

May - June 2008

the Workforce Counselor

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



BLUE JACKETS

Bright Futures



FFA Holds 81st Convention at Camp Couchdale

More than 900 Arkansas FFA members descended on Camp Couchdale near Hot Springs June 3-7 to celebrate the student organization's 81st annual state convention.

Borrowing from FFA's most recognizable and enduring trademark, the 2008 convention was appropriately themed "Blue Jackets, Bright Futures" and featured four days of learning, fun, socializing and leadership skills showcases.

"To see the young people react and do the positive things they did during the week was just special," Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE) Agricultural Science and Technology Program Manager Marion Fletcher said. "What we saw during this convention was premiere leadership and personal growth. These kids will have success in life."

In separate addresses, Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe and DWE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. emphasized that each member could pave his or her own road to a successful future.

"It's been fascinating to watch the role of FFA



Governor Mike Beebe encourages FFA members during his address at the 81st Annual Convention at Camp Couchdale.

evolve over the years," Director Walker said. "From its original purpose of preparing young men and women for a life as our nation's farmers to its function today in developing students for competent and assertive agricultural leadership, FFA continues to produce students

FFA continued on page 22

ARS & ARA hold annual Spring Training Conference

RAISING the BAR

May 21 - 23, 2008 * Arlington Hotel * Hot Springs, Arkansas

The Arkansas Rehabilitation Association (ARA), in partnership with the Department of Workforce Education's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) held its annual Spring Training Conference May 21 - 23 at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs.

ARA President David McDonald explained that this year's theme, "Raising the Bar," held immediate relevance "to both the future of rehabilitation's national outlook, and to our state's commitment to advance the mission of improving the lives of people with disabilities."

Speaking to the 221 attendees assembled for Wednesday's opening session, Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. commended those whose dedication moves

ARS/ARA continued on page 13



Director's Update

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.

Director

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

My philosophy for the Department of Workforce Education can be summed up in very simple terms – raise the bar.

We have pulled together as one unit, one family with one vision and one voice to improve the level of service this agency provides to the people of Arkansas. We now stand at a point where we have a chance to raise that bar even higher and offer the people of Arkansas an unprecedented level of service.

Our agency's senior management team has just completed a white paper outlining where our agency is, where we need to be and the funding necessary to get us there. The report, which has been shared with Gov. Mike Beebe, describes in detail our agency's requirements, goals and plans for preparing the people of Arkansas for the high-skill, high-tech and high-wage careers of the 21st century global economy.

The white paper lays out a plan which we call "**The Arkansas Promise.**" In short, "**The Arkansas Promise**" is a blueprint for providing our state with the best-trained, best-educated and most-efficient workforce available while working with business and industry to offer a true assessment of an employee's abilities, skills, and training.

While celebrating our agency's myriad of accomplishments, the white paper specifically points out the need for an overall funding in-

crease for our agency. Each of the agency's divisions requires additional staff, expanded or improved programs, new equipment and facility upgrades to continue to reach our goals and properly serve our clients. None of these additions and improvements can be made without adequate funding.

"**The Arkansas Promise**" is a bold plan, but a bold plan is necessary to provide Arkansas with a comprehensive system of lifelong learning opportunities that support our state's economic development efforts. Gov. Beebe understands that a well-educated and well-trained workforce is key to a successful economic future in Arkansas. I am very hopeful that the governor and legislators will be supportive of our proposals now and when legislative budget hearings begin in October.

I have every faith in the work we do at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education. Our programs allow Arkansans to develop the skills they need to go to work and earn good livings for themselves and their families. We're reaching more and more people everyday, and that will ultimately result in more and better jobs for our state. We will fulfill "The Arkansas Promise." The white paper and the additional funding it requests are just the beginning.

On a separate note, I had the pleasure of attending the 81st An-



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



Focus on Kathy Scarsdale

**Member, State Board of Workforce
Education and Career Opportunities**



Scarsdale

As vice-president of Arkansas Products Company in Harrison – a family company which has been manufacturing hardwood floors since 1945 – State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO) member Kathy Scarsdale is passionate about the need for education and training to

prepare students and adults for the workforce.

Whether it is Career & Technical Education, Adult Education or Vocational Rehabilitation, Scarsdale's goal as a board member is to help make decisions that will continue to improve and modernize equipment and other tools necessary to provide the best education possible.

"I want to see us continue to work hard to make sure we are upgrading the areas that need it," Scarsdale said. "I want us to spend our money in the best possible way to educate the kids and adults to help them in every way possible."

Improvement in Vocational Rehabilitation and upgrades to equipment and teaching resources in Career and Technical Education are vital, Scarsdale said.

"I am so pleased that we are upgrading facilities with our vocational training program," she said. "We are getting the program on the same level as other vocational training programs. It will give our students the same benefits and opportunities as the other training facilities in the state. That is so important."

Scarsdale has been a member of SBWECO since 2003. She is past president of the Arkansas Wood Manufacturers Association and currently serves on its board. Through her work, she has been active with job fairs, plant tours, job shadowing, classroom presentations, the DECA career and technical student organi-

SCARSDALE continued on page 4

Dates to Remember

Federal Surplus Property will be closed for inventory **June 27 - July 4.** FSP will reopen Monday, July 7.

FCCLA National Leadership Meeting July 11 - 18. Shingle Creek Resort Hotel, Orlando, FL. Attendees: registered FCCLA members, advisers, administrators and guests.

Career Guidance Recipes for Success Conference. July 17 - 18. Peabody Hotel Little Rock. Attendees: teachers, principals, counselors, CTE Coordinators.

AR SkillsUSA Chapter Management Training: July 20 - 26. National Park Community College/Hot Springs, AR. Attendees: new advisers.

Family and Consumer Sciences Conference. July 21 - 23. Arkansas 4-H Center, Ferndale, AR. Attendees: Registered FACS teachers.

Family and Consumer Sciences - Content Specific. July 24 - 25. Arkansas 4-H Center, Ferndale, AR. Attendees: Registered FACS teachers.

Agriculture Education Professional Development. July 29-August 1. Camp Couchdale, Hot Springs, AR. Attendees: Agriculture-instructors.

Family and Consumer Sciences Conference. July 21 - 23. Arkansas 4-H Center, Ferndale, AR. Attendees: Registered FACS teachers.

Board Members Gather for Meeting during FFA Convention



National FFA Organization Treasurer Marion Fletcher (center) welcomes SBWECO board members Phil Taylor and Lucy Ralston to Camp Couchdale during Arkansas state FFA Convention June 5.



What You Should Know

Arkansas Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Programs (AFP)

Barbara Gullett, *Program Administrator*

The Department of Workforce Education Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program (AFP) provides Arkansans with disabilities access to extended-term, below-market interest rate loans for the purchase of assistive technology. AFP is a loan (*note: loan, not grant*) program provided in partnership by the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS), the Arkansas Development Finance Authority and the governor-appointed Technology Equipment Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

To be eligible for AFP, an individual must be an Arkansas resident with a disability in need of assistive technology. For program purposes, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. These activities include things such as seeing, hearing, walking, reaching, communicating, learning, working or living independently. Assistive technology includes devices or services that help people with disabilities live more independently and productively and improve quality of life at work, at school, at home or in recreation and leisure activities. Some examples of this equipment include wheelchairs, motorized scooters, Braille equipment, hearing and visual aids, telecommunication systems, augmentative

communication systems, adaptive peripherals, environmental control units, home modifications, vehicle modifications, etc.

Individuals who may not qualify under traditional loan programs could be eligible under AFP. Even if an applicant is unemployed or has poor credit, they may qualify for the program. Under AFP, circumstances unique to each person's credit history are taken into consideration. The minimum or maximum amount a person can borrow is based upon their ability to repay and the cost/value of the equipment or service acquired. The interest rates offered by AFP at the time the loan is accepted is fixed for the duration

of the loan with repayment terms based on the amount borrowed and the expected useful life of the item purchased.

For additional information or to receive an application packet regarding the Arkansas Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program, please contact:

Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Alternative Financing Program

Barbara Gullett
26 Corporate Hill
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
Telephone: 501-683-3000
barbara.gullett@arkansas.gov

SCARSDALE *continued from page 3*

zation and is working with a new wood apprenticeship program. She also volunteered for several civic and charitable organizations, including the Circle of Friends of Arkansas Children's Hospital, the Boy Scouts of America, the United Way and the Harrison Chamber of Commerce.

"I believe that sometimes education misses some people and by having the technical education, it allows people to be trained for very good jobs," Scarsdale said. "I've seen young people who were not interested in school, but you get them on a piece of machinery or in the workplace and they see how good they are at it, and they get excited about being productive in the workplace."

Continuing to spread the word about the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education is also key, Scarsdale said.

"I saw some photos of Adult Education students who have recently graduated and it was so great to see that," she said. "I just don't think that a lot of people realize this aspect of education is so important. We do and will continue to address that."

HSRC Happenings

HSRC Dietary Services and UCA interns join forces

The Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center's Dietary Services Department has joined forces with the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) in Conway to educate dietetic interns in the field of large-scale food production.

During the last week of May, the department hosted three UCA dietary services interns who worked with both staff and students. Rachel Schichtl and Katie Roberson are both students at UCA in their first internship rotation. Schichtl has already earned one Master's degree, but decided to earn her second in dietetics. It is her dream to work as a consultant dietitian while she continues to raise her two young

daughters.

Roberson graduated from a culinary arts institute, but wanted to increase her knowledge so she can be a very qualified food service director, which is her goal for the future.

Ashley Rountree is in her second and final rotation as an intern and is due to graduate in August with a Master's degree in dietetics. Rountree hopes to attain work following graduation at one of Hot Springs' hospitals as a registered dietitian.

HSRC Dietary Services Director Jane Campbell and UCA Family and Consumer Science Department Dietetic Internship Director Debie Head developed a memorandum of agreement allowing HSRC's nutrition department to serve as a clinical laboratory for future interns assigned to it. HSRC faculty will provide instruction and supervision of the interns and ensure proper application of dietetic principles and theory. This memorandum of agreement was signed and placed into effect on September 19, 2007, by Barbara Lewis, HSRC Administrator.

All involved hope the service will continue for years to come.

Campbell says that the experience is a win-win situation for all concerned. "HSRC benefits from the energy and enthusiasm the interns bring to the department, not to mention their obvious wealth of knowledge and new methods for patient nutritional care and standards being taught in their Masters' programs. The in-

terns benefit from their experience at HSRC by actually watching a fully operational, large-scale dietary department in action."

Food Service aids Red Cross

Residents in Hot Springs awoke April 4 to a flood that necessitated evacuation of numerous homes, including a 20-unit apartment building. Area Red Cross volunteers worked all night moving these storm victims to wait out the weather at a local church.



Charles Brown (above, in red jacket, with Jane Campbell and HSRC Food Service staff), HSRC instructor as well as a 16-year volunteer for the area Red Cross, contacted Campbell when local emergency services asked if something could be done to feed the volunteers who had been working throughout the night on evacuation duty. With the approval of HSRC Administrator Barbara Lewis, Campbell and her dietary staff gladly put together full breakfasts for about 15 tired and hungry Red Cross volunteers.

"We were happy to do what we could," said Campbell. "It's all a part of what we're here to do anyway - assisting those who may need a helping hand on occasion."



(top) HSRC Dietary Director Jane Campbell (second from left) with UCA interns (l-r) Rachel Schichtl, Ashley Rountree and Katie Roberson. (bottom) HSRC Dietary Services staff pose with interns from the University of Central Arkansas.



Arkansas Students attend International Career Development Conference

Eighty-six Arkansas students made up our state's contingent at the **DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta April 26-30.**

Even though no Arkansan placed in any of the competitive events at the conference, state DECA advisor Jim Brock says they're all to be commended.

"I thought they all did really well," Brock said. "They acted professionally and competed well. We had several make the finals and several make the top 10 percent."

DECA is an international association of high school and college students studying marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality and marketing sales and service. Arkansas's students were among approximately 15,000 members, advisors, business persons and alumni from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, Canada, Mexico and Germany who attended the International Career Development Conference.

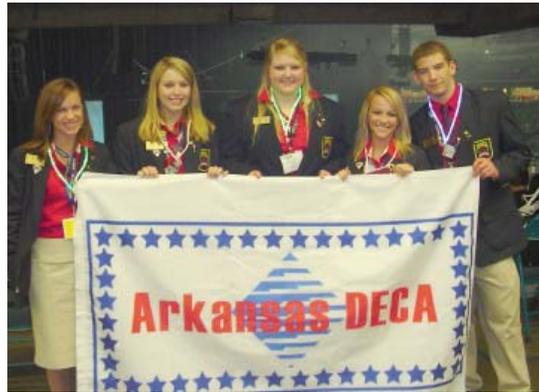
Congratulations to all who participated!

The following is a list of Arkansas students who ended the competition as an event finalist or received special recognition in an event:

Finalists – Hospitality Team Decision Making: Lauren Ragland & Lydia Senko, Stuttgart; **Hospitality Marketing Research:** Jessica Chitwood, Alma

Special Recognition – Apparel & Accessories Marketing: Isela Mercado-Uloa-Mercado; Springdale **Business Law and Ethics Team Decision Making:** Amanda Clark, Rachel Munson; Alma **Business Law and Ethics Team Decision Making:** Robert Lord, Daniel Smiley; Harrison **Business Law and Ethics Team Decision Making:** Justin Dupree, Carissa Vaughn; Stuttgart **Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making:** Breanna Goforth, Kali Padilla; Alma

Creative Marketing Project: Maeliegh Mauldin; **Alma Entrepreneurship Written:** Nick Nolan; Stuttgart **Internet Marketing Team Decision Making:** Andrew Blumhardt, Tyler Dallison; Bentonville **Marketing Man-**



Arkansas Delegation to the DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta

agement: Bryan Rivera; Bentonville **Public Relations Project:** Chelsi Bond, Mackenzie Ingold, Mackenzie Meadors; Alma; Jessica Dean, Grant Jones, Caitilyn Sears; Alma

Retail Merchandising: Cassie Patterson; Alma **Retail Merchandising Series:** Erin Mullins; Alma **Sports and Entertainment Marketing:** Riley Sokora; Fayetteville **Sports and Entertainment Team Decision Making:** Logan Perryman, John Tyson; Har-Ber; Michael Bardwell, Corey Porter;

Stuttgart Technical Sales: Michael Lech; Alma **Travel and Tourism Marketing Management:** Anna Lee Carter, Mackenzie Dardenne; Stuttgart.

State STRIVE Meeting Held

Teachers and administrators from nine Arkansas schools met recently at the Department of Workforce Education's (DWE) office in Little Rock to discuss the Students and Teachers Responsibly Integrating Vocational Education (STRIVE) program.

STRIVE is a high school course developed to help meet the specific academic needs of at-risk ninth-and tenth-grade career and technical education students who have met specific barriers to success. The course integrates a student's vocational and academic skills and then uses a "hands-on" learning approach. STRIVE also utilizes various teaching strategies that are meant to address a variety of learning styles.

Department of Workforce Education Support for Special Populations Public School Program Advisor and STRIVE Program Manager Marylene Tate led the discussion which touched on topics that included STRIVE frameworks revisions, plans for instructor refresher training and technical innovations that are currently available. DWE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. attended the meeting

STRIVE continued on page 7

Alpena FFA students recognized for agriscience work



Senior Dalia Garrison was named Agriscience Student of the Year

The top two Agriscience Fair students in Arkansas showcased years of hard work during a visit to Little Rock on May 19.

Senior Dalia Garrison and sophomore Maggie Good, both of Alpena High School, displayed their research projects at the Arkansas Department of Education, where

two judges from UALR's College of Education chose Garrison's project as the top in the state, giving her the honor as Agriscience Student of the Year.

Both students will represent Arkansas in a national agriscience competition at the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis this October.

"The reason we do this is to promote to the public that agriculture involves a lot of science," Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Public School Program Advisor Bruce Lazarus said. "We include science in classroom instruction, and this is a prime example of the integration of science into the curriculum. Ag students aren't just farmers and gardeners, but they are also scientists."

The winning presentation by Garrison, titled "Plant Mania, Phase VI," focused on cotton plants in Arkansas and how water and temperature stress affects them. The pre-



Sophomore Maggie Good demonstrates Lady Lifter Phase 3

sentation, which is the culmination of six years of work that began when Garrison was in seventh grade, included reports, charts, graphs, photos and a Powerpoint presentation.

Good's project, "Lady Lifter, Phase 3," was a mechanical device meant to assist females in changing flat tires. Good developed and

ALPENA continued on page 17

STRIVE continued from page 6

and praised the group for its dedication to the at-risk student population the STRIVE program reaches. DWE Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson also attended to recommend funding ideas for the program.

Currently, STRIVE is offered at the following 15 Arkansas high schools: Dermott, Dumas, Little Rock-Hall, Highland, Nettleton, Pine Bluff, Wilson-Rivercrest, Searcy, Star City, Stuttgart and Warren.



Marylene Tate (standing, left) DWE Public School Program Advisor for the Support for Special Populations division, hosts teachers and administrators at the DWE offices in Little Rock for recent STRIVE meeting.

Students Compete in Ford/AAA Auto Skills Challenge



Contestants at the Ford/AAA Auto Skills Challenge in Batesville race to their workstations to begin the competition on April 30.

This year's Arkansas **Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Challenge** was the most competitive in state history. So says Department of Workforce Education Division of Career and Technical Education Office of Skilled and Technical Sciences Program Manager Dick Burchett.

Huntsville High School students George Villines and Colby Willis walked away with first-place honors after defeating nine other two-person teams in the automotive technology contest held at Batesville's Mark Martin Ford on April 30.

After completing a written exam, the teams of 11th and 12th graders were given a work order and 75 minutes to repair a 2008 Ford Escape that was deliberately and identically disabled. In addition to being unable to start, each car had ignition problems, inoperative lights, blown fuses and other problems that affected the smooth performance of the engine.

Nine of 10 teams fixed their cars in the allotted time, an achievement that left Burchett in awe.

"This was the first time in the history of this event we had nine out of 10 teams make it to final judging," said Burchett. "That's an incredible record. The closest we ever came was getting seven out of 10."

As winners of the state contest, Villines and Willis will receive their choices of scholarships from four technical institutes for a combined total of \$30,000 and a scholarship to Ford's ASSET program which includes continued education in automotive technology and a paid apprenticeship with a Ford dealership.

"I want to thank the sponsors for the kind of opportunities they give the students," said Burchett. "Once the winners select a scholarship, the awards don't just dry up. The scholarships that are left are made available to other students who place well. The businesses that put their names and money behind this event see the inherent value of career and technical education."

Villines, Willis and their instructor, Michael Jeppsen, also won an all-expenses-paid trip to Ford's Dearborn, Mich., World Headquarters to represent Arkansas at the national championships in June. There they will compete against 49 other state-championship teams for additional prizes and scholarships.

"These highly-skilled students will help meet the growing demand for qualified automotive technicians," said Burchett. "The students

participating in this competition represent the kind of technicians needed to service today's complex vehicles. They demonstrate the advanced career and technical education students can receive in Arkansas. Our automotive technology students not only come away with technical ability, but they also become skilled in advanced computer diagnostics."

Rounding out the top three were:

SECOND PLACE: Paul Reeme & James Allen; Instructor, Doyle Manis; South Arkansas Community College

THIRD PLACE: Bryan Zelby & Byron Herrera; Instructor, Mike Bowles; Rogers High School

FFA Career Development Events test students' cattle, meat knowledge

More than 275 Arkansas FFA students from nearly 40 schools visited the State Fairgrounds and Farm Bureau headquarters in Little Rock on May 2 to compete in three FFA Career Development Events.

The students' knowledge on dairy cattle, meats and agricultural issues was tested with the top team from each event qualifying to participate at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October.

FFA continued on page 9

FFA continued from page 8

“We’re promoting the agricultural industry, dairy cattle and industry meats,” Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Agricultural Public School Advisor Bruce Lazarus said. “We’re trying to train the kids in certain skills that they might want to use in the workforce. We want to give the students the opportunity to see what they might want to pursue in the future. If they want to enter a field involving dairy cattle or meats, then this will help give them the knowledge and skills they need.”

The meats event included a team activity and a timed, written test with questions on meat selection, storage, cookery, nutrition and safety. Following the written exam, students were asked to identify various cuts of meats and then rate several pieces of meat by type, cut, quality and yield grading based on United States Department of Agriculture standards.

Tim Lawrence of Cabot High School earned top individual honors, placing first out of 120 students from 30 participating schools. Green Forest High School finished as the highest scoring team to earn a trip to the national competition.

The dairy cattle event tested the students’ skills in observation and evaluation of dairy cattle type. It included a team activity and a 50-question written test that quizzed the students on dairy management practices, evaluation exercises and cow production records.

Matthew Wise of Mountain Home High School was the top finisher of 140 students. Of the 35 schools participating in Dairy Cattle, Mountain Home finished in first place.

Eight students from two teams spent the day at the Arkansas Farm Bureau headquarters to participate in the ag issues event in which students take an agriculture-related topic they find relevant and present views on the issue in a forum setting.

Cabot High School earned first-place honors followed by the team from Mena High School.

“We have raised the bar on all of the events,” Lazarus said. “We are constantly being updated from businesses and industries on what they require, and we want to incorporate those things in these events.”

MEATS

Top 10 Team Results – 1. Green Forest 1,460, 2. Cabot 1,406, 3. Springdale Har-Ber 1,242, 4. Nettleton

1,230, 5. Springdale 1,228, 6. Lincoln 1,165, 7. Mena 1,139, 8. Siloam Springs 1,057, 9. Greenwood 1,011, 10. Barton-Lexa 1,008.

Top 10 Individual Results – 1. Tim Lawrence, Cabot, 526; 2. Buster Burns, Green Forest, 512; 3. Samantha Kaiser, Springdale, 499; 4. Ashley Stephens, Cabot, 480; 5. Jordan Compton, Green Forest, 479; 6. Justin Bacon, Springdale Har-Ber, 472; 7. Olivia Foster, Green Forest, 469; 8. Caleb Eagleson, Green Forest, 458; 9. Hunter Smith, Nettleton, 453; 10. Samantha Maes, Lincoln, 414.

DAIRY CATTLE

Top 10 Team Results – 1. Mountain Home 1,592, 2. Lincoln 1,558, 3. Gurdon 1,531, 4. Ashdown 1,519, 5. Valley Springs 1,447, 6. Gravette 1,444, 7. Quitman 1,442, 8. Rose Bud 1,434, 9. Siloam Springs 1,432, 10. Batesville 1,430.

Top 10 Individual Results – 1. Matthew Wise, Mountain Home, 557; 2. Jessica Heffley, Lincoln, 536; 3. Lance Haflich, Mountain Home, 531; 4. Morgan McRae, Ashdown, 523; 5. Lincoln Parker, Gravette, 517; 6. Haley Harris, Gurdon, 517; 7. Joseph Bass, Ashdown, 517; 8. Heath Thompson, Lincoln, 514; 9. Britney Farris, Gurdon, 510; 10. Keith Napier, Lincoln, 508.

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

1. Cabot 2. Mena



FFA students observe and evaluate dairy cows during the FFA Career Development Event at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds on May 2.

National Conferences held in Little Rock

The national spotlight shone on Arkansas April 28-May 2 as Little Rock played host to the **National Association of Governors' Committees on People with Disabilities (NAGC)** and **National Association of Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF)** conferences.

The three-day NAGC Conference brought representatives from 18 states to the Peabody Hotel for the event which was highlighted by a Tuesday night banquet featuring Arkansas First Lady Ginger Beebe and a Wednesday luncheon with keynote speaker Governor Mike Beebe.

"It was a great week and the feedback on the conferences was very positive," said Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Executive Director Leonard Boyle.

The goal of the NAGC Conference was to use workshops and speakers to relay critical information to attendees so that each could return home with ideas on ways to improve services for disabled citizens in their states. The Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities is a program of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

"I know I wanted to gain a better knowledge of the inner workings of the NAGC and learn how each of the other states serve their communities," Boyle added. "That's a good way to find ways to serve our citizens better. It was a very positive, growing experience for me."

The second night of the conference featured a banquet with a presentation from Wal-Mart/Sam's Club Se-



Governor Beebe's liaison to the Department of Workforce Education Sarah Agee speaks with Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Executive Director Leonard Boyle.

nior Vice-President Sharon Orlopp who explained how the Arkansas-based corporation and world's largest retailer was working to improve shopping and working experiences for disabled customers and employees.

"We constantly look for ways we can do things better and more effectively for a better environment for people with disabilities," Orlopp said.

The following day, Governor Beebe stressed awareness during his address at Camp Aldersgate in Little Rock.

"Ginger and I have a great appreciation for the obstacles and challenges that confront people with disabilities," he said. "We never stop learning, and it causes you to pay more attention – to learn more, to work harder and network."

The NAGC serves to provide a national organizational forum to facilitate a unified approach to policy and program issues on disabilities. Working at the community, state and national levels, the National Association of Governor's Committees on People with Disabilities is a voluntary partnership of business, government, education, labor and people with disabilities.

As the NAGC conference was winding down, the annual Association of Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF) meeting was just getting started. The NAGC passed the baton to the AYLF during a joint meeting of the two groups at the Peabody on April 30.

The purpose of the AYLF is to improve employment and independent living opportunities for youth with disabilities who are transitioning from post-secondary education.

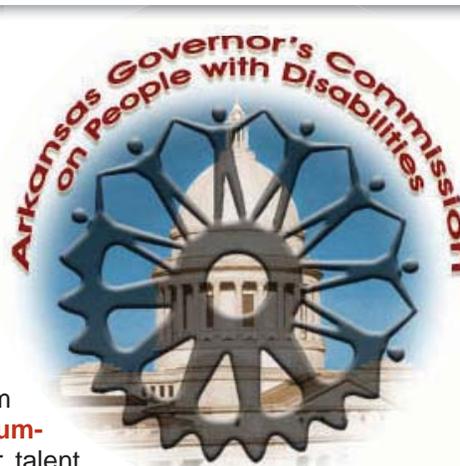


Governor Mike Beebe welcomes the National Association of Governors' Committees on People with Disabilities delegation to Arkansas while on a visit to Camp Aldersgate.

CONFERENCES *continued from page 10*

Representatives from 12 states attended the AYLFF conference which had panel discussions and workshops discussing ways to provide better local service opportunities for disabled youth. Workshops included successful internship programs for college students with disabilities, outreach opportunities for recruiting delegates, technology and youth with disabilities and how to obtain sponsorships through successful grant writing and fundraising.

“This is an important time for Arkansas, our agency and the disability community as a whole,” Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño said. “We were able to show the country what our state is doing to improve the services for people with disabilities, and we were able to learn how we can make our services even better.”



Spotlighting the National Association of Governors' Committees on People with Disabilities (NAGC) and the Association of Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF): (clockwise from above):

(1) singer **Jessica "Jazz" Summers**, who wowed the crowd with her talent during the NAGC luncheon, with **Ms. Wheelchair**

Arkansas Jonna Bloodworth; (2) University of Arkansas at Little Rock professor **Dr. David Sink** presented a breakout session on grant writing and fundraising to the AYLFF; (3) **DWE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe**, and **ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño** share a light moment at Camp Aldersgate prior to the Governor's address to the AYLFF, the NAGC, and the American Association on People with Disabilities; (4) Wal-Mart/Sam's Club Senior Vice-President **Sharon Orlopp**, accepting a NAGC award for the company's work to further accessibility and disability awareness, with Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities **Executive Director Leonard Boyle**; (5) **Billy Altom**, Executive Director of the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (center) talks with DWE Director Walker and ARS Commissioner Treviño; (6) Arkansas First Lady **Ginger Beebe** speaks at the NAGC luncheon as ARS's **Grover Evans** looks on; and (7) Commissioner Treviño and governor's liaison **Sarah Agee** (far right) congratulate former AGCPD Executive Director **Ida Esh't** on receiving an award of appreciation for her ongoing dedication to serving the state's disability community.

Governor Beebe's Deputy Chief of Staff Visits DWE/ARS Offices

Lamar Davis, Governor Mike Beebe's Deputy Chief of Staff, paid a visit to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's (DWE) office in Little Rock and the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' (ARS) Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center (HSRC) on June 17.

Mr. Davis was given an extensive tour of the HSRC facilities by DWE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., ARS Commissioner Bob Treviño, Deputy Director for Communications Reginald L. Jackson and HSRC Administrator/Associate Director Barbara Lewis.

During his tour, Davis had an opportunity to visit with HSRC staff members, clients, patients and parents. He even had an opportunity to tour the dorm rooms which had recently been renovated with furniture acquired from DWE's Federal Surplus Property division. One patient's parent even stopped Mr. Davis to talk to him about the quality of service her daughter received at HSRC's Hospital.

"I just want to tell you that the service we've received here at the hospital for my daughter has been wonderful," said Janet Aldrich. She briefly described the illnesses her daughter had that led them to seek care at HSRC.

She then went on to say, "The care she has received at Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center has been second to none and we really appreciate all that everyone here has done for us. I was going to call Mrs. (Ginger) Beebe to tell her just how great the staff has been helping my daughter during her illness, but now that I've run into you, I want to let you know, and say thank you to all the staff."



(above, left) Lamar Davis, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Mike Beebe, listens as DWE Director Bill Walker discusses agency operations at the Department of Workforce Education. (right) HSRC Administrator Barbara Lewis takes Mr. Davis and Director Walker on a tour of HSRC's facilities.

Mr. Davis also had an opportunity to visit with the members of the Senior Management Team at the DWE office in Little Rock for a thorough briefing on the operations of the divisions within the agency. He heard presentations from John Davidson, Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education and James Smith, Deputy Director for Adult Education.

"We are so pleased and honored that Deputy Chief Davis took the time to visit with us today here at the Department of Workforce Education," said Director Walker. "We had an opportunity to share first hand what we do within the divisions of Career and Technical Education, Adult Education, and Rehabilitation Services. It gave us a chance to enlighten him on the successes and some of the challenges we face. We anticipate having more meetings like the one today in the near future. We also look forward to hosting Governor Beebe in the future as well."

"As Governor, Mike Beebe made the strong tie between education and economic development a focus of this administration," Mr. Davis said. "The two must go hand-in-hand, making Arkansas a better place to live and work. Career and technical education, adult education and vocational rehabilitation are key components in making Arkansas thrive in the global economy. Hearing and seeing how Director Walker, the Department of Workforce Education and the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services are making this vision real for our state has been a tremendous experience. Thank you for your service to our state and our people."

"It's always a pleasure to meet the people who continue to do a great job for the citizens of our state," Davis added. "I will inform the governor of the information you have shared with me today Director Walker, and let him know of the job you all are doing."



Deputy Chief of Staff Davis, center, is briefed by (clockwise, l-r) DWE Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson, Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith, Director Walker, and ARS Chief of Field Services Ken Musteen.

RAISING the BAR

ARS/ARA continued from page 1

the agency forward, and reminded them that “change” is not necessarily a bad word to use when talking about the future.

“Sometimes we hear ‘change’ and don’t readily put it in a positive light,” Walker said. “But I know that, in the year I have been at DWE, the changes we’ve already made have gone a long way to improve our services.”

Walker pointed to the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center’s Arkansas Career Training Institute as an example of the agency moving forward and joining forces.

“By working in conjunction with other DWE programs to assure the accreditation status of each training area, we are truly promoting a ‘Center of Excellence,’” Walker said.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño agreed during his “State of ARS” address.

“Our professionals do a great job of serving our state’s individuals

with disabilities, but by beginning to work together with other programs and other agencies, we can enhance those services even more,” Treviño said. “Case in point: with a renewed focus on transition services, we will ensure that the youth of the state will receive the necessary tools to succeed.”

Keynote speaker Michael O’Brien, Ed.D, Administrator/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, spoke about current rehabilitation issues and the outlook for the future.

The remaining two-and-a-half days of the conference included informative and well-received breakout sessions including: Ethics and Professional Boundaries, Transition in Arkansas/Collaboration Works, Case Management Process and Tools, New Opportunities for Supported Employment and Mutual Trust and Respect in the Workplace. In addition, the annual silent auction helped raise funds for scholarships for Arkansas students majoring in rehabilitation counseling.

State Representative Linda

Poindexter-Chesterfield welcomed the crowd for Thursday’s general session with a message of perseverance, resolve and the ability to overcome obstacles.

A celebration of the accomplishments of peers as well as future “rehabbers” – those college and university students who are pursuing careers that will help to improve the lives of people with disabilities, highlighted the three-day event.

Turn the page for a look at some of those who exemplify the mission of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.



Staff **Karen Anderson**, Human Resources Development Specialist, and **Terry Stevenson**, Human Resources Development Manager



Director Walker (left) and **Commissioner Treviño** congratulate **Mary Boyle** on her 30 years of service with ARS.



The Silent Auction brought out a large crowd searching for bargains and one-of-a-kind items. State Representative **Pam Adcock** (right) seems to have found what she was looking for.



Guest Speaker, State Representative **Linda Poindexter-Chesterfield** (right) poses with Ms. Wheelchair Arkansas **Jonna Bloodworth**, who works in the ARS Fayetteville field office.

RAISING the BAR

on Service

ARCEA/ARCA Counselor of the Year: **Janna Clemons:**

Senior Counselor in District V-N, based at the Lonoke field office. Clemons has successfully closed over 360 cases of individuals with disabilities to competitive employment in the last four years. Cited for her encouragement, knowledge, and willingness to be of maximum service to her clients, "Janna Clemons is *the* most committed and dedicated employee," says ARS District V-N Manager Carl Daughtery.



Janna Clemons

Rehabilitant of the Year: **Beverly Kersey:**

Kersey began receiving ARS training and technology assistance along with counseling in June 2003. With job placement assistance, she found work in several areas around Texarkana following case closure including the Arkansas School District, the Community Black Grant Program and the Arts Humanity Program before landing a job with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). She has traveled for her work to FEMA headquarters in Virginia, Atlanta, Hope (Arkansas), Florida, California, and is presently working in Baton Rouge. She has received numerous awards and recognitions from FEMA since being employed. Kersey was unable to attend the awards ceremony due to her busy work schedule.

Employer of the Year **the Watkins Company**

The Watkins Company in Mabelvale is engaged in the production and distribution of printed advertising materials for customers (primarily grocery retailers) located principally in the Eastern and Southern regions of the United States. For approximately nine years, the Watkins Company has supported the agency's mission by hiring graduates from the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center's Printing Department for full-time work. HSRC printing instructor Chris Giles says, "We have developed an outstanding working relationship with Watkins and manager Scott Miles, built on trust from both sides. When he needs workers, he knows he can call us and a student we recommend will be ready and willing to work. On the other hand, we can call Scott and tell him we have a good worker looking for a job and if he has an opening, will readily set up an interview and work with us if accommodations are necessary. Sixteen of Watkins' employees are our former students, and many of them have been on the job for years and proven to be excellent employees."

Support Staff of the Year: **Peggy Hunter:**

Rehabilitation Assistant Peggy Hunter works out of the Russellville field office as assistant to Senior Counselor Jim Spragins. She has just begun her 19th year with ARS. Her selection as Support Staff of the Year comes with many accolades from her peers. Some excerpts from their nominations include, "Peggy has always been willing to assist in creating a better understanding between staff and administration," and praise for her character such as "her positive outlook on a daily basis," "she's a great listener as well as a problem solver," and "she is always willing to stop whatever she is doing to help." Spragins wrote, "I realize that I've been blessed to be able to work with the very best rehab assistant in the agency."



Peggy Hunter receives award from newly elected 2008-2009 Arkansas Association of Rehabilitation Support Staff President Mac Alread



Debbie Wooten

ARA President's Award: **Debbie Wooten:**

ARA President David McDonald lauded Wooten for "stepping up to the plate" as time came down to the wire for the annual conference, and going "way over and above" to make sure everything that she could do would get done to make the conference a success. "Debbie was a big part in making it possible to bring this whole event together."

RAISING the BAR

on Scholarship



Liz Means



Lyadonna Hadder



Donna Glendening



Deandria Bass



Davia Taylor



Alexandra Hines

R. Lewis Urton Scholarship

\$1,500

Liz Means. A senior at Arkansas Tech University who maintains an overall GPA of 3.724, Means plans to pursue a Master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and to obtain both rehabilitation counseling and licensed professional counseling credentials. A Russellville resident and single mother of two small children, Means was recently honored in Pope County when she received the Single Parent Scholarship Fund.

Vincent H. Bond Scholarship

\$1,500

Lyadonna Hadder. A graduate student at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Hadder maintains a 4.0 GPA and was selected by the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville's College of Education faculty as Outstanding Master's Student in April 2008. A resident of Springdale, Hadder's post-graduate plans are to seek employment with DWE's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services as a rehabilitation counselor.

E. Russell Baxter Scholarship

\$1,500

Donna Glendening. A second-year graduate student at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, Glendening took time off from her studies to care for a family member with a disability and has continued to maintain a 4.0 GPA since her return. A resident of Hope, Glendening plans to complete a practicum assignment at the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Texarkana field office and seek employment after graduation as a counselor with ARS.

Commissioner's Scholarship

\$1,500

Deandria Bass. A graduate student in the Rehabilitation Counseling Program at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, Bass, of Conway, maintains a GPA of 3.72 and has been employed by the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Little Rock field office as a rehabilitation counselor since April 2008. Following graduation, she plans to seek her Certificate of Rehabilitation Counseling and continue her career with ARS.

Harold E. Thomas Scholarship

\$1,500

Davia Taylor. A full-time graduate student at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro majoring in rehabilitation counseling, Taylor maintains a GPA of 3.5 while also actively volunteering to help other students attain their GEDs. Following graduation, Taylor plans to work with individuals with substance abuse issues and to eventually earn a doctoral degree in rehabilitation counseling.

Arkansas Assoc. of Rehabilitation Support Staff Scholarship

\$400

Alexandra Hines. A business education student at the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center's Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), Hines holds a 4.0 GPA and will graduate from ACTI August 29. An El Dorado resident, she plans to secure a part-time job and enroll in a community college close to home to attain a degree in business.



2007-2008 ARA President David McDonald (left) passes the gavel to 2008-2009 President James Quinn at the close of the ARA/ARS 2008 Annual Spring Training Conference

Employees gather for DWE/ARS Joint Staff Meeting



Commissioner Robert Treviño

Approximately 500 Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE) staff members attended a joint staff meeting at the Clear Channel Metroplex in Little Rock May 13 where they were urged by agency administrators to continue to “raise the bar.”

DWE Director William L. “Bill” Walker, Jr. addressed the group about the importance of working together for the common goal of serving the citizens of Arkansas in

the best possible fashion. He talked about the recent acquisition of new dorm furniture for the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services’ Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center. He also discussed the recent completion of *the white paper*, a comprehensive document that outlines the activities of the agency and its budgetary, equipment and staffing needs.

Sarah Agee, the agency’s liaison to Gov. Beebe also spoke, as did the Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education, John Davidson, Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño. Each gave updates on their divisions. Human Resources Manager Pam Harris also gave an update on her department.

The meeting wasn’t all business. David “D.J.” Heard, whose mother, Angela Heard, works as Director Walker’s Executive Assistant, and Jermaine Layton played smooth jazz during breaks in the event for everyone’s enjoyment. DWE Finance Assistant Controller Jan Cook and friend, J.R. Thomas, displayed their talent, singing an inspirational duet before lunch.



DWE liaison to the governor’s office, Sarah Agee, speaks to the assembly.

The joint staff meeting was part of a two-day informational session which included a day-and-a-half managers’ meeting conducted by Human Resources and a session for Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services counselors.

“This meeting is very important because it brings our entire agency together and we can all be reminded how important it is for us to raise the bar each and every day,” Director Walker said. “We have a wonderful group of employees and it’s nice to have the opportunity to see and update everyone on the progress the agency has made as we continue help the citizens of this state.”



(above, l-r) Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith, ARS District II Manager Christie Bartlett, Director Walker, and ARS District V-N Manager Carl Daughtery contribute to the Ms. Wheelchair fund. See page 17 for more on this story.

Ms. Wheelchair Arkansas Jonna Bloodworth overwhelmed by agency generosity

When Ms. Wheelchair Arkansas, Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) District 1-North Secretary Jonna Bloodworth, heard Department of Workforce Education (DWE) Director William L “Bill” Walker, Jr. announce her name over the public address system during the DWE Joint Staff Meeting on May 13, she was a bit startled.

“When I heard my name,” she said, “I had no idea what was going on.”

What was actually happening was the beginning of an agency-wide effort to raise money to help Bloodworth compete in the Ms. Wheelchair America pageant in Maryland on July 21.

When Walker learned that Bloodworth was \$100 short of the funds she needed for the national competition, he quickly teamed with ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño to ask fellow staff members to donate



DWE Director Walker gave his “best wishes” to Ms. Wheelchair Arkansas Jonna Bloodworth

at least 50 cents toward Bloodworth’s expenses. She needed the money to cover necessities such as the registration fee and airfare for herself and her pageant companion/dresser.

It became quickly evident that almost everyone attending the meeting wanted to help Bloodworth and was digging deep. Commissioner Treviño was the first to step forward and set the bar high with a \$100 donation. Other DWE administrators contributed \$50, \$30 and \$20 amounts while others in the crowd of more than 500 pitched in to raise a total of

\$534 in about a 15-minute time span to present to the stunned Bloodworth.

“I was just amazed. The generosity was just overwhelming,” she said. “It was so wonderful because the registration fee had to be in the very next day. Talk about perfect timing. It all was just such a bless-

BLOODWORTH continued on page 18

ALPENA continued from page 7

welded a device that would use a foot-operated lever to lift a tire to easily slide onto the wheel of a vehicle. Three phases of the device have been built by Good and each was on display during the presentation, along with charts and graphs showing the opinions of groups who have tested the product.

“Everyone who had tested the product liked a version of the Lady Lifter compared to no help at all,” Good said.

The students were joined by Alpena Superintendent James Trammell, science fair coordinator Mark Welch and vocational agriculture teacher Chris Adams.

“I have such pride for these kids,” Superintendent Trammell said. “I know the amount of work they put into this. They have learned

so much, not just about plants and engineering, but they have to know how to present what they know and how to talk to people.

“When you’re at a small school like ours, you feel like every kid is yours. I am proud of these students and of these teachers who spend so much time helping them with this.”

Each student gave a presentation to the judges and was rated on a variety of topics.

“The judges had a very difficult decision,” Lazarus said. “It showed how good both of these presentations were. Alpena has a history of winning and doing well at nationals and I don’t expect anything less this year.”

Following the judging, Garrison and Good made brief presentations to staffers from the Department of

Workforce Education (DWE) and the Department of Education, including DWE Director William L. “Bill” Walker Jr., DWE Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson and DWE Associate Director for Career and Technical Education Rod Duckworth.

“What these young ladies have accomplished is truly remarkable,” Walker said. “The time and effort spent on these projects just shows the dedication these students have and how determined they are. I am very proud of both of them and know they will represent their communities and the state of Arkansas very well at nationals. To say these young ladies have a bright future ahead of them is a major understatement.”

Blown transformer forces HSRC evacuation of students and staff

More than 200 student residents and overnight employees at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center (HSRC) were forced to evacuate the facility late Sunday night, June 1.

At approximately 10 p.m., smoke filled the fourth and fifth floors of the nine-story building. No fire was detected. The smoke was caused from a blown transformer in front of the main building which overheated motors in the air conditioning system. That presented a potential electrical fire danger according to HSRC Administrator Barbara Lewis.

When Hot Springs Fire Department and Entergy responders determined that a defective wire from the transformer couldn't be replaced until the following day, plans were underway to move the students to new quarters.

"The city offered us two buses and we used our own buses and began transporting the students to the Hot Springs Convention Center," Lewis said. "The in-house staff

and the on-call staff used great teamwork and the evacuation was very orderly. Everyone remained calm and that is one reason we were able to operate in such an efficient manner."

Lewis said Hester's restaurant in Hot Springs allowed the Center's dietary staff to use its kitchen to prepare a hot breakfast for the students Monday morning. A hot lunch was ordered out Monday afternoon just prior to the students' return to the facility after Entergy completed its repairs to the transformer.

"Thanks to many, we had hot meals and plenty of drinks for the students," Lewis said.

The evacuation of the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center may change the way Hot Springs city officials handle similar situations. Construction of the convention center won approval from voters, in-part to provide large-scale, temporary shelter during emergencies. Despite this, Center evacuees were left without beds when they arrived at the convention center. Most had to sleep on the floor, in folding chairs or in their wheelchairs. Hot Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau

CEO Steve Arrison said he is open to allowing the Red Cross to stock 100 cots at the convention center on a standby basis for use during emergencies.

ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño said, "I am particularly appreciative of the leadership demonstrated by the HSRC staff members who worked diligently to ensure the comfort and safety of our clients. I am also grateful to the Hot Springs Fire and Police Departments, local transit authority, and the convention and visitors bureau for their generosity and superior response."

"We're thankful first and foremost that no one was injured. All involved in the evacuation acted valiantly and appropriately to guarantee everyone's safety, and I'm grateful that we have such a responsible and reliable staff," said Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. "We appreciate all of the assistance that was offered to our students and staff during the evacuation. Safety is our primary concern at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center. There is no indication that this was anything but an accident. There will be an investigation into this incident to ensure that this was the case."

BLOODWORTH *continued from page 17*

ing.

"And to think, the people who donated didn't even get to hear me speak or tell my story and they still gave what they gave. I didn't even have my crown or my veil and they still donated. What a blessing. I was in total shock."

Bloodworth was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Arkansas on Feb. 9 at Little Rock's Peabody Hotel.

"When I compete, I feel like I'm representing the entire state and working for the state," Bloodworth said. "I feel like I'm representing my office, my agency. I'm

looking forward to it."

Director Walker said, "We are so proud of Jonna and happy that we were able to assist her as she prepares for her trip to represent Arkansas at Ms. Wheelchair America. Seeing our staff come together to help one of our own was very gratifying. There are such wonderful, giving people working for our agency, and watching each of them step up and donate money out of their own pockets was something that filled me with much pride."

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 501-682-1500, or

reginald.jackson@arkansas.gov

Porter named Associate Director for Workforce Training

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE) Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. recently announced the promotion of DWE Business/Marketing Technology section Program Manager Sandra Porter to Associate Director of Workforce Training. Porter had held her previous position since 2004.

"In order to achieve performance excellence, organizations must continually search for opportunities to realize optimum efficiency and synergy," Director Walker said. "As an agency dedicated to excellence in service to the people of Arkansas, the Department of Workforce Education is no exception. Sandra Porter has long been committed to excellence in edu-



Sandra Porter, left, shares a laugh with her daughter, Denise Patrick, at Porter's "congratulations" party held at the Department of Workforce Education's conference room June 16

cation and is keenly aware of the need for quality career and technical education in Arkansas. We

are pleased to welcome her as the newest member of the DWE Senior Management Team."

Porter graduated from Missouri Southern State University in 1979 and earned a Master of Education degree from the University of Arkansas in 1991. She's had a 25-year teaching career in Missouri and Arkansas. She was named Arkansas Secondary Business Teacher of the Year in 1999 and Association for Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year in 2000. Since 2006, she has served on the Bryant School Board. Porter will be responsible for promoting the DWE programs in the Secondary Career Centers and other programs including: Apprenticeship/Youth Apprenticeship, Veterans Affairs, High

PORTER continued on page 24

Lazarus appointed to National FFA Board

Arkansas will soon have a national voice with the appointment of Bruce Lazarus, Program Advisor for the Department of Workforce Education's Agricultural Science and Technology department, to the FFA National Organization Board of Directors. His term will run from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011. He will join DWE Agricultural Science and Technology Program Manager and Arkansas FFA Advisor Marion Fletcher, who currently serves as national FFA treasurer.

"It's a big honor for me," said Lazarus, who currently serves as State Executive Secretary for Arkansas FFA. "I had a phone interview with the U.S. Department of Education and several weeks later received the letter about my appointment. It was a big surprise and I'm very privileged to serve on the board. I get comments from the teachers here in this state on how they feel which gives me a good indication on how I need to voice my vote on the board when I attend the meetings."

"This position carries with it a great deal of responsibility for the continued development of the National FFA Organization and of agricultural education programs across the nation," said Troy R. Justeen of the United States Department of Education. "The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, extends sincere thanks and appreciation for Mr. Lazarus's willingness to assist in this leadership role for our youth and our economy. I look forward to working with him to fulfill the mission of the National FFA Organization: to prepare students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems."

Fletcher said, "This is quite an honor for Bruce. There are only eight members of the board who have a vote and his three-year appointment shows his leadership skills and the respect he has not only in the state, but in other states. He's going to be able to serve and provide input in helping establish new policies. It will be challenging for him, but I know he will serve the board well."

DWE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., said of Lazarus's appointment, "We are very proud of Bruce's appointment and very honored to have the state of Arkansas represented by two strong agriculture advocates serving on the national FFA Board."



Lazarus

Arkansas CTE students finish fifth in the world in Oracle competition

A team of students from Arkansas School for Math, Sciences and the Arts, a Career and Technical Education business program of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, have made a worldwide name for themselves.

Seniors **Grant Beasley, Ethan Brown, Harry Hull** and **Kathy Thornton** were recently awarded **best in the nation** and **fifth place in the world** in the 2008 Oracle Academy Global Data Modeling Competition for their project tracking global climate change. The fifth-place finish was the highest awarded to any school from the United States, with Romanian students finishing in the top three spots and fourth place going to Somalia.

The finish was announced when Oracle Academy released the results of its annual data modeling competition in which students submit database design proposals addressing a particular problem. This year's problem involved the representation of complex meteorological data. It was the Arkansas School for Math, Sciences and the Arts fourth year to compete in the competition.

"What these students accom-

plished is just remarkable," Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Deputy Director for Career & Technical Education John Davidson said. "For a high school program to accomplish what they've accomplished is praise not only to the hard-working students, but also the instructors that helped them reach this high honor."

Data modeling is the design phase of creating a database. The designers take into account the business needs of their clients after interviews, site visits and primary source documents. The model is a blueprint that the database programmers work from when creating the database for the client.

"The students designed a database which would allow non-profit organizations to collect and analyze weather and climate data," said Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts Computer Science Instructor Daniel Moix. "Students were given a scenario or prompt and took several weeks to research the topic, conduct interviews and create a data model."

The annual Oracle Academy competition is open to Oracle Academy institutions worldwide and challenges student teams to ana-

lyze business requirements and develop a data model, a sophisticated process that is typically taught in the university setting and is critical to building database systems.

"The Oracle Academy is pleased to recognize the outstanding achievement of these students," said Oracle Education Initiatives Vice President Clare Dolan. "These dedicated and innovative scholars stood out among a record number of entries from around the world, displaying the business and technology skills that are required for success in the 21st century marketplace."

The Oracle Academy supports more than 300,000 students in 80 countries and partners with universities, schools, districts and ministries that believe in early career preparation.

"It is a pleasure working with some of the sharpest students in Arkansas," Moix said. "They truly are world class. When I got the call from Oracle I couldn't wait to share the news with my students. They worked very hard on this project and I am so happy to see their efforts recognized."





Department of Workforce Education

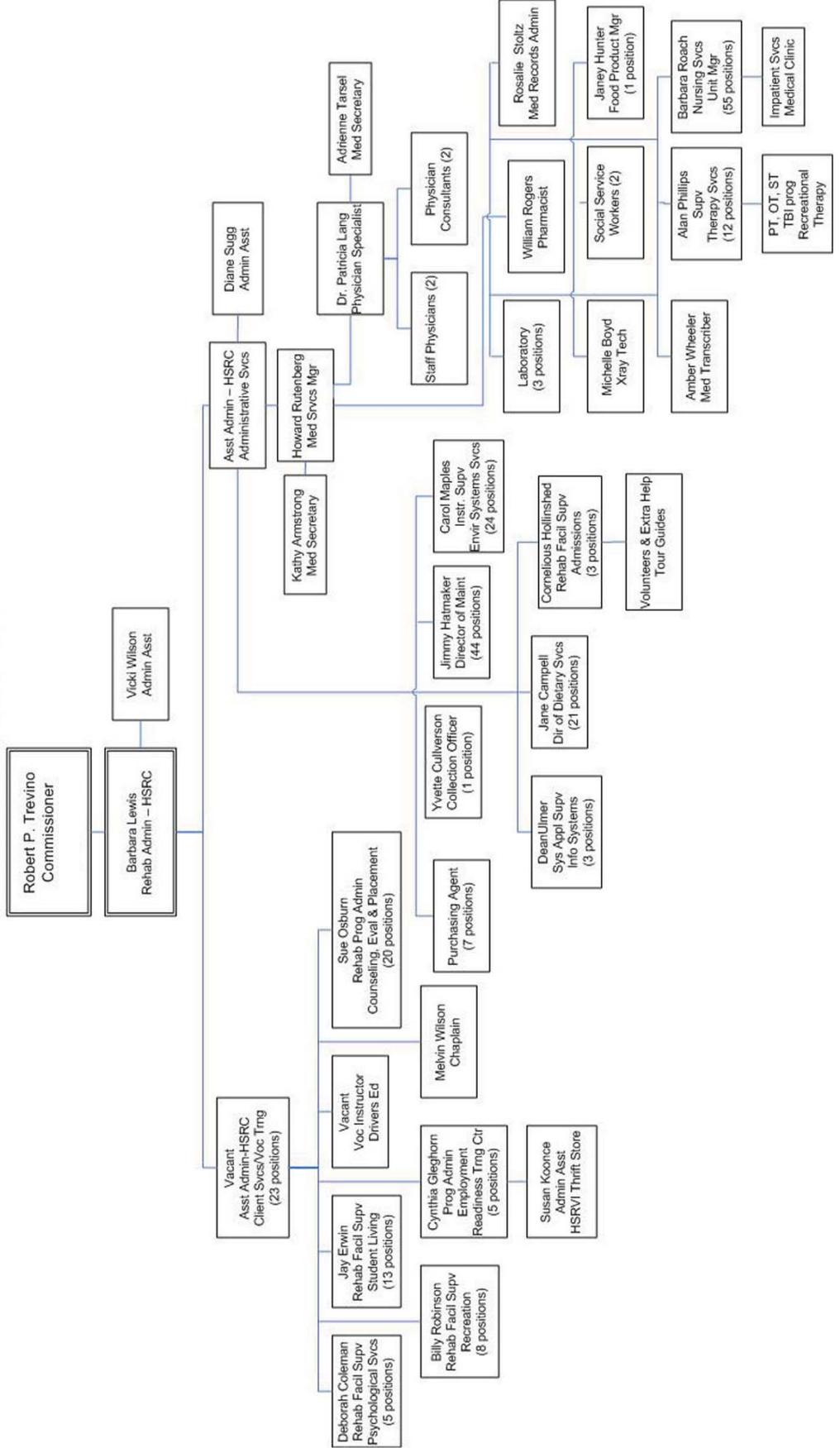
William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
 Director

Department of Workforce Education
 Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
 Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center



Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Robert P. Treviño
 Commissioner





FFA continued from page 1

who play a pivotal role in our nation’s critical agricultural economy. And, as Arkansas is among our country’s leading agricultural producers, it’s crucial that FFA remains strong in our state.”

The convention concluded with emotional good-byes from the 2007-2008 state officers – President Zac Coffman, Secretary Ryan Haley, Reporter Lowin Cate and Vice-Presidents Tasha Daniels, Steven Hutter and Samantha Carr. Officers for the 2008-09 term – President Justin Wiedower, Secretary Hayley Hogan, Reporter Matt Wise and Vice-Presidents Katie Good, John Michael Bearden and Cameron Jernigan – were likewise enthusiastically greeted.

“It’s tough to see a group of officers go because such a tight bond is developed through the year,” Fletcher said. “But the newly-elected group is a fine one and will do a great job.”

Roughly 500 FFA members carried on an annual tradition by staying in Camp Couchdale’s cabins each

night. Fletcher says that tradition is among several others in FFA that brings intangible, ancillary benefits to the students during each year’s convention.

“We believe there are a lot of positive results that come from the students who, after each session, get to visit with other FFA members from across the state,” Fletcher said. “They develop really close relationships with each other and we think that is important.”

Members of the FFA state staff were recognized at the convention’s final session, including Dr. Ann Horne, who is leaving DWE to move out of state.

“We wanted to recognize Dr. Horne for all she has done for FFA and to also recognize Bruce Lazarus and Bart Draper for their hard work and long hours spent preparing for this convention,” Fletcher said. “Their hard work and commitment helped make the week as successful as it was.”



Recognized during the FFA State Convention were the following:

- State Star Farmer** – Andy Harvill, Greene County Tech High School
- State Star Agribusinessman** – Lance Haflich, Mountain Home High School
- State Star Agriscience student** – Katie Good, Alpena High School

Leadership Career Development Events winners

- FFA Creed** – Samantha Kaiser, Springdale High School
- Extemporaneous Speaking** – Dylan Whiddon, Prairie Grove High School
- Prepared Speaking** – Randi Jo Reed, Lincoln High School
- Opening and Closing Ceremonies** – Greenbrier High School (Jessica Nichols, Parker Hutchison, Anna Acre, Alex Erbach, Landon Green, Cody Tackett, Miranda Reynolds)
- Parliamentary Procedure** – Greenbrier High School (Sarai Bartolotta, Amber Rowlett, Corey Lucas, Caitlin Amyx, Elizabeth Havens, Ashley Lewis)

2008 CDE Winning Teams

- Agricultural Communications** – Mena High School (Lacie Land, Alexis Lawson, Logan McCartney, Leigha Smith, Tasha Stricklin)
- Agricultural Issues** – Cabot High School (Mary Beth Jones, Jamie Murphy, Daniel Meadows, Caty Smith, Haley Wylie)
- Agricultural Mechanics** – Prairie Grove High School (Logan Shepherd, Justin Rice, Easton Mathias, Gihenn Gerstner)
- Agronomy** – Clinton High School (Matt Berry, Anice Olejniczak, Kristen

- Patterson, Corina Selken)
- Dairy Cattle** – Mountain Home High School (Matthew Wise, Lance Haflich, Amy Brumitt, Jordan Harden)
- Dairy Products** – Ouachita High School (Michael Crowe, Ben Matthews, Ashley McCarty, Logan Wells)
- Electricity** – Wickes High School (Joey Oglesby, Josh Doss, Stephen Harold, Ryan Blackwell)
- Farm Business Management** – Mountain Home High School (Quince Kelly, Shelby Peel, James Schmitt, Raymond Walter)
- Floriculture** – Greenbrier High School (Kristen Ball, Cortney Felton, Lori Hoggard, Julia Ann McMillen)
- Food Science** – Lincoln High School (Cassidy Fry, Alyssa Kilgore, Kyle Reed, Taylor Thurow)
- Forestry** – Sparkman High School (Sean Alsobrook, Matt Freeman, Kayla Pennington, Tyler Posey)
- Horse** – Springdale Har-Ber High School (Rene Fields, Sean Hill, Bethany Nelson, Bailey Taylor)
- Land** – Clinton High School (Paden Brown, Renato Galligan, Justin Maynard, Dalton Scott)
- Livestock** – Mena High School (Chelsea Anderson, Megan Cooper, Megan Maye, Ashleigh Williams)
- Meats** – Green Forest High School (Buster Burns, Jordan Compton, Olivia Foster, Caleb Eagleson)
- Nursery Landscaping** – Elkins High School (Hattie Anastasio, Amber Henderson, Emily Henry, Anthony Scothorne)
- Poultry** – Lincoln High School (Chris Reeves, Carly Roach, Daniel Smith, Reilly Thurow)

DIRECTOR *continued from page 2*

nual Arkansas State FFA Convention at Camp Couchdale during the first week of June.

It's always refreshing to attend these conferences because of the enthusiasm and dedication of every student involved. During his visit, Gov. Beebe mentioned his excitement for the futures of each of the 900 FFA members in attendance. I had to agree.

The same is true for each and every member of all of our career and technical student organizations (CTSO). These groups offer their members leadership, confidence, job interview skills and other intangible qualities that aren't always learned in the classroom.

I want to especially thank Marion Fletcher, Bruce Lazarus, Bart Draper, Dr. Ann Horne and everyone else from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education who made this year's state convention a success. I'd also like to offer my gratitude to all of the career and technical student organization advisors and sponsors who work so hard to help Arkansas's students succeed.

PORTER *continued from page 19*



Schools That Work, Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) cluster initiative.

"For the past four years I have been privileged to work with the Business/Marketing staff to develop programs and initiatives that will move the Business and Marketing students of Arkansas into the 21st century," said Porter. "There will be new challenges ahead for me and much to learn, but I am looking forward to working with a group of very talented and dedicated individuals."

Department of Workforce Education Associate Director Sandra Porter (third from right) is surrounded by her fellow colleagues (l-r) Deputy Director for Communications Reginald Jackson, Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson, DWE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith and Associate Director for Career and Technical Education Rod Duckworth.



Who are Carnie Ray Robinson & Silas Drywater?

Carnie Ray Robinson left school to help support his family. He always wanted his diploma, but felt he never had the opportunity. His job, his wife, their seven children and numerous grandchildren take up a lot of time. His stepson, Silas Drywater, has a similar story. He also left school to work. After spending years in the workforce, both Ray and Silas earned their Arkansas High School Diploma at the Russellville Adult Education Center and graduated together.

Passing the GED Tests meant a promotion for Ray at the highway department. Silas is a construction foreman and knows earning his diploma will also mean more income for his family.

- 1 Father and Son
- 2 Yell County Residents
- 3 Family Breadwinners
- 4 GED Graduates
- All of the Above

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.

Small business consultant a key to clients' dreams



Rubenstein

Clients of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) dreaming of starting their own business might just have the assistance available to help make it a reality.

Bob Rubenstein is ARS's Small Business Consultant who researches plans and goals of clients across the state to see if ideas are feasible, and then helps get the ball rolling so those businesses can become more than just a dream.

"If an idea can work, seeing something become a reality is absolutely incredible," said Rubenstein, who has been an employee of ARS for 29 years and in his current role the past six years in the Jonesboro Field Services Office.

The process begins when a clients shares a business aspiration to a counselor. The counselor relays the information to Rubenstein, who in turn sends a small business worksheet to the client for more information.

"I ask various questions like the nature of the business, any legal makeup, limited partnerships, etc., and I ask about their finances and a marketing plan," he said. "It gives me an indication of what kind of business ability they have."

After surveying the information, along with a client's work experience, management background and medical information, Rubenstein then offers a recommendation to the client's counselor about how feasible or not the business request is.

"If an idea gets approved, we have to decide what the client is going to need the most to help get the business off the ground," he said. "Others, unfortunately, don't have ideas or plans that will succeed and we hate to have someone spend a lot of money on an idea that we have researched that won't succeed. So, we have to tell them."

Client success stories are abundant.

"We have an ARS client in Paragould who has a medical billing agency and is doing business with doctors out of state," Rubenstein said. "Another opened a photography studio, was recruited to come to California, and is now working there on a much-larger basis and is making a lot of money. One lady manages a salon and others have opened restaurants. A lot of dreams have become reality," he concluded.



Career and Technical Student Organizations

State Conference Results

Competition results for SkillsUSA, held in April, are continued below from the April-May 2008 Workforce Counselor



SkillsUSA

The following is a list of event medalists from the 2008 Arkansas SkillsUSA State Championships held April 15-16 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Gold Medalists qualified to compete at the SkillsUSA National Championships scheduled for July 23-27 in Kansas City.

Health Knowledge Bowl, Post-Secondary – Gold Medal: Heather Ellison, Giselle Rohden, Ember Hardage, Jamie Morgan (UA-Ft. Smith); Silver Medal: Meschelle Boswell, Kristy Keen, Freda Cranford, Charity Sawyer (Ouachita Technical College) **Health Knowledge Bowl, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Adam Jones, Bryce Kimes, Laci Self & Lacey Baker (Western Arkansas Technical Center); Silver Medal: Heather Perry, Nairobi Jones, Amanda Durnier & Emily Simmerman (Mid South Community College); Bronze Medal: Kayla Dempsey, Amber Olejara, Lauren Jackson & Nikolas Deeker (Cabot High School) **American Spirit, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Emily Hoyt, Cameron Vayson (Conway Area Career Center); Silver Medal: Lauren Lewis, Adrianna Cummings (Conway Area Ca-

reer Center); Bronze Medal: Samantha Guthrie (Sylvan Hills High School) **American Spirit, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Rebecca McCool (Ouachita Technical College) **Chapter Display, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kelby Winberry, Sam Stevens (Rogers High School); Silver Medal: Amanda Carr (Jonesboro Area Technical Center); Bronze Medal: Zach Thomas, Dustin Harris (North Little Rock High School) **Chapter Display, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Edgar Alvarez (Northwest Technical Institute) **Job Interview, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Ellie Iske (Omaha High School); Silver Medal: Casey Sellars (Arkansas Northeastern College); Bronze Medal: Elysia Patterson (National Park Community College) **Job Interview, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Michelle Diaz (ATU-Ozark); Silver Medal: Christopher Miller (Pulaski Technical College); Bronze Medal: Beverly Smith (Crowley's Ridge Technical Center) **Occupational Health & Safety, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kyle Vocque (Cabot High School) **Extemporaneous Speaking, Secondary** – Gold Medal: John Burrow (Arkansas Northeastern College); Silver Medal: Charlye Osborn (National Park

Community College); Bronze Medal: Michale Whatley (Mid-South Community College) **Extemporaneous Speaking, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Jennifer Glanton (U of A-Ft. Smith); Silver Medal: Chasity Huddleston (U of A-Ft. Smith); Bronze Medal: Johnny Terry (Northwest Technical Institute) **Opening & Closing Ceremonies, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Emily Coffey, Amy Martin, Kristy Harris, Jamie Casey, Paige Scammell, Pam Atherley, Amanda Kharris (Pulaski Tech-Saline County Career Center) **Automotive Refinishing Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Jace Hill (Pulaski Tech-Saline); Silver Medal: Chase Brown (Pulaski Tech-Saline County Career Center); Bronze Medal: Kyle Bridger (Jonesboro Area Technical Center) **Automotive Refinishing Technology, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Eric Slott (ATU-Ozark); Silver Medal: Leanna Shadlow (ATU-Ozark); Bronze Medal: John Stone (Pulaski Technical College) **Customer Service, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Arika Carey (Watson Chapel High School); Silver Medal: Michael Melton (Paragould High School); Bronze Medal: Stephanie Clements (Smackover High

School)

Radio Production, Secondary – Gold Medal: Kendra Vickery, Colton Marlin (Cave City High School); Silver Medal: Devin Weir, Tanner Knight (Cabot High School); Bronze Medal: Charles Pool, Justin Wilson (Cave City High School) **Prepared Speech, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Sarah Massey (Western Arkansas Technical Center); Silver Medal: Nick Nolan (PHILLIPS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE-U OF A STUTTGART-Stuttgart); Bronze Medal: Terry Parsons (Pulaski Tech-Saline County Career Center) **Prepared Speech, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Jared Clark (ATU-Ozark); Silver Medal: Shamber Uzuh (U of A-Ft. Smith) **Promotional Bulletin Board, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kayla Wright, Delaina Blackwell (Smackover High School); Silver Medal: Kyra Rose, Arianna Nabholz (Conway Area Career Center); Bronze Medal: Karen Sosa, Yoselin Razo (Northwest Arkansas Community College RTC-Fayetteville) **Community Service, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kayla Martin, Kasha Greer (Arkansas Northeastern College); Silver Medal: Lauren Brinza, Christina Bryant, Shayla Ross (Springdale High School); Bronze Medal: Jeff Hedrick, Cody Parsons (Area Career & Technical Center) **Basic Health Care Skills, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Mickie Dawson (National Park Community College); Silver Medal: Brooke Goodwin (Magnolia High School); Bronze Medal: Reggie Robinson (Magnolia High School) **Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Michael Young (NorthArk Technical Center); Silver Medal: Nick Gahlbeck (NorthArk Technical Center); Bronze Medal: Aldo Cervantes (Jonesboro Area Technical Center) **Heating Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Greg Boland (ATU-Ozark); Silver Medal: Thomas Freddie (ASU-Searcy); Bronze Medal: Bryan Henry (ASU-Searcy) **Power Equipment Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: DJ Douglas (SEACBEC); Silver Medal: Heath Thomason (Ouachita Area High School Career Center); Bronze Medal: Cory Redfern (Texarkana Area Technical Center) **Power Equipment Technology, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Norman Canterbury (Pulaski Technical College); Silver Medal: James Caldwell (Pulaski Technical College); Bronze Medal: Derek Johnson (Pulaski Technical College) **Architectural Drafting, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Jared Belt (Western Arkansas Technical Center); Silver Medal: Jonathan McDowell (Rogers High School); Bronze Medal: Coty George (Har-Ber High School) **Architectural Drafting, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Nathan Haile (Northwest Technical Institute); Silver Medal: Keith Thompson (Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute); Bronze Medal: Cody Overturf (Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute) **Web Design, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Duncan Davis, Phillip Reed (Western Arkansas Technical Center); Silver Medal: Terry Walker, Logan Smith (Mid-South Community College Technical Center); Bronze Medal: Brandy Compton, Amanda McCullough (Cave City High School) **Web Design, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Amber Sanders, Christina Remy (ATU-Ozark) **Automotive Parts Specialist, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Brent Scott (Jacksonville High School); Silver Medal: Corey Podoll (Huntsville High School); Bronze Medal: Derek Bradford (SAU Tech Area Career Center) **Automotive Parts Specialist, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Brandon Gills (National Park Community College); Silver Medal: Osman Martinez (ATU-Ozark); Bronze Medal: Kevin Williams (ATU-Ozark) **Electronic Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Brandon Massey (Jonesboro Area Technical Center); Silver Medal: Wesley Files (Springdale High School); Bronze Medal: William Bryant (Jonesboro Area Technical Center) **Electronic Technology, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Brandon McMellon (U of A-Ft. Smith); Silver Medal: Daron Hemple (U of A-Ft. Smith); Bronze Medal: Chris Paxon (ASU-Marked Tree) **Cabinetmaking, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Joshua Hudson (White Hall High School); Silver Medal: Hunter Johnson (White Hall High School); Bronze Medal: Derek Worm (Conway Area Career Center) **Cabinetmaking, Post-**

Secondary: Gold Medal: Zachary Schaffee (National Park Community College); Silver Medal: Irving Perez (Cossatot Community College U of A); Bronze Medal: Stephen Spencer (North Arkansas College) **Aviation Maintenance Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Heath Alsip (Northwest Arkansas Community College RTC-Fayetteville); Silver Medal: Justin Hill (Northwest Arkansas Community College RTC-Fayetteville) **Aviation Maintenance Technology, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Anthony Bryant (SAU-Tech); Silver Medal: Michal Norris (SAU-Tech); Bronze Medal: Russell Lane (SAU-Tech) **Medical Coding, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Michelle Hensley (ASU-Searcy); Silver Medal: Cheryl Williams (Ouachita Technical College); Bronze Medal: Nancy Williams (Ouachita Technical College) **Cosmetology (Under 400 Hours), Secondary** – Gold Medal: Isabel Cortes (Conway Area Career Center); Silver Medal: Brittany Rea (Pulaski Tech-Saline County Career Center); Bronze Medal: Jacqueline Skiles (Area Career & Technical Center) **Cosmetology (Over 400 Hours), Secondary** – Gold Medal: Karla Jaquez (Conway Area Career Center); Silver Medal: Trae Nagel (North Central Vocational Center); Bronze Medal: Lauren Huckabay (Area Career & Technical Center) **Cosmetology, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Jenni Russell (ASU-Marked Tree); Silver Medal: Beth Guy (ASU-Marked Tree); Bronze Medal: Amber Nelson (ASU-Marked Tree) **Internetworking, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Justin Muse (ASU-Marked Tree); Silver Medal: Heith Tarver (ASU-Marked Tree); Bronze Medal: Mike Dozier (ASU-Marked Tree) **Internetworking, Secondary**: Gold Medal: Michael Short: Mid-South Community College Technical Center); Silver Medal: Casey Ruston (Lincoln Consolidated Schools); Bronze Medal: Anthony Rose (Waldron High School-WATC) **Dental Assisting, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Megan Carfagno (Northwest Arkansas Community College RTC-Fayetteville); Silver Medal: Alisa Hostettler (Northwest Arkansas Community College RTC-Fayetteville); Bronze Medal: Taylor White (Northwest Arkansas Community College RTC-Fayetteville) **Masonry, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Shelby Crawford (Eureka Springs High School); Silver Medal: Michael Lawery (Cabot High School); Bronze Medal: Wayne Gabbard (Cabot High School) **CNC Turning, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Marc Barrett (Jonesboro Area Technical Center); Silver Medal: Keith Looney (Jonesboro Area Technical Center); Bronze Medal: Jordan McCormic (Area Career & Technical Center) **CNC Turning, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Joseph McGarrh (Northwest Technical Institute); Silver Medal: Robert Harless (Rich Mountain Community College) **Technical Drafting, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Brett Hammett (Monticello Occupational Education Center); Silver Medal: Adam Brodt (Conway Area Career Center); Bronze Medal: Shawn Philip (Rogers High School) **Technical Drafting, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Curt Coslett (U of A-Ft. Smith); Silver Medal: Chris Hildahl (ITT Technical Institute) **Culinary Arts, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Derek Brown (North Arkansas Technical Center); Silver Medal: Guadalupe Pena, Jr. (Northwest Arkansas Community College RTC-Fayetteville); Bronze Medal: James Woodson (Area Career Technical Center) **Culinary Arts, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: William Stender (Ozarka College); Silver Medal: Richard Lindsey (Pulaski Technical College-Arkansas Culinary School); Bronze Medal: Richard Davis (National Park Community College) **Carpentry, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Ethan Capps (Eureka Springs High School); Silver Medal: Koltion Johnson (Eureka Springs High School); Bronze Medal: Andrew Breivogel (Northside High School) **Carpentry, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Rober Rima (National Park Community College); Silver Medal: Chadd Williams (North Arkansas College); Bronze Medal: Brad Firecloud (North Arkansas College) **Preschool Teaching Assisting, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kayla Bell (Western Arkansas Technical Center); Silver Medal: Kristen Kendrick (Western Arkansas Technical Center) Bronze Medal: Angel Landert (Western Arkansas

Technical Center) **Commercial Banking, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Angel Sweeten (Metropolitan Career & Technical Center); Silver Medal: Jamie Spann (Metropolitan Career & Technical Center); Bronze Medal: Derrick Porchay (Metropolitan Career & Technical Center) **Commercial Banking, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kimberly Brown (Ozarka College); Silver Medal: Danielle Vickers (Ozarka College); Bronze Medal: Keisha Strader (Ozarka College) **Health Occupations Professional Portfolio, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Ashley Groomer (Northwest Arkansas Community College RTC-Fayetteville); Silver Medal: Amanda Page (Pulaski Tech-Saline County Career Center); Bronze Medal: Diana Pogue (Waldron High School-WATC) **Diesel Equipment Technology (Farm), Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kyle Gardner (Mid-South Community College Technical Center); Silver Medal: Jeffery Lackie (Mid-South Community College Technical Center); Bronze Medal: Jordan Villines (Huntsville High School) **Diesel Equipment Technology (Farm), Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Bradley McFadden (ASU-Searcy); Silver Medal: Jonathan Beeks (Northwest Technical Institute); Bronze Medal: Robert Uhl (Northwest Technical Institute) **Pipe Welding, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Matt Oates (Arkansas Northeastern College); Silver Medal: Stephen Cissell (Arkansas Northeastern College); Bronze Medal: Seth Seiter (Western Arkansas Technical Center) **Pipe Welding, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Corey Daneakas (ATU-Ozark); Silver Medal: Wesley Pilcher (Greater Little Rock JAC); Bronze Medal: Joseph Perkins (Arkansas Northeastern College) **Diesel Equipment Technology (Truck), Secondary** – Gold Medal: Mike Jones (Mid-South Community College Technical Center); Silver Medal: George Villines (Huntsville High School); Bronze Medal: Jon Cartmell (Huntsville High School) **Diesel Equipment Technology (Truck), Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Harold Marshall (Mid-South Community College Technical Center); Silver Medal: Jake Alvarez (Northwest Technical Institute); Bronze Medal: Mathew Martin (Northwest Technical Institute) **Marine Technology, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kenneth Honey (National Park Community College); Silver Medal: Mark Whitecotton (National Park Community College); Bronze Medal: Paul Kolb (National Park Community College) **3-D Visual/Animation, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Westin Sykes, Kyle Markowski (Mountain Home High School); Silver Medal: Wade Atchkey, Dusty Jameson (Western Arkansas Technical Center); Bronze Medal: Michael Russell, Brock Gullett (River Valley Technical Center) **3-D Visual/Animation, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Jerrod Berkebill (U of A-Ft. Smith) **Nurse Assisting, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kayla Ragsdale (National Park Community College); Silver Medal: Kayla Pennington (National Park Community College); Bronze Medal: Michelle Tran (National Park Community College) **Nurse Assisting, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Brittney Haga (U of A-Ft. Smith); Silver Medal: Kerri Thompson (U of A-Ft. Smith) **CNC Milling, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Zachary Corwin (Rogers High School); Silver Medal: Cody Nugent (Jonesboro Area Technical Center); Bronze Medal: Evan Underwood (Jonesboro Area Technical Center) **CNC Milling, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Morgan Holly (Northwest Technical Institute); Silver Medal: Mark Daniels (Northwest Technical Institute) **Graphic Communications, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kathy Capuson (Metropolitan Career & Technical Center); Silver Medal: James Brannon (Newport High School); Bronze Medal: Chris Daniel (Metropolitan Career & Technical Center) **Plumbing, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Will Hamblin (Eureka Springs High School); Silver Medal: Nick Parker (Brinkley High School); Bronze Medal: Roger Meeks (Cabot High School) **Job Skill Demonstration A, Secondary** – Gold Medal: William Montgomery (Hope High School); Silver Medal: Nikki Allen (Conway Area Career Center); Bronze Medal: Tilden Eaton (Huntsville High School) **Job Skill Demonstration A, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Jocelyn Clark (Ouachita Technical College); Silver

Medal: Chelsea Danekas (ATU-Ozark); Bronze Medal: Ryan Johnson (Pulaski Technical College) **Precision Machining Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Tom Jordan (Rogers High School); Silver Medal: James Hagler (Jonesboro Area Technical Center); Bronze Medal: Steven Koone (Monticello Occupational Education Center) **Residential Wiring, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Willie Galyon (Eureka Springs High School); Silver Medal: Jamie Butler (Eureka Springs High School); Bronze Medal: Esker Via (Quitman High School) **Residential Wiring, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Mike Armstrong (ASU-Marked Tree); Silver Medal: Nelson Diaz (ASU-Marked Tree); Bronze Medal: Mario Zuniga (U of A-Hope) **Advertising Design, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Luis LaBuda (Western Arkansas Technical Center); Silver Medal: Alison Coleman (Metropolitan Career & Technical Center); Bronze Medal: Colt Hardin (Jonesboro Area Technical Center) **Industrial Motor Control, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Ryan Riffle (Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute); Silver Medal: Brad Renigan (Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute) **Plate Cutting, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Josh Sisk (ATU-Ozark); Silver Medal: Jeff Pennington (Arkansas Northeastern College); Bronze Medal: Corey Flowers (Arkansas Northeastern College) **Major Appliance Technology, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: William Knox (Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute); Silver Medal: Rickey Burkes (Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute); Bronze Medal: Phil Davis (Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute) **Photography, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Josh Rutherford (Conway Area Career Center); Silver Medal: Matt Disch (Northside High School); Bronze Medal: Lukas Deem (Conway Area Career Center) **Broadcast News Production, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Hayden Balgavy, Katherine Peters, Anthony Micco, Jerry Gorman (Cabot High School); Silver Medal: Bethany Snyder, Brittany Smith, Samantha Gann, Jessica Davis (Cave City High School); Bronze Medal: Kayla Hammersley, Allison Hestand, Hillary Tripod, Britany James (Paragould High School) **Criminal Justice, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Debbie Taggart (Springdale High School); Silver Medal: Shawn Finley (Ouachita Area Career Center); Bronze Medal: Katherine Juarez (Springdale High School) **Collision Repair Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Brandon Pugsley (Jonesboro Area Technical Center); Silver Medal: Cory Nichols (Conway Area Career Center); Bronze Medal: Austin S. Jones (NorthArk Technical Center) **Collision Repair Technology, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Tommy Connolly (ATU-Ozark); Silver Medal: Don Graves (ATU-Ozark); Bronze Medal: Donald Holt (Pulaski Technical College) **Television Production, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Tyler Tully, Brooke Eddy (Cave City High School); Silver Medal: Paige Anderson, Aaron Holley (Cave City High School); Bronze Medal: Anton "Tony" Passard, Phillip Clark (Greene County Tech) **Television Production, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Rhiannon Foster, Fay Morgan (Rich Mountain Community College) **Technical Computer Applications, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Juan Rios (Mountain Home High School); Silver Medal: Trae Miller (Beebe High School); Bronze Medal: Steven Matlock (South Arkansas Community College) **Technical Computer Applications, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Joshua Bennett (ASU-Marked Tree); Silver Medal: Leslie Hicks (Mid-South Community College Technical Center) **Medical Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Karen Stout (National Park Community College); Silver Medal: Lauren Johnson (Northwest Arkansas Community College RTC-Fayetteville); Bronze Medal: Amber Thai (Metropolitan Career & Technical Center) **Computer Maintenance Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Josh Ussery (Conway Area Career Center); Silver Medal: Nolan Wortsell (PCCUA at Stuttgart); Bronze Medal: Rocky Smith (Area Career and Technical Center) **Computer Maintenance Technology, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Charles Parker (ASU-Marked Tree); Silver Medal: Albert Sims (Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute); Bronze Medal: Jason Baker (ATU-Ozark)

Robotics & Automation Technology, Secondary – Gold Medal: Ethan Arnold, Andrew Tackett (Bentonville High School); Silver Medal: Austin Baccus, Juan Aguilar (Springdale High School); Bronze Medal: Lauren Scruton, Aaron Cambou (Bentonville High School) **Principals of Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Benjamin Smith (Conway Area Career Center) **Automated Manufacturing Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Nick Deluca-Captain, Hunter Edwards, Andrew Blumhardt (Bentonville High School); Silver Medal: Joseph Coacher-Captain, Ryan Beals, Nicholas Swain (ASU-Searcy Area Career Center) **Chapter Business Procedures, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Angela Mounce-Leader, Tisha Watkins, Missy Balsler, Cecil Clifton, Katherine Arthurs, Antonio Caldera (Springdale High School Team B); Silver Medal: Hector Bella-Leader, Ana Ramirez, Ashley Mays, Jazmin Diaz, Kendra Shumate, Orland Martinez (Springdale High School Team F); Bronze Medal: Emily Robinson-Leader, Trey Gleghorn, Martine Huffman, Barbara Robinson, Brooke Grissom, James McKinley (Corning High School Team D) **Related Technical Math, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Benjamin Suchy (Bentonville High School); Silver Medal: Kristin Jeter (Rogers High School); Bronze Medal: Joseph Overbey (Jacksonville High School) **First Aid/CPR, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Cristina Alvarez (National Park Community College); Silver Medal: Jade Wilkie (National Park Community College); Bronze Medal: Faith Blair (Cabot High School) **Nail Care, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Lauren Hileman (Northwest Community College); Silver Medal: Lan To (Pulaski Technical College); Bronze Medal: Lyndsey Skarda (Pulaski Technical College) **Nail Care, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Tiffany Varnell (Pulaski Technical College); Silver Medal: Serita Butler (Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute); Bronze Medal: Amy Spencer (Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute) **Related Technical Math, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Benjamin Suchy (Bentonville High School); Silver Medal: Kristin Jeter (Rogers High School); Bronze Medal: Joseph Overbey (Jacksonville High School) **Food & Beverage Service, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Benny Luna (Springdale High School); Silver Medal: Jessica Wilson (North Pulaski High School); Bronze Medal: Jeremy Morris (Northwest Arkansas Community College RTC-Fayetteville) **Food & Beverage Service, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kathryn Tebbetts (Ozarka College); Silver Medal: Zona Buchanan (Ozarka College); Bronze Medal: Samantha Stinson (National Park Community College) **Medical Transcription, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Sara Bailey (Ouachita Technical College) **Motorcycle Service Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Bradley Armstrong (National Park Community College); Silver Medal: Jon Magness (Texarkana Area Technical Center); Bronze Medal: Coltin Osborn (National Park Community College) **Food & Beverage Service, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Benny Luna (Springdale High School); Silver Medal: Jessica Wilson (North Pulaski High School); Bronze Medal: Jeremy Morris (Northwest Arkansas Community College RTC-Fayetteville Regional Technical Center) **Video Product Development, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Katherine Adkins & Gina Caylor (Fayetteville High School); Silver Medal: Matthew Albritton & Joshua Printz (Har-Ber High School); Bronze Medal: Vanessa Baxter & Novie Demster (Cave City High School) **Automotive Service Technology, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Steve Creek (Western Arkansas Technical Center); Silver Medal: Paul Reeme (South Arkansas Community College); Bronze Medal: Justin Graves (South Arkansas Community College) **Automotive Service Technology, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Brian Bass (ATU-Ozark Campus); Silver Medal: Shaunlee Sherrod (Arkansas Northeastern College); Bronze Medal: James West (Ozarka College) **Medical Math, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Alisha Koplen (National Park Community College); Silver Medal: Cecilie Lane (SAU Tech - Camden); Bronze Medal: Victoria Jentz (National Park Community College) **Outstanding Chapter, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Kayelee Shoemaker (Saline

County Career Center); Silver Medal: Deanna Darrough & Holly Ragar (Saline County Career Center) **Outstanding Chapter, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Phillisa Presley (Saline County Career Center) **Welding, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Joshua Gentry (Westside High School); Silver Medal: Nick Nenne (Westside High School); Bronze Medal: Ryan Harper (ASU Searcy Area Career Center) **Welding, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Aaron Carr (ASU Heber Springs); Silver Medal: Samuel Jones (U of A Fort Smith); Bronze Medal: Phillip Criner (North Arkansas College) **Arkansas SkillsUSA Quiz Bowl, Secondary** – Gold Medal: Justin Yamauchi, Kanika Topiwala, Cody Standifer, Tyler Robbins & Zack Draper (Malvern High School); Silver Medal: Kip Edgmon, Kelsey Whitley, Jessica Trvrz, Nick Melson & Byron Fowler (Huntsville High School); Bronze Medal: Jacob Harrington, Lucas Brown, Zachary Long, & Tyler Allgood (Conway Area Career Center) **Arkansas SkillsUSA Quiz Bowl, Post-Secondary** – Gold Medal: Frank Miller, Joseph Jackson, Latoya Hines, James Goetz & Jacob Newsome (Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute)

Statesman Award Winners

Area Career and Technical Center – Latasha Austin, Mirandai Reel, Nettie Zamora; Arkansas State University Technical Center – Miranda Barnes; Arkansas Tech University-Ozark – Greg Boland, Lee Canada, James Plemmons, Kevin Williams; Cave City High School – Sandra Byrd, Jody Castor, Brandy Compton, Brooke Eddy, Josephy Holley, Kendra Vickery, Justin Wilson, Jennifer Beard; Corning High School – Trey Gleghorn; Cossatot Community College U of A – Charlie Bohannon, Svetland Feliciano, Philip Mascarenas, Jessica Moreno; Cassatot Community College U of A-Nashville – Allisan McJunkins, Richard Quinonez; Crowley's Ridge Technical Center – Serita Butler; Dumas High School –Natasha Allen, Lakeshia Lattimore, Bridgett Livingston, Frances McCain, Zenetria Williams; Fayetteville High School – Nancy Gallardo; Fordyce High School – Jalisca Brazil, Cecilie Lane, Justin Langley, Crystal Litzsee, Agnes Wynne; Gravette High School – Autumn Buchite, Chance Key, Trevor Key, Brett Meek, Aurora Post, Jordan Singleton, Jessica Sturges, James Thomas; Greene County Tech – Raymond Troost, Jr.; Jackson County School District – Ashley Ditto, Casey Turner; Magnolia High School – Reggie Robinson; Metropolitan Career and Technical Center – Monique Henson, Alesha Morrow, Pasha Taylor; Mid-South Community College – Jerilyn Kirkwood; National Park Community College – Glenn Morris (100% Statesman), Jordan Carmon, Samantha Couch, Heather Haddox, Steffani Howton, Alisha Koplen, Robert Parker, Kayla Pennington, Whitney Smith, Karen Stout; NWACC RTC-Fayetteville – Megan Carfagno, Ashley Groomer, Alisha Hostettler, Lauren Johnson, Sophia McKirch, Sandra Pedraza, Verence Perea, Karen Sosa, Gina Stanley, Taylor White; Ouachita Technical Center – Sara Bailey, Meschelle Boswell, Chana Shocklee, Cheryl Williams, Nancy Williams; Pulaski Technical College – Kristy Harris, Paige Scammell, Rebecca Skarda; Rogers High School – Juan Canizales, Kristen Jeter, Jael Kimball, Sam Stephens; Saline County Career Center – Julie Fowler, Ashley Harbison, Dr. Terry Johnson, Melissa Potter, Lyndsey Skarda, Kayla Skinner, Ashley Small, Amanda Souaysene, Tiffany Treadway, Melody Van Cleave; SAU Tech-Fordyce – Hope Veorster; SAU Tech Career Academy-E. Camden – Courtney Ferrell, Lisa Wright; Springdale High School – Joana Olga Murcia; Texarkana Area Technical Center – Robert Bearden, Michael Carroll, Jackie Chavez, Piffany Cooper, Nicholas Kight, Brent Nelson, Raquel Rhone, Samantha Royster, Cody Thompson, Shatella Walker-Scott; Other Winners (Schools Unknown) – Justin Bennett, Caleb Bryant, Zachary Corwin, Talia Floyd, Nathan Haile, Tyler Haney, Christopher Holt, Sarah Joyner, Julie Kiehn, Erika Molina, Ana Pacheco, Shawn Philip, Miguel Rodriguez, Katie Russell, Cory Simons, Rocky Smith, Anthony Terry.



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*

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

Luther S. Hardin Building
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