



the Career Counselor



A publication of Arkansas Department of Career Education
501-682-1500 * <http://ace.arkansas.gov>

Cave City High School Showcases CTE Programs

For the first time in a decade, a high school campus was the site of a State Board of Career Education (SBCE) meeting as Cave City High School played host October 1. And to say SBCE members and Department of Career Education (ACE) staff came away impressed would be an understatement.

"This is a shining example that should be implemented throughout the state," ACE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. said. "We're going to call on you to help spread the word (to other schools)," he said, addressing school administrators.

During the tour, Board members and ACE staff watched students broadcast live from KVMN radio on campus and edit television programming under the direction of Lindsey Johnson, the program instructor.

"You won't see this in very many schools," Principal Marc Walling said. "You might see one or the other (radio or TV training

facilities) but usually not both, in the state of Arkansas."

Board members also visited the agriculture program, where they saw the livestock show barn. Instructor Charles Kunkel said the show barn is unique for schools in the state.

Administrators credited former technology coordinator Dave Fisher and current technology coordinator Julie Johnson for their innovative ideas.

"Their fingerprints are all over our programs," Walling said. Fisher, former Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) lab facilitator at Cave City, now works for ACE.

"This visit to Cave City was a great opportunity for both our board and our senior management staff," ACE Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson said. "Many times our Board is required to make the tough decisions and develop the governing regulations, but never gets to see the impact of that work. Touring the Cave City High School and observing their talented students allowed our Board to recognize the outstanding opportunities Superintendent Steven Green and the Cave City School Board have provided their students."

Four informational items were presented to the Board during the meeting that followed the tour. Chris Bacchus, public school program advisor



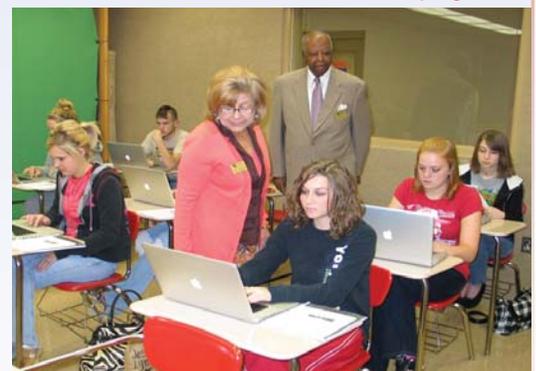
SBCE Chairman Jack Justus, Vice Chairman Phil Taylor, and member Lucy Ralston (left to right) listen to Tyler Tully, a two-time state SkillsUSA officer from Cave City High School.

for ACE's Agricultural, Science, and Technology program, told the board about CAERT lesson plan library, which gives instructors access to lesson plans linked to Arkansas career and technical curriculum frameworks, as well as the Arkansas Academic and Workplace Skills and the National Agriculture Food and Natural Re-

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SBCE Member Richard Smith, Director Walker, and ACE staff members watch Tanner Curtis, Jessica Wheeler, James Reed, Jacob Martin, and Cory Young work on a cattle feeder (pictured left to right).



Lucy Ralston and Richard Smith, SBCE members, watch television students at work on MacBook Pro computers.

Photos contributed by *the Batesville Daily Guard*



Director's Update

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Director

Arkansas Department of Career Education

As the seasons change and schools across Arkansas settle back into a comfortable routine, the Department of Career Education (ACE) is continuing its progress toward providing our state with the country's best-trained and best-educated workforce.

At our annual senior management retreat in early September, we focused on issues relating to the agency's name change. Since our name changed July 1 to the Department of Career Education, we revisited the agency mission statement, and I am proud to present our new mission statement, which is as follows:

The Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) has the mission of providing leadership and contributing resources to serve the diverse and changed career education needs of Arkansas's youth, adults, and persons living with disabilities.

Also as part of the retreat, the senior management of each division—Career and Technical Education, Adult Education, and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services—began the process of developing goals that will guide the agency's work over the next year.

The October 1 meeting of the State Board of Career Education (SBCE) was a particularly memorable meeting, as the Board met

at Cave City High School so that Board members had a chance to see firsthand an exemplary career and technical education (CTE) program. Board members toured the school and visited with CTE instructors and students. You can see pictures from the tour in our front-page article.

Board members observed as some of the radio broadcasting students operated the radio station while other students performed live, on-air broadcasts at 89.9 fm. The station – KVMN, The Caveman – operates with more than 100 radio students and is used to teach seven units daily.

Cave City also has an innovative agriculture department that includes an actual working farm with a pond and a show barn. Despite its small size, the school's broadcasting and agriculture departments have provided students with an incomparable education in those fields – a fact that is evident by the overwhelming number of national SkillsUSA competitors.

Senior Tyler Tully, who is this year's SkillsUSA state vice president and served as state reporter last year, told SBCE board members that he is thankful for the leadership abilities he has gained through SkillsUSA and that Cave City is a perfect example of how well career

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Arkansas Department
ACE
of Career Education

the **Career**
Counselor

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A Message of Appreciation

Reprinted with permission from *The Sentinel-Record*, Hot Springs.

After 16 months of rehabilitation and vocational testing and evaluation, our daughter, Tracy, has left Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center/Arkansas Career Training Institute, an amazing place where miracles happen, where the most dedicated people I have ever known work to help people put their lives back together; the historic building that sits high on the hill overlooking Bathhouse Row.

Prior to our daughter's admittance to HSRC/ACTI, one doctor at the hospital called her heart attack and massive stroke "catastrophic" and it was unknown at the time if she would even make it out of National Park Medical Center to rehabilitation services. But make it she did, and needing physical, occupational and speech therapy, entered HSRC/ACTI and a world unbeknownst to us. At that time, her condition was so precarious, they were taking her vital signs every hour and anytime she appeared in distress. A nursing home possibility was discussed. It was thought she may be wheelchair-bound for the rest of her life. And she suffered a severe language deficit, unable to even sound out letters. Our world was turned upside down, our lives were in a tailspin and we couldn't stop it. We were very afraid.

I am happy to say Tracy has made amazing progress and, through painstaking hard work and determination, is now able to leave ACTI, 150 pounds lighter and in better condition than anyone ever dreamed possible. Although she has some limitations and the language deficit remains prominent, cognition has improved and she is walking without assistance. She is ready to begin the next chapter of her life and will be working in a sheltered workshop.

Most important, however, is to recognize that none of this would have happened without the people at HSRC/ACTI, who have touched our lives along every step of this incredible journey. There are the major role players: Dr. Patricia Lang, who literally saved Tracy's life; Marty, who helped her take her first step; Peggy, who helped her relearn basic daily activities of living like dressing herself, brushing her teeth; Kathy, who helped her make

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Meeting Gov. Beebe Adds to Success of 11th Youth Leadership Forum

The coordinator for the **Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)** sponsored by the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) Division in conjunction with the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities called this year's event "a complete success."

"This year's class was one of the best we've had, both in quantity and quality," said YLF Coordinator Carl Enna of the 14 students who attended the 11th Annual Youth Leadership Forum on the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) campus in Conway July 6-10.

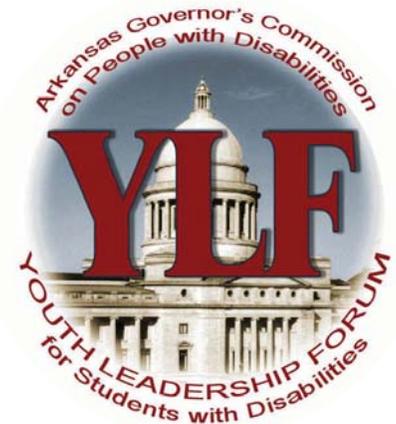
Highlights of this year's forum included visiting the State Capitol and meeting Governor Mike Beebe. The 2009 attendees became the first class to take part in a new addition to the YLF experience – a tour

of the Clinton Presidential Library.

The students were also honored at the Mentor's Luncheon at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Little Rock, where they were congratulated for their accomplishments and encouraged to use what they are learning by the keynote speaker, ARS Business Relations Manager Rodney Chandler.

"Learning is an ongoing process that does not stop with the end of school; that's actually when it's just starting," Chandler said. "You'll be learning every day of your life for the rest of your life. Leadership, transition, and independent living are three phases of education that YLF taught you this week."

Other sessions for participants were conducted by Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) Admis-



sions Supervisor Cornelious Hol-linshed, Dietary Services Director Jane Campbell, and Employment Coordinator Stephanie Bennett. Arkansas Governor's Commission for People with Disabilities Executive Director Leonard Boyle instructed the students on disability laws.

Students from all over Arkansas participated in this year's YLF.

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Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Awards 20 Scholarships

Twenty Arkansas students with disabilities are getting help with their college tuition thanks to scholarships from the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities.

Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2009-10 school

year during a banquet at the Governor's Mansion. The scholarship recipients were selected from more than 100 applicants based upon achievement, community involvement, goals, and challenges.

Governor Mike Beebe delivered the ceremony's keynote address and said each student would likely play a critical role in Arkansas's for years to come.

"As a society, it is vital that we ensure the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society," Gov. Beebe said. "Disability rights must be included as a part of any serious political agenda.

"Scholarship programs such as this, which bring hope and



Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Executive Director Leonard Boyle is welcomed at the Mansion by Governor Beebe.

SCHOLARSHIPS continued on page 7



2009 Youth Leadership Forum

Wide-ranging activities enlighten, encourage students from around the state.



HSTW Program Praised in Van Buren

Information contributed from the Van Buren *Press Argus-Courier*

State educators met with members of the Van Buren Chamber of Commerce at a “Power of Collaboration” lunch in August to begin building stronger relationships between Van Buren High School’s faculty and students and the workforce in and around the city.

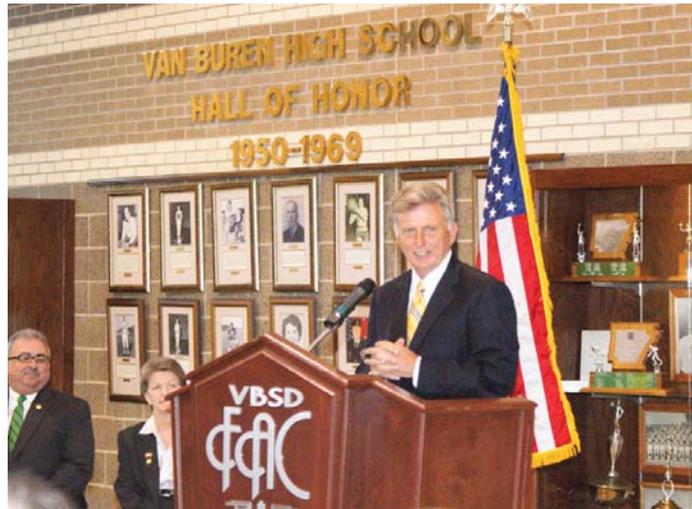
The luncheon followed an address by Governor Mike Beebe.

About 200 attendees split into six working groups to discuss what qualities and skills need to be instilled in students to prepare them to be successful in various careers and how the school’s teachers can provide workplace-like experiences to students in the classroom.

“Our hope and dream is to build a strong relationship with the community to better our students ... while instilling pride in our students and the community,” Principal Becky Guthrie said. “We want our students to get what they need to be successful while opening doors and helping them think outside the box.”

Guthrie said the school wants to bring relevant, meaningful real-work experiences into the classroom via the Arkansas Department of Career Education’s High Schools That Work (HSTW) program, of which Van Buren is a member. HSTW strives to determine what “key practices” are common factors among the nation’s highest-achieving high schools.

“One of these key practices includes the building of real-work,



Governor Beebe speaks to educators and business leaders at Van Buren High School.

real-life projects or experiences into the classrooms,” Guthrie said. “High schools across the nation that engage students in these experiences have a much higher graduation rate and have students who are much more likely to be successful both in postgraduate studies and in the workforce.”

She said students who find relevance in their school work see the immediate need to finish high school.

“In addition,” Guthrie said, “students who engage in real-work situations develop the personal skills and problem-solving skills needed for success in the job market.”

Governor Beebe praised the Van Buren business community’s understanding of the importance of education in economic development. Without strong economic development, Beebe said, Arkansas only educates workers for other states.

“This community went out and developed a strategy,” Beebe said

of the Van Buren School District’s efforts to keep high school graduates from moving to Los Angeles, Dallas and Chicago. “Without some other ties to economic development, then we’re just a farm club [baseball team].

“Something superior is happening in education and in economic development,” Beebe said.

“This state is poised to lead the rest of the country coming out of the recession. We want the

rest of the nation to say, ‘We want some of what they are drinking.’”

With Arkansas spending 70 cents of every revenue dollar on education in all its forms, it clearly is the state’s top priority, but economic development is 1A, said Beebe, who called for an honest assessment of the community’s strengths and weaknesses in regard to economic development and education.



Arkansas State Senator Ruth Whitaker speaks to the gathering.

YLF continued from page 4

The Class of 2009 included **Jeremy Johnson** of Pine Bluff; **Michael Kidd** and **Cory Noisewater**, both of Elkins; **Morgan Skaggs** of Greenwood; **Kevin Leon** of Siloam Springs; and **Missy Morning, Shaquetta Austin, Andrew Combs, Willie Morris, Jake Martin, Raul Pelagio**, and **Ashley Williams** all of Little Rock.

Two former YLF attendees, **Casey Padgett** of Cabot, who graduated with honors from UCA in May, and **Caitlin Avant** of Bauxite, a student at Arkansas Tech University, served as peer counselors.

"Those of us who put this event together would like to thank the staff and members of the Arkansas disability community who supported YLF again this year," said Enna.

SCHOLARSHIPS
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help to students throughout Arkansas, are directly contributing to a brighter future for all of us."

This year's honorees included **Bethany Baldwin** of Maumelle, **Jordan Fix** of Greenbrier, **Jade Haycraft** of Hot Springs, **Katelyn Haynes** of Charleston, **Roderick Kidd** of Elkins, **Kevin Leon** of Siloam Springs, **Morgan Love** of Little Rock, **Jake Martin** of Little Rock, **Robert Miller** of Little Rock, **Edwin Mitchell** of Cabot, **Elizabeth Pettis** of Rison, **Max Roy** of Little Rock, **Paul "PJ" Smith** of Paragould, **Seth Sumners** of Hector, **Ashley Tennis** of Greenbrier, **Lindsey Upshaw** of Sheridan, **Zachary Vaught**

of Fayetteville, **Jesse Watson** of Greenwood, and **Jacob White** of Benton.

"I would like to thank and congratulate this year's scholarship recipients for all of their hard work and dedication," said GCPD Executive Director Leonard Boyle. "Their courage and commitment to excel is commendable, and I encourage them to continue to strive to achieve the best. They are the leaders of tomorrow, and their hard work will not go unrewarded."

Before the scholarship banquet ended, some students went home with some additional help for their college expenses. Edwin Mitchell, PJ Smith, Seth Sumners, and Ashley Tennis each received a \$250 book scholarship donated by Off-Campus Bookstores.

The Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of Arkansans with disabilities by promoting advocacy, educating, creating independence, and celebrating life.

SBCE approves 2010 ARS Budget

The State Board of Career Education (SBCE) unanimously approved the 2010 budget for the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division (ARS) during its quarterly meeting August 6.

ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño recommended the passage of the budget, which includes a \$52,125,000 operating budget, \$500,000 in General Improvement funds, and \$6,012,815 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"The budgets are subject to change because of the fluctuations in actual revenues, receipts of miscellaneous grants, and authorized reallocations of funds among appropriations and line items," Treviño said. "The approved budget will constitute au-

thority to spend in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal laws and regulations."

Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. and Commissioner Treviño are authorized to make appropriate corrections and adjustments in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the SBCE.

In other business, ACE Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith informed the board that administrative authority for the Jefferson County adult education program was transferred to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and administrative authority for Grant County's adult education program was transferred from the Sheridan School District to Ouachita Technical College.

Available Upon Request

If you would like additional copies of **The Career Counselor**

or if you have comments concerning this publication, please contact

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her first sounds; Laura, who continued with brain exercises for cognitive functioning like writing a word and reading a sentence; Laurie, who put us at ease at the very beginning and guided us through the social services maze of paperwork; Janie, who came up with creative, healthy meals; Judy, who guided her through the vocational requirements necessary to become productive again; and Dr. Brinson, who was always there when Dr. Lang wasn't.

Then there are the scores of people who played no less of a role in Tracy's progress, they are just too many to name in this space. Every CNA, LPN, RN, who took such good care of Tracy and kept her safe around the clock, who made us laugh and gave us hope day after day; the pharmacist, who filled her prescriptions and Dr. Neville, who coordinated her dental care; the lab technicians, who unbelievably were able to draw blood when no veins were to be seen; cafeteria workers, housekeepers, van drivers, security personnel, counselors, administrators and administrative assistants; all of whom keep everything at HSRC/ACTI going.

In addition, there are three people who were invaluable to getting Tracy where she is today, Dr. Randy Hill, her primary care physician; Rosetta, Tracy's case worker at NPMC, who was able to get her admitted to HSRC/ACTI in the first place; and Roberta at Abilities Unlimited, who recognized that Tracy's work ethic, dedication and nurturing personality can be a real asset to the work environment.

So, again I ask, how do you thank people who have saved a life? Words seem so insufficient, yet that is all we have. So "Thank you" each and every one of you, Angels, who have carried us this far through an unfathomable sojourn. We walked into your lives, but you will always remain in our hearts.

Janet and Dick Aldridge
Indian Shores, Fla.
Hot Springs Village

Adult Educators receive prestigious certification

Twelve adult educators recently completed an intensive two-year training program and are now Certified Managers in Program Improvement (CMPI).

This national certification is the first of its kind in the adult education and literacy field and recognizes the participants as members of an elite group of professional managers.

The National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC) and ProLiteracy developed the CMPI professional development program. Participants must complete six Leadership Excellence Academies (LEA)

courses to earn certification.

Arkansas's LEA graduates who have achieved CMPI certification are Becky Linsky, Carolyn Moody, Darla Melton, Debbie Faubus, Elizabeth Thompson, Gail Shrum, Janie Carter, Kathy Spigarelli, Patricia Bates, Peggy Weir, Sherry Brown, and Yvonne Dougherty.

"What's impressive about this group is that this was a self-motivated thing," said Jim Smith, ACE deputy director for adult education. "This certification process is something these educators wanted to do. They wanted to raise the bar and be more effective and efficient in what they do in their program to help meet the needs of the citizens of this state and in turn help improve our economic base."

The 12 will be honored at a national recognition event at a conference in March in Chicago.

The academies are built upon a foundation of research, theory, professional wisdom, and best practices. Training occurs over time and with opportunities for application through a series of interim activities and learning projects. Training is facilitated by national adult education leaders who provide participants with practical strategies and models for transferring research into continuous improvement processes and structures.

Arkansas's certified managers completed 187 hours of workshops, online courses, webcasts, interim activities, and learning projects during the Leadership Excellence Academies to earn the



Tracy Aldridge



What You Should Know

Office for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (ODHI)

David McDonald

Manager

The Office for the Deaf and the Hearing Impaired (ODHI) has three programs to serve Arkansas citizens.

The Independent Living (IL) program provides support for people who have a hearing loss. Many times the support comes through the purchase of hearing aids, but other types of devices are available.

Some examples of assistive devices are doorbells that cause a light to flash when someone is at the door, baby monitors with warning lights, and amplified telephones. For someone who has a hearing loss that causes problems performing basic life skills, the IL program may be able to help.

Independent living counselors are located around the state at the following ARS field offices: Batesville, Little Rock – Corporate Hill, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Hot Springs – Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), Jonesboro, Pine Bluff, Texarkana, and West Memphis.

The Telecommunication Access Program (TAP) provides telecommunications equipment for people with hearing, vision, cognitive, mobility, or speech impairments that diminish their ability to use a standard telephone. Equipment available through TAP includes amplified phones, TTY's, talking phones, hands-free phones, and signaling systems. These



devices are free to eligible Arkansans. The TAP program offices are located at 26 Corporate Hill Drive in Little Rock. For more information about the program or to request an application, call TAP at 1-800-981-4463 (voice/TTY) or (501) 686-9693 (TTY/voice or video phone).

The Office for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired also provides two interpreters and a specialized counselor for ACTI students in need of an interpreter and a counselor sensitive to the needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Governor Appoints Three to Commission

Governor Mike Beebe announced July 29 the following appointments to the **Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities**, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division, Department of Career Education.

Karen Cooper, Little Rock, reappointed. Appointment expires June 1, 2012.

Robert McClanahan, Maumelle. Appointment expires June 1, 2012. Replaces Kelsey Jaco.

Sharon Moone-Jochums, Little Rock, reappointed. Appointment expires June 1, 2012.

Annual Football Game to Help Tackle Illiteracy



Dr. Fitz Hill (left), President of Arkansas Baptist College, and ACE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. announce the partnership between their two agencies to help battle literacy issues in Arkansas.

The Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) is teaming up with Arkansas Baptist College (ABC) to help tackle illiteracy in our state.

During an October 5 press conference at Little Rock's Franklin Elementary School, ABC president Dr. Fitz Hill announced that the Fourth Annual Delta Classic 4 Literacy football game would be played at War Memorial Stadium on November 7 at 1:30 p.m. The Classic will pit the Grambling State University Tigers against the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Golden Lions. Funds raised from the game will be used for literacy and education programs in Arkansas.

At the press conference, Dr. Hill and ACE Director William L. "Bill" Walker announced that ABC has been awarded a grant of \$60,000 by the Department of Career Education 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.

"Last year 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. Studies indicate that there is a direct correlation between illiteracy and dropout rates and crime. Current figures show that

a student drops out of school in Arkansas every 45 minutes.

"This is a national problem and must be addressed," Dr. Hill said. "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."

It's difficult to know exactly how many Arkansans are illiterate because of the shame associated with the problem, but it's estimated roughly 350,000 people in the state, or roughly 14 percent of the population, are unable to read and write at a functional level.

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.



Dr. Hill introduces Marie Bruno, Executive Director at Arkansas Literacy Councils

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distinction.

Arkansas is one of only 10 states that has adult educators who have achieved this certification status.

"I am so proud that these educators care so much about serving the citizens of our state that they wanted to go through this certification process," said ACE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. "It just shows what kind of dedicated instructors we have in our adult education program as we continuously strive to be the best at serving Arkansans."

ACTI Happenings

ACTI holds 175th Commencement Services



Interim ACTI Administrator Judy Smith speaks to the audience.

The 175th Commencement Service at the **Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI)** in Hot Springs featured 46 students from 29 Arkansas cities receiving graduation certificates in 14 different career training areas. Eight graduates wore gold sashes over their robes indicating their status as honor graduates, and six wore white sashes signifying their membership in the SkillsUSA student organization. The ceremony was held August 28.

The event marked the final public appearance of ACTI Interim Administrator Judy Smith who had served in the interim role for seven months.

"I've been blessed to work at a facility that has touched the lives of the people we have

served for the rest of their lives," Smith said. "I want everyone to remember that, regardless of their position, each and every person who walks through [ACTI's] doors is a human being. If we remember that, at the end of the day everyone will have at least one thing in common – their dignity."

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services Division for the Blind Coordinator Donnie Gatlin served as keynote speaker. Gatlin, who despite legal blindness, won two state wrestling titles in Texas, delivered a message of hope and perseverance to the graduates.

"Don't take the easy road. Take chances," Gatlin said. "You've already had to jump some big hurdles, and there will be more. It's how you deal with them that's important.

"I graduated in the bottom quarter of my class in high school and

was in special education through my junior year. Now I have two master's degrees. It takes excellence and reverence to complete vocational education. You did it. You should be proud."

Now it's time for the graduates to use what they've learned. Many already have jobs. Some are searching. Others are going on to higher education. Regardless, they have completed this step of their journey and have opened the door to a new and independent life.

Below is a list of the 175th Graduating Class of the Arkansas Career Training Institute.

Automotive Maintenance Technology, Instructor Wayne Thomas - Jessica Montgomery, Pangburn; Derek Rowland, Mountainburg; Tabitha Stewart*, Conway. **Business Education, Instructor Sandra Dunn** - Hanna Holiday,

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-- photo courtesy of Bobby Jines

ACTI Food Service Students Training for Future Success



ACTI food service students Beatris Corcoles and Trevor Chard

The next Bobby Flay, Emeril Lagasse, or Wolfgang Puck just might emerge from the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) in Hot Springs.

ACTI offers a food service training program that allows its students to study basic cafeteria service in an effort to turn their education into future careers. The students learn basic food service, customer and dining room service, food rotation, kitchen safety, cooking, baking, salad making, and many more of the essentials that go toward a successful career in the food service industry.

“The food service program teaches our students the essential skills they’re going to need to find and keep a job,” said ACTI Food Production Manager and Instructor Curtis Faulkner. “All of these students can one day be supervisors, instructors, or even own a restaurant of their own.”

The basic and advanced food service training programs generally last from 11 to 13 months, but the students are allowed to learn at their own pace. ACTI has recently added ServSafe® training, which is nationally accredited, to help students learn about food safety and acquire the skills they need to earn certification.

“The ServSafe rules and regulations teach the students to recognize the food ‘danger zones,’” Faulkner said. “That tells them how to keep food safe for consumption. The ServSafe accreditation is also recognized throughout the United States and Canada. Once our students graduate, they’ll be able to

find a job anywhere in North America.”

The food service students believe they’re getting a top-of-the-line education at ACTI. In addition to the program’s ServSafe accreditation, Faulkner has received his master instructor’s certificate from the Department of Career Education and his exam proctor’s certification from the Arkansas Hospitality Association.

Each day, students such as recent graduates Beatris Corcoles and Trevor Chard help the ACTI dietary staff prepare and serve meals to the students, staff, and visitors at the center.

“I love it a lot,” said Corcoles, a 19-year-old student from Dumas. “I love to bake and be in the kitchen. Curtis and the rest of the instructors and trainers have helped a lot. After I graduate, I’m planning on moving to New Orleans or somewhere like that and opening my own bakery and becoming famous.”

Meanwhile, Chard, a 21-year-old Huntsville native, says he’s continuing a family tradition with his training.

“I love cooking,” Chard said. “I grew up in a cooking family. The instructors are great. They do everything they can to help us all out when we need it. When I graduate, I want to start out working at a nice restaurant. Eventually, I’m going to have a place of my own.”

With the training, accreditation, and determination these students have, they’ll be able to do anything they put their minds to.

Well Done!

Jobs for Arkansas Graduates (JAG) students at the Arkansas Career Training Institute recently donated 395 pounds of non-perishable foods to the Project HOPE Food Bank in Hot Springs!

Union Names Little Rock Native Its 2009 Apprentice of the Year

He may not have taken the most direct route, but **Antonio Brown has still found a way to reach his dreams.** Brown, whose interest in electronics was sparked by his father when Brown was a child, has been named the 2009 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 295 Apprentice of the Year.

Following his graduation from Little Rock's Hall High School, Brown enrolled at Christian Brothers University to study electrical engineering. Even though he enjoyed his time there, after about a year, Brown returned home and enrolled at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR).

While attending UALR, Brown started working at Home Depot, where he met a regular customer named Eddie, who was a member of the Steel Workers' Union. Brown told Eddie about his interest in becoming an electrician. Eddie suggested he contact the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 295 to learn more about an apprenticeship program.

Brown inquired about an IBEW apprenticeship, was interviewed, and selected. Brown spent the next five years completing the program and never missed a single night of his technical-related training except to fulfill his obligations with the U.S. Army Reserve.

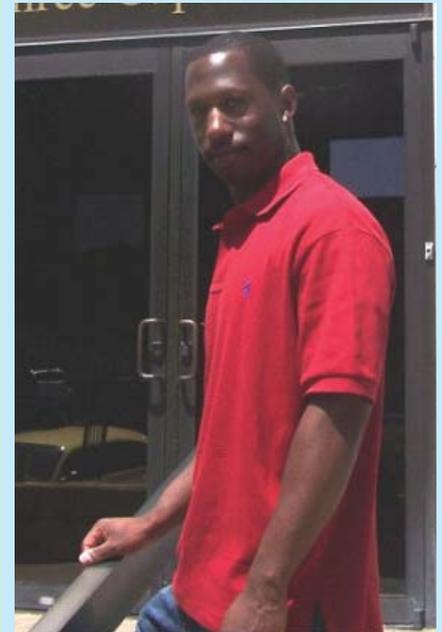
"I really wish I had been told about apprenticeships while I was in high school," Brown said. "I think if I had known more about it, then I may have chosen to be-

come an electrical apprentice during my high school days. It is a great career choice. The training was great. Many times I was able to receive one-on-one training with the instructors, and I was able to build great relationships with other classmates."

Now that he's finished his apprenticeship training, Antonio plans to work toward

his master electrician license, but he says he might go back to college for his electrical engineering degree. He says he's also considering opening his own business once he has his master electrician's license.

"I will have many opportunities," Brown said. "I plan on learning throughout my lifetime to help take advantage of these opportunities."



Antonio Brown

GRADUATION *continued from page 11*

Hope; Brenell Washington*, Conway. **Certified Nursing Assistant, Instructor Sharyn Spina** - Kandice Black, Benton; Jamar Cornice, Little Rock; Brooklyn French, Emerson; D'Andreuna Lewis, Star City; LaQuecius Zachery, Magnolia. **Construction Technology, Instructor David Morrow** - Gregory Graves #, Hot Springs; Dominique Phillips, Marion. **Cosmetology, Instructor Jennifer Balisle** - Sharron Kaye, Kingston; Tiffany Turner #, Hot Springs; Cierra Wood#, Hot Springs. **Food Service, Instructor Curtis Faulkner** - Trevor Chard*, Hindsville; Beatris Corcoles*, Dumas; Korey Hathaway, Alma; Jesse Nelson, Sheridan; Matthew Nelson, Quitman; Phillip Robinson, Pine Bluff. **Groundskeeping, Instructors Nick Avery, Gary Johnston** - Steve Abron*, Pine Bluff. **Laundry, Instructor Joetta Phillips** - Jason Curry, Benton. **Medical Office Technology, Instructor Dr. Marty Driggers** - Ann Marie Adupe*, Camden; Stacy Bacigalupo, Hot Springs; LeAnna Campbell, Hot Springs; Preston Williams,

Hot Springs. **Non-Traditional, Abilities Unlimited** - Cheri Hatton*, Lonoke. **Outdoor Power Equipment Technology, Instructors Nick Avery, Gary Johnston** - Melvin Anderson, Little Rock; Charles M. Day, Sheridan; Joe Goad#, Hope; John McKenzie*, Jonesboro. **Printing, Instructors Ralph Forbes, Tom Kennedy, Luther Peoples, Larry Ward** - Samuel Bernard, Little Rock; Derek Bohannon, Harrison; Kathy Capuson#, Bigelow; Lindsey French, Alexander; Charles Graves, Alexander; Lionel Larkin, Brisco; Jessica Thompson, Hot Springs. **Sales & Marketing, Instructor Jacob Bryant** - Herbert "Lee" Harrison, Ward; Joshua Meeks, Beebe; Cade Yoakum, El Paso. **Welding, Instructor Dennis Pickering** - Brandon Edwards#, Greenwood; Tony Matthews, Hope; Jacob Newton, North Little Rock; Dustin Sullivan, Hot Springs

* = Honor Graduate

#= SkillsUSA Member

ACTE Summer Conference 2009: “Highly Effective Association Leadership”

Career and technical education instructors and administrators from across the state gathered in Hot Springs August 2-4 for the annual Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Summer Conference.

The conference, sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) and themed “**Highly Effective Association Leadership**,” featured three days of professional workshops, guest speakers, and brainstorming sessions aimed to benefit the state’s career and technical education teachers and help prepare them for the school year.

“This year’s conference was outstanding, and we really appreciate the help we received from all those involved,” said Ray Winiiecki, ACTE president and program manager at ACE. “The response to the diversity and content of the breakout sessions was tremendous.

“I believe the conference prepared the attendees to welcome the new school year with renewed

enthusiasm and high expectations for success,” Winiiecki said.

Highlights of the conference included an energetic and inspiring message from Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) state President Sarah Bean of Murfreesboro High School, an uplifting address from keynote speaker Paul Vitale, and the awards session which closed the conference.

ACTE Award Winners

✍ Outstanding Teacher in Community Service – Anna Goff, Family and Consumer Sciences

✍ Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher – Kristal Draper, Family and Consumer Sciences

✍ Jean McEntire Outstanding Service Award – Peggy Ingram, De Queen-Mena Educational Cooperative

✍ Policymaker Awards – State Representative Mike Burris and State Representative Rick Saunders



FCCLA state President Sarah Bean

J. Marion Adams Scholarship Winners by Division

✍ Administration – Maxine O’Brien, Bruno-Pyatt High School

✍ Agriculture – Clint Lively, Hope High School

✍ Business Education – Landon Sanders, Conway High School-West

✍ Family and Consumer Sciences – Carrie Massey, Walnut Ridge High School

✍ Health Science Technology – Matthew Chavis, Jessierville High School

✍ Marketing – Cassie Patterson, Alma High School

✍ Special Populations – Tachina Frazier, J.A. Fair High School

✍ Special Populations – Whitney Strunk, Springdale High School

✍ Postsecondary Agriculture – Justin Wiedower, Arkansas Tech University

✍ Postsecondary Marketing – Michael Leach, University of Arkansas

✍ Postsecondary New and Related – Shana Emery, Arkansas State University-Beebe



Guest speakers for the conference included John Davidson (left), ACE’s deputy director for career and technical education. Ray Winiiecki (right), ACTE president and program manager at ACE, welcomed the crowd.

Senior Management Team

SMT Update

Pam Harris
Human Resources
Administrator
Arkansas Department of
Career Education



The long-awaited revamp of the State of Arkansas Uniform Classification and Compensation Plan was rolled out June 28.

Act 688 affects every state employee who occupies a regular position, including almost 500 who work for the Department of Career Education. The implementation of the new pay plan was met with mixed reviews, which seems understandable considering that its effects on individual employees range from salary increases of 1 percent to increases of several thousands of dollars. The general consensus seems to be that the new plan was successful in raising entry-level pay rates, thus paving the way for the state to attract more highly qualified applicants. It is important that everyone understand the changes in the pay plan.

New titles, grades and pay levels were developed by the **Office of Personnel Management (OPM)** based on job questionnaires, labor market research, performance evaluation standards, and the previous classification structure. The two resulting pay plans, the Career Service Pay Plan and the Professional and Executive Pay Plan, were applied to existing positions based on implementation steps that have become familiar to us: tenure adjustments based on years of state service and adjustments to the entry- or base-level salary for the position's grade level.

Your agency HR staff continues to work with OPM staff to try to correct those positions we believe to have been converted to inappropriate titles and grades; in some cases, the employees' pay has been affected. We consider these issues to be of the utmost importance, but we do understand that OPM must address all types of concerns for all state agencies. The priorities they set must take into account all of the unresolved situations that still exist.

Salaries for new hires must generally be set at entry level of the appropriate grade for the position. However, Act 688 allows agency directors to set a new Career Service employee's salary anywhere from entry to base level, as long as the deviation from entry level complies with a plan the agency must submit in advance and have approved by the legislature. ACE's plan has been submitted and approved. We are now working out the details of

how the plan will be administered.

Also approved is a plan for setting vocational rehabilitation counselor salaries. This is much like the previous Counselor Salary Grid, but since it proposes to use the entry- and base-level salaries established in the pay plan to set salaries based on level of education and possession of certification, it is considered a plan for moving from entry to base level rather than a salary grid. The counselor salary plan is awaiting final OPM approval.

We are working with OPM to develop a Vocational Teacher Salary Grid, which will then have to be reviewed by the Personnel Committee of the Legislature. This grid will be similar to the grids used for certified teachers in that it will take into account the teacher's status (degreed or non-degreed, certified or non-certified) and years of experience.

Pay differentials authorized by Act 688, which ACE has already been approved to take advantage of, are a shift differential for employees who work outside of normal business hours and a second language compensation differential. The second language differential will be available to positions in classifications most likely to interface with agency clients who communicate in a language other than English, including American Sign Language (ASL). The amount of the differential will depend upon the individual's fluency as assessed by an established organization that can certify proficiency testing at different skill levels. The second language must be used at least 25 percent of the time in the effective performance of the employee's job; positions that require the use of ASL will not be eligible to receive the differential. The shift differential is a continuation of existing agency practice.

Promotions and demotions under the new pay plan will result in a higher percentage increase or decrease in salary. Employees will receive an increase or decrease of 10 percent when they experience a promotion or demotion within the same pay plan. A promotion from the Career Service Pay Plan to the Professional and Executive Pay Plan or a demotion in the opposite direction will result in a 12-percent change in salary.

We realize there were a lot of changes and the specifics may be hard to grasp. **Just remember that your HR Team is here to help you through it.**

Senior Management Team

SMT Update

Judy Smith
Former Interim
ACTI Administrator
Arkansas Rehabilitation
Services Division



The Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) is thankful for Governor Mike Beebe and his administration for including the facility as a recipient of Arkansas State Fiscal Stabilization funds. Thanks to Governor Beebe, ACTI will have the funds necessary to complete major repair and renovation projects, including **boiler system modifications, major electrical upgrades, roof repairs, energy efficiency projects, safety and security system enhancements** (i.e. improvements to fire alarm systems in women's dormitory and two vocational training buildings), and **plumbing repairs**.

ACTI has implemented a number of positive initiatives which include student-led activities. Members of Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates (JAG) developed a comprehensive model to reopen our concession stand. On August 25, JAG member Chris Taylor and JAG President Corey Robinson - along with members Michael Smith, Adilah Guess, and Debbie Frenzell - made a presentation to the ACTI leadership team in

an effort to secure approval to reopen the concession stand under the sole leadership of JAG representatives, wing representatives, the Student Council, and SkillsUSA members. Concession stand proceeds will help support student needs and other student-led activities. The ACTI leadership team, which was led at the time by Interim Administrator Judy Smith, approved the project with several contingencies, including the development of operational policies and procedures.

Additionally, the leadership team, in conjunction with representatives of the Student Council (especially Student Council president Charles Day), JAG, SkillsUSA, wing representatives, and the Behavior Enhancement Program Committee worked to develop and implement a **Positive Reward Policy** to provide staff members the opportunity to reinforce positive behaviors to encourage improvement of the soft skills necessary for successful employment.

DIRECTOR *continued from page 2*

and technical education can work.

Tully brought up a very good point. He said that even though Cave City is a very small school, it's a wonderful illustration that a school doesn't have to be large—or have a lot of money—to have a good CTE program. Cave City Superintendent Steven Green and Principal Marc Walling, both of whom also addressed the board, made their dedication and enthusiasm obvious. Devoted and determined staff, teachers, and administrators similar to Green and Walling are likewise important to any successful CTE program.

The SBCE meeting at Cave City was special because it gave the

board members a chance to see the fruits of their labor firsthand. They were able to see the positive impact that their work has on students.

ACE's Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division has just received some good news—we been awarded \$2 million under the provisions of the Federal Rehabilitation Act. Each year the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) requests all vocational rehabilitation agencies to determine whether they can fully match their federal funding allotment or if they can provide matching funds for additional allotments. With the downturn in the economy during the past year, many states were unable to provide the required match, so this money is redistribut-

ed to eligible states. Since Arkansas was able to provide a match for an additional \$2 million, RSA awarded Arkansas the entire amount.

The state can carry over this amount for an additional year since it has met the minimum matching requirement. The money is subject to the current state plan and can be used for any costs that support the vocational rehabilitation program with the exception of independent living and state-supported programs such as the Arkansas kidney disease program. Since the funds are supplemental dollars, they are not subject to the new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act reporting requirements.

AKDC partners for first Arkansas Kidney Disease Summit



ARS Associate Director for Special Programs Jim Moreland welcomes summit attendees.

After several months of hard work, the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) Division's Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission (AKDC) held the *first-ever* Arkansas Kidney Disease Summit August 18 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Little Rock.

ARS Associate Director for Special Programs Jim Moreland said the goal of the half-day summit, which was co-hosted and underwritten by Baxter Healthcare Corporation and DaVita Dialysis, was to bring together representatives from the public and private sectors to address the needs of the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patient. Moreland was hopeful this would be one in a series of meetings to deal with how this debilitating disease affects the lives of so many Arkansans.

"We wanted to provide an opportunity for those present to become familiar with the AKDC and the services the program provides," Moreland said. "We also wanted to provide an event that was both informative and educational with a

focus on the benefits and options regarding home renal treatment."

The summit touched on several topics of interest for patients, caregivers, and others interested in the topic of ESRD.

Representatives from the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) provided an overview of the various medical services supported by DHS that are available to the ESRD patient. A panel of ESRD patients offered individual perspectives of what it is like to live with the disease. Renal home therapy public policy and updates on federal and state activities related to ESRD were discussed. Finally, the value and benefits of home therapy as a treatment modality option in ESRD and future trends in home therapy were discussed by a panel of medical professionals.

"The benefits of home hemodialysis are as good as a kidney transplant, which is the best option for an ESRD patient," said Dr. Ashutosh Shukla, a panelist and UAMS physician. "Patients have a more rapid recovery; the treatment is less intrusive; and the patient's family is more involved in the treatment. Most patients can qualify for the treatment, as long as they are well educated about the process. That usually just requires three to five weeks of training."

The summit's attendees overwhelmingly found the event educational and helpful.

State Representative Greg Reep of Warren was among a group of legislators and legislative aides who attended the summit. He said the new technology and treatments discussed during the sum-



Dr. Ashutosh Shukla, of the University of Arkansas for medical Sciences (UAMS) participates in a discussion on patient options.

mit can be beneficial in saving the state money through the creation of innovation centers to manage chronic diseases.

"By funding an innovation center with \$10 billion, we can see a net saving of \$1 billion," Rep. Reep said. "By bundling [healthcare] services and savings, communities can keep some of those savings – maybe up to half. These plans are still in the works, but these cost-effective, transitional-care models can reduce readmission rates by utilizing nurse practitioners."

Overall, Moreland said the Arkansas Kidney Disease Summit was a success.

"Based on the program evaluations we received, the panel regarding getting an ESRD client's perspective was a hit," Moreland said. "As a result of the summit, UAMS has approached AKDC about partnering for something similar next year."

Gov. Beebe Proclaims Adult Education Week, GED Pride Day in September

Governor Mike Beebe joined Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) Director William L. “Bill” Walker and ACE Adult Education Division representatives in the Governor’s Conference Room at the State Capitol Sept. 22 to present a proclamation declaring Sept. 21-25 as Adult Education Week in Arkansas and Sept. 23 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,” Governor Beebe’s proclamation reads. “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 assists adults to become literate, obtain knowledge and skills for employment and self-sufficiency, obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in their children’s educational development, and complete their secondary school education.

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 communi-

GED continued on page 19

Proclamation

To all whom these presents shall come—Greetings

Whereas: Democracy is based upon an educated citizenry in which people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds have access to education in order to become self-sufficient, actively participating members of society; and

Whereas: Adult education provides learning opportunities for citizens who have not obtained high-school credentials, who have not mastered basic skills before graduating from high school, or who are non-native English speakers; and

Whereas, Parents who improve their own literacy skills are better prepared to assist in the education of their children;

Whereas: Adult education offers academic classes to prepare adults to take the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests to earn the Arkansas High School Diploma; to learn English as a Second Language (ESL); and to further their educational, personal, and career goals; and

Whereas, Adult education offers the Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™) program and other workplace classes that teach work skills, including basic computer literacy, problem-solving, and communication;

Whereas: Adult education programs serve a diversity of students, including those with learning disabilities, those with physical or emotional difficulties, and those in correctional institutions; and

Whereas: The Adult Education Division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education supports adult education programs in each of the 75 counties throughout the state of Arkansas and works collaboratively with local, state, and federal agencies to meet the goals and needs of these sometimes underserved Arkansans; and

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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Beebe, Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the week of September 21-25, 2009 as

Adult Education Week

And Wednesday, September 23 as

GED Pride Day

And urge all its citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by adult education and to support and participate in these programs.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 22nd day of September, in the year of our Lord 2009.

GED continued from page 18

cation 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 52 adult education programs and 28 literacy councils. Twenty-four adult education programs are administered by public school systems and 28 are administered by postsecondary educational institutions.

Adult education highlights include the following:

Every year, **more than 50,000 adult Arkansans are served through adult education programs**, with more than 30,000 enrolled in at least 12 hours of instruction.

Every year, **between 7,000 and 7,500 Arkansans earn an Arkansas High School Diploma by passing the GED Test**. Arkansas’s pass rate is 85 percent compared to the national average of 73 percent, making Arkansas’s pass rate one of the highest in the nation.

Arkansas is one of only a few states offering the GED Tests at no cost.



Pictured left to right: **Dr. Philip Less, State ESL Coordinator; Ashley Stripling, Program Director, ASU-Technical Center Adult Education; Ruth Ann Williams, Program Director, Conway Adult Education; Governor Mike Beebe; William L. “Bill” Walker, Jr., Director, Arkansas Department of Career Education; Tandra Nicholson, Administrative Specialist, Arkansas GED Testing Program; Janice Hanlon, GED Administrator, Arkansas GED Testing Program; and Jim Smith, Deputy Director, Adult Education Division, Arkansas Department of Career Education.**

Based on the number of adult education students who become employed, obtain a GED credential, or earn pay raises, **the estimated increase in state taxes paid by these individuals yields a 38 percent return on investment to the state.** That’s \$1.38 returned to the state for each dollar Arkansas spends on adult education programs.

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



(above) **Dr. Philip Less and Ashley Stripling speak with Governor Beebe, and (right) the Governor greets Tandra Nicholson, Janice Hanlon and Jim Smith.**



ACTI Fills Two Top Administrator Slots

The Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) in Hot Springs has a new administrator and assistant administrator.

Col. Alicia C. "Cissy" Rucker, U.S. Army Ret., started work as the center's permanent administrator September 1. She became ACTI's first permanent administrator after the retirement of former administrator Barbara Lewis on January 31. ARS Transition Services Director Judy Smith served as ACTI's interim administrator for the seven-month period between Lewis's retirement and Rucker's arrival.



Tony Hoenig

Tony Hoenig was born and raised in Iowa, but decided it was time to move somewhere with a milder winter climate. The lengthy midsummer move brought Hoenig and his wife, Rose, to Hot Springs to become ACTI's new assistant administrator.

"We embarked on an exhaustive search for a permanent ACTI administrator to lead the center into the next phase of its development as a 'Center of Excellence,'" ARS commissioner Robert Treviño said. "Cissy brings a wealth of leadership and administrative expertise to the position including extensive experience as a command officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard."

Rucker is a 27-year veteran of the Arkansas Army National Guard where she worked as a public affairs officer, a maintenance manager, an airfield com-

mander/state Army aviation officer, and most recently, a surface maintenance manager. Hoenig has background in finance and accounting and spent the past seven years as the fiscal officer for a substance abuse agency in Iowa. Hoenig said this experience helped prepare him for his work at ACTI.

Rucker said she enjoyed her brief retirement, but that she "fell in love with [ACTI] in 15 minutes" when she first visited the facility during a tour when discussing an opportunity of her serving as administrator. "There were so many students who, even with all of their challenges, were excited about the prospects for their futures," Rucker said about her first tour of the center. "I was introduced to the staff and saw how dedicated and wonderful everyone was and thought I could make a positive impact."

Hoenig says it will be his job to watch the facility's budget and make sure everything runs as efficiently as possible.

"The size and the age of the building are a challenge," Hoenig said. "If I had a blank piece of paper, I'd redesign the property. It's not the most efficient facility. It's beautiful, but it demands a lot of attention and money."

In her first few days on the job, Rucker has a broad, but clear vision of the kind of positive impact she'd like to make.

Top on her list of priorities for ACTI is keeping the center on its current path to becoming a "Center of Excellence" and securing national accreditation for all of the center's programs and instructors. "Accreditation is a priority," Rucker said. "I'm hoping to make marked progress within the second



ACE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. (left) and ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño welcome new ACTI head Cissy Rucker

quarter [of 2010]. Accreditation moves the center toward its goal of becoming a 'Center of Excellence' and it sets a standard for our students so they can get a job anywhere."

Rucker admits that she faces a few unique challenges as administrator – especially considering the age of the facility – but recently received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds from the federal government and General Improvement funds from the state will make some of those challenges easier to handle.

ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño says Rucker is the right choice at the right time to helm ACTI.

"In addition to the acquisition of national accreditation of ACTI programs, the coming year will bring new and vital resources to ACTI as we begin a number of essential renovation projects on the campus," Treviño said. "All of these projects are part of the division's ARRA funds and General Improvement Funding made possible by Governor Mike Beebe. We are fortunate to have a leader with Cissy's background."

SBCE continued from page 1

sources standards. Bacchus also described the new Agriculture Experience Tracker (AET), an online record-keeping system that allows students to track their experiences, hours, and financial records throughout their entire agriculture program.

ACE Associate Director for Workforce Training Sandra Porter updated the Board on the Arkansas Leadership Academy, which began in June and was the brainchild of ACE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. The academy was created to develop teacher leaders across the state to meet two needs recognized by Director Walker: the impact of retirements on the career and technical education teaching ranks and the need to develop leadership and capacity in the Delta.

The Board heard from Karen



Richard Smith and Lucy Ralston (left to right), along with Director Walker (right), watch Amber McCall, Joanna Perot, and Raven Day (front to back) broadcast live from KVMN radio on campus.

Chisholm, program manager for the Office of Assessment and Curriculum, that her office has just completed its most successful year, with more than 104,000 assessments completed, an increase of nearly 40,000 assessments from last year.

Jim Brock, program manager



Cave City FCCLA students Tyler George (left), Chris Ford (second from left), and Haley Haynes (right) and their instructor, Leanne Bradley (second from right), serve desserts that the students made for the SBCE meeting.

for Business Marketing/Technology, updated the Board on the efforts to promote economics and financial literacy in Arkansas high schools through teacher training and to incorporate economics and financial literacy into existing programs of study.

Automotive Instructors Attend ACE Inservices

Automotive technology instructors got a chance to become students during a pair of inservice training sessions hosted by the Department of Career Education (ACE) October 6-8 at the Pulaski Technical College Little Rock-South campus.

Auto service, auto collision, and diesel teachers participated in a Snap-On Tools Lab Scope Training class that covered the latest innovations in using a lab scope for vehicle diagnostics. Snap-on Tools is very supportive of the technical programs in the state, and the session provided the instructors with six hours of valuable professional development and new skills to take back to their classrooms.

"David May, the Snap-On instructor, did an excellent job presenting the class," said ACE Office of Skilled and Technical Sciences Transportation Education Supervisor Ray Winiecki. "The



(above) Instructor Jonathan Berkompas explains the new online CDX curriculum. (below) David May leads the Snap-On Tools Lab Scope Training class.



instructors enjoyed the opportunity to learn new methods and approaches to vehicle diagnostics."

Beginning this school year, ACE is providing every automotive program in the state an opportunity to utilize an online automotive curriculum provided by CDX. Fifty-five auto service, auto collision, and diesel instructors participated in a training session on how to use this new curriculum.

The instructors earned six hours of professional development. It is expected that approximately 1,500 Arkansas students will enroll in courses using the CDX online curriculum, which will give them the opportunity to learn anywhere and anytime they can find access to the Internet.

"The instructor response to this training has been outstanding," Winiecki said. "The instructors can't wait to get their students online and into the program."



ARA Receives NRA Chapter of the Year

The Arkansas Rehabilitation Association was honored as the 2009 National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) Chapter of the Year during the annual NRA Conference Sept. 10-13 in Louisville, Kentucky.

ARA President Deborah Wooten, a counselor with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division's Searcy office, was one of five from Arkansas receiving the honor.

"This was a great honor for our association," said Wooten. "The Arkansas Rehabilitation Association is a very active chapter within the NRA."

Joining Wooten in the Arkansas delegation were ARA President-elect Tresvil Pack, Vice President Vicky Wilson, Southwest Region NRA President Mary Linn, and Southwest Region NRA Representative Wayne Marsac. The theme of the conference was "Embracing Change: New Days, New Ways."

"I have been an attendee at several NRA conferences through my 18 years with ARA/NRA, and this year's national conference was the best one yet," Wooten said. "With the new leadership at the national level, many positive things have taken place, and there are many great things to come."

"Arkansas was well represented and was very involved with the trainings, both by planning the conference (Tresvil Pack) and through attending the training sessions. It was a great opportunity to network with other rehabilitation professionals, college professors, and workshop attendees."

The training programs included topics from mental health disorders to assistive technology to the benefits of social networking.

"The training programs offered were very extensive and covered several topics," Wooten said. "The attendees were able to obtain several training hours for certification hours needed."

ARA partners with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services to provide an annual training conference for both members and non-members.

New members are recruited shortly after becoming employed. Incentives are given to individuals for members recruited into ARA. Arkansas is one of the first states to offer payroll deduction for individuals employed by the state vocational rehabilitation program. When quarterly new employee orientation sessions are held, the membership chairperson of Arkansas Rehabilitation Association is given time during orientation to speak on both ARA/NRA.

Arkansas has provided leadership to NRA and to boards and committees within NRA.

ARA continues to provide leadership in the field of rehabilitation with its extensive scholarship program. There are seven scholarships which have been established so that students can attend an Arkansas institutions of higher education and major in the field of rehabilitation counseling or rehabilitation science. The scholarship program was established in 1997, and the last scholarship was added in 2008. Each scholarship recipient has been awarded at least \$1,500 a year. Six of the seven scholarships are endowed for \$60,000.



(pictured left) ARA President Deborah Wooten (center) accepts the Chapter of the Year Award on behalf of the Arkansas association members, from NRA Executive Director Beverlee Stafford and NRA President Butch McMillan.

(pictured right) In attendance at the NRA Conference in Louisville were (l-r) Vicky Wilson, ARA Vice President; Stafford; Wooten; McMillan; ARA President-elect Tresvil Pack; SW Region President and retired ARS employee Mary Linn; Penny Willmering, assistant professor of rehabilitation science at Arkansas Tech University; and Wayne Marsac, SW Region representative to the NRA Board, and an ARS retiree.

DECA students get motivated at mini conferences

DECA students from across the state had the opportunity to hear from industry and postsecondary leaders during a pair of mini-conferences held in Rogers and North Little Rock. DECA is the student organization for students involved in marketing education programs.

The Northwest Arkansas Fall Mini-Conference held October 5 at the Embassy Suites in Rogers and the Central Arkansas Fall Mini Conference held October 7 at Pulaski Technical College gave nearly 500 students a glimpse of possible education and employment avenues for the future.

"We feel it is very important to connect the students to industry and postsecondary to gain information and knowledge from them as well as from the classroom," DECA State Advisor Jim Brock said. "Both conferences went very well. The presenters were great and well-received by the students on the subjects they presented. We had varied subjects such as diversity education, securities and investments, national advertising firms, as well as employment possibilities."

The keynote speaker at each mini-conference was Arthur Matthews, chief operating officer and partner of diversityofficers.com.

Below left: Lisa Bridgers, global talent scout with Saatchi X, speaks to students about shopper marketing; Right: Dr. Dub Ashton, marketing professor at the University of Arkansas, conducts a mini-session.



Arthur Matthews (center), chief operating officer of diversityofficers.com and professor at the University of Arkansas, served as keynote speaker. With Matthews and his wife Evelyne (second from right) are (l-r) Richard Vine, DECA vice president of finance, Fayetteville High School; Savannah Valentine, vice president of communications, Alma High School; and Marisa Shaw, DECA president, Rogers Heritage High School.

Matthews is also a visiting professor at the University Of Arkansas Sam Walton School Of Business and serves on the faculty at New York University and Cornell University. Matthews spoke on the topics of leadership, conflict resolution, and team building.

"Mr. Matthews was excellent," Brock said. "His expertise falls in arbitration, diversity and leadership and really connected with the students."

At the conference in Rogers, other workshops included sessions from Dr. Dub Ashton, marketing

professor at the University of Arkansas; Heather Sprandel and Renee Clay, of the University of Arkansas's Career Development Center; and Lisa Bridgers, a global talent scout from Saatchi X, who focused on the popular profession of shopper marketing.

At the central Arkansas conference, Ethel Rossi, investor education coordinator with Arkansas Securities Department, spoke on the stock market and on how to invest securely. Other workshops were led by Phyllis Dickerson, special events coordinator with the city of Little Rock.

"Both conferences were leadership driven for the students and I think they really gained a lot of information from the breakout sessions," Brock said.

Students were also given a 15-minute timed test containing 25 questions derived from DECA's competitive events to help them prepare for future competitions.

Students from Fort Smith (below top) take a 25-question DECA test, while students from Bentonville High School (bottom) complete another activity.





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