proud of them,” she said.



Pictured above, l-r: **Shawn Poindexter**, Watson Chapel High auto mechanics instructor; **Anne Tucker**, ACE Program Advisor; and first place winning students **John Wauters** and **Hudson White**

All Eyes on Springdale

Chamber Partners with Business & Industry to Meet Demands

SPRINGDALE – Springdale, Arkansas, is bursting at the seams.

It's evident in the schools, as Springdale Public Schools leaders have overseen the construction and opening of thirteen new buildings since 2000. Springdale has the second-largest enrollment in the state with more than 21,120 students. The Little Rock School District has 23,363, making it the largest in the state.

And with the students, there has to be a place for their parents to work. Springdale is situated in the heart of the northwest quadrant of the state that is considered an employment magnet, as Fortune 500 companies like Walmart, Tyson Foods, and J.B. Hunt are major drivers of the local and regional economy.

"We are creating jobs faster than anyone in the state. Twenty five percent of new net jobs in Arkansas since 2010 are in Springdale," said Perry Webb, President of the Springdale Chamber of Commerce.

Webb, the chamber's president for twenty years, said Springdale is perhaps one of the most unique cities in the state because of all its resources. It has a community college presence (Northwest Arkansas Community College) and a technical institute (Northwest Technical Institute). The area is inundated with ready-to-work careers, but Webb said the partnership between the schools/postsecondary institutions and the local employers is not being taken seriously.

"We need to make sure what we are doing is demand driven and not supply driven. The missing link has been providers [schools/



institutions] are not listening to what the employers and industries need," he said.

Seeing the need for a workforce development conversation between the two entities, the Springdale Chamber of Commerce coordinated the dialogue and launched "Ignite Springdale!", a \$2.6 million economic and community development plan created to spur business expansion, workforce training, and job growth. More than seventy

business leaders gave their input for this strategic plan.

"In today's world, going to college may not be the proper track, yet we align everything about education and trying to make sure a child who wants to go to college has the necessary tools to go. There are high school graduates in northwest Arkansas that can do certain coding, machinery, or numeric programming and start out at \$50,000 right after high school," Webb said.

Webb said the training providers have never developed the conduit with the people who are hiring. He hopes the chamber's leading of this dialogue will change this.

"Thirty-five percent of high school graduates will not go to college or a postsecondary institution. What are we doing for those kids? Can we get them out of school with a skillset that's a little higher so instead of making \$8 an hour, they can make \$10.50 an hour," Webb added.

Webb saluted the Springdale Public Schools for placing a heavy emphasis on career and technical education programs, but more will have to be done to ensure students are learning

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Adult Ed

Top GED® Scorers Recognized for Achievement

LITTLE ROCK – **Alex Peterka** always knew he was a good student, but he realized early on that his Garland County high school was not the place for him.

“I was having problems with bullying, and it got to the point where I couldn’t concentrate on my schoolwork,” he said.

After a talk with his father, Peterka got the consent to leave school at seventeen years old. He knew, though, that he could not just end his education there. Peterka knew he had to do more in order to become a hair and makeup artist for major entertainers.

That was enough motivation to sign up to get his General Education Diploma (GED®).

“I was kind of nervous. I didn’t know what to expect,” Peterka said.

Peterka signed up and studied for the exam in March 2014 at National Park Community College in Hot Springs. He heard from several people about the new test format and added rigor that the test takers would experience. Peterka said he didn’t let that deter him.

“After I took the pretest, I wasn’t too nervous,” he said.

Peterka not only passed the exam, but he did so with flying colors! Peterka had the 17th highest score among Arkansans who took the test in the year 2014.

“I was pleasantly surprised. I wish I had placed higher,” Peterka said.

Peterka was one of twenty-five students the Arkansas Department of Career Education recognized for scoring high on the GED® at the annual Top 25 Ceremony. It takes place every year at the Capitol.

“Education is like this: If you have it, you can always use it. If you don’t have it, it’s always too late because there’s a guy who does and you’ll be left behind,” said **Jim Smith**, Deputy Director of Adult Education.

Smith challenged the achievers to seize the moment and march on toward their career aspirations. In a packed ceremony, Smith applauded the honorees for scoring high on a test that many high school students reportedly cannot pass.

“Only sixty percent of high school students passed the test. The test is very different. You’re at the top of the top.”

GED® leaders unveiled the new exam format in 2014, which is computer-based and tests on four components with two extended, short answer responses. The old format, released in 2002, was based on 1990s-era content standards for high school students. Test creators said the new format reflects current learning methods and mimics the Common Core State Standards initiative. Last year, the number of people taking the test dwindled not only in Arkansas, but also nationwide. But while the 2014 national pass rate was sixty-two percent, Arkansas’ pass rate was at eighty-three percent. That percentage had Arkansas ranked with the third highest pass rate in the nation.

“I was a little surprised. I was excited to see that I was in the top 25,” said **William Headrick** of Springdale.



*Left-right: ACE Director **Charisse Childers**, Associate Director for Adult Education **Trenia Miles**, recipient **Alex Peterka**, National Park Community College Instructor **Bill Ritter**, and Deputy Director of Adult Education **Jim Smith**.*

Headrick, who had the 14th highest score, said he was well prepared for the exam. He said he knew he did well, but he didn’t realize he did as well as he did until he saw his test results.

“They [teachers at the Northwest Technical Institute Adult Education] were pretty supportive and generally concerned about helping me find a direction for my future and helped me develop my interests,” he said.

While many of the honorees are still deciding on what they plan to do, Peterka is also celebrating his completing Hot Springs Beauty College and is ready to leave Arkansas for Los Angeles. He feels more confident now that he has his GED®, and he hopes others will see him as a competent individual, especially since test creators raised the stakes on the exam.

“I’m glad they made it more difficult. People should have to apply themselves in order to get their GED®. I think it’s good because, especially with the stigma, everyone says a GED® is not as good as a high school diploma,” he said.

An Evening with Bright Stars

The Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Salutes Scholarship Recipients

LITTLE ROCK – In the ornately-situated Grand Hall at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion (pictured right), twenty-four Arkansans were saluted for their academic excellence. On this day, there was little discussion about their disability, but rather how these goal-oriented, focused individuals each serve as an inspiration of not allowing obstacles to derail them from their dreams.

"It's your heart, your character, and your passion that define you. That's what defines who you are and what the world will see," said **Alan McClain**, commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

McClain served as the reception's keynote speaker. He applauded the honorees for their abilities and their desire to keep on going. He challenged the recipients to employ the same perseverance that allowed them to reach this point in their lives.

"These occasions are bumps in the road for opportunities to use your knowledge, your skills, and your abilities to embrace the challenges in order to grow stronger, more determined, and more creative," he added.

Before the start of the program, the recipients, their families, and guests got the opportunity to mingle over a delectable array of hors d'oeuvres that is only fitting for distinguished scholars. Attendees also got a chance to see pictures from past scholarship receptions that played over a projector screen.

Jacob Green, a Batesville native, was in awe of the reception.

"It feels like I've accomplished something. It's very rewarding. It takes a lot of work," Green said.

The UALR student is a history major and plans to get into the research field. He loves every part of history, including prehistory, military history, religious



GCPD Executive Director Leonard Boyle (left) and ARS Commissioner Alan McClain (right) present certificate to scholarship recipient Jacob Green.

history, and, of course, Arkansas history.

Being awarded the scholarship makes him want to continue on with his dreams.

"I feel like a soldier. I have endurance. I can keep going and never stop," he said.

His mother can't help but tear up when she thinks about her son and his accomplishments thus far.

"He's come a long way. He's inspired a lot of people," **Michelle Varela** said.

She said Green is so focused that it is almost impossible to take him away from his studies. Varela is grateful for her son's endurance, and he has surpassed everyone's expectations of him.

"I wish I had carried a video camera around because

honestly, I never imagined he would be where he is now. He's a pretty amazing, blessed guy. I wish I could do what he does," said Varela.

Green and the other recipients each received a \$500 scholarship to finance their education. The money comes from fines collected from violators of the state's accessible parking law. Recipients are awarded based on financial need, academic achievement, school and community involvement, goals, and the challenges faced as a result of his or her disability.

Leonard Boyle, executive director of the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities, said it is an honor to host this annual event. Each year is more special.

"The recipients realize and accept that they have a disability, but they thrive on demonstrating their capabilities, and the Governor's Commission takes pride in helping them to reach their next goal and empowering them to succeed," Boyle said.

CTE

IT Geek Today, IT Guru Tomorrow

SPRINGDALE – In this technological age, getting a computer with all the specs can require a lot of research on the potential owner’s part. Equally important, perhaps, is knowing the right person to fix the computer when it malfunctions, especially when it is needed to finish a big project.

That person selected to remove that virus, install the newest software, or replace that ruptured hard drive may be from Springdale, Arkansas, where at Springdale High, students are already preparing for careers in information technology.

“I want to be working for a major company in their information systems department,” said **Bryan Mancía**, a recent graduate of Springdale High.

Mancía, along with **Daniel Avalos**, **Pablo Cortes**, and **José Sanchez**, all have similar plans of pursuing careers in information technology. For the most part, their love for computers and gadgets started at early ages.

“When I was a kid, my brother had a computer, but he would never let me use it. When he was gone, I’d look for the password and I’d get on it. I just really loved the idea of technology when

I was a kid,” said Avalos, a rising senior.

The four youngsters’ level of expertise escalated once they became high school sophomores. They signed up for IT Academy and took computer programming classes.

*But a relationship formed with J.B. Hunt allowed students enrolled in the school’s IT Academy to take part in the **CyberPatriot** competition.* This program allows middle and high school students to act as IT professionals, as they are responsible for finding cyber security vulnerabilities within a company’s network. J.B. Hunt contacted Springdale High School about not only training some of the students for the competition, but also paying for their participation in it.

That almost knocked Kathleen Johnson, one of the IT teachers, off of her feet.

“We walked out of that meeting like ‘Wow!’” Johnson said.

Josefina Perez, who also teaches computer science classes at Springdale High, was also overjoyed.

“What a great opportunity for our students. We told them we would take their offer. We met with all interested students and narrowed it down to the ones who were really interested and were willing to commit because it was such a big commitment,” Perez said.

Talk about a commitment! Nine students “made the cut.” It required the students to give up their summer break. During the school year, the students relinquished their lunch break and time after school to prepare for the competition.

“It was complicated because we had no experience in cyber security. You have to learn all the program language from the beginning. We felt it wasn’t enough time, but we learned a lot though,” Mancía said.

The learning consisted of grasping complex computer programming skills and the various operating systems and act as though they were hired by a small company.

The teachers admit they felt unprepared for this venture, as many of the concepts were new



Team Alpha Omega: José Sanchez, Bryan Mancía, Daneil Avalos. Not picture: Pablo Cortes

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CTE

IT continued from page 8 to them.

“Normally, we’ve researched everything and we’ve worked every problem and then you teach. I guess those days are over in technology. It’s letting go and letting these kids shine. We just need to get out of their way. They want our support though,” Johnson said.

Each competition allows participants only six hours to fix the bugs.

“At the beginning, we struggled. Sometimes, it would go down on us and we’d have to start things over from scratch. After we got going to the next competitions, we did better,” said Avalos.

The competition is virtual, so the students remained in a familiar environment: the IT computer lab.

Springdale High had three teams to participate: They were Alpha Omega (Daniel Avalos, Pablo Cortes, Bryan Mancina, and Jose Sanchez), Bulldog Cyber Gals (Anna Holleman, Kaele Summers, and Nadine Webb), and Theta (David Macy and Victor Nava). Theta members placed first in the State Silver Tier. Bulldog Cyber Gals placed second in the State Silver Tier. Alpha Omega not only placed third in the State Silver Tier, but also placed second in southwest region.

Based on their scores,

Turner Named Division Deputy Director



Kathi Turner assumed the position of Deputy Director of Career and Technical Education in July 2015.

She comes to the agency after serving twenty-nine years as the Coordinator for Career and Technical Education at Crowley’s Ridge Educational Service Cooperative. In this role, Turner designed and implemented the Carl Perkins program for twenty-

one school districts, developed new programs of study, and supported initiatives outlined by the Arkansas Department of Career Education. She also served as a part-time grant writer.

Turner’s career in education began in 1978 as she taught in Wynne Public Schools, the same district in which she was educated. She is a recipient of a host of awards, including the **National Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences** and the **Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Education’s Jean McEntire Outstanding Service award**. Turner sits on a number of boards and offers her expertise in an effort to creating opportunities for Arkansans when it comes to careers. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn., and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Arkansas.

Turner is married with two adult children.

all three teams qualified for the regional competition.

“We did really well our first year. I’m really surprised at how far we got. We had to learn a lot,” said Avalos.

J.B. Hunt trainers Tim Skoch, Tanner Blair, and David Dinan said they enjoyed pouring into and grooming the students.

“Seeing these young minds so eager to learn about security technology was an awesome experience. We are glad to have been a part of

it. These kids have a bright future. We’re looking forward to working with them in next year’s competition,” Skoch said in an email.

Avalos is the only returning member on the Alpha Omega team, and he is looking forward to next year. He’s been charged to take the group even further.

“Hopefully, they’re better next year. They [will] have the experience,” said Mancina.

ARS

ACTI Happenings

Graduates Encouraged to Determine Own Futures

ARS' Arkansas Career Training Institute graduated 34 in a ceremony held at the Hot Springs Convention Center.

The May 29th event marked ACTI's 187th commencement exercises.

Dr. Charisse Childers, Director of the Arkansas Department of Career Education, served as keynote speaker for the ceremony.



Certified Nursing Assistant:

Justice Edwards, *Lonoke*; Juan Valdez, *Rogers*; Ralphael Wilson, *Hot Springs*; Amanda Mosely, *Willisville*; Mayra Cristobal, *DeQueen*; Octavia Judge, *Marion*.

Construction Tech:

Jason Hardrick, *Hanscom Air Force Base, MA*; Isaac Moore, *Conway*; Austin Chase Stone, *Texarkana*.

Cosmetology:

Ashley Gipson, *Van Buren*; Marshaliria Robinson, *Magnolia*.

Culinary:

Tyshun Russell, *North Little Rock*; Crystel Carodine, *Junction City*; Brandy Close, *Farmington*; Ryan Doonan, *Bryant*; Candace Lyndsey, *Carlisle*.

Printing/Graphic Communications & Screen Printing:

Daylan (D.J.) Hill, *Magnolia*; Shyann Freeman, *Springfield*; Samantha Pope, *Charleston*; Austin Cogburn, *Murfreesboro*; Andrew Martinez, *Flippin*.

Sales & Marketing:

Darren Butchko, *Hot Springs*; Vickie Fisher, *Texarkana*.

Welding:

William Ashcraft, *Jefferson*; Deunta Blakemore, *Pine Bluff*; Isaac Gonzalez, *Springdale*; Collin Prichard, *Malvern*; Jamie Miller, *Pine Bluff*.



ACTI Administrator Jonathan Bibb and ACE Director Charisse Childers

Students represented these nine areas of study:

Auto Collision:

Troy Allen, *Jacksonville*; Taylor Sigrist, *Hot Springs*.

Business Education:

Alicia Garner, *McCrary*; Jessica McDaniel, *Hope*; Javin Austin-Byers, *Hot Springs*; Krista Alexander, *Greenwood*; Amy Phillips, *Prairie Grove*; Shelby Sparks, *Atkins*.

CTE

Lights, Camera, Action!

Breaking into TV at Springdale Public Schools

SPRINGDALE – On this day at **Springdale High School**, it's an indescribable amount of moving and shaking going on in one particular classroom. It's constructive movement though, as the students are setting up cameras and punching buttons on a switchboard as they broadcast live footage of a kindergarten graduation. The cute kindergartners are singing and displaying all of the things they've learned over the past year, while the Springdale High School students are frantically checking microphones, rolling out cords, and listening for cues from the broadcast control room.

If you juxtapose this scenery to that of a commercial television station, it would almost be hard to spot differences between them. Perhaps the only clue would be the young faces found behind the cameras and the bodies of those moving about to make sure a great visual product is being broadcast.

Springdale school leaders want everyone to be confused – thinking their students are already professionals.

"When you really think about what it means to have workforce readiness – what it means to have career education – anybody who is a professional knows you have to learn while doing. Repetition works. We take fundamentals and apply them

every single day," said **Trent Jones**, multimedia coordinator for Springdale Public Schools.

Jones, former television news photojournalist, oversees all of the school district's media productions, which include promotional events, graduations, and commercials, just to name a few. While he makes sure the final product is legit, Jones relies heavily on students to get the job done.

"The students get better, but they don't realize they're getting better because they're here grinding and working every day. It's special when you're able to see some of the stuff they've done and it does manifest," Jones said.

The students don't just immediately become Jones' protégés. This takes place for a select few after they have done exceptional work at their schools, either Springdale High or Har-Ber High. Students learn the rigor of television news gathering and production by enrolling in **Fundamentals of TV** and **Intermediate TV**, taken their sophomore and junior years, respectively.

"I think [this class] has brought out my personality because I was really shy and scared to talk to people," said **Madelina Sisomphou**, a rising Springdale High senior.

Sisomphou, who just finished Intermediate TV, said the television class has elevated her social skills, which were almost non-existent before.

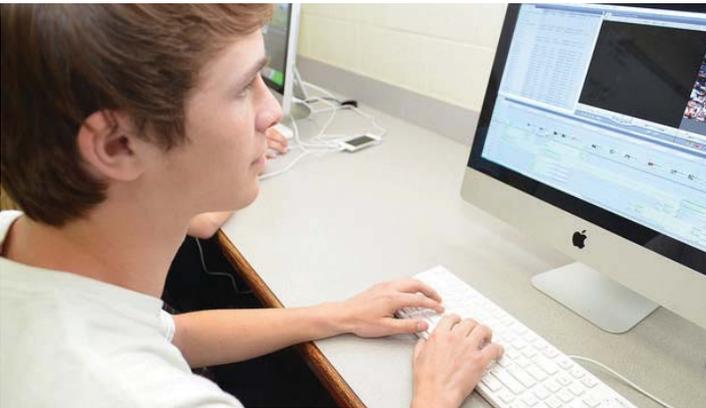
She credits the constant group collaboration for forcing her to socialize and to make new friends.

"We work in teams. It's always nice to have a partner because you might not catch your own mistakes, but your partner may catch it for you," she said.

The track is set up like this: In Fundamentals of TV, students learn the basic procedures of using a camera and doing small projects with the device. In Intermediate TV, students are exposed to shooting, writing and editing broadcast news, which appears on **Bulldog TV**, the school's television station. The last class of the sequence, **Advanced TV**,



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focuses on writing short stories and creating a short documentary.

“I like shooting. I like that most because you’re capturing everything in the moment, so whatever you get is what you get. You don’t get a second chance,” she said.

Rachelle Moore, who just wrapped up her sixth year overseeing Bulldog TV, said the teamwork that is required for the class evolves into something like a family. She credits that as the reason the students create outstanding projects.

“They spend their weekends up here if I need them. After school, they’re here working. It’s that relationship that’s built with them. They know at the end of the day, we’re there for each other and that’s what has helped a lot of these students,” Moore said.

The students spend a lot of their time producing, writing, and editing a weekly show of some kind before it is broadcast to their peers. Moore said she emphasizes the need for the students to pay attention in all of their subjects, particularly English, since their work is public.

“Literacy is a big part of this class. You have to know how to write. If you don’t know how to write, you’re not going to get anywhere in this industry,” she said.

Perhaps that tough teaching proves to be right, as Moore has seen two students continue on in the industry after leaving high school. Moore mentioned two students – **Kenia Soto** and **Maira Perez** – whom she said accurately portrays Bulldog TV. Soto, a student at SAU Tech, is working on a two to three million dollar budget feature in Las Vegas, while Perez serves as an anchor and reporter at

Univision, an American Spanish language broadcast television network.

At **Har-Ber High**, Springdale High’s in-town rival, students there are exposed to the television industry while being a part of **Har-Ber Wildcat News**, or HBWN. **Hayden Henry** (pictured at left), a rising senior, said his fascination with television began as a freshman.

“I was in oral communication, and I did a lot of media stuff in there and speaking in front of people so it came naturally,” Henry said.

Since he’s been at Har-Ber, Henry has become an integral part of HBWN, playing the role of a photojournalist, a reporter, and a producer. While many people associate glamour with TV, Henry said it can be brutal at times.

“If we mess up or lose gear, we have to write essays. There are consequences if we don’t get our work done,” Henry said.

Travis Sherman, Henry’s teacher, said he expects a lot out of his students, and he doesn’t regret doing so.

“I take pride that when they walk out of here as a senior, they’re good enough to get an entry level position at a production company,” he said.

Sherman himself is the owner of a production company. He has hired many of his students to work for him on a number of projects.

Sherman’s students are recognized with a number of awards – so many that he needs more wall space to hang all of the prizes. In the three years he has led HBWN, students have won more than 200 awards, including 11 Emmys. *Sherman was recently saluted as “Adviser of the Year” by the Arkansas Scholastic Press Association. He calls the reward the most humbling experience.*

“There are people who have been here 30 years and they’re more competent and better with students than I am,” Sherman said.

Students like Hayden Henry count it a blessing to be in a school district that he feels so adequately prepares him for his desired career field.

“Coming into this program, I didn’t know how I was going to work with it. I think that’s what Har-Ber and Springdale both have done really well. They have created programs that not only help you find your interest but also excel in your interest,” Henry said.

ARS

For Second Year, Project SEARCH® Offers Hope, Opportunity

LITTLE ROCK – The second Project SEARCH® graduation ceremony ended just like the one last year: full of joy and tears.

Joy fills the graduates' and their family members' hearts because they have accomplished a significant milestone. Each of the graduates has completed a nearly year-long venture to gain skills that can be used in whatever profession they choose. Eyes begin to well up when each of the graduates gives a testimony of their experiences and when the families reminisce on the journey prior to graduation.

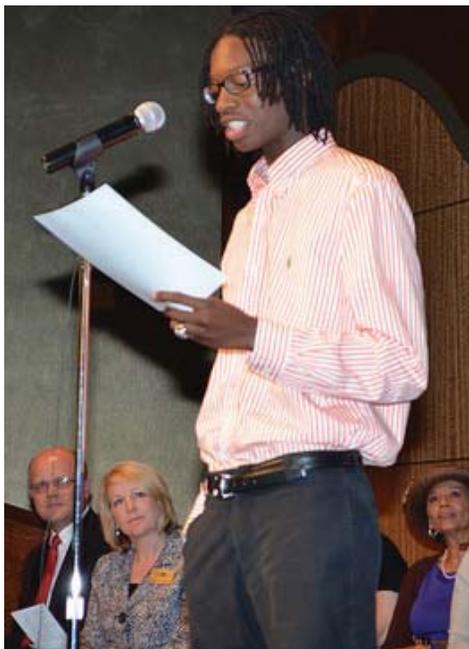
"We all gained work experience and bettered our résumés," said **D'Angelo**

Givens (pictured at right). "In my internship, I've learned a lot about work environments and skillsets. I am most thankful to God and my grandparents. Without these influences, I wouldn't be where I am."

Project SEARCH® is fully funded by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, a division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education. After a competitive selection process, the participants work in various departments at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) over a nine month time span. This year, the program welcomed thirteen participants.

"Project SEARCH® has helped me throughout the year to learn what I needed to find a job. I am happy to have found a job I love and can go every day," said **Marissa Dove**, who has begun her career at Embassy Suites.

Ten of the participants have jobs, while job coaches and program coordinators are actively looking to find placement for the remaining three.



CHAMBER *continued from page 5* those skills that make them employable.

He also appreciated the Arkansas State Legislature for passing SB 368, which establishes a statewide workforce development system and coordinates various workforce development programs. It also created an Office of Skills Development, which is a division within the Arkansas Department of Career Education. SB 791 is also part of the workforce initiatives legislation, which creates regional boards around the state. Governor Asa Hutchinson signed the bills and touted its effectiveness in competing for jobs and maintaining existing industries.

"The changes that occurred in this legislative session wasn't all we wanted done, but it was all we could politically do right now. What works in Springdale probably won't work in Fayetteville. It definitely won't work in Forrest City, West Memphis, or El Dorado. This is the challenge for the workforce boards and commissions. They will have to figure out how to do this in a politically-doable way that is fair and equitable."

Adult Ed

James H. “Jim” Smith Jr. Retires as Deputy Director for Arkansas Adult Education



Jim Smith's retirement marks the end of 45 years as an educator. Jim began his career in 1970 as an Industrial Arts instructor at the secondary level. He leaves his profession after an eight year post as Deputy Director of the Arkansas Department of Career Education for the Adult Education Division.

Legislators, colleagues, friends and family gathered to celebrate Jim Smith on June 30th at the agency's location at 525 West Capitol in Little Rock.

In a letter announcing his retirement, Jim shared his thanks and appreciation for the opportunities and the people contributing to his fruitful career:

“I was the kid who wanted to drop out of school in the 8th grade because that is as far as my father went to school. He was one of the smartest men I have ever known with

few in my life being his equal. Who would have ever thought I would become a teacher, a manager, a coordinator, a president of several state and national organizations, meet and work with US Senators and Representatives, Governors, and State Senators and Representatives, help to craft legislation, and finish my career as Deputy Director of Adult Education? Most important was changing students' lives for the better. This can't be anything short of God's intervention in Carolyn's and my life.

I want to thank my parents,

my wife, and children, my students from whom I learned the most as a teacher, the many educators who saw more in me that I did at times, and to the staff with which I have served over these many years for making my life the adventure it has become. Above it all, I thank God, among many things, for His leadership and guidance to provide direction and intervention.

To all I extend a grateful thank you for your support and council. What a great ride.”

What a great ride, indeed.

Arkansas Adult Educators at COABE 2015 *Gaining Perspective in the Mile High City*



Joey Walter, Adult Education Program Manager, and Janice Hanlon, GED® Program Administrator, attended the 2015 COABE (The Commission on Adult Basic Education) Conference, along with staff members

from several local Adult Education centers. COABE 2015 was a resounding success, delivering national level professional development to 1,583 attendees that were registered from around the country. The conference was held April 21-24 in Denver, Colorado. Additionally, there were nearly 400 presenters delivering outstanding professional development in the more than 300 sessions.

COABE continued on page 15

Adult Ed

Walmart Foundation Grant Funds Scholarships for Adult Education Students

Students of the Adult Education Division programs are benefitting from a grant awarded by Walmart and its Foundation in November 2014. By funding scholarships for students, the grant eliminates the burden of the cost of taking the GED® test so that students can focus on learning. The grant cycle was 50% complete at the end of April 2015, and midpoint statistics show the success of the initiative and the impact of Adult Education services.

- ▶ For the period of the Walmart grant from November 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015, *6,174 Adult Education/Literacy students made educational gains in the state of Arkansas.*
- ▶ 1,280 individuals in Arkansas passed the GED® test from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. From November 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015, the time that the Walmart grant has been active: *1,259 individuals have taken all four parts of the GED® test in Arkansas and 1,161 passed the test reflecting a 92 percent pass rate.*
- ▶ *3,021 students entered employment; 2,028 entered postsecondary education* after exiting adult education/literacy programs.
- ▶ *2,316 students retained employment* after exiting adult education/literacy programs.
- ▶ From November 1, 2014, to April 30, 2015, *227 individuals were served as a result of the grant.* A total of 596 scholarships were awarded to individuals for \$4 for areas of the four part GED® test. The scholarships were awarded based on 200 percent of the poverty rate.

COABE continued from page 14

Two of the presenters were staff members from the Arkansas Adult Education Resource Center (AALRC), which is the training and support component for the Adult Education program service and literacy providers statewide. Patti White, Disabilities Project Manager, along with Klaus Neu, Media Coordinator, presented “Teaching Adults with Learning Disabilities— and Amazing Apps to Help!” This interactive session shared instructional strategies to use with adult students who have learning disabilities. Participants had the opportunity to practice the individual and small group strategies during the session. The instructional strategy practice was complemented by an overview of new and amazing apps that adult students with learning disabilities can use to improve their learning, to practice basic skills, and to provide access to alternative methods of information processing. The session was part of COABE’s Learning Difficulties/Disabilities focus.

With the continuous need to provide adult education/literacy programs throughout Arkansas and with students continuing to drop out of high school at alarming rates, Adult Education and literacy programs provide an avenue to those who have missed the opportunity to learn essential skills for working and/or further education. Adult education/literacy programs are faced with retention of students who chose to enroll. Teachers must constantly relearn and change their teaching techniques and methodology to reach and retain students.

Utilizing the Walmart scholarships has assisted the Arkansas Adult Education/Arkansas Literacy program in providing opportunities for students to earn their GED® credential, opening doors for thousands of adult learners to college courses, apprenticeships and job training—the pathway adults need to gain skills and knowledge, fill these jobs, and care for their families. Because many of Arkansas’ adult learners are financially in need, the Walmart scholarships have allowed many economically deprived adults to take the GED® and pave the way for a brighter future.



Brian Rogers Named Deputy Director of new Office of Skills Development Division

Rogers is a native of the Pine Bluff area and received a Bachelor of

Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Arkansas. He also has a J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center.

Rogers comes to the Department from Arkansas State University, where he served as the Director of Technology Transfer and Director of Catalyst, a science and technology focused business incubation program. In these positions since 2010, he has been involved in various educational and applied initiatives aimed at

business and job growth across Arkansas and Memphis, Tennessee.

Rogers spent most of his career outside of the state, where he worked in the healthcare, semiconductor, electronics, chemical, oil and gas, and legal services industries.

Governor Asa Hutchinson signed Act 892, which created the Office of Skills Development, during the 2015 Legislative Session. A division within the Arkansas Department of Career Education, *this office is responsible for aligning career and technical education programs with the skills needed by business and industry.*



Edgerton Heads Communications Department

Kathy Koontz Edgerton, a Morrilton native, has been named the Director of **Communications** for the Arkansas Department of

Career Education.

Edgerton joined ACE from the University of Arkansas, where she served as Director of Regional Advancement Programs for the central Arkansas region. Prior to the UA, she served as the director of marketing and communications for the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain. There, Edgerton provided marketing and strategic planning input to raise awareness about the mission and purpose of the organization as well as establishing a brand identity.

Edgerton has held leadership positions with several community organizations in North Carolina and Georgia as well as in her home state of Arkansas.

An alumna of the University of Arkansas, she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Broadcast Journalism/ Communications.

Morgan Leads Access and Accommodations Program

Linda Morgan has been named Associate Commissioner of **Access and Accommodations**, formerly Special

Programs, for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

Morgan has been an occupational therapist for nearly two decades with the bulk of her career spent at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. She has provided assessments in the area of assistive technology (AT) and ergonomics as part of AT@Work and Retaining a Valued Employee (RAVE) programs. She holds a M.S. Degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Central Arkansas, a B.A. Degree in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas, and an Assistive Technology Practitioner (ATP) Certification. Morgan is also a Certified Ergonomic Assessment Specialist (CEAS I, II, III).

Prior to becoming an occupational therapist, Morgan worked in several capacities for Southwestern Bell.



ARS

YLF Delegates get Motivation, Tools for Success

CONWAY – LISA Academy senior **John Fox** has dreams of joining people like Clint Eastwood and Mel Gibson as one of the greatest film directors that has ever lived. He is confident in his abilities to pursue his career passion.

“I like to make stories. I have a very creative mind,” he said.

Fox’s drive for cinematography reignited after he attended the weeklong **Youth Leadership Forum**, or YLF, a summer program coordinated by the Governor’s Commission on People with Disabilities. Even though Fox lives with Asperger’s Syndrome, a form of autism, he won’t let that deter him for directing movies.

He considers YLF to be an important program to reassure youngsters like him can get the motivation and encouragement they need.

“Not only does it prove I can be successful, but everyone else here. We have disabilities, but that does not mean we can’t do anything,” Fox added.

This is the 17th year for YLF. Taking place on the campus of the University of Central Arkansas, the program welcomes high school juniors and seniors from all across the state who are living with a disability. The initiative teaches the participants – also called delegates



– about leading independent lives after high school, placing emphases on time management, budgeting, and goal setting.

“It’s been great,” said **Darlene Owens**, one of this year’s YLF coordinators. “We had a lot of great speakers to come through, and we have some meaningful activities,” Owens said.

This year, YLF coordinators opened the program up to more delegates so that more young people could take in all of the information that is exchanged. Twenty-two students participated, the result of the massive push to increase enrollment – credited to earlier recruitment and more publicity.

“To see everything come to fruition and to see all of the hard work that’s been put into this, it is just heart-filling. You fall in love with these students. They grip your heart,” Owens said.

The delegates jumped on a bus and traveled to Little Rock and spent the morning touring the State Capitol and meeting with **Governor Asa Hutchinson**. Before taking a picture with the group (see above), the governor asked a few of the participants about their career plans and praised the program for its mission.

The delegates also made a stop in the State Treasurer’s Office, where they learned about



CTE

Annual ACTE Conference Highlights Innovators

Over 700 educators met in Hot Springs July 26-28 for the 85th annual Career & Technical Education Summer Conference. The conference is a partnership between the Arkansas Department of Career Education and the Arkansas Association for Career & Technical Education. The theme of this year's conference was "Recognizing Classroom Innovators."

Arkansas Department of Career Education Director, **Dr. Charisse Childers** and National Association for Career and Technical Education Past-President **Dr. Doug Major** of Oklahoma spoke to the group on the exciting new changes taking place in Career and Technical Education in Arkansas and across the nation.

CTE educators were able to choose from over 90 different program-specific workshops offered for



all eleven divisions of the Association for Career and Technical Education.

The summer conference has grown to the point that the Hot Springs Convention Center can no longer accommodate all of the workshops being offered. This year division breakout sessions were also held at the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), Hot Springs High School, the Embassy Hotel, and Camp Couchdale.



Above: ACE Director Childers presented ACTE President and recently retired ACE Program Advisor **Dave Fisher** a letter of commendation from the legislature.



Above: ACE Agriculture Science & Technology Program Coordinator **Marion Fletcher** received the **Jean McEntire Award** which recognizes an Arkansas educator who has made the highest meritorious contributions to the improvement, promotion, development and progress of career and technical education.



This year's **Policy Maker Awards** went to (above) **Representative Charlotte Douglas** (with ACE President **Dave Fisher**); top right: **Senator Jane English**; right: **Representative Bruce Westerman**, whose award was accepted by **Jordan Garcia**



ARS

YLF continued from page 17

the role of the department and even got the opportunity to take a picture with wads of money (right). (Instagram and Snapchat are proof that was their favorite spot in the Capitol.)

The Mentors' Luncheon followed the experience at the Capitol, and this was the time the delegates applied those networking skills they learned in the various workshops. Each of them was armed with business cards, and they passed them out to fellow delegates and to visitors who attended the luncheon.

Perhaps one of the highlights of the weeklong festivities was hearing from **Rohan Murphy** (pictured below with l-r: ARS Commissioner **Alan McClain**, YLF coordinator **Darlene Owens** and luncheon guest **Rev. Nathaniel Palmer, Sr.**), a celebrated motivational



speaker, who lost his legs at birth. He did pursue his love for sports by joining his high school wrestling team as a freshman. He went on to wrestle at Penn State University. Murphy is



a powerlifter as well, having represented the USA in various international competitions.

"I loved sports at a young age," Murphy said. "I told my parents: 'I know that I'm different. I don't have legs, but I don't want this to hold me back in life. I never want my disability to hold me back in life.'"

Murphy challenged the delegates to never give up on their dreams, no matter how hard it looks to accomplish.

The delegates seemed to have connected with Murphy's message.

"It gives me encouragement. As long as you're willing to work hard and to be dedicated, you can succeed and do whatever you want," said **Olivia Sanders**, a native of Calico Rock.

Sanders said Murphy's fiery, uplifting message is the reason she won't give up on her dream to be an accomplished author. She's been motivated to truly go after her career dreams.

"Reading has always been my comfort, and it's inspired me to see the world and see the fantastical things that are in the world," Sanders said.

Following the luncheon, the delegates took a look inside of the Arkansas Governor's

Mansion and learned the history of the stately-built edifice that has been home for the past twelve governors, including Governor Asa Hutchinson.

Leonard Boyle, co-coordinator of YLF and executive director of the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities, is an official docent at the mansion and led the tour.

On the final night of YLF, delegates enjoyed an evening of music and dancing (complete with photo booth to record the festivities) ahead of the final ceremony Friday to mark the end of the summer program. Delegates were recognized in the ceremony, and their parents were able to share in their child's success.

For many of the delegates, YLF is something they won't ever forget.

"I was nervous about coming because I'm not good in large crowds, but it's been very refreshing, and I feel very motivated to move on with my life," Sanders said.



ARS

Spotlights on...

Nathan Burleson

Jared Kemp

Nathan Burleson, 26, is a native of White Hall, Arkansas. He is Deaf and fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). He graduated from the Arkansas School for the Deaf in May of 2007 and is very passionate about technology.

With financial assistance from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Nathan went on to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, New York. Although Nathan had some struggles during his 6 years of undergraduate study, he overcame them and earned

both his Associate of Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.) and a B.S. in Deaf Cultural Studies.

Nathan is now back in Arkansas and working for Sprint as a Customer Relationship Manager in Little Rock. He is doing what he wants to do, working with computers and other technology. He is also heavily involved with the Deaf Community, educating them in technology through presentations, demonstration, workshops and advocating for Deaf people.

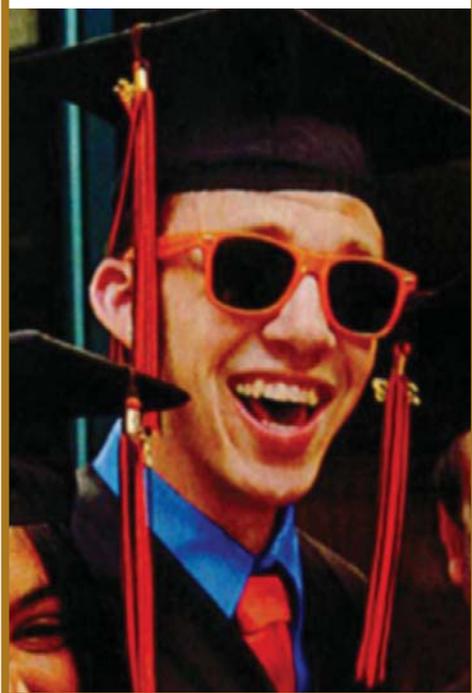
Teamwork gets ARS client a good job!

Jared Kemp is truly a success story from ACTI. When he finished his welding course, he was referred back to the Jonesboro field office. His counselor, Sharon Rowe, referred him to Business Relations Consultant Laura Kimbrell for assistance in locating a welding position. After searching Laura's contacts she remembered her contact at American Railcar Industries (ARI). A phone call revealed an opening, so Laura shared information concerning Kemp, his CRC scores, and welding skills. After a completing

the interviewed within days, he was hired! Kemp said he loves his job welding rail cars. Since Kemp has started to work, he has moved up to a "Blue Hard Hat," meaning he has worked 90 days and eligible for increase in pay to a Level 2 welder. He said it is hard work, but it has been good for his health since he has lost over 20 pounds since starting to work.

He credits his instructor **Dennis Pickering** at ACTI as being an inspiration, as well as an encyclopedia of information.

"When I weld, I always remember our conversations on how to



(l-r): ARI supervisor Kent Overshine, Jared Kemp, and group leader Charles Albrecht standing in front of railcar.

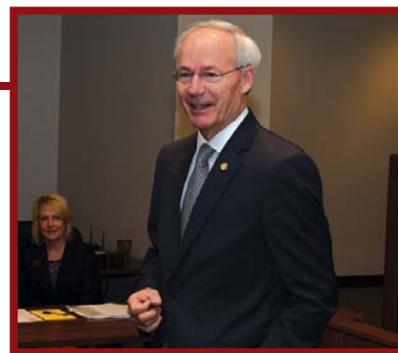
ACE Welcomes New Board Members

As a result of the passage of Act 892 in the 2015 Legislative Session, the newly formed **Career Education and Workforce Development Board** met to begin their official roles as board members on August 4. Thirteen Arkansans appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson will represent various businesses and industries from across the state. They will create a comprehensive statewide program for career education and workforce development while supervising all vocational, technical and occupational education programs, including the newly created Office of Skills Development. Members of this board will work closely with the recently created Arkansas Workforce Development Board at the Department of Workforce Services.

Governor Hutchinson greeted the board members and thanked them for their service to the state. The members took part in orientation and heard from **Dr. Charisse Childers** and leaders from each of ACE's four divisions.

They then began to entertain action items, and they elected **Hugh McDonald** to serve as the board's vice chair. **Michael Garner** serves as chair.

The board will meet again on Tuesday, September 15.



Michael Garner
Chairman
Hensley



Hugh McDonald
Vice - Chairman
Little Rock



Dr. Adam Arroyos
Fayetteville



Dr. Steven Collier
Augusta



Scott Copas
Little Rock



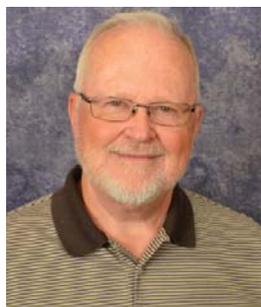
Stacy Gunderman
Batesville



Jenifer Price
Springdale



Gina Radke
North Little Rock



Dan Serrano
Lowell



Jeff Standridge
Conway



Dr. Keith Vire
Fayetteville



Burton Weis
Fort Smith

Not pictured: **Troy Keeping**, *Marion*.

Ex-Officio Members include: **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

CTE

**CTE Deputy Director for Career & Technical Education
Sandra Porter Retires**

Sandra Porter was applauded June 17 by friends, family and colleagues at her retirement celebration for her long career serving the state's students and working to create better opportunities through education.

A Business Education teacher for 26 years, Porter joined ACE in January 2004. she retired at the end of June to begin a new chapter of her life.

Dr. Charisse Childers presented Porter with a plaque from the state legislature (pictured bottom right) citing her many accomplishments over the years in the education field (including Arkansas Teacher of the Year in 2000). Porter has also held offices in the

Arkansas Business Education Association and the Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Education. She has been a member of the Bryant School Board since 2006 and has served as vice-president and president. She is a member of the Arkansas School Board Association.

Porter entered the packed conference room and was greeted by both past and present co-workers, who were there to wish her well in whatever future endeavors she chooses to pursue.

Also in attendance were Porter's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and her husband Mike, retired six years, who said he was looking forward to having someone else around to help with the laundry!



SPOTLIGHT *continued from page 20*

weld something better - from something he taught me. My experience at ACTI was also a healthy one. It put me in a whole new environment, which has helped me in my job and how to work well with others. Mr. D also made me confident in my welding ability. The welding program was amazing," Kemp said.

Kemp completed the CRC and scored well while at ACTI. He said it helped him feel better about himself and it built his confidence. One of his group leaders at ARI, Charles Albrecht, said he is one of the most enthusiastic employees he has worked with. From the first day at ARI, he has been interested in what they do on the job every day. Kent Overshine, Kemp's supervisor,

said he is a good worker, a good welder, has a positive attitude, is a team player, and an excellent employee! Kemp said he is impressed that ARI holds monthly safety meetings and listens to what the employees have to say, and they stay on top of the issues presented to them. He likes the job at ARI and feels he is being paid well for entry level He likes the fact that employees help each other in a team effort.

Kemp also thanked his field counselor, Sharon Rowe, for giving him the extra push to go to school at ACTI when he was having second thoughts. Now that he looks back and thinks it, it is the best thing he has ever done! He is grateful for the help from ARS.

DIRECTOR *continued from page 2*

initiatives to bring business and job growth across Arkansas and Memphis, TN. He has the contacts and has hit the ground running to use his knowledge and skills to take workforce development and training to the next level. I am convinced that this new office and the increased coordination with other state agencies will improve our state.

✓ **Governor Asa Hutchinson** recently named the members of the Career Education and Workforce Development Board. Thirteen individuals come from the various industry sectors across the state and eight others represent numerous state agencies and education entities. Together we will create a comprehensive statewide program for career and technical education and workforce development. Our first meeting in August proved to be quite insightful, and they are ready to work on behalf of our great state.

✓ We've had a "changing of the guard" of sorts, as many of our veteran leaders have retired. We celebrated the retirements of numerous agency employees. I am thankful to have worked with them during the first six months as director. We are a better agency because of their dedication and leadership. I wish them good health and time for making memories in the next chapter of their lives.

I truly enjoy working with such a dedicated group, whose sole purpose is to improve the lives of everyday Arkansans. Thank you for your commitment and dedication.

ARS

ARS Celebrates 25th Anniversary of ADA

July 26, 2015, marked 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. The legislation outright prohibits discrimination in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, and transportation.

President George H.W. Bush, signing the legislation on the south lawn of the White House in 1990, said the following: "With today's signing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, every man, woman, and child with a disability can now pass through once-closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom."

The agency has participated in a series of outreach programs to commemorate the historic piece of legislation. **Leonard Boyle**, Executive Director of the Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities, was featured on a THV11 news segment (pictured above right), where he highlighted the success of law and how it removed barriers for people with



disabilities.

"This law makes it possible for people with disabilities to lead independent lives and gives them the power and motivation to accomplish whatever they desire. They are no longer limited to getting where they need to go," Boyle said. "The fight is not over to make this nation totally accessible," he added. "ADA serves as a reminder that the law is on our side."

Some ARS employees were invited to speak at Easter Seals to explain the law and the protections that it offers (including Pulaski County Counselor **Marcie Flowers**, left). Attendees also learned about the resources that the agency provides and where they can go to become more familiar with those services.

The agency plans to host more events in honor of ADA throughout the remainder of the year and through 2016.





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*; **Dr. Trenia Miles**, *Interim 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 Arkansas Works*; **Linda Morgan**, *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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Helena

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Jonesboro

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(870) 367-9669 * TDD (870) 367-9719

North Little Rock

(501) 833-1490

Pine Bluff

(870) 534-2404 * TDD (870) 534-2993

Russellville

(479) 890-5751 * TDD (479) 890-5157

Texarkana

(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)

(501) 683-3287

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

(501) 683-1152