



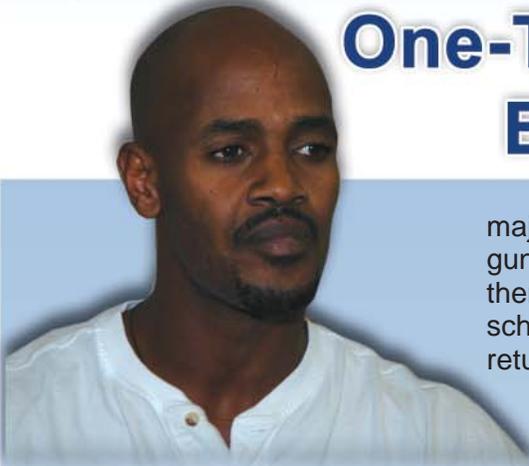
the

Career Counselor

A publication of Arkansas Department of Career Education

501-682-1500 * <http://ace.arkansas.gov>

One-Time Refugee Learning to Educate Former War Zone



All of his life, William Karambizi has been a fighter. Now he's fighting for one of the most precious things of his life ever— a high school diploma.

The 38-year-old Karambizi has been taking General Educational Development (GED®) classes since January at Arkansas Baptist College (ABC). He is returning to his studies after dropping out at age 16, and his story is anything but common.

Karambizi was born in Kenya to Rwandan refugees who fled the tiny Central African nation in 1959 during a rebellion against Belgium colonial rule.

"As a refugee, you don't have a home. You don't have a country. You're treated differently," said Karambizi. "You thought you were the same, but you were different."

Despite his treatment, Karambizi was still able to attend school. He admits his education was not always reliable and consistent, but at least some education was available to him.

However, in 1994, things changed drastically for Karambizi. Genocide aimed at the Hutu

majority people of Rwanda had begun. As a native Hutu, Karambizi, then just 16 years old, traded in his school books for a rifle in order to return to Rwanda as a member of a guerilla force charged with ending the Tutsi-led ethnic violence.

"I became a guerilla to be equal," said Karambizi. "I saw all of the hate and greed that was happening in my country. I had to do everything in my power to make sure that hate and greed couldn't come back."

The agency Human Rights Watch estimates that as much as 20 percent of Rwanda's population may have been lost during the genocide. Karambizi finds it difficult to talk about his experiences.

Karambizi stayed in the military for 12 years – until he was 28.

"I had to stay with the military. There was peace, but there were still people to protect," Karambizi said. "People from big cities would come and take advantage of the people in the small villages because they had no education."

Even though he wanted to protect the helpless, Karambizi had a stronger desire to provide for his siblings. He began to work as a tour guide for visit-

ing dignitaries who wanted to see Rwanda following the genocide. One group included Arkansas Baptist College President Dr. Fitz Hill.

"We were together for only 10 days, but it felt like we had known each other for years. We really made a connection," Karambizi said.

Karambizi says he told Dr. Hill about the horrors of the genocide. "Most of my friends were gone because of the war. I knew I wasn't going to school, but what I was doing was a kind of learning," Karambizi said. "I was accepting my fate. I kept up hope. I asked God to make sure I didn't do the bad things some of the other people were doing."

Dr. Hill asked Karambizi about

STUDENT continued on page 7



Will Swinton (center) is the first GED graduate of Arkansas Baptist College's adult education center, funded in part by an ACE grant. With Swinton are (l-r) William Karambizi, ACE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Arma Hart of ABC and ACE Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith.



Director's Update

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.

Director

Arkansas Department of Career Education

As the holiday season approaches and 2010 draws to a close, now is the perfect time to reflect upon the work that we have done and the work that we have yet to do in the coming year.

In 2010, the senior management team and I continued to seek out opportunities to continually enhance our education and training programs and make our administrative processes more effective and efficient. We set many ambitious goals and made great progress toward accomplishing them or even exceeding them.

As we begin 2011, we look forward to the convening of the 88th General Assembly on Jan. 10. We welcome the newly elected state officials and look forward to working with each one to move Arkansas forward by preparing our citizens for the competitive, knowledge-based economy of the 21st century.

I believe that under Gov. Mike Beebe's leadership, state agencies now more than ever before in our state's history are working together toward the common goal of ensuring that all Arkansans have the opportunity to enhance quality of life for themselves, their families and their communities. Education and economic development are the keys to enhanced quality of life.

Gov. Beebe has emphasized the importance of a strong partnership between education and economic development throughout the first four years of his administration, and our state is seeing the fruits of his dedication to forging this partnership. Through the Governor's

Workforce Cabinet, the agencies most involved in workforce development and economic development have become more knowledgeable of each other's capabilities and resources. As a result, Arkansans now benefit from exemplary programs such as Arkansas Works, rolled out one year ago as a joint venture of the Workforce Cabinet.

Our agency's accomplishments in 2010 are far too numerous to list, but here are a few of our most notable achievements:

- ◆ Arkansas Works scored many successes. Although the college and career coaches began work only in January in the 21 targeted counties, they made contact with 99.3 percent of high school seniors in their service areas. In those service areas, financial aid applications increased by 91.9 percent over last year. The ACT Academy implemented just last summer proved successful at helping students in the targeted counties increase their ACT scores. After only 24 hours of instruction, 87 percent increased their composite score to 19 or higher. The Internet-based College and Career Planning System (powered by Kuder®), expanded in late 2009 to serve adults as well as students, has served an amazing 59,399 new users and 71,223 returning users.

- ◆ Our career and technical student organizations continued to represent Arkansas well at national conferences, with our students

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Arkansas Department
ACE
of Career Education



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

Arkansas Department of Career Education

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**Arkansas Offers Input
at JAG Thought Leadership Conference**



U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Director Walker

Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. represented Governor Mike Beebe as one of more than 110 national leaders at the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Thought Leadership Conference, which focused on proven programs and solutions for at-risk minority youth. The conference was held Sept. 29 in Washington, D.C.

The primary purpose of the conference was to bring together proven experts and seasoned veterans to discuss ways to take successful educational and career programs at the local, state and national levels through both public and private sector policies and funding processes.

Director Walker, JAG Board Chairman and Maine Governor John Baldacci, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack participated in a series of roundtables and panels focused on both legislative and funding strategies. Other panelist included U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education Glenn Cummings; U.S. Senator Tom Carper of Delaware; California Congressman Mike Honda, who serves as chair of the Asian Pacific-American Caucus; Dr. Elsie Scott, president of the Congressional Black Caucus; Janet Murguia, president and chief executive officer of the National Council of La Raza; Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League; and Roberto Rodriguez, special assistant to President Obama for education and the White House Domestic Policy Council.



What You Should Know

Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission

Katrina Betancourt, Program Manager

The Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission (AKDC) has realized the need for patient education and involvement in achieving successful patient outcomes.

Therefore, while the AKDC continues to assist in financial services to those with end stage renal disease (ESRD), we realized a need to also develop a program to educate patients and their families about kidney disease and to empower them to become proactive with preventiva-

tive measures, treatment planning and wellness management. Our goal in patient education is to improve the quality of life and educate those patients with ESRD and their supporters. The patient education plan will be developed to ensure that AKDC client needs and expectations are addressed.

In the first phase of the AKDC patient education endeavor, we will be distributing patient education fact sheets to dialysis units and nephrology clinics across Arkansas

to reach our targeted population. The fact sheets provide a wealth of valuable information surrounding ESRD and anemia, depression, the dialysis process, exercise, fluid, communicating with the health care team, rehabilitation, secondary health conditions and traveling when on dialysis.

AKDC's future plans include health fairs and public education seminars. We will keep you posted about any upcoming events.

AKDC Chairman honored in Tampa

The Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission's Bob Abbott was named Volunteer of the Year at the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) 37th Annual Convention in Tampa, Fla., in September.

The award is given to an individual who has played an integral role throughout the year in the activities of AAKP and demonstrated commitment to AAKP and kidney patients. "The individuals we honored have done inspiring work in the renal community. It was an honor to recognize their efforts," said AAKP President Carolyn Price.

Abbott, a Pine Bluff resident, is a charter member of the AKDC and was appointed to his position in 1971. He was the leading sup-

porter to bring the first "AAKP Kidney Beginnings: Live" program to Arkansas in March, and now leaders in the Arkansas kidney disease treatment community want to make it a statewide program. Abbott has introduced legislation to create the Chain of Life Award, which would be given to an individual who donates a kidney to a friend or family member.

"We want to congratulate Bob on his well-deserved recognition," Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño said. "He is an important part of our Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission and should be commended for his hard work and dedication."

AAKP is a voluntary patient organization that for 40 years has

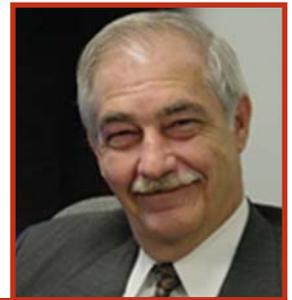


Bob Abbott receives his award from Jessica Gonzalez, AAKP staff member.

been dedicated to improving the lives of kidney patients and their families by helping them deal with the physical, emotional and social impacts of kidney disease.

Senior Management Team

SMT Update



Charlie Brown
Deputy Director for Finance
Department of Career Education

The Finance Office of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Adult Education divisions of the Department of Career Education has recently assumed the responsibility of providing onsite financial and administrative monitoring of adult education and CTE programs operated by our various sub-grantees.

Under both the Perkins Act (federal CTE funds) and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (federal adult education funds), the department is charged with the responsibility of monitoring sub-grantees and assuring the federal government that funds are being expended for program purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting methods and in compliance with any rules and regulations applicable to the particular grant funds or to federal funds in general.

When adult education pro-

grams were audited by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Department of Education, one of the findings was that “Arkansas [Department of Career Education] did not adequately monitor the performance of providers receiving adult education funds.” When this issue was discussed with decision-makers at the state level, the issue was deemed critical enough for the state to commit scarce resources to provide the means to respond to and correct this deficiency. As a result, the Finance Office now has two new senior internal auditors, Carolyn Korte and Don Bellcock, who are helping to address the issues raised in the OIG audit.

Since the first of the fiscal year, our two new auditors have visited a number of programs around the state. Several audits have been conducted, and reviews completed. CTE or adult education staff usually accompany the auditors and

assist with the reviews. Audits and monitoring visits will be scheduled throughout the year, and follow-up visits will be made where warranted.

The goal of this new auditing function is not a punitive one. It would, of course, be our desire that all programs be perfect. However, in examining financial records and procedures followed by the various sub-grantees around the state, we are finding some items that need to be corrected. If errors are found that require the department to request money to be repaid, we will collect those funds reluctantly but will make the collection.

As part of our ongoing effort to provide technical assistance to our sub-grantees, Carolyn and Don will assist the staffs of local programs in understanding what rules are to be followed and will educate them regarding sound accounting practices and financial management.

Crowley’s Ridge Technical Institute Breaks Ground



Crowley’s Ridge Technical Institute in Forrest City held a groundbreaking for an adult education classroom building. Helping make the first breaks were (l-r) Lee Owens, architect; Howard Ballard, general contractor; Ken Patterson, CRTI board chairman; Frances Harper, board member; Sue Willard, CRTI board secretary; Burt Leiblong, president; Ava Hankins, project manager; Jim Smith, ACE deputy director for adult education; Jim Davis, CRTI vice chairman; state Sen. Jack Crumbly; and Fredric Smith, CRTI board member.

Governor Beebe Helps Celebrate Adult Education Week and GED® Pride Day

Gov. Mike Beebe joined Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) Director William L. “Bill” Walker, Jr. and a contingent of the state’s adult education teachers and administrators at the State Capitol Sept. 16 to present a proclamation declaring Sept. 13-17 as Adult Education Week in Arkansas and Sept. 15 as General Educational Development (GED) Pride Day.

“It is timely and appropriate that attention be focused on the special efforts and dedication of Arkansas’s adult educators, who prepare individuals for productive employment and enriched lives,” Gov. Beebe said. “I encourage my fellow citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by adult education courses and to support and participate in these programs.”

Adult education services provide academic skills instruction and GED preparation for adults who lack a high school diploma. English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Literacy/Civics Education serve immigrant adults who want to become more fluent in English, pass U.S. citizenship tests and acquire basic employability skills. Additionally, workplace classes are offered onsite at businesses so current

and prospective employees can improve their basic reading, math, team-building and communication skills – as well as their GED readiness. The Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™) program provides academic and employability instruction to meet the needs of unemployed and underemployed individuals.

The Adult Education Division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education funds and oversees 51 adult education programs and 21 literacy councils.

“Arkansas’s future economic success depends on having a well-educated and well-trained workforce,” said Director Walker. “Thanks to the skill and dedication of our Adult Education Division staff and instructors statewide, we have the resources in place to offer a second chance to many Arkansans who didn’t finish high school.

“Through his proclamation, Gov. Beebe is once again proving his commitment to education at every level in our state, Director Walker said. “That commitment virtually guarantees that Arkansans will be prepared for the high-skill, high-demand, high-wage jobs of the 21st-century economy.”



Representatives from the Department of Career Education and from adult education centers around the state meet with Gov. Mike Beebe Sept. 16 at the State Capitol.

STUDENT *continued from page 1*

school, and Karambizi had a laundry list of reasons he couldn't go. There wasn't enough money. There were family issues. There were paperwork problems.

Dr. Hill assured Karambizi a full scholarship so he could attend school in the United States if he had faith.

"I knew then, if this is my opportunity, I will take it," Karambizi said. "If it is not mine, I will give it to someone else."

Karambizi took the opportunity, and in January 2010, after 22 years away from the classroom, started

on a path toward a high school diploma. He plans to begin work on a college degree in 2011.

Once he has his degree in hand, Karambizi plans to head back to Rwanda to work with the nation's poor.

"Rwanda is one of the world's smallest and poorest countries," Karambizi said. "I want to take what I have learned and help the poor people."

According to Karambizi, Rwanda is home to the world's finest coffee. He wants to teach villagers more modern ways of coffee farming, introduce a microloan system as a funding source and restructure

education. All of these initiatives, he says, will lead to further independence.

"People in Rwanda need to learn that even though they live in a small country, it has all of the resources they need," Karambizi says. "Once they become educated, they can rely on themselves, and they won't need anything from anybody else."

And that's what Karambizi is doing for himself – becoming educated so he can rely on himself.

"If people in the villages of Rwanda were educated before the genocide," Karambizi said, "that kind of ideology would not have been effective."

Annual Football Match Up to Help Tackle Illiteracy

The Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) again teamed up with Arkansas Baptist College (ABC) to help tackle illiteracy in the state.

ACE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. presented ABC President Dr. Fitz Hill a grant for \$65,000 during halftime of the annual Delta Classic 4 Literacy football game between Grambling State and the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff Oct. 30. The game highlighted a week of events spotlighting and raising funds for literacy and education programs in Arkansas.

This year is the third straight year Arkansas Baptist has been the recipient of an ACE grant. Last year, Director Walker awarded ABC a \$60,000 grant to assist in the establishment of a General Educational Development (GED®) site on the ABC campus.

"Our agency is excited about our partnership with ABC and the Delta Classic 4 Literacy as it relates to improving literacy and ultimately addressing the dropout rate in the state," Director Walker said. "We're glad to see a strategic plan taking place to address this problem. These efforts are vitally important to creating an educated workforce."

"Two years ago the Department of Career Education aided in the launch of the literacy and writing center on the ABC campus, and to see further developments is encouraging as we partner with ABC and the Delta Classic 4 Literacy to tackle illiteracy."

The purpose of the Classic is to bring attention to the negative effects of illiteracy.

"This is a national problem and must be addressed," said Arma Hart, ABC academic affairs liaison to the president. "This silent disease destroys hopes and dreams and in many ways can be deadly to the individual and to the communities in which they reside. We are asking individuals, businesses and corporations to get off the sidelines and get in the game and help tackle illiteracy."

Money raised so far from previous classics has resulted in the openings of seven literacy councils in Arkansas Delta counties, and more are expected, thanks to the support the Classic receives from the community.



Fans at the Delta Classic 4 Literacy football game in Little Rock, Oct. 30, pitting Grambling State against the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, watch the halftime presentation by ACE Director Walker (*far left*) of a ceremonial check for \$65,000 to Dr. Fitz Hill (*far right*), president of Arkansas Baptist College. The grant is to be used for the college's GED program. With the two men are cheerleaders from UAPB (*second and third from the right*) and Grambling, including the director's daughter Alyson (*at his side*).

Arkansas Disability Awareness Day Observed At State Capitol Ceremony

The announcement of a task force to promote awareness and encourage employment of individuals with disabilities highlighted this year's Arkansas Disability Awareness Day held Oct. 21 in the rotunda of the State Capitol. The announcement was made by Gov. Mike Beebe's Assistant Chief of Staff Lamar Davis, who read an executive order forming the task force that will be charged with developing and implementing "Employment First" policies and procedures for people with disabilities.

The task force will be com-

prised of state agency representatives and consumer stakeholders and will develop recommendations to increase employment of Arkansans with disabilities in jobs paying at least minimum wage. The task force will also coordinate efforts to increase access to and use of supported employment services by people with severe disabilities.

A Department of Human Services report shows states that in 2009, 9.9 percent of working-age Arkansans received Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. The number of individuals



KATV Anchor Pamela Smith serves as Disability Awareness Day emcee.

receiving disability benefits has increased steadily for a number of

AWARENESS continued on page 13

Columbia County Adult Education Receives \$15,000 in Grant Funding



Accepting the grant from Albemarle's Celia McQuist (far left) are Magnolia Adult Education Center Director Dianne Cary and ACE Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith.

Thanks to Albemarle Corporation, the Magnolia Adult Education Center now has an additional \$15,000 to help fund a Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy™ (WAGE) teaching position at the Columbia County adult education facility.

Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith and Magnolia Center Director Dianne Cary received the grant from Albemarle

during a presentation ceremony Sept. 14 in Magnolia.

Albemarle plant manager Steve Miller said the WAGE program plays a vital role in the operation of the company. Albemarle was one of the state's first WAGE corporate partners and has been a partner since the mid-1990s.

"The WAGE process really helps us be able to identify those who are capable of learning," Miller said. "They're not going to come to us fully ready to operate a plant or to run technical

analysis or to maintain the plant. They're going to have to learn that. We're going to have to teach them that, but the comfort that we have is those folks that come here do have that capability. It's a wonderful feeling to know that we have a process that we can actually identify who those folks are and get them here."

In addition to funding the teaching position, the grant will allow the adult education program to open its doors for an additional night each

week – a move Cary says will benefit students who work during the day and attend school at night.

Magnolia's adult education program was selected for grant funding because of the recommendations of Albemarle's local management teams for charitable contributions.



If you would like additional copies of the

Career Counselor

or if you have comments concerning this

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FFA News Around the State



2010 National CDE Results



Proud members of the Delight FFA's Poultry Evaluation Gold Emblem Team pose with their award after capturing first place in the Poultry Evaluation competition at the National FFA Convention in October. Team members are (l to r) Advisor Reggie Lamb, Sera Snow, James Stone, Haley Halcomb.

Agricultural Communications: Greenbrier FFA - Silver Emblem Team/*Ashton Martin* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Savannah Snowden* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Madison Synco* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Haylee Russaw* - Bronze Emblem Individual; *Heather Wilcox* - Bronze Emblem Individual

Agricultural Issues: Mountain Home - FFA Bronze Emblem Team

Agricultural Mechanics: Lafayette County FFA - Bronze Emblem Team/*Nickey Hollis* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Mark Mitchell* - Silver Emblem Individual

Agronomy: Western Grove FFA - Bronze Emblem Team

Creed Speaking: Will Pohlman, Prairie Grove FFA - Bronze Emblem Individual

Dairy Cattle Evaluation: Jackson County FFA - Bronze Emblem Team/*Maegan Bridgeman* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Haley Long* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Taylor Nipps* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Haley Honey* - Bronze Emblem Individual

Dairy Foods: Ouachita FFA - Silver Emblem Team/*Ian Burroughs* - Gold Emblem Individual;

Mack Ivy - Gold Emblem Individual; *Luke Huneycutt* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Hayden Smith* - Silver Emblem Individual

Extemporaneous Public Speaking: Dillon Garr, Springdale Har-Ber FFA - Bronze Emblem Individual

Farm Business Management: Greenbrier FFA - Silver Emblem Team/*Brannon Daniels* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Steven Dean* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Alex Erbach* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Calvin McNabb* - Silver Emblem Individual

Floriculture: Greenbrier FFA - Bronze Emblem Team/*Haven Carden* - Bronze Emblem Individual; *Amanda Gustafson* - Bronze Emblem Individual; *Madison Johnston* - Bronze Emblem Individual; *Bailey Smithson* - Bronze Emblem Individual

Food Science and Technology: Lincoln FFA - 3rd Place Overall, Gold Emblem Team/*Amanda Cox* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Shae Dorman* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Alex Durham* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Cassy Ramsey* - Gold Emblem Individual

Forestry: Hermitage FFA - 4th Place Overall, Gold Emblem Team/*Stephen Ferrell* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Jacob Johnston* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Austin Ross* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Hunter Vickers* - Gold Emblem Individual

Horse Evaluation: Midland FFA - Silver Emblem Team/*Jacinda Melton* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Hunter Davidson* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Colby Thomas* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Laken Power* - Bronze Emblem Individual

Livestock Evaluation: Hermitage FFA - Gold Emblem Team/*Katie Richard* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Jacie Sweeney* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Dustin Brown* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Jessica Sutherland* - Silver Emblem Individual

Meats Evaluation and Technology: Harrison FFA - Silver Emblem Team/*Stuart Estes* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Lauren Reading* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Gavin Pannell* - Bronze Emblem Individual

Nursery/Landscaping: Emerson FFA - Silver Emblem Team/*Kayla Samples* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Megan Cummings* - Silver Emblem Individual; *Samantha Pharr* - Silver Emblem

Individual; *Cody Samples* - Bronze Emblem Individual

Parliamentary Procedure: Newport FFA - Silver Emblem Team

Poultry Evaluation: Delight FFA - 1st Place Overall, Gold Emblem Team/*Haley Halcomb* - 1st Place Overall, Gold Emblem Individual; *James Stone* - 2nd Place Overall, Gold Emblem Individual; *Sera Snow* - Gold Emblem Individual; *Brooke Watson* - Bronze Emblem Individual

Prepared Public Speaking: Jade Halliburton, Hamburg FFA - Silver Emblem Individual

Blytheville FFA— Small Chapter, Big Impact

Blytheville High School's FFA chapter was honored at the National FFA Convention as the "Small Chapter, Big Impact" national winner. The chapter was recognized for its volunteer work in 2009-10. The 38 members participated in more than 30 volunteer activities, including reading to elementary school children; participating in "Clean Up Arkansas" and "Relay for Life"; manning phones during the St. Jude Radio/Cablethon; and hosting the FFA Children's Barnyard at the Mid-South Fair.



State FFA Advisor Marion Fletcher shows off one of the pigs born that morning at the fair.

ever, while bringing a new attraction.

"We need to tell the world more and the public more about where our food comes from and how it all takes place," said Marion Fletcher,

FAIR continued on page 18



FFA Brings New Attraction to Record Crowds at Arkansas State Fair

The Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show is among the biggest show places of the year for state FFA members and advisors, and 2010 offered them an opportunity to shine as brightly as

CORNER

“Assistive Technology 4 Life”

Assistive Listening Devices



The population is growing. People are living longer. Many of them are facing hearing loss, perhaps from loud music they listened to as teens or from machinery and equipment in the workplace.

What can people do to hear better? Hearing aids are available but can be cost-prohibitive for the average person. Also, the wait for a hearing aid can be long. **The Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN)** has the answer--**borrow**



Pocketalker with rear-wear headphone an assistive listening device (ALD) for six weeks at no charge.

ICAN has several ALDs to assist individuals in breaking the barrier to hearing better. One of the more popular devices is the Pocketalker by Williams Sound. The Pocketalker makes it easier to hear in everyday situations. By reducing background noise and distance from the source, the Pocketalker brings sounds and voices directly to the ear.



The Pocketalker is ideal for one-on-one or small-group conversations, television listening or conversation in a car. The Pocketalker is powered by 2-AAA batteries and provides more than 100 hours of use. The Pocketalker will work with most headphones with a 3.5mm jack: over-the-head headphones, ear buds, rear-wear headphones and the neckloop with telecoil-equipped hearing aid.

State Board of Career Education Holds Meeting at PTC

The annual meeting of the state boards of Career Education, Education and Higher Education was held Oct. 11 at Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock. Department of Career Education (ACE) Director William L. “Bill” Walker introduced Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson and Associate Director for Arkansas Works Sonja Wright-McMurray, who provided an update on the first nine months of the Arkansas Works program.

The Internet-Based College and Career Planning Tool (powered by Kuder®) had 59,399 new users and 71,223 returning users, Davidson said. He also reported that the top five career interest areas for Arkansas students and adults, based upon data provided through the system, are

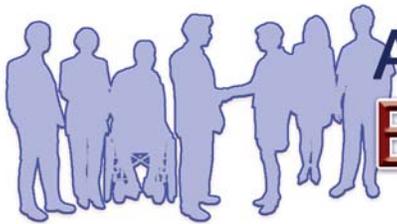
1. **Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources**
2. **Health Science**
3. **Arts, Audio-Visual Technology**
4. **Human Services**
5. **Hospitality and Tourism**

Wright-McMurray reported that the college and career coaches located at two-year colleges in the 21 poorest counties have been working with high school students to develop college and career plans, prepare for successful transition to postsecondary education, apply for financial aid and make connections between education and careers. There are 45 college and career coaches, including one targeting Hispanic populations and one targeting the adult population.

In addition to ACE’s presentation, the three boards also heard updates from the Department of Education on common core state standards and common assessments and the Department of Higher Education on Arkansas scholarships.



Sonja Wright-McMurray, ACE Associate Director for Arkansas Works, speaks to the boards.



Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Business Relations News

ARS Represented at BLN National Conference

The Department of Career Education's Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) Division was well-represented during the 13th Annual U. S. Business Leadership Network (USBLN®) Annual Conference & Expo held recently in Chicago.

ARS District Business Relations Manager Rodney Chandler and Business Relations Representative Ashley Cross attended the conference along with 500 corporate, gov-

ernment, disability-owned businesses and BLN affiliates.

"This annual meeting presented attendees with resources, information and networking opportunities that will aid ARS in improving our client closures," Chandler said. "Additionally, this event provided us information on how to successfully prepare, promote and develop our candidates to ensure they are ready to meet the needs of businesses."



USBLN Board Chairman Beth Butler and ARS Business Relations Manager Rodney Chandler.

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Stephanie Bennett and Laura Kimbrell

Members of Business Relations Team visit Nation's Capitol for National Employment Conference

Rodney Chandler, Laura Kimbrell and Stephanie Bennett attended the National Employment Conference titled "In it to Win It" held in Washington, DC. This event offers best practices and strategies for increasing employment outcomes.



Left: Allen Anderson, a consultant with DTG-EMP (Dover Training Group and Employment Management Professionals) of Toronto, Canada, conducted a two-day workshop with members of the ARS business relations staff on key components to assist in helping clients find jobs and building strong relationships with businesses. Pictured from ARS are Laura Kimbrell and Ashley Cross, business relations representatives, and Business Relations Manager Rodney Chandler.

Right: ACE Education and Instruction Manager Ray Henson gave a presentation during a three-day career development facilitator (CDF) training for members of the ARS Business Relations staff (pictured) Mary Hunt, staff development specialist, and Darrell Stephens, business relations representative. "I have learned so much and have been surprised at how much I can use to enhance what I do every day in helping the clients I work with," Business Relations Representative Stephanie Bennett said of the CDF Training.



Perkins Grant Brings 30 New iPads, Opportunity to Conway Middle School

An eighth-grade career orientation teacher at Conway's Carl Stuart Middle School is using a valuable grant from the Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) to implement new strategies and technology into the classroom in an effort to more actively engage students in learning and to help them improve their research skills.

The school was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant through the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, which dedicates almost \$1.3 billion in federal funds for career and technical education programs. The grant, which was the brainchild of Carl Stuart Middle School career orientation teacher Tammy McCollum, led to the purchase of 30 Apple iPads equipped with keyboard docks, iSkins, connectors, camera hardware, software and inservice training for her classroom.

"Schools that capitalize on the relationship between technology and education reform will help students develop higher skills to function effectively in the world beyond the classroom," McCollum said. "As a career orientation instructor, it is my place to help my students discover their interests and talents as I cover the state-mandated frame-

works.

"This classroom set of iPads will give me a valuable resource through a 30,000-book library. Students' interests will be increased through technology, and the iPads provide a medium for students to read about various current entrepreneurs through an application that allows books to be downloaded and filed in a library where students will have easy access to each entrepreneur's autobiography."

According to an Apple representative, the Conway school was the first school anywhere to receive a classroom set of iPads.

"This grant has really changed my way of thinking," McCollum said. "I have always used current, modern-style teaching trends with my students. This blessing of iPads has added so much more depth to my program. Students are more interested in what we're doing in this class. This is the way of the world. They use technology every day, so why wouldn't we stay current since that is the way they live their lives. This makes learning come to life for them. My students are engaged from bell-to-bell learning."

McCollum's students agree.

"Using the iPads is benefiting me by allowing me to research what I want to become in a whole new perspective," student Addie Blakely said. "I enjoy learning information, and the iPads make me more actively involved in class."

Perkins funds are appropriated and made available to encourage schools and teachers to go above and beyond traditional

book learning with innovative teaching strategies, according to Ray Henson, education and instruction manager for ACE's Office of Career Guidance, Exploration and Preparation.

"Tamara McCollum has been a model teacher, presenter and trainer for the state, and we knew she would put this technology to very good use with her students' interests in mind," Henson said. "Her students will be better prepared for college and career as a direct result of this technology to enhance the career planning, guidance, and development curriculum."

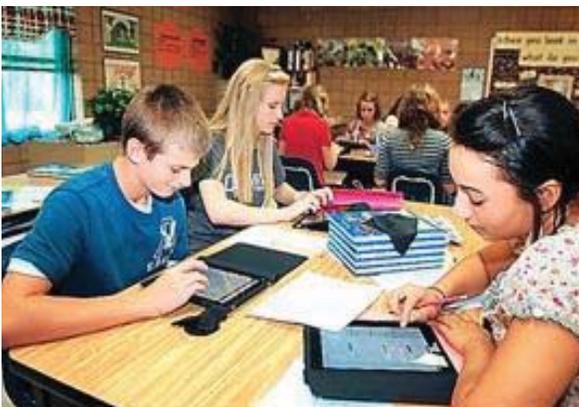
A recent project had the students use the iPads to research possible career interests for an Arkansas Career Guidance Association poster contest.

"In this class we're trying to find each student's interests and values," McCollum said. "We'll narrow them down and hopefully give them a good place to start. In this class, they choose their high school path. They're making a lot of heavy decisions here."

And the students are loving every minute of it.

"I think it gives us more opportunities to explore, experience and learn new things. I think they are awesome," student Michelle Fruge said.

"It makes me want to learn a lot more," student Hailey Hayes said.



Students practice on their new iPads.

OVAE Assistant Secretary Addresses Arkansas Adult Educators



Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier (second from left) receives an Arkansas Traveler Certificate from (l-r) Director Walker, State Representative Jane English and ACE Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith.

Education is the key to the nation's economic and social prosperity and is everyone's responsibility, Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier, assistant secretary for the U. S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), told an enthusiastic crowd of adult education teachers and administrators. Dann-Messier presented the keynote address at the Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education (AA-CAE) Conference Oct. 22 in Little Rock.

Citing the "skills gap" between the skills jobs will require and the skills the nation's workforce possesses, Dann-Messier pointed out that only 30 percent of that skills gap can be closed by traditional learners. "Seventy percent of the skills gap will have to come from adult learners," she said.

Dann-Messier discussed OVAE's agenda for adult and career and technical education. "We have a "cradle to career" agenda for reform," she said. "It is essential that we strengthen the ties among adult education, career and technical education and postsecondary

education and develop and emphasize career pathways."

It is OVAE's vision that all youth and adults have multiple opportunities to prepare for the workplace, said Dann-Messier. "They must be ready for and have access to multiple opportunities in a variety of career pathways. We must foster and nurture these multiple pathways to career learning."

Dann-Messier stressed the importance of teacher quality, noting that it is just as important in adult education programs as it is in the public schools. Adult educators, she said, are "advocates for adult learners" and are a key component of the administration's initiative to promote college and career readiness standards, not just for high school students, but also for adults.

Adult education programs are essential for re-engaging disconnected youth who have dropped out of school. Annually the adult education system serves almost one million youth between the ages of 16 and 24, helping them to obtain high school credentials and to get back on track to pursue postsecondary

education and fulfilling careers.

In emphasizing the need for partnerships involving adult education, postsecondary education and business and labor, she noted that all these partners have significant roles to play. "We must remove silos and leverage our resources," she said. "Only by working together can we access the goals of promoting college and career readiness, expanding college access, enhancing career and technical education and aligning adult education with workforce training."

Dann-Messier, who was present for the entire AAACAE conference, said that she appreciated the opportunity to meet with Arkansas's adult educators and plans to come back to Arkansas to meet with career and technical educators as well.

Dann-Messier was nominated by President Obama to be the Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education on July 14, 2009. On October 5, 2009 she was confirmed by the U. S. Senate and began her official duties Oct. 13, 2009.

AWARENESS continued from page 8 years.

The study goes on to say that two-thirds of disability beneficiaries want to work, escape poverty, be more active, feel productive and contribute to society. Many have the ability to work, at least part-time, despite severe disabilities. However, they face many obstacles, including the fear of losing public benefits such as Social Security and the network of accompanying services.

Congress has changed laws so disability beneficiaries can typically work either part-time or full-time without losing key federally mandated benefits. In addition, state agencies operate a number of programs to encourage and support employment. However, there is minimal public awareness of these opportunities and many barriers remain, even within public agencies and programs.



Guest speaker Lamar Davis the governor's assistant chief of staff, confers with ACE Director Bill Walker and ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño.

ACE HOLDS CENTRAL ARKANSAS FORUM TO ADDRESS ACCESS YOUR FUTURE: NEEDS OF COMMUNITY



Roughly 200 central Arkansas residents attended the “Access Your Future” community forum Oct. 26 at the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff North Little Rock satellite campus. The forum was a joint venture of the Arkansas Department of Career Education’s three divisions and was coordinated by the Arkansas

Rehabilitation Services (ARS) Division.

“Staff members presented information about education, training, services and partnerships available to Arkansans to enable them to reach their goals of employment and independence,” said ARS Chief of Field Services Carl Daughtery. “It was a real success in that we were able to reach a large number of people who may not have known our services were available and get them the help they needed.”

The day-long event was promoted with more than 3,000 flyers posted around the Little Rock metropolitan area and advertisements aired on local radio stations. The promotion culminated with an onsite broadcast with well-known radio personality Broadway Joe of Power 92 radio.

“Broadway Joe was a logical choice to promote the event and to do a remote from the site,” said Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith. “He’s well connected within the community, and when he speaks people listen.”

Attendees ran a gamut from high school students looking for career advice to people with disabilities searching for paths to independence. Other visitors included nontraditional students seeking information on education and training opportunities such as apprenticeship, adults hoping to make career changes, immigrants needing English as a Second Language instruction and civics classes to prepare them for citizenship, people with kidney disease who might be eligible for financial assistance with prescription drugs, adults wanting to pursue getting their GED, individuals wanting to find out about various assistive technology devices and more.

Additional forums may be held in other parts of the state.



Clockwise from top: Power 92 Radio’s Broadway Joe (left) interviews ARS Chief of Field Services Carl Daughtery (center) and ACE Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith about the upcoming forum; ARS Business Relations representatives Frank Baptist and Darrell Stephens greet interested customers at their program’s booth; Broadway Joe poses with ARS counselors Mamie Lee of the Lonoke office (left) and Martha Strother of the North Little Rock office; and ACE Education and Instruction Manager for Apprenticeship Jonathan Bibb (at left) gives a visitor information on his department.

ARS Receives Grant to Help Employ People with Disabilities

The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) Division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education has been awarded an \$83,277 grant from the U.S. Department of Education as part of more than \$5.6 million in awards to support the professional development of state vocational rehabilitation (VR) staff who provide services that lead to employment of persons with disabilities.

“These funds are aimed at helping Americans with disabilities find employment,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. “Improving the job skills of persons with disabilities is an investment in their future – and in the country’s economic future.”

“The grant funding awarded to Arkansas is a result of the hard work demonstrated by Mary Hunt [staff development and training coordinator] and will mean sustained and increased funding for staff train-

ing and development,” said ARS Business Relations Manager Rodney Chandler. “This grant will allow ARS to create a series of informative, engaging distance education courses that are designed to enhance the quality of our services and increase the positive employment outcomes.”



ARS Commissioner Bob Treviño praises the work of Mary Hunt, staff development and training coordinator, for her work in acquiring the grant.

Of the \$5.6 million in grant awards, more than \$4.4 million will be distributed by the Rehabilitation Services Administration to 75 state vocational rehabilitation agencies to help train personnel in effective management and skills that will lead to employment for individuals with disabilities.

Another \$1.2 million will be provided to 19 state agencies in “Quality Awards” for successfully addressing one of the priorities for the program, including development and dissemination of model inservice training materials and practices, distance education or enhanced employment outcomes for specific populations.

AETN BROADCASTS CTE STUDENT FILMS

The work of Arkansas’s next generation of filmmakers was showcased in “Student Selects: A Young Filmmakers Showcase 2010” on the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) Sept. 6 and 13. Of the 21 films shown, 15 were produced by students involved in career and technical education programs from across the state.

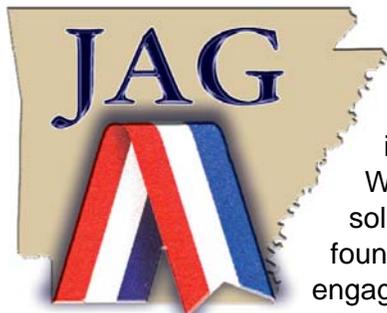
“Student Selects” is an annual event that highlights the creativity and talent of the state’s kindergarten through 12th-grade students. The program offers young filmmakers the opportunity to submit their film and video handiwork for possible broadcast on AETN, streaming on www.aetn.org and screening at the Little Rock Film Festival.

CTE student films featured on Sept. 6 were

- ❖ “**In the Hall of the Superball,**” produced by Har-Ber High School in Springdale.
- ❖ “**A Zombie Romance,**” produced by Arkadelphia High School.
- ❖ “**Being Unique,**” produced by Searcy High School.
- ❖ “**Pipe Dream,**” produced by Conway High School.
- ❖ “**Band of Robbers’ Daughters,**” produced by Fayetteville High School.
- ❖ “**We Need to Talk,**” produced by Har-Ber High School.

AETN continued on page 16

THOUGHT *continued from page 3*



“During the conference we discovered a number of findings that affect the minority community,” Director Walker said. “Among the solutions we discussed, we found that we must invest, engage and intervene early – in the elementary through high school years – with our kids and hold people, organizations and agencies involved with their development accountable for the outcome.”

“Engagement of young people is undervalued and offers, potentially, one of the highest returns in improved success at the lowest cost.”

AETN *continued from page 15*

- ❖ “**Get Clean,**” produced by Parkview High School in Little Rock.
- ❖ “**Small Town,**” produced by Searcy High School and recipient of the THEA Foundation Scholarship for videography.
- ❖ “**Outside the Lines,**” produced by Fayetteville High School and recipient of the THEA Foundation Scholarships for directing and editing.

CTE student films featured on Sept. 13 were

- ❖ “**Marvin’s Revenge,**” produced by Cabot High School.
- ❖ “**A Day in the Life of a Bread Man,**” produced by Valley Springs High School.
- ❖ “**Traitor’s Game,**” produced by Har-Ber High School.
- ❖ “**Rose,**” produced by Alma High School.
- ❖ “**Broken,**” produced by Fayetteville High School.
- ❖ “**Meet You in Jerusalem,**” produced by Little Rock Central High School.

A complete list of film credits is available at www.aetn.org/studentselects.

Sidney Moncrief Helps College and Career Coaches Hone Skills



Sidney Moncrief (left) speaks to AR Works College & Career Coaches during October’s Leadership Training Seminar.

Former Arkansas Razorback basketball great and National Basketball Association (NBA) All-Star and Coach Sidney Moncrief shared his perspectives on teamwork with the Arkansas Works college and career coaches at an Oct. 10 seminar at Shorter College in North Little Rock.

Moncrief used team-building exercises to show the coaches how much they could accomplish when they work together. In one exercise, coaches were put in teams with teams lined up single file. Then, members of each team had to pass a basketball to one another using vocal directions only—no visual cues.

“The college and career coaches often find themselves in contact by telephone or e-mail, not face-to-face,” Moncrief said. “This is a great exercise to get them to learn how to listen and to communicate better in a real-world situation.”

Along with working with the coaches on their communications and team skills, Moncrief helped them flesh out some of the qualities such as desire, purpose and concern that go into making a good coach.

Our next Career Counselor will be coming to you in January 2011.

Have a Safe & Happy Season

Recognizing Our ACE Staff



Libby Wolf

Wolf Receives National Honor

Libby Wolf, counselor in the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) Texarkana field office for the Office for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired/Supported Employment/Independent Living, attended the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NRCA) Annual Symposium in Oklahoma City Oct. 29. During the awards ceremony, she received the National Rehabilitation Counselor-of-the-Year Award. As stated on the plaque, this award's recipient has demonstrated the "highest excellence in provision of rehabilitation counseling services for persons with disabilities."

Reporting that she was completely surprised by the presentation, Wolf says, "I have been extremely humbled by this whole experience."

JAG Specialists Receive Annual Training in Little Rock

Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates (JAG) specialists from across the state gathered at Metropolitan Career and Technical Center in Little Rock Sept. 13-17 for an annual training session conducted by the national Jobs for America's Graduates organization. The goal of the training was to improve the effectiveness of new and experienced JAG specialists in delivering the unique and comprehensive services of the JAG model.

The state training was divided into three major areas – new specialist training, alternative learning environment (ALE) training and refresher training.

"The session was a fun, but intensive course that helped our specialists remain the best in the nation," said Education and Instruction Manager Marylene Tate. "Arkansas's JAG program is a model for others across the country, and regardless of where JAG specialists operate, they look to our specialists for guidance. It's crucial we continue to lead the way with the best JAG specialists in the United States. This training will help us do that – not only for the instructors, but for all of the students we serve."

The new specialist training included an intensive session on the JAG model for new JAG specialists, as required for the "career services for special populations" certification for professional licensure.

ALE training was designed for JAG specialists who work with students in an alternative learning settings. There are currently 27 ALE JAG programs for grades 7-12.

Refresher training was provided for JAG specialists who work with students in a traditional high school setting. There are currently 47 traditional JAG programs in grades 11-12.

JAG programs are designed to help at-risk youth graduate from high school and make a successful transition from school to further education and training and the workplace.



Right: ACE Education and Instruction Manager Marylene Tate leads a discussion session on the JAG model for new specialists with participants gathered from around the state.

FAIR continued from page 9

education and instruction manager and state FFA advisor.

Along with prize-winning cattle, sheep, chickens and rabbits, the FFA, for first time ever, provided a glimpse of pigs being born during the fair. Four sows weighing more than 400 pounds each gave birth during the fair. The livestock committee calls it "Agriculture in Action," a brand-new effort to teach people that agriculture is much more than just farming.

The attraction was part of the FFA's petting barn and youth education area, which many fairgoers rank as one of their favorite parts of attending the annual event.

This year's fair produced record-breaking turnout, thanks to mild weather and attractions such as Agriculture in Action. For that, Fletcher is grateful.

"The fair is always a great chance for us to come out and show off the work that the FFA does and all of the effort that our students put into their projects throughout the year," Fletcher said. "I think it's fantastic that so many people came out this year and were able to see what we put together and the FFA barn. Our students work their hearts out and they deserve the recognition. The FFA does so much to help its students and educate the public about agriculture. This year was another success!"



DIRECTOR continued from page 2

bringing home numerous gold, silver and bronze awards in competition against the nation's best.

- ◇ We continue to outstrip the nation in our pass rate on the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests. Arkansas had an 84 percent pass rate compared to a national pass rate of 69 percent.
- ◇ The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services field program had a final federal fiscal year total of 2,641 successful closures, which exceeded the goal of an 8 percent increase over the previous year.
- ◇ A new case management software system (Libera System 7) replaced the old outdated system. It streamlines the process for serving vocational rehabilitation (VR) clients, thus giving VR counselors more time to work with their clients.
- ◇ The Arkansas Career Training Institute in Hot Springs began renovations that will enhance the living and learning environment for students and staff. The renovations are being funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and state

funds released by Gov. Beebe.

Those are just a few of our successes. There are far too many to list here, because every single day, every employee of this agency does something that makes a difference for the people of our state. I appreciate the dedication of our team and the hard work of each one of you. I thank you for your commitment, your dedication and your service to the people across this great state for whom you make such a difference.

Now that the holidays are almost here, most of us will plan to spend some time with family and friends—time to reconnect, to reflect and to reinvigorate ourselves for the new year. From our ACE family to you and your loved ones, may the spirit of this season be with you now and into 2011. I extend my warmest wishes to you for a year of happiness and fulfillment.

We at ACE Wish You Great Happiness this Holiday Season and throughout 2011.

Seasons Greetings!!

Arkansas FFA Students Represent Arkansas at 2010 World Food Prize Global Youth Institute

Kylie Whitelaw of the Marshall FFA and **Sarah Payne** of the Lamar FFA represented Arkansas at the 2010 World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in mid-October. In order to qualify for the institute, they were required to research and write an essay on a critical food security issue under the direction of their teacher-mentors.

Kylie and Sarah joined more than 100 other exceptional high school students from across the United States and other countries at the Institute, which is held in Des Moines, Iowa. During the three-day institute, the students interacted with Nobel and World Food Prize laureates and discussed pressing food security and agricultural issues with international experts.

They also presented and discussed their findings with international experts and their peers, connected with other students from around the world, toured cutting-edge industrial and research facilities and took part in symposium discussions with global leaders in science, industry and policy.

The 2010 essay topic which Kylie and Sarah researched was Solutions for the World's Small-holders.

Kylie's essay, *Gender and Cultural Discrimination in Kenya: The Plight of the Small Farmer*, discusses how education could help Kenyan women improve the living conditions for their families and ultimately the country through agriculture-related enterprises. Here is an excerpt:

There is hope for Kenya's future. Reforming women's education could facilitate major improvements

in the quality of life for poorer Kenyan people. Women possessing higher paying jobs can increase the total family earning potential and bring more money home, whether alongside their husbands or in the case of a single parent unit. Establishing local markets for crops and livestock produced on small farms will allow Kenyan farmers to rely more on local profits, and the entire community will benefit in the end.

Finally, even though people infected with HIV/AIDS cannot be cured, with education, many new cases may be prevented. Teaching people to limit sexual relations to husband and wife has the potential to dramatically reduce the spread of this terrible disease. By making opportunities available for women to become entrepreneurs and develop productive farmsteads, the Kenyan family can regain some or all of its original structure, and children will have opportunity to grow up without the worries of HIV, poverty, and enjoy the promise of a stable life in a beautiful country.

Sarah's essay, titled *Armenia: Education for Improved Implementation of Agricultural Research and Technology*, outlines the impact that climate has on Armenia's agriculture. Here is an excerpt:

Poverty is a huge issue in Armenia and tends correlate with the altitude of this mountainous country. Harsh conditions severely affect



agricultural productivity ("IFAD"). The earthquake that tore through Armenia's countryside in 1988 destroyed their only fertilizer plant. With the state of poverty the country is in, very few can afford imported fertilizer. Soil nutrient levels have declined sharply. The long winter season and high poverty rates often give way to food shortages in May and June when most food supplies are depleted and new crops have yet to be harvested.

The stock of agricultural machinery Armenians have access to is another large concern. Almost no new equipment has been brought in since the 1990's. What tractors, combines and other equipment farmers do have, will soon reach their limit of durability. Paying for fuel is too difficult for many farmers, so naturally spare parts for their outdated equipment is virtually not even an option ("Agriculture in Armenia: Surviving Against the Odds").

Congratulations to Kylie and Sarah, who represented Arkansas FFA well at the 2010 Institute.



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