

the Workforce Counselor

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



HSRC added to National Register of Historic Places
Governor Beebe speaks at dedication ceremony

Governor Mike Beebe joined state legislators, Hot Springs city officials and officials from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE) Wednesday, July 16 to dedicate a monument celebrating the inclusion of the DWE's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center (HSRC) on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Today we celebrate the history of service that's occurred within this building," Gov. Beebe said. "But what really makes this facility truly historic are the clients, patients and staff who come here day in and day

out to give it life."

The monument was designed and built for the Center by Fountain Lake Monument Inc., of Hot Springs. The company is owned and operated by Mitch and Pam Tipton.

The Center's seven-story main building, which overlooks Central Avenue and much of the rest of the city of Hot Springs, along with five other sites on the expansive HSRC campus were officially added to the National Register February 9, 2007.

The facility started life as the



Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center Administrator Barbara Lewis and Governor Mike Beebe at the unveiling of the Center's new monument.

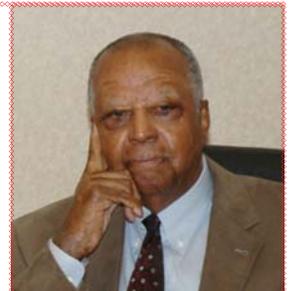
nation's first joint Army-Navy hospital with a \$100,000 Congressional

DEDICATION continued on page 4



Focus on Richard Smith

Member, State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities



Richard Smith

Richard C. Smith was reappointed by Governor Mike Beebe to his second term on the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO) in July, and he doesn't have any plans to slow down anytime soon.

Education is in his blood, so is being involved anywhere he has a chance to help young people reach their goals.

"I guess I'll be serving in some way until I expire away from here," said Smith, 78, of Tillar, who has

been involved in education for the past 58 years. "I just love what I do, helping kids, helping young people."

Smith's long and distinguished career in Arkansas education began in 1949 as a high school teacher and coach in the Parkdale School District and ended in June 1990 after three years as a junior high principal in the McGehee School District.

Before McGehee, Smith worked as an elementary and high school principal for nearly 25 years in the

Desha Central and Delta school districts. He holds a Bachelor's degree in History from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. He is a former member and chairman of the State Board of Education and served as a board member of the National Association of State Boards of Education from

SMITH continued on page 3



Director's Update

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.

Director

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

Over the course of the last two months, I've had an opportunity to see the best and the brightest students from Arkansas compete on the national stage at several student organization meetings. I attended the **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** and **Phi Beta Lambda (PBL)** national conferences in Atlanta, the **SkillsUSA** conference in Kansas City and the **Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)** conference in Orlando.

At each of these competitions, Arkansas's students rank among the best the nation has to offer. I was not only impressed, but proud and excited with the level of enthusiasm, motivation and success of all Arkansas students. I'd like to congratulate all the participants, winners and medalists from Arkansas who competed and represented their schools, communities, organizations and our state very well at the national level. Again, I am extremely proud of all of them.

I'd also like to congratulate Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Commissioner Bob Treviño, Administrator Barbara Lewis and the staff at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center for the outstanding event held on July 16. Our agency hosted a dedication ceremony unveiling a marker designating HSRC on the National Register of Historic

Places. Our governor, Mike Beebe, assisted in the unveiling, and motivated, encouraged and enlightened our students, agency staff, and the Hot Springs community, to not only believe in themselves and in Arkansas, but to believe in the possibilities of what we can become as current and future leaders in our state.

We are indeed proud of the legacy of Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center, yet we won't rest on that legacy, but we will build on it. We will continue to raise the bar everyday in the work that has been done, the work currently being done, and the work that will be done to serve the citizens of Arkansas. Our goal still remains to make HSRC a "Center of Excellence."

As our agency prepares for the coming academic year, we are also busy working on budget requests that in the eyes of some may seem to be bold, but to us are adequate and enables our agency to better deliver on what we have termed the "Arkansas Promise."

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Education and its major divisions – Career and Technical Education, Adult Education and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services – has developed a set of initiatives that we believe will lead to a strong and confident workforce able to compete and stand up to the challenges of the 21st century.

DIRECTOR continued on page 20



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

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

Director

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.

Deputy Director for Communications

Reginald L. Jackson

Contributing Staff

Ricky Harvey

Bart Haynie

Sandra Hubbard

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

Three Capitol Mall

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1083

501-682-1500

501-682-1509 fax

<http://dwe.arkansas.gov>

Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Central Office

1616 Brookwood Drive

Little Rock, AR 72202

501-296-1600 (V/TTY)

800-330-0632 (V/TTY)

www.arsinfo.org



WE ARKANSAS
Department of
WORKFORCE
EDUCATION

**Department of
Workforce Education**

#3 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-1500

**Division of Arkansas
Rehabilitation Services**

Central Office:

1616 Brookwood Drive
P.O.Box 3781
Little Rock, AR 72203
(501) 296-1600
Toll Free: 800-330-0632

Hot Springs

Rehabilitation Center:

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

**Division of Rehabilitation
Services Field Offices**

501 West Arch
Searcy, AR 72143
(501) 268-6650

1670 White Drive
Batesville, AR 72501
(870) 793-4153

The Professional Center, Suite 1
1226 Ferguson Drive
Benton, AR 72015
(501) 317-1390

P.O.Box 660
Booneville, AR 72927
(479) 675-3835

Museum Plaza, Suite 3
1150 North Museum Road
Conway, AR 72032
(501) 730-9725

708 West Faulkner
El Dorado, AR 71730
(870) 862-5451

One Corporate Square, Ste.150
4058 North College
Fayetteville, AR 72703
(479) 582-1286

Essex Place, Suite 207
1115 Waldron Road
Fort Smith, AR 72903
(479) 452-7131

715 West Sherman, Suite E
Harrison, AR 72601
(870) 741-7153

507 Cherry Street
Helena, AR 72342
(870) 338-2753

105 Reserve
Building 54
Hot Springs, AR 71901
(501) 623-4479

2920 McClellan Drive
Jonesboro, AR 72401
(870) 972-0025

26 Corporate Hill Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205
(501) 686-2800

102 Park Street
Lonoke, AR 72086
(501) 676-4490

989 Highway 425 North
P.O.Box 450
Monticello, AR 71657
(870) 367-9669

1401 Main Street
North Little Rock, AR 72120
(501) 833-1490

2703 West 28th Street
P.O.Box 2560
Pine Bluff, AR 71613
(870) 534-2404

1010 North Arkansas
Russellville, AR 72801
(479) 890-5751

2807 East Broad
Texarkana, AR 71854
(870) 773-2807

210 Shoppingway
Boulevard, Ste. D
West Memphis, AR 72301
(870) 735-4725

SMITH continued from page 1



**Smith speaks with SBWECO
Chairman Jack Justus**

1992-1994. He currently serves as Vice-President of the Housing Board for the Southeast Arkansas Area Agency on Aging. Two years ago, Smith was called and asked to be an assistant director for C.B. King Memorial School in McGehee, a preschool for newborns to 5-year-olds who have delayed disabilities.

"I've run the whole gamut," said Smith, who is also a member of the Desha County Quorum Court. "The thing I guess that's greater than anything else is how I can continue to serve humanity."

Smith was a member of the State Board of Education until the Department of Workforce Education (DWE) became its own agency during former Governor Mike Huckabee's first term. He's been a very visible member of the board ever since and is passionate about his role in helping make decisions to benefit those trying to enter the workforce.

"We are dealing with kids and young adults who are entering the world of work and it's important to me that they get a good start," Smith said. "They are our future."

"When I was in the public schools as a principal and a coach, we dealt with young people and prepared them to move on to the next level. Here, we are making policy for these people to have the best opportunity to succeed. It's very important."

Smith said it's important in his role to be visible and visit DWE facilities, especially with the changes that the agency has seen in the past few years. This includes the merger between DWE and the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

"How can I sit down and talk about making policy unless I see firsthand what is going on?" he said. "Visiting our facilities gives me better insight as to how to deal with issues that come up. It's very important."

Smith is excited about his second term as a member of the SBWECO and what the future holds for the agency.

"I think the changes that have taken place have gone real well and I see a lot of energy and enthusiasm that I haven't seen in the past," he said. "All of this re-energizing is going to enhance the opportunities for the youngsters we serve."

HSRC Happenings

DEDICATION *continued from page 1*

appropriation in 1882 and opened in 1887. In 1960, the facility's ownership passed from the United States government to the state of Arkansas to serve as a rehabilitation center for Arkansans living with disabilities.

During the ceremony, Governor Beebe was joined by state Senator Terry Smith, state Senator Steve Faris, state Representative Mike Burris, state Representative Bill Sample, state Representative Rick

Saunders, state Representative Gene Shelby, Hot Springs Mayor Mike Bush, Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., DWE Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño and Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center Administrator Barbara McBeth-Lewis.

"It's an honor to have the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center named to the National Register of Historic Places, but we're still making history here everyday," Walker said. "Through the services and programs offered at the Center, Arkansans with disabilities are getting a chance to learn the skills they will need to get a good job and, ultimately, live independently. These students will soon be writing their own history. We're building on a legacy of service, creating a 'Center of Excellence' and providing a future of progress."



(counterclockwise from top left) Governor Beebe addresses the morning assembly of Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI); National Register monument unveiled; HSRC Administrator Barbara Lewis and Governor's liaison to DWE, Sarah Agee, discuss the facility with the Governor; Director Walker and Governor Beebe during dedication ceremony; ACTI student body president Marcus Johnson introduces the Governor; Governor Beebe displays his new ACTI t-shirt, a gift from the students.

HSRC welcomes Governor and Dignitaries for Monument Dedication



HSRC Administrator Barbara Lewis and ARS Commissioner Bob Treviño at monument



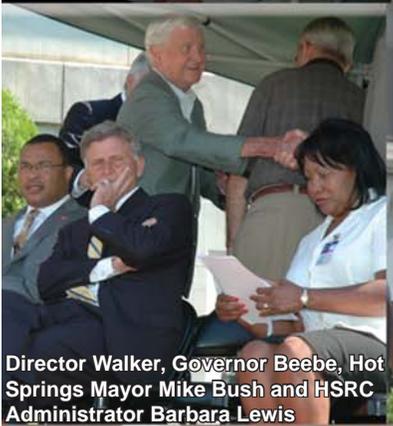
Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Bob Treviño greets audience during dedication



State Representatives Rick Saunders and Bill Sample, state Senators Steve Farris and Terry Smith, DWE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. and Governor Mike Beebe



Governor Beebe chats with SBWECO member Lucy Ralston



Director Walker, Governor Beebe, Hot Springs Mayor Mike Bush and HSRC Administrator Barbara Lewis



Barbara Lewis and Governor Beebe



Governor Beebe addresses HSRC students, staff and community members



Barbara Lewis takes Governor Beebe, Director Walker and Senator Steve Farris on a tour of HSRC's dorm rooms



Governor Beebe speaks to the ACTI morning assembly at HSRC



Governor Beebe, ARS Transition Services Director Judy Smith and HSRC Admissions Supervisor Cornelious Hollinshed



(l-r): Governor Beebe, Sen. Farris, Rep. Sample, Rep. Gene Shelby and Director Walker



Governor Beebe visits with guests and staff following the dedication ceremony



What You Should Know

Community Program Development (CPD)

Roy Albert, Assistant Commissioner, Program Planning Development & Evaluation
Verline Davis, CPD Administrator

Community rehabilitation programs are private agencies located throughout the state that provide services (such as assessment, work adjustment, on-the-job training, job placement and job coaching) to people with significant disabilities. **The purpose of the Department of Workforce Education's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Community Program Development Section (CPDS) is to facilitate ARS consumers' use of these programs.**

ARS contracts with community rehabilitation programs (CRP) for services to assist Arkansans with the most significant disabilities to

become employed. The overall goal of the CPDS of ARS is to assist the CRPs in providing quality services and opportunities for quality employment outcomes for ARS consumers.

Standards for the CRPs are developed and administered in cooperation with the Arkansas Association of Community Rehabilitation Programs. The CPDS coordinates and conducts comprehensive annual certification reviews of the CRPs. On-site visits are conducted to assure compliance with established certification standards. The CPDS also negotiates and approves annual professional services contracts between ARS and CRPs. Training is provided to the staff and management of the CRPs in best practices in service provision and compliance with regulations.

The CPDS of ARS is comprised of an administrator, administrative assistant and two program specialists.

Administrator Verline Davis joined the program in October 2007 with a goal of providing positive commitments and quality services to CRPs and to ARS consumers.

Pat Hensley is the Administrative Assistant. She is very knowledgeable and skilled in all areas of this section.

Tammy Stokes came to the pro-

gram in January 2008 as a program specialist and is very eager and excited to be a part of the CPDS. Tammy brings with her innovative ideas of working with the community programs.

In February 2008, Darlene Owens joined the program as the second program specialist with the goal of providing monitoring and technical support to ensure the programs have what they need to continue to provide quality services to consumers. Prior to coming to this section, she worked as a vocational rehabilitation counselor in the Little Rock field office.

CRPs consider three client tracks for fee for services:

1. Traditional referrals for assessment/work adjustment/extended services
2. Non-Traditional referrals for placement services
3. Supported Employment Services

For more information, the CPDS can be contacted at:

**Arkansas Department of Workforce Education
Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services/ Community Program Development Sections**

1616 Brookwood Drive,
Little Rock, AR 72203
Phone: 501-296-1600 or
501-296-1650
Fax: 501-296-1687

ADA Celebrates 18th Year

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebrated its 18th anniversary July 26. The Act carries with it a proud legacy for many tireless advocates who worked for its passage.

The ADA was created to ban discrimination against people with disabilities in the workplace and elsewhere. It also places requirements on employers concerning accommodations for their employees with disabilities. However,

ADA continued on page 21

Arkansas's Highly Skilled Work Force Compete for Medals at SkillsUSA National Conference in Kansas City

SkillsUSA's national conference returned to Kansas City June 23 – 27 for its 44th Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference, a showcase of career and technical education students. Quality career and technical education was the centerpiece of the conference. More than 14,000 students, teachers, education leaders and representatives from more than 1,100 national corporations, trade associations, business and labor unions attended the event.

Arkansas had 172 competitors at this year's national event. Of those competing, 46 percent of them placed in the top ten percent in the nation. Arkansas also had 260 people registered at the conference.

Several members of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's staff were on hand for the conference. Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. attended along with Randy Prather, SkillsUSA State Director, Reginald Jackson, Deputy Director for Communications, James Smith, Deputy Director for Adult Education, Dick Burchett, Skilled and Technical Sciences Program Manager, and Ray Winiecki, Transportation Education Supervisor.

The following Arkansas SkillsUSA students placed with medals:

Gold medal – Nurse Assisting, **Brittney Haga**, College/Postsecondary Division, UA Fort Smith

Silver medal – Crime Scene Investigation, **Leah Keeling, Mallory Kinney** and **Matt Montgomery**, High School Division, Springdale High School

Bronze medal - Food & Beverage Service, **Kathryn Tebbetts**, College/Postsecondary Division, Ozarka College

Bronze medal - Advertising Design, **Chelsea Eichler**, College/Postsecondary Division, UA Fort Smith

Bronze medal - American Spirit, **Rebecca McCool**, College/Postsecondary Division, Ouachita Technical College

Bronze medal – Audio Production, **Colten Marlin** and **Kendra Vickery**, High School Division, Cave City High School

Bronze medal - Automotive Service Technology, **Brian Bass**, College/Postsecondary Division, Arkansas Tech University – Ozark Campus

Bronze medal – Opening and Closing Ceremonies, **Pam Atherley, Emily Coffey, Ashley Cross, Kristy Harris, Amanda Kharnis, Amy Martin** and **Paige Scammell**, College/Postsecondary Division, Pulaski Technical College Saline County Career Center

Bronze medal – Outstanding Chapter, **Brittney Felton**, College/Postsecondary Division, Pulaski Technical College Saline County Career Center.

"We are very proud of the accomplishments of all of our national SkillsUSA participants," said Director Walker. "They've shared the spotlight with the best career and technical education students in the country. They've competed with the very best and are truly some of the best and brightest our state has to offer. Congratulations to all of our medalists."

"Through SkillsUSA, our students show what career and technical education can do. SkillsUSA helps prepare Arkansas students for the high-skill, high-demand, high-wage jobs of the 21st century," said Prather. "We're proud of all of our students and proud of those who won medals at this year's competition. They really did a super job."

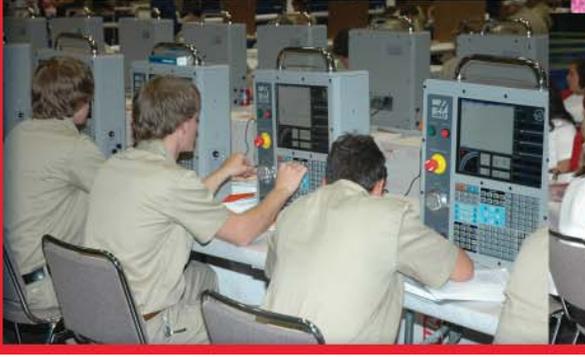
Founded in 1965 as Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA), SkillsUSA is a national, non-profit organization serving teachers, high school and college students preparing for careers in trade, and technical and skilled service occupations.

For more information about Arkansas SkillsUSA, contact Randy Prather, State Director, at 501-682-1125 or randy.prather@arkansas.gov.



National SkillsUSA

June 23-27, 2008
Kansas City, Missouri





Champions at Work



Brittney Felton, (Pulaski Tech/Saline Co.): Bronze/ Outstanding Chapter

Public School Program Advisor and SkillsUSA State Director Randy Prather

Leah Keeling, Mallory Kinney, Matt Montgomery (Springdale HS): Silver/ Crime Scene Investigation

DWE Director Walker congratulates Brittney Haga, Arkansas's only Gold Medalist (UA Fort Smith): Nursing Assistance



Paige Scammell, Amanda Kharnis, Kristy Harris, Pam Atherley, Amy Martin, Ashley Cross (Pulaski Tech/Saline Co.): Bronze / Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team

Rebecca McCool (Ouachita Tech): Bronze/American Spirit

Brian Bass (AR Tech/Ozark): Bronze/ Automotive Service Technology



Kathryn Tebbetts (Ozark College): Bronze/Food & Beverage Service

Chelsea Eichler (UA Fort Smith): Bronze/Advertising Design

Department of Workforce Education Director Bill Walker (back, center) with (l-r) DWE Public School Program Advisor Randy Prather; Secondary State Officer Advisor Relda Steelman; Secondary State Officers Chene Pullins, Julie Kiehn, Lashonda Thomas Hector Bello, Faith Blair, Allison McJunkins and Kyle Gilbertson; and DWE Program Manager Dick Burchett

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America hold Conference



Approximately 150 Arkansas Family, Community and Career Leaders of America (FCCLA) members and advisors joined more than 5,600 of their colleagues in Orlando July 13-18 for the student organization's annual National Leadership Meeting.

Themed "Electrified Experience," the 2008 conference included skits, awards, motivational speakers and the competitive Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Events.

Similarly, the organization held its officer elections during the event. The contests featured two Arkansans vying for national offices. Arkansas state President Xavier Billingsly of Batesville sought an at-large position, and Arkansas Vice President of Programs Chandra Davis of Heber Springs campaigned to become South Region Secretary. Despite their unsuccessful attempts, Arkansas FCCLA Advisor Suellen Ward says the pair are to be lauded for their attitudes and abilities.

"Xavier and Chandra did an excellent job," Ward said. "They were out there competing with the best of the best. [The campaigns were] a real honor for them and for the state organization. They each did extremely well in the interview and the speech portions. The whole process just made me proud, and our FCCLA members in Arkansas will still be able to rely on their expertise and experience. We'll still have both Xavier and Chandra on the FCCLA Executive Council."

FCCLA continued on page 19



FCCLA National Executive Director Michael Benjamin (front row in red jacket) sits next to Department of Workforce Education Family and Consumer Sciences Education Program Manager Suellen Ward as they are surrounded by national FCCLA conference winners from Arkansas.



Phi Beta Lambda

Atlanta, Georgia * June 21-24, 2008

Atlanta June 21-24 to participate in the career and technical student organization's annual National Leadership Conference.

Arkansas's PBL representatives joined more than 1,700 other students from around the United States for the conference themed "Leadership in Action," and engaged in team and individual competitive events, leadership training and the election of national PBL officers for the next year.

The state was well represented at the national competition, collecting three first-place awards and four second-place finishes in the competitive events. **Christopher Allred** from North Arkansas College placed first in the Contemporary Sports Issues competition. **Seth Neller** from Harding University won first place in the Economic Analysis & Decision Making event. The team of **Geral Vasquez, Marivi Davila and Juan Paz** representing the University of the Ozarks earned top honors in the Management Concepts contest. Harding University's **Danny**

Canady placed second in the Accounting Analysis & Decision Making event. The team of **Dallas Haas, Casey Maxey and Jaquelyn Porter** representing the University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith placed second in the Business Issues competition. The University of the Ozarks' **Diana Aguirre** earned second place honors in the Future Business Teacher competition. **Grant Toms** of Southern Arkansas University took second place in the Partnership with Business event.

Arkansas also received second place honors in the State Chapter Event where the state was recognized in the Largest State Membership and Largest State Chapter Membership-Professional Division categories. Arkansas likewise garnered second place finishes in the Southern Region Award category in the Largest State Chapter Membership and Largest State Chapter Membership-Professional Division sections.

PBL is an educational association of college and university students preparing for careers in business. There are over 11,000 active members in the United States. Arkansas has 725 members in 20 chapters across the state.

PBL continued on page 23



(l-r): Xavier Billingsley, AR FCCLA President, Chandra Davis, AR VP of Programs, and DWE Director Walker

Hazen High School FCCLA members



Chandra Davis, state vice-president, and Kendra Woods, state treasurer

(l-r): Pam Pruett, Xavier Billingsley, Koresha Hudson



Brittany Bartram & Nikkina Porter

Miranda Hankins accepting Feed the Children Charity Truck Award, with National FCCLA officers in background



(l-r): Advisor Linda Benton, Prescott HS, Director Walker, and Suellen Ward

Suzanne Jones, Director Walker, Regina Chaney, with parent of Hazen participant



Director Walker and Ward attend awards ceremony



Elizabeth Snyder, Miranda Hankins, Katie Kunz



Director Walker, Xavier Billingsley



National FCCLA Executive Director Mr. Michael Benjamin, Suellen Ward

Orlando, Florida

FCCLA

July 13-18

Family, Career & Community Leaders of America



(top, l-r): FCCLA Advisors: Nikkina Porter, Mayflower HS; Diana Wilkins, County Line HS; Linda Brannon, Elkins HS; Wanda McMahan, Berryville HS; Rebecca Daniels, Jasper HS; Debby Estep, Scranton HS; Nena Edmonds, Annie Camp JH; Regina Chaney, Hazen HS; Susan Baker, Greenbrier HS. (bottom, l-r): Miranda Hankins, AR VP of Programs; Heather Burroughs, AR VP of Public Relations; Shanda Whitlow, AR Parliamentarian; Mr. Michael Benjamin, National FCCLA Executive Director; Suellen Ward, DWE Family and Consumer Sciences Education Program Manager



(l-r): Suellen Ward, Miranda Hankins, Elizabeth Snyder, Michael Benjamin, Katie Kunz, Letty Rico, Linda Brannon



(l-r): Suzanne Jones, Suellen Ward, Michael Benjamin, Wanda McMahan



(l-r): Suellen Ward, Michael Benjamin, DWE Deputy Director for Communications Reginald Jackson



(l-r): Savannah Burkett, Ashley Phillips, Sheyan Vanlandingham, Jaycee Kremer, Michael Benjamin, Ivy Schluterman, Katie Roper, Sarah Duhnam, Debby Estep, Suellen Ward



Berryville High School FCCLA members (in dark jackets) with Ashley Howard, state secretary, Michael Benjamin and Suellen Ward

Future Business Leaders of America

Atlanta, Georgia * June 26-29, 2008



Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) held its National Leadership Conference June 26-29 in Atlanta, and Arkansas

members of the student organization arrived ready to compete.

Nearly 250 Arkansas students and advisors representing 26 schools were among more than 8,000 attendees from all over the United States. State FBLA advisor Jim Brock says the group did the folks back home proud.

"Arkansas did well bringing home a second place in the Future Business Leader award and over 12 top-ten finishes," Brock said. "Students also attended workshops and were able to network with national business partners from across the country. The national conference is a valuable educational and informational tool for everyone who attends."

FBLA is the world's largest and oldest business student organization. More than 215,000 high school students nationally and roughly 14,000 students representing nearly 250 high schools in Arkansas have chosen to be FBLA members and prepare for careers in business.

The organization is geared toward helping students develop leadership, communication and team skills, or use their enrollment as a way to meet and network with others at the local, state and national levels.



Jim Brock (far left), Sandra Porter (second from left) and Director Walker (far right) with Arkansas's FBLA group at the awards session.

2008 FBLA National Leadership Conference Winners:

Future Business Leader – 2nd place: Tyler Hudgens, Hartford High School, \$500; **Accounting I** – 3rd place: Jarrod Ehrie, Bentonville High School, \$300; **State Chapter Annual Business Report** – 3rd place: State of Arkansas, Prepared by Heath Nance, Siloam Springs; **Public Speaking II** – 4th place: Alyssa Kilgore, Lincoln High School, \$200; **American Enterprise Project** – 6th place: Heath Nance and Lauren Irby, Siloam Springs High School, \$100; **Business Math** – 7th place: Kara Barta, Bentonville High School; **E-Business** – 7th place: Sandi Eoff, Lonoke High School; **Local Chapter Annual Business Report** – 8th place: Lonoke High School; 9th place: Cotter High School; **Global Business** – 9th place: Ryan Graham and Patrick Sullivan, Bentonville High School; **Management Decision Making** – 9th place: Daniel Meador and David Peterson, Union Christian Academy; **Introduction to Technology Concepts** – 10th place: Evan Ross, Siloam Springs High School

■ **Heath Nance of Siloam Springs High School was named to the 2007-2008 Who's Who for FBLA.**

■ **Lesia Edwards, FBLA Adviser at Vilonia High School, was recognized as Arkansas Local Outstanding Adviser.**

■ **Arkansas** received recognition for being 2nd overall in March of Dimes money raised.

■ **Nettleton High School** was recognized as number 1 for local chapter March of Dimes money raised.



(bottom row, l-r) Jean M. Buckley, President and CEO/FBLA-PBL; Beverly Newton, FBLA-PBL Board Chair; and Sandra Porter, Associate Director for Workforce Training. (top row, l-r) DWE Director Bill Walker and Public School Program Advisor Jim Brock.



Arkansas FBLA students receive awards during final ceremonies



Director Walker, Brock and Porter congratulate Arkansas's Tyler Hudgens (second from left), on his second-place Future Business Leader award



Arkansas FBLA contingent calls the Hogs



More award winners step up



Jim Brock and Director Walker with State FBLA President Addie Kortan and Vice-President Tyler Garrett



Bobbie Timmermann, Nettleton's FBLA advisor, is greeted by Director Walker and Sandra Porter

JAG programs, advisors recognized at National Training Seminar

Twenty-three Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates (JAG) programs from 22 Arkansas high schools were honored for earning 5-of-5 status for meeting or exceeding program standards at the 25th Jobs for America's Graduates National Training Seminar in New Orleans July 9-11. This is a substantial increase for Arkansas, which has 41 JAG programs in 36 junior and senior high schools. The state had only five programs honored with 5-of-5 recognition last year.

The 5-of-5 designation is bestowed on local JAG programs that meet the national program's performance model which is based on a set of five standards considered critical to the success of the local programs and the future success of individual JAG students. These criteria include:

- **Graduation/GED Completion Rate** – The goal is to achieve a 90 percent completion rate by the close of a 12-month, post-graduation follow-up phase.
- **Positive Outcome Rate** – The goal is for 80 percent of the participants to achieve a positive outcome by the close of a 12-month, post-graduation follow-up phase. The positive outcomes valued in the JAG model include: full-or part-time employment, post-secondary enrollment or full-time military enlistment.
- **Employment Rate** – The goal is for 60 percent of the participants to be employed in a full-time (35 hours or more) or a part-time job (greater than 10 and fewer than 35 hours).
- **Full-time Job Rate** – The goal is for 60 percent of the graduates to be in a full-time job in-



Arkansas JAG Program Specialist Marylene Tate (front row, center, in black skirt) joins other program coordinators from across the nation in receiving honors for Top JAG State Organization - Senior Year Programs, Average Number of Contact Hours.

cluding: full-time employment (35 or more hours per week; two part-time jobs totaling 35 or more hours equates to a full-time job).

- **Full-time Placement Rate** – The goal is for 80 percent of the graduates to be engaged in full-time activities (full-time civilian employment, full-time military enlistment, full-time postsecondary enrollment or part-time jobs with part-time secondary enrollment by the close of the follow-up phase).

"I am elated at the number of programs that are 5-of-5 this year," Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Program Manager Marylene Tate said. "This solidifies how successful this program is. All of the programs worked so hard the past year and I am so excited so many of them were honored."

JAG is part of the national Jobs for America's Graduates program aimed at helping at-risk 11th-and 12th-grade students with multiple barriers to success in school through graduation, and to provide

work-based learning experiences that will provide further opportunities for job, educational and personal growth after graduation.

"The program proves itself," Tate said. "It has such a high graduation rate and is teaching the students important job skills. The students are staying in school and getting good jobs."

The programs and advisors recognized for meeting the 5-of-5 criteria in areas including job placement and college enrollment were Bald Knob High School (Cheryl Burns), Batesville High School (Dennis Butler), Cabot High School (Brenda Early), Farmington High School (Vickie Nichols), Fordyce High School (Caron Morris), Greenwood High School (JoNell Thomas), Little Rock-Hall High School (Sherrie Mays), Little Rock-J.A. Fair High School (Mary Jacobs), Little Rock-McClellan High School (Gladys Godley), Jacksonville High School (Pearl Howse), Joe T. Robinson High School (Barbara Miller), Mena High School (Karen Purvis), Moun-

JAG continued on page 18

Youth Leadership Forum for students with disabilities held on UCA campus

The 10th Annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF), hosted jointly by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) and the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities, was held July 7-11 at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway.

The event was highlighted when the students met with Governor Mike Beebe. Each delegate shook hands, posed for a picture and enjoyed a one-on-one moment with the state's chief executive. Following their time with the governor, the group enjoyed a tour of the Capitol and the annual Mentor's Luncheon on Thursday of YLF Week.

This year's delegates included: Jake Martin of Little Rock, Raul Pelagio of Little Rock, Ashley Williams of Little Rock, Shaquetta Austin of Little Rock, Callie Edwards of Bentonville, Eric Angelle of Shirley, Michael Sullins of Russellville, Crystal Abels of West Helena, Elizabeth Bechel of Malvern and Katelin Powell of Roland. Former YLF delegates Andrew Watson of Paragould and Caitlin Avant of Bauxite served as Senior Peer Counselors to this year's conference.

"The group was exposed to a lot of information in a short period of time," YLF organizer Carl Enna said. "Topics covered included the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. We also presented different independent living skills and had discussions on the qualities of leadership and what it takes to be

a leader."

In one of the most important sessions of the week, Arkansas Transition Services consultant Carrie Tuttle explained how the delegates were going from high school - what she called "the land of entitlement" - into the "real" world of post-secondary education.

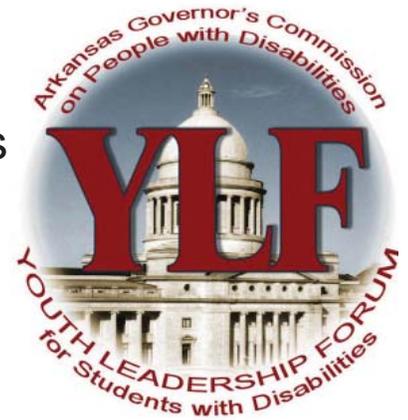
"You still have rights to accommodations but, unlike high school, college staffs will not seek you out to make sure you get what you need," Tuttle said. "That responsibility shifts to you after high school."

The Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Executive Director Leonard Boyle termed his

first YLF "an eye-opening experience."

"YLF has been one of the most interesting activities the Governor's Commission has participated in because the students taught me as much, if not more, than I was able to teach them," Boyle said.

Planning is already in the works for the 11th Annual YLF in the summer of 2009, with July 6-10 marked on the calendar.



Governor Mike Beebe welcomed YLF delegates, sponsors and volunteers to the State Capitol July 10. Pictured with the Governor are:

Front Row: (l-r) Leonard Boyle, Executive Director, Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities; Jake Martin; Andrew Watson; Raul Pelagio; Ashley Williams. **Middle Row:** (l-r) Jodi Pegram, Conway Human Development Center; Darlene Harvey, HSRC; Maureen Strobel, Chairperson, Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities; Joann Reynolds, HSRC nurse; Jason Moore, ARS Jonesboro; Callie Edwards; Katelin Powell; Caitlin Avant; Eric Angelle; Evelyn Bradford Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities; Kathy Treubig, volunteer; Bob Rubenstein, ARS Jonesboro; Lisa Stewart, Easter Seals Arkansas. **Back Row** (l-r) Sarah Agee, Governor's Office; Trina Harris, ARS; ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño; Crystal Abels; Shaquetta Austin; Governor Mike Beebe; Elizabeth Bechel; Michael Sullins (partially hidden); DWE Director Bill Walker; Jackie Rogers, Easter Seals Arkansas.



Caitlin Avant
Peer Counselor



2008 Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities



Andrew Watson
Peer Counselor



Callie Edwards
Delegate



Katelin Powell
Delegate



Ashley Williams
Delegate



Raul Pelagio
Delegate



Jake Martin
Delegate



Shaquetta Austin
Delegate



Michael Sullins
Delegate



Eric Angelle
Delegate



Elizabeth Bechel
Delegate



Crystal Abels
Delegate

Agency Budget presented to State Board members

The State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO)

unanimously approved the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's 2009 fiscal year budget during its semi-monthly meeting at Camp Couchdale on June 5. The meeting was held in conjunction with the state FFA convention.

Charlie Brown, Department of Workforce Education (DWE) Deputy Director for Finance, presented the budget, which included the following major funding components:

- Public School Fund
- Agency operations
- Federally-funded programs
- Cash-supported operations
- Trust funds
- General improvement accounts

Brown reported that the budget components funded with state appropriations were developed in a

manner consistent with the requirements of the Arkansas Revenue Stabilization Act and are based on official revenue forecasts. He informed the board that the budgets are subject to change because of changes in actual revenues, the receipt of miscellaneous grants and the authorized reallocation of funds among appropriations and line items.

In other action, the board unanimously voted to review and file for record the internal control and compliance review for DWE for the 2007 fiscal year which ended June 30, 2007.

Brown told the board that it was an honor for the agency to be chosen for only a review instead of a complete audit for the fourth consecutive year. "There were no reportable conditions," he said.

Other items at the meeting included a presentation from DWE Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson regarding changes to policies and procedures for secondary programs, adult skills training classes and secondary vocational centers.

DWE Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Rob-



Department of Workforce Education's Deputy Director of Finance Charlie Brown speaks with Associate Director for Workforce Training Sandra Porter following his budget presentation.

ert Treviño provided information on audit report findings from the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee and the agency's response to the findings.



(l-r) Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño, Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. and State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities Chairman Jack Justus discuss the agency's budget report during the June 5 board meeting at Camp Couchdale

**Available
Upon Request**

If you would like additional copies of **The Workforce Counselor** or if you have comments concerning this publication, please contact Reginald L. Jackson, Director of Communications at 501-682-1701, or reginald.jackson@arkansas.gov

Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Hosts Annual Banquet

The Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities (GCPD) honored its 2008 scholarship recipients with a June 19 banquet at Little Rock's Peabody Hotel.

The Commission awarded 22 students with disabilities from across Arkansas each with \$1,000 scholarships. To qualify, students must

- **Have a physician-verified disability**
- **Be accepted by or currently enrolled and in good standing with a high school or college**
- **Receive recommendations from three adults** who can testify to the student's academic abilities, character, volunteer services and community involvement

"These students exemplify the best of the disability community," GCPD Executive Director Leonard Boyle said. "These scholarships don't just reward students for success in the classroom or because of a disability alone. The scholarships are for students who are well-rounded. We want to be sure that these students have excelled in all areas of their lives, and I think the group we selected this year has done just that. These are students who have already met with success academically and elsewhere. We hope these scholarships will help them continue to be even more successful once they graduate."

GCPD scholarships this year were awarded to **Rachel Ann Bryant** of Morrilton, **Nathan Burleson** of Pine Bluff, **Elizabeth Burns** of Walnut Ridge, **Andrew Calaway**, **Natalee Clark** of Van Buren, **Shawn Landon Cloud**, **Rebekah Cyphers**, **Lauren Fagala**, **Toni Michelle Greetan**, **Amelia Hensley**, **Kevin Leon**, **Kristy Lynn Lovette**, **Kiaya McCumpsey**, **Daniel Mickle** of Fort Smith, **Edwin Brian Mitchell**, **Katherine Morris** of Marion, **Emily Parnell**, **Casey Rinaldi** of Jonesboro, **Paul Joseph (P.J.) Smith** of Paragould, **Sarah Stanford**, **Jessica Summers** and **Seth Sumners** of Hector.

"It's always a pleasure to award these scholarships," said Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño. "It's wonderful to know that we're helping in some way to contribute to the



(above) Scholarship recipients pose with Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Commissioner Bob Treviño (back row, far left) and Governor's Commission Executive Director Leonard Boyle (front row, seated).

(below) Commissioner Treviño, Emcee Christina Muñoz of KATV Channel 7, Governor's Commission Chairperson Maureen Strobel, and Leonard Boyle listen to Keynote Speaker Attorney Paul Harrod.



future success of students with disabilities in our state. I know the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Scholarship Committee works very hard to make sure each student is deserving and this year they've done another excellent job."

The GCPD scholarships are made possible through corporate and personal donations. It also receives proceeds provided by Act 1503 – the Handicapped Parking Fines Fund – whereby the Commission receives 27 percent of all funds collected by state law enforcement agencies for illegal parking in handicap/accessible parking spaces throughout Arkansas. The Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities is a program of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

22nd Annual High Schools That Work conference held in Nashville

Department of Workforce Education Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education (CTE) John Davidson and CTE division Associate Director Roderic Duckworth joined 6,000 other attendees, including 384 from 60 schools in Arkansas, to take part in the 22nd Annual High Schools That Work (HSTW) Staff Development Conference July 9-12 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville.

The conference was designed to further inform state, district, school and teacher leaders about practices in high schools and middle schools that will increase high school completion rates and the post-secondary and workplace success of students.

“The main goal of the conference was to highlight what’s working and what’s not working in schools across the country,” Duckworth said.

According to Duckworth, things are working well in Arkansas. Twenty-one teachers or administrators from schools in the Natural State served as presenters in 41 separate sessions during conference – discussing suc-



Duckworth

cessful HSTW programs at their schools. Additionally, four other Arkansas schools received awards for their outstanding programs.

Cabot High School and **Siloam Springs High School** were recognized as Pacesetter Schools for meeting a variety of criteria. Pacesetter Schools deeply implement the HSTW design. They teach students a rigorous curriculum, have high achievement and meet the Adequate Yearly Progress criteria of the federal No Child Left Behind Act or

have a graduation rate of 85 percent or higher according to the most recent state data available. Cabot and Siloam Springs were among 25 schools from 11 states to earn Pacesetter status.

Lake Hamilton High School was recognized with the HSTW Gold Achievement Award for having at least 50 percent of its students earn the HSTW Award of Educational Achievement based on their performance on the 2008 HSTW Assessment and completion of a solid academic core and program of study. Lake Ham-

HSTW continued on page 20

JAG continued from page 13

tain Home High School (Shirley Mershon), Newport High School (Linda Black), North Little Rock High School (Brenda Butler), North Pulaski High School (Gracia Stroud), Ozark High School (Janet Powell), Quitman High School (Jennie Palmer), Sheridan High School (Terri Bone), Springdale High School (Sherrie James), Springdale High School (Britt James) and Sylvan Hills High School (Priscilla Lawson).

Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe is a member of the National Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) Board.

“I congratulate not only our JAG instructors who have put many long hours into the work which has earned this award, but also Marylene Tate, Program Secretary Vada Hopper and Dennis Butler, Technical Specialist from Batesville High School, who created an administrative support team to help instructors meet their goal of winning this award,” DWE Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson said. “I also believe that the impact of having Governor Beebe on the National JAG Board gives not only our agency, but our schools the level of pride that encourages us to set our goals high and do our best to make the governor proud. But the bottom line in all of this is not the 5-of-5 [award], or [having] the governor on the National Board, it is that students have won on this one. The 5-of-5 recognition indicates that our students have achieved, and that they, with the instructors’ support, have not succeeded in just one or two areas, but in five significant areas that indicate their readiness to meet the future challenges of the workforce.”



(l-r) Gladys Godley of McClellan High School in Little Rock, Mary Jacobs of J.A. Fair High School in Little Rock and Dennis Butler of Batesville High School are among four Arkansas teachers recognized as Outstanding JAG Specialists. Not pictured: Eunice Eble, Fort Smith-Northside High School.

Dates to Remember

8/21/2008 - 8/23/2008

Meeting: DECA SAM Conference

Location: Anaheim, California

Attendees: Arkansas DECA Advisors and members

8/29/2008

Meeting: Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center's Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) graduation

Location: HSRC auditorium

Attendees: ACTI graduates, guests, staff

9/4/2008 - 9/5/2008

Meeting: Phi Beta Lambda Executive Council Meeting

Location: Austin Hotel, Hot Springs

Attendees: Arkansas PBL State Officers and their Advisors; Executive Council Members

9/21/2008 - 9/22/2008

Meeting: DECA State Executive Council Meeting

Location: Double Tree Hotel, Little Rock

Attendees: DECA State Officers & Advisors; DECA Executive Council Members

9/24/2008

Meeting: Future Business Leaders of America District V Senior High Fall Conference

Location: University of Central Arkansas, Conway

Attendees: Arkansas FBLA District V Senior High Members and Advisors

9/25/2008

Meeting: FBLA District II Senior High Fall Conference

Location: Southwest Church of Christ, Nettleton

Attendees: Arkansas FBLA Senior High Members and Advisors

Correction

On page 13 of the May-June 2008 Workforce Counselor's article "Raising the Bar," ARA Spring Conference Keynote Speaker Dr. Michael O'Brien was incorrectly cited as Administrator of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services. Dr. O'Brien is currently the Director of the Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Program and an Associate Professor in the Rehabilitation Counseling and Special Education Department of New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

FCCLA continued from page 10

Ward adds that expertise and experience paid off all around for FCCLA Team Arkansas as the state's contingent brought home a total of 24 medals – 18 gold, five silver and one bronze – in the STAR Events.

"Most of the students say the events aren't as tough at Nationals as they are back at home," Ward said. "We have such good trainers and advisors that most everybody feels if they can get past Arkansas they can get a gold. I think the Orlando results bear that out. It makes me proud and it shows what FCCLA in Arkansas is all about. That's getting kids prepared for taking the next step in their futures."

FCCLA is a high school-and middle school-based student organization aimed at promoting personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer sciences education. Focusing on the multiple roles of the family member, wage earner and community leader, members develop skills for life through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communications, practical knowledge and career preparation.

Below is a list of National FCCLA/STAR Event Winners.

Applied Technology, Senior Division – Silver Medal: Jason Howard, Tyler Squires & Ethan Wood, Berryville High School; **Applied Technology, Junior Division** – Gold Medal: Jacee Kremer & Sheyan Vanlandingham, Scranton; **Career Investigation, Senior Division** – Gold Medal: Maggie Good, Alpena High School;

Career Investigation, Junior Division – Silver Medal: Christopher Sparks, Berryville. **Chapter Service-Display, Senior Division** – Gold Medal: Rikkie Cline & Alicia Zolliecoffer, Ozark High School; **Chapter Service-Manual, Senior Division** – Gold Medal: Kenzie Bartholomew & Mallory Jordan, Weiner High School; **Chapter Service-Manual, Junior Division** – Gold Medal: Annsley Davis & Emily Leonard, Monticello Middle School; **Chapter Showcase-Display, Senior Division** – Gold Medal: Miranda Hankins, Elizabeth Snyder & Lettie Rico, Elkins High School.

Chapter Showcase-Display, Junior Division – Gold Medal: Jessica Glass, Siloam Springs Middle School; **Chapter Showcase-Display, Junior Division** – Gold Medal: Elizabeth Crossett & Xavier Richardson, White Hall; **Chapter Showcase-Manual, Junior Division** – Gold Medal: Molly Freel & Skylar Richard, Nashville Junior High School; **Early Childhood-Occupational Division** – Silver Medal: Brittany Bartram, Greenbrier High School; **Entrepreneurship-Senior Division** – Gold Medal: Cassie Despain, Siloam Springs High School.

Entrepreneurship-Junior Division – Gold Medal: Katie Roper & Ivy Schluterman (100% Score), Scranton; **Financial Planning-Senior Division** – Gold Medal: Andrea Martin, Prescott High School; **Focus on Children-Senior Division** – Gold Medal: Angela Redford, County Line High School; **Focus on Children-Junior Division** – Bronze Medal: Kyla Berry, Meg Morita & McKayley Tanner, Bentonville; **Illustrated Talk-Junior Division** – Silver Medal: Savannah Burkett, Sarah Dunham & Ashley Phillips, Scranton.

Job Interview-Senior Division – Gold Medal: Dalia Garrison, Alpena High School; **National Programs in Action-Senior Division** – Gold Medal: Katia Bernal & Jenny Violantes, Siloam Springs High School; **National Programs in Action-Junior Division** – Gold Medal: Sarah Bean, Betsy Faulkner & Treyce Fugitt, Murfreesboro; **Parliamentary Procedure-Senior Division** – Gold Medal: Cassidy Brasel, Shelby Dunlap, Jordan Holt, Clara Slape, Randi Villines & Morgan Vaughan, Jasper; **Parliamentary Procedure-Junior Division** – Gold Medal: KaBecca Brasel, Logan Kelley, Danielle Pomatto, Megan Ricketts, Summer Salazar, Elayna Villines & Staci Vaughan, Jasper; **Recycle and Redesign-Junior Division** – Silver Medal: Ashlyn Webb, Annie Camp Junior High School-Jonesboro.

HSTW continued from page 18

ilton was among 17 schools from 11 states to be honored with the Gold Achievement Award.

Saline County Career Center received the Technology Centers That Work Gold Readiness Award for having 85 percent or more of its students meet at least one readiness goal on the 2008 HSTW Assessment. Additionally, the school placed a strong emphasis on quality career, technical and academic studies. Saline County Career Center was among seven technology centers from four states to receive the Gold Readiness Award.

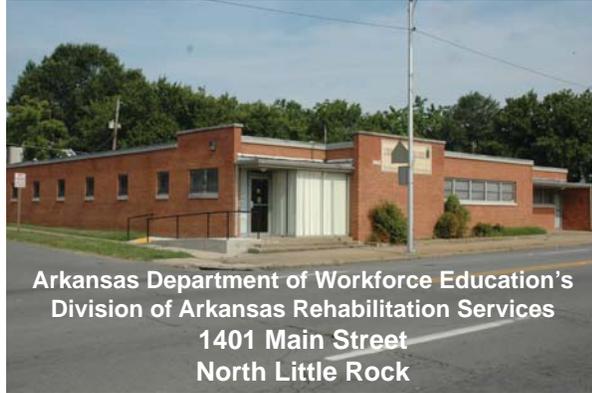
"We all hear a lot of negative things about what's going on in our schools," Duckworth said. "But really, there are a lot of positive things going on in schools all over the country and in schools right here in Arkansas. The evidence of that can be seen in our presence at this conference – by our presenters and by our award winners. Good things are happening in Arkansas schools. Our teachers are doing the right things and our students are doing the right things."

DIRECTOR continued from page 2

Through strong leadership, vision and courage, our agency will promote every avenue and opportunity to raise the bar for those who strive to take their rightful place in our society by assisting them with meaningful career training, technical education and adult education for the 21st century. This is our commitment to fulfilling the "Arkansas Promise."



ARS' Sherwood Field Office moves to North Little Rock



Kiehl Avenue in Sherwood, but agency officials decided the North Little Rock location would be more convenient for existing clients.

Secretary LaTrinda Woodruff says the decision has paid off. "So far, it's been a big hit with everyone who uses the office," Woodruff said. "There's a bus stop right out front. That makes it a lot easier for those clients who use public transportation to get to and from the office. It's much bigger, and there's just more room for everyone to get around once they're inside."

The office opened its doors on June 27, and employees are still making themselves at home in their new digs while improvements are still ongoing.

"We've got a lot to do still," Woodruff said. "We're adding a privacy fence around back. We're also working on a few other things to improve the appearance of the facility."

In the meantime, everything is in place to satisfy the needs of all of the clients who are already quite satisfied by the ease of access the new location has provided. According to ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño, that was goal number one.

"Our Sherwood location was a little difficult for some of our clients to get to," Treviño said. "Now, with the bus stop and the central location, it's much easier for our clients to get to our office and for us to serve them. When we can make things easier for our clients, I think that means we're doing a better job."

Convenience and accessibility are the name of the game at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's newest Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) V-N field office at 1401 Main Street in North Little Rock.

The office was originally located at 208 East



**District V-N Manager
Carl Daughtery**



Latrinda Woodruff, Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services District V-N Secretary, takes a visitor on a tour of the new field office facility.

Brock named to International DECA Board

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE) announced in July that **Business and Marketing Technology Program Advisor and State DECA Advisor Jim Brock was named to a seat on the International DECA Board of Directors.**

Brock's three-year term on the board began on July 1. According to Brock, who has served as Arkansas state DECA advisor for almost seven years, the International DECA Board of Directors functions as the governing body for the student organization. Brock says his duties will include steering policy and procedure, helping to organize competitive events, striving toward innovation within the organization and working with the organization's advisory board.

Brock says his appointment is historic.

"DECA in Arkansas has always been a small, but strong organization," Brock said. "This is the first time anyone from Arkansas has been named to the International DECA Board of Directors. I'm hoping that it will be a positive thing and the organization will grow [in Arkansas]."

Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. says Brock was a logical choice for the position.

"The international DECA organization could not have made a better decision for its Board of Directors than Jim Brock," Walker said. "Under Brock's leadership, DECA in Arkansas has grown and flourished. The student-members honor and admire him and the teacher-advisors respect his knowledge.

"DECA, just like every other career-oriented student organization in our state, is praise-



Jim Brock

worthy because of its efforts in helping to prepare its members for the high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs of the 21st century. Jim is keenly aware that both Arkansas and the nation as a whole require a workforce capable of competing in our global economy. He is likewise aware that DECA is a powerful career preparation tool for students, and he has used that tool skillfully to the benefit of both students and employers. We have been fortunate to have Jim Brock involved with DECA in Arkansas. DECA on

the whole will be fortunate to have him at the international level."

DECA is an international association of high school students studying marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality and marketing sales and service. DECA chapters operate in more than 4,500 high schools across the U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam, Mexico, Germany and Canada. With more than 180,000 members (mostly juniors and seniors), DECA's high school division is recognized and endorsed by all 50 state departments of education and the U.S. Department of Education. In Arkansas, DECA boasts approximately 1,700 members in 35 schools.

DECA programs complement nationally recognized curriculum standards in the classroom and then go further to incorporate realistic educational experiences that are not available through classroom instruction alone. DECA provides specific programs for classroom teachers to use for student development and achievement. These programs can be organized into four categories:

Leadership Development, Community Service, Skill Assessment and Academic Skill Development.



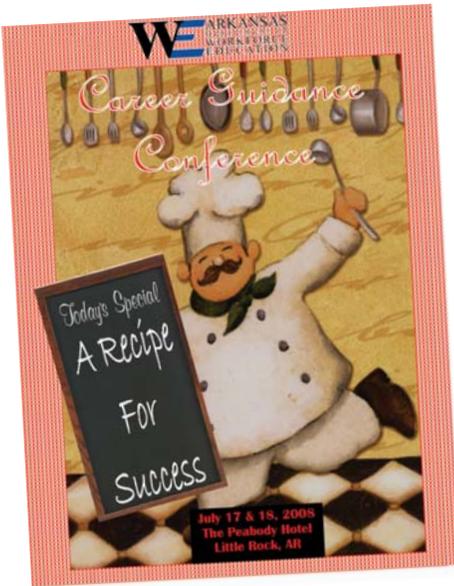
ADA continued from page 4

over the past several years, the Supreme Court has interpreted the Act's language which defines a disability as "an impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities" more narrowly than many advocates believe was intended. In effect, many conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes, cancer, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis have been denied protection under the Act because the conditions, while affecting everyday activities, can be controlled by medication and thus are not considered a "disability." While off medication, which is not a viable solution, an individual might then be considered disabled.

To return to the spirit and the true intent of the original ADA's passage, the U.S. House of Representatives recently voted overwhelmingly to establish a less-stringent standard, saying an impairment qualifies as a disability if it "materially restricts" a major life activity such as seeing, hearing, eating, walking, reading or thinking. It also deletes the original phrase "individuals with disabilities are a discrete and insular minority," which has been applied by the courts to limit the definition of "disabled."

The Senate is expected to pass a similar measure and, while the Executive branch is concerned that the changes "could unduly expand" coverage and significantly increase litigation, a veto is not expected.

Career Guidance Conference cooks up 'Recipe for Success'



Nearly 400 teachers and administrators came to the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock July 17-18 for the Arkansas

Department of Workforce Education's annual Career Guidance Conference entitled "A Recipe for Success."

For the first time, the event involved teachers and administrators from organizations that included a wide variety of Department of Workforce Education (DWE) programs -- Career Orientation, Workplace Readiness, Workforce Technology, Keystone, Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates, STRIVE, Internship, the Arkansas Career Training Institute, Senior Seminar and Career Communications. The Arkansas Career Orientation Teachers' Association was also renamed the Arkansas Career Guidance Association at its annual business meeting.

"Everything went very well," said Ray Henson, DWE Program Man-

ager for Career Guidance, Exploration and Preparation. "We had a lot of positive comments and things really grew."

The first day of the conference included a message from keynote speaker Chad Foster, best-selling author and motivational speaker. Foster also led one of many breakout sessions each day, during which teachers and administrators could get more intimate knowledge on a variety of topics including Job Ready Skills, Teaching Through Sensory Perception & Learning Styles and Motivation, Acquisition and Extension (MAX) Teaching.

"We had so many good sessions that everyone didn't have the opportunity to attend as many as they would have liked to," Henson

RECIPE continued on page 23

Recipe's ingredients include knowledgeable agency facilitators



(top row, l-r): Department of Workforce Education staffers Ginger Fisher, Public School Program Advisor, Sandra Porter, Associate Director for Workforce Training, and Mary Roberts from Wilber Mills Co-op share ideas; Public School Program Advisor Barbara Lensing facilitates a discussion of the MAX teaching strategies; Transportation Education Supervisor Ray Winiiecki holds roundtable discussions with state teachers.

(bottom row, l-r): Career Guidance, Exploration & Preparation Program Manager Ray Henson takes questions at "New Teacher Orientation" session; Public School Program Advisor Barbara Dimon speaks at the roundtable meeting; and Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center ACTI Director Dr. Dawn Simpson discusses career development.



RECIPE continued from page 22

said. "We have teachers from different programs and some of them teach more than one course. Even though we had topics related to a course, they weren't able to attend both. Expanding and having more breakout session opportunities is something we will look at for the future."

Another popular part of the conference was the Roundtable Sessions. Three 15-table sessions took place, where participants migrated to have discussions on various topics. Student organizations such as Future Business Leaders of America and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, and topics such as Hospitality and Tourism, Health Science, Information Technology, Architecture and Communication were among roundtable topics.

"The roundtable sessions are

always very popular because the teachers can learn information and take it right back to the classroom," Henson said.

The conference also featured an all-time high 28 exhibitors, including DWE, Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Kuder, and Performance Learning Systems.

The following were honored during the conference's award luncheon:

Poster contest winners

(1st semester)

- 1st place: Courtney Moore, Coleman Junior High School, Van Buren
- 2nd place: Nicolas Wilkerson, Coleman Junior High School, Van Buren
- 3rd place: Derek Walter, Carl Stuart Middle School, Conway
- 4th place: Jordan Cost, Bob Courtway Junior High School, Conway
- 5th place: Evelia Paz, Russellville Junior High School
- 6th place: Susan Taylor, Russellville Junior High School
- 7th place: Jelani Cole, McRae Middle School, Prescott
- 8th place: Caitlin Morrison, Bob Courtway Junior High School, Conway
- 9th place: Taylor Cotton, Sheridan Middle School
- 10th place: Abby Spence, AHLF Junior High School, Searcy

Poster contest winners

(2nd semester)

- 1st place: Madison Morrow, Cabot Junior High School
- 2nd place: John Hatfield, Russellville Junior High School

PBL continued from page 10

Below is a full list of results of Arkansas competitors.

2008 PBL National Leadership Conference Results

Accounting Analysis & Decision Making – 2nd place: Dany Canady, Harding University, \$400; **Business Decision Making** – 6th place: Huy Do, Laura Hoffman & Pablo Rivera, University of the Ozarks, \$100; **Computer Applications** – 3rd place: Crystal Willis, South Arkansas Community College, \$100; **Desktop Publishing** – 3rd place: Dexter Lawrence & Courtney Neikirk, South Arkansas Community College, \$150; **Economic Analysis & Decision Making** – 1st place: Seth Neller, Harding University, \$500; 7th place: Jennifer Price, University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith.

Financial Analysis & Decision Making – 4th place: Koffi Agbemehin, Hendrix College, \$200; 5th place: Jennifer Price, University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith, \$100. **Financial Concepts** – 3rd place: Koffi Agbemehin, Hendrix College, \$100; **Future Business Executive** – 3rd place: Kristina Treadway, Southern Arkansas University, \$100; **Future Business Teacher** – 2nd place: Diana Aguirre, University of the Ozarks, \$200; **Information Management** – 3rd place: Marivi Davila, University of the Ozarks, \$100; 6th place: Deborah Poyner, North Arkansas College.

International Business – 5th place: Marcos Melendez, University of the Ozarks, \$100; 6th place: Rachel Burchfield, Williams Baptist College; **Local Chapter Annual Business Report** – 3rd place: Southern Arkansas University, \$100; 8th place: North Arkansas College; **Management Concepts** – 1st place: Geral Vasquez, Marivi Davila & Juan Paz, University of the Ozarks, \$1,500; 9th place: Martha Vasquez, David Rivas & Valerie Petty, University of the Ozarks, \$100; **Partnership with Business** – 2nd place: Grant Toms, Southern Arkansas University, \$200; 5th place: Dallas Haas, Lindsey Steiger & Jaquelyn Porter, University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith. **Public Speaking** – 3rd place: Derek Glover, Harding University, \$300.

Arkanian Enterprise Project – 3rd place: Kristina Treadway, Southern Arkansas University; 4th place: Enyinnaya Inyama & Judith Lopez, University of the Ozarks; **Business Communication** – 9th place: Matt Jeffrey, Williams Baptist College; **Business Ethics** – 5th place: Rachel Burchfield, Matt Jeffrey & Jessica Sheffield, Williams Baptist College; **Business Law** – 5th place: Victoria Rech, Harding University; 7th place: Colby Pierce, Uni-

versity of Arkansas-Ft. Smith; **Community Service Project** – 4th place: Tabith Sullins & Kristina Setzer, North Arkansas College; 6th place: Hannah Cross & Casey Maxey, University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith; **Contemporary Sports Issues** – 1st place: Christopher Allred, North Arkansas College; **Emerging Business Issues** – 2nd place: Dallas Haas, Casey Maxey & Jaquelyn Porter, University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith.

Help Desk – 4th place: Reid Rogers, Williams Baptist College; 7th place – Aaron Bueg, North Arkansas College; **Human Resources Management** – 4th place: Tyler Jones & Jessica Sheffield, Williams Baptist College; **Marketing Analysis & Decision Making** – 7th place: Paul Brown, Williams Baptist College; **Marketing Concepts** – 7th place: Paul Brown, Andy Miller & Kendra Partee, Williams Baptist College. **Network Design** – 8th place: Aaron Bueg & Brook McVay, North Arkansas College.

Parliamentary Procedure – 5th place: Ashton Peters, Jessica Cone, Enyinnaya Inyama & Daniela Bermudez, University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith, North Arkansas College & University of the Ozarks. **Sales Presentation** – 5th place: Tyler Jones, Williams Baptist College. **Telecommunications** – 6th place: Adam Choate, South Arkansas Community College. **Who's Who in PBL** – Ashley Keymer, North Arkansas College; Casey Maxey, University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith.

State Chapter Event – 2nd place: Largest State Membership, Arkansas. 2nd place: Largest State Chapter Membership-Professional Division, Arkansas. Southern Region Award – 2nd place: Largest State Chapter Membership, Arkansas. 2nd place: Largest State Chapter Membership-Professional Division, Arkansas.

Career & Membership Achievement Program – Director Level: Tabitha Sullins, North Arkansas College; Tonya Pemberton, North Arkansas College; Adam Choate, South Arkansas Community College; Cindy Duncan, South Arkansas Community College; Donna Bone, South Arkansas Community College; Jody Pyle, South Arkansas Community College; Sarah Smith, South Arkansas Community College; Kristina Treadway, Southern Arkansas University; Sarah Hannegan, Southern Arkansas University; Nana-Hauwa Bawa, Southern Arkansas University; Mayra Hoch, University of the Ozarks. Executive Level: Kristina Setzer, North Arkansas College, Tabitha Sullins, North Arkansas College; Cindy Duncan, South Arkansas Community College. President Level: Ashley Keymer, North Arkansas College; Hannah Cross, University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith.

Recognition – Advisor of the Year: Donna Hendricks, South Arkansas Community College.

3rd place: Mykie Rodriguez, Carl Stuart Middle School, Conway

4th place: Jenny Courtway, Bob Courtway Middle School, Conway

5th place: Kevin Jones, AHLF Junior High School, Searcy

6th place: Karen Lee, Bob Courtway Middle School, Conway

7th place: Heather Blalack, Hector

8th place: Ashton Barborek, Russellville Junior High School

9th place: Briana Heard, St Joe

10th place: Deidra Collins, Booneville Junior High School

Career Orientation Multimedia Contest

1st place: Piggott High School, Penny Veal instructor

2nd place: Rivercrest Junior High, Instructor Gary Johnson

3rd place: Dover Middle School, Instructor Sharla Hartzell

Scrapbook Contest

1st place: East Poinsett County, Payton Weathers, Instructor

2nd place: Dover Middle School, Sharla Hartzell, Instructor

3rd place: Conner-McGehee Junior High, Brandi Anthony, Instructor

Community Service Project

1st place: Carl Stuart Middle School, Tamara McCollum

2nd place: Mansfield Middle School, Crystal Sexton, Instructor

3rd place: Conner McGehee Junior High, Brandi Anthony, Instructor

2007-2008 Arkansas Career Orientation Teachers' Association "Teacher of the Year"

Crystal Sexton, Mansfield Middle School

Arkansas Career Guidance Association new officers

Past President : Ray Henson

President: Sharon Clark, Goza Middle School, Arkadelphia

President Elect: Sharla Hartzell, Dover Middle School

Secretary/Treasurer: Shantele Raper, Osceola Academic Center of Excellence

Reporter: Tamara McCollum, Carl Stuart Middle School

Northwest District Vice President: Misty Gassaway, Mountainburg Middle School

Northeast District Vice President: Kristi Morrison, AHLF Junior High School, Searcy

Southwest District Vice President: Amanda Bulger, Ramsey Junior High School, Fort Smith

Southeast District Vice President: Brandi Anthony, Conner McGehee Junior High School, McGehee

Who is Deshondrick Vazquez?



- 1 Wife and Mother
- 2 Danville Resident
- 3 Store Clerk
- 4 GED Graduate
- 5 All of the Above

Deshondrick Vazquez dropped out of high school to start a family. She was hoping to earn a diploma by home schooling but her plans did not work for her. Because she wanted to be a good role model for her children, Deshondrick enrolled in classes at Danville Adult Learning Center to prepare for the GED Tests. In a short time, she earned her Arkansas High School Diploma. Now with the necessary credentials, Deshondrick plans to begin college soon.

Learn how the GED tests can work for you. Contact the Department of Workforce Education Adult Education/GED division at 501-682-1980, or visit us on the web at <http://dwe.arkansas.gov>

Mature. Motivated. And ready to prove it.


prove yourself



James Smith
Deputy Director for
Adult Education
Arkansas Department of
Workforce Education

SMT *Update*

We are pleased to finally have a new adult education funding formula working for our adult education programs based upon performance. The funding formula committee was comprised of legislators, members of the governor's staff, staff from the Department of Workforce Education's Division of Adult Education and the finance office. The foundation of the formula is based on contact hours and the performance side is calculated on educational gains, passing the General Education Development (GED) test, Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™) Certificates, entering employment, entering post-secondary education and other criteria established by the Department of Workforce Education's Adult Education Division with advisement from the Arkansas Adult Education Advisory Committee. At our last meeting, the committee suggested the figures to request for funding from the legislature to make the formula work better for the citizens it is designed to serve.

In the spring of 2008, the new funding formula was implemented and \$500,000 was dispersed across the current adult education programs with instructions to hire personnel and provide services. The funds were utilized to hire 90 new part-time instructor and para-professional positions. This enabled more students access to adult education services.

The Adult Education Corrective Action Plan has been accepted by

the Federal Review team. We are dispersing the 2008-2009 federal funds through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The program policies and procedures are being reviewed in preparation to send to the federal office for approval. A public hearing will be held with final approval by the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities, while dealing with a projected revenue short fall of \$828,500 along with a \$75,000 federal dollar reduction.

There is nothing like a good challenge and we sure have had our share over the past 10 months. But, that is what it is all about. Adult Education is comprised of a great team of state staff, local adult education administrators and teachers stepping up to meet the challenge. What a great statewide team!

There has been a tremendous amount of work and effort these past months by the state staff on the white paper for the legislative budget requests for the Department of Workforce Education. It has been a great learning experience for each of us in writing different sections to bring forth a document that tells it like it is. We need funding in order to meet the increasing needs of adults seeking to gain a better quality of life. The Adult Education mission is to improve academic skills and/or earn the GED, which is a cornerstone for success in any endeavor toward entering employment, retaining or improving employment or a post-secondary degree. The basic academic skills are the foundation needed to build

toward success and adult education services offered that second chance to 51,000 adults last year through the Department of Workforce Education's Adult Education Division.

One of my management responsibilities is with the Department of Workforce Education's Federal Surplus Property Program (FSP). The call was made for furniture at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center and three weeks later the furniture arrived. DWE/FSP secured 10 tractor-trailer trucks full of oak bedroom furniture including desks, tables, chairs, beds and wardrobe cabinets. There was enough furniture for 120 rooms. The DWE/FSP management, truck drivers, office staff and warehouse staff really stepped up to the plate to make this occur. This is a good example of the working relationships between the divisions under the supervision of the Department of Workforce Education.

DWE/FSP, located at 1800 Remount Road in North Little Rock, helps hundreds of agencies every year with great personal property selections. Call (501) 835-3111 for more information and an application.

In closing, I want to share with you a guiding principal I have used at the Department of Workforce Education since 1985 when I found this in print. Visit my office and you will see this sitting on my desk.

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, who strives valiantly, who knows the

SMT continued on page 25

Spotlight on General Education Development Test



Janice Hanlon

While those who take and pass the General Education Development (GED) test in Arkansas are making it easier to get a good job or extend their education, the reason half of those who took the test in 2007 gave as motivation to take the test was, "personal satisfaction."

"The GED test gives people an additional opportunity to obtain their high school diploma, but there's a great sense of pride in it, too," Arkansas Department of Workforce Education GED Program Manager Janice Hanlon said.

The Arkansas GED Testing Program serves anyone who is at least 16 years old, not enrolled in or graduated from high school and who has met other state requirements regarding residency and testing eligibility. The test is designed to measure knowledge and skills that are usually learned in high school classes and is broken up into five areas -- writing, social studies, science, reading and mathematics.

"People drop out of school for a variety of reasons," Hanlon said. "It might be family reasons or the person is bored with school. This program gives them the opportunity to earn the Arkansas High School Diploma."

Typically, someone who wants to take the GED test will enroll in an adult education program and begin receiving the instruction and tutoring necessary to be prepared for the test. A practice test must be taken and passed before someone can attempt the GED test for the first time. The test can be taken up to three times in each area during a calendar year.

SMT continued from page 24

great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best, knows the triumph of a higher achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." -- Theodore Roosevelt.

I look forward to the challenges ahead and the success of meeting them. What a neat job we all have serving the citizens of Arkansas.

"It's not an easy test," Hanlon said. "In fact, it's set up where only 60 percent of graduating high school seniors can pass the GED test the first time they take it. It's been designed so it covers the main areas that a person would learn in a regular, traditional high school. So if someone takes and passes the test, it shows they have those skills that a person would have if they graduated high school."

Of the 8,179 who took the test in Arkansas in 2007, 6,907 (84 percent) passed it. The largest age group who took the test was 17-year-olds at 1,644. The numbers of those taking the test declined substantially after age 20, but 278 people aged 40-44 and 184 people aged 45-49 took the test in 2007. In fact, 32 people aged 60 and over also took the test last year - with 25 passing - and 181 who took the test had not completed any grade level of schooling.

"We have the opportunity to attend three or four graduations a year and it's always really special to see an older person get their diploma," Hanlon said. "They are always so proud and it frequently makes your eyes water and tear up a bit."

Those who enroll in adult education classes to prepare for the test are evaluated to decide whether someone just needs to brush up on certain skills or whether they need more intense instruction. GED study guides are also available at various libraries and bookstores across the state. Test accommodations are also available for those with physical, emotional, mental or learning disabilities. Accommodations might include extra time, frequent breaks, a private testing room or using an audio version of the test.

"The test is difficult and it's long," Hanlon said. "It's just over seven hours long if you just went through the whole thing. That's why we have the practice test that someone must pass, so they are prepared and know what to expect."

The GED test can help someone move to the next level, whether that is college, technical training or a better job. For most employers, colleges and universities and branches of the military, passing the GED test proves that someone is ready for the challenge, Hanlon said.

"In some cases, we get responses from employers who say that if they have a person who has passed the GED test, they know they have a certain level of skills and abilities that maybe someone who has graduated from high school doesn't have," she said.

Spotlight on Apprenticeship

On-the-job training during or directly out of high school or college paired with the ability to obtain a high-demand, high-paying job make the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Apprenticeship program increasingly popular.

"Apprenticeship is important because it trains in an effective way," said Jonathan Bibb, Department of Workforce Education (DWE) Apprenticeship Program Manager. "Apprenticeship is designed so training is used on a day-to-day basis. And you can give back to the system if you are helping to build infrastructure in the state."

Apprenticeship is a structured system of training designed to prepare individuals for occupations in skilled trades and crafts. Apprenticeship combines related classroom instruction with on-the-job training under the supervision of experienced workers. An apprentice must complete a four-year program of 144 hours of technical training with 2,000 hours of on-the-job training.

There are more than 800 apprenticeable occupations. A large percentage of participants are plumbers and construction workers, but opportunities are constantly expanding into new fields such as health services, energy and textile occupations. The beginning wages for apprentices are approximately 50 percent of those earned by skilled workers, but are increased periodically as progress is made.

"The interesting thing about apprenticeship is that you are employed first," Bibb said. "Anyone in the program is employed and there is a contractual agreement between the applicant and contractor to maintain employment within a specification of the agreement."

Apprenticeship training in Arkansas has grown significantly since

the last funding increase that took place in 1993, when funding was increased to its current level of \$1.95 million. The cost to operate and improve apprenticeship programs has also increased dramatically since 1993. This is due to the increase in the number of apprentices, as well as the increased costs of program improvements due to inflation.

At the time of the last budget increase, the apprentices numbered fewer than 1,000 in Arkansas. Currently, that number stands at nearly 6,000, a growth rate of more than 500 percent.

"We know there is a need for additional programs," Bibb said. "We've had substantial growth and haven't had any increase in money that we could budget. We struggle to obtain additional funding, but it's important to show that we have support for additional funding from our partners in the business community and our association with general contractors and the unions."

All apprenticeship programs require applicants to be at least 16 years old and physically able to perform the job. All companies prefer and most require a high school diploma or equivalent. Some training beyond high school may enhance opportunities in apprenticeship programs and allow apprentices to progress through a program more quickly and easily.

"There are youth apprenticeship programs that have been very beneficial in getting apprenticeships a head start," Bibb said. "Youth apprentices get recruited in the 10th grade and start working in the 11th and 12th grade.

"It gives an opportunity for those who may not be college-bound, but want to get in the trades to get a head start," Bibb said. "That said, it is not for your 'D' and 'F' students. Those accepted must attend school regularly and have a good GPA.

They are interviewed to see if they are a good student."

In the 2008 fiscal year, there were 95 apprenticeship programs in the state, including 10 in Little Rock alone. Of those, 40 were in the electrical field, 35 in plumbing and eight in carpentry.

"The construction trade is one that is really looking for new people to come in," Bibb said. "We're learning that it is projected that by 2010 there is going to be a huge loss of the labor pool in the construction trade, so there is a great opportunity within a four-year period to get involved in construction for very competitive pay."

The future demand for workers will likely outpace the number of qualified employees, Bibb said.

"We have to have the trained craftspeople who can meet the needs that are coming," he said. "If you don't have infrastructure then there's no way you are going to compete economically in the world. If we don't have the people in these fields then we are going to short-change ourselves. We'll have to bring in people from other states to come in and complete the jobs that will be here. We want to have the people here trained to do the jobs. We want to build with our own."

For more information on Apprenticeship, contact the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Apprenticeship and Construction Training department, Jonathan Bibb, Program Manager, at 501-682-4215, or e-mail jonathan.bibb@arkansas.gov.



Jonathan Bibb



Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

Jack Justus, Chairman, Searcy, AR; **Phil Taylor**, Vice Chairman, Jonesboro, AR; **Richard Smith**, Tillar, AR; **Kathy Scarsdale**, Harrison, AR; **Lucy Ralston**, Fayetteville, AR; **Martha Dixon**, Arkadelphia, AR; **Justin Mitchell**, Little Rock, AR

Administration

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Director; **Robert P. Treviño**, Commissioner for Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services; **John L. Davidson**, Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education; **James Smith**, Deputy Director for Adult Education; **Charles Brown**, Deputy Director for Finance; **Reginald L. Jackson**, Deputy Director for Communications; **Ken Musteen**, Chief of Field Services/Associate Director for Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services; **Barbara Lewis**, Associate Director/Administrator of Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center; **Roderic Duckworth**, Associate Director for Career and Technical Education; **Sandra Porter**, Associate Director for Workforce Training; **John Wright**, Chief Financial Officer/Associate Director for Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services; **Roy Albert**, Associate Director/Program, Planning Development & Evaluation for Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services; **Jim Moreland**, Associate Director for Special Programs for Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services; **Pamela D. Harris**, Human Resources Administrator

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

Three Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1083
501-682-1500
501-682-1509 fax
<http://dwe.arkansas.gov>

Division of Rehabilitation Services Central Office

1616 Brookwood Drive
Little Rock, AR 72202
501-296-1600 (V/TTY)
800-330-0632 (V/TTY)
www.arsinfo.org

Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center
501-624-4411



Three Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201-1083

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LITTLE ROCK, AR
PERMIT #171