

the **Workforce Counselor**



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Developing Programs of Study in High Skill, High Wage and High Demand Career Pathways Conference Held in February

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (ADWE) Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., reconfirmed his commitment to our state's students and took it a step further during a two-day conference for career and technical education (CTE) instructors and administrators February 4 and 5.

Walker made what he coined the "Arkansas Promise," saying every worker in the Natural State has the right to train for any job they desire, earn the income they want and live a lifestyle they consider comfortable for themselves and

their families.

The conference, entitled *Developing Programs of Study in High Skill, High Wage and High Demand Career Pathways* was held at Little Rock's Crowne Plaza Hotel. During the conference, one thing was obvious: these careers will be available in the next several years for the Arkansas Promise to be fulfilled. However, it also left one important question: will there be enough workers available to fill all of positions that will soon be available?

Walker told the educators and administrators attending the



(l-r) Director Walker with Department of Education Commissioner Dr. Ken James and DWE Deputy Director for Career & Technical Education John Davidson.

conference that the secret to finding qualified employees for the **PATHWAYS** continued on page 9

Regional MAX Teaching Seminars Conducted to Enhance Educators' Teaching Skills

Officials from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (ADWE) held regional workshops throughout the state during the month of February to introduce teachers to an innovative educational method aimed at helping students get the "max" out of school.

The **MAX**, short for **Motivation, Acquisition and eXtension, Teaching System** is an instructional method designed to increase teacher effectiveness and boost student learning ability through a series of simple, time-tested classroom activities.

"The MAX system gives students a better chance to learn their subjects and improve their literacy skills through practice and participation," Department of Workforce Education Associate Director for Career and Technical Education **Rod Duckworth** said. "It gets everyone in the classroom involved, and the teachers aren't forced to learn a brand new teaching method. It allows them to

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Karen Chisholm, Program Manager for DWE Assessment & Curriculum division, leads a MAX Teaching Workshop in Texarkana.



Director's Update

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Director
Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

It seems like yesterday, but already a year has passed since Governor Mike Beebe appointed me as director of this agency. We have accomplished so much in that time frame. The governor issued a challenge to me when I was appointed that our agency should "raise the bar" in the work that we do for the citizens of our great state. I took that charge, shared the vision with our senior management team and staff, and we began to set goals, establish priorities, implement plans, and make assignments. We wanted to ensure that the Department of Workforce Education operated as effectively and efficiently as possible, so that all of our citizens would benefit more from the services we offer.

To that end, we united the resources and services of all the divisions of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education including Rehabilitation Services, Career and Technical Education, and Adult Education, so that the experience and expertise in each of these divisions would merge into a single, more focused entity with a common goal and vision. We expanded our senior management team and created the leadership team (what we refer to as 'the L Team') to collectively determine how we could be of further benefit to all Arkansans who utilize our services. Additionally, our management and leadership teams met at various retreats to determine how to best build and brand our agency in order make both our colleagues in state

government and the citizens at-large more aware of the work we do everyday.

Our agency and its staff have done a great job over the past year, and I would like to say "thank you" to each of the agency's divisions. I would like to specifically thank Charlie Brown, John Davidson, Robert Treviño and Reginald Jackson for helping crystallize our shared vision of the entire Arkansas Department of Workforce Education. Our agency has grown closer together as one unit, one family, with one unified vision and one voice.

To some degree, we've changed our day-to-day strategy so that we can better formulate ways to improve our internal processes. Our agency has looked critically at itself by doing continuous self evaluation, reviewing our programs and formulas and, if they are not working, changing or eliminating them. We still have many goals to accomplish and challenges that we need to overcome.

Some of our goals are to increase efficiencies, avoid duplications, and merge and co-locate our agency into one, central location. We've accomplished some of those efforts already with the merger and co-location of our two communications departments into a single, cohesive unit and our two human resources departments into a single, cohesive unit. And it's safe to assume that more will take place with the complete co-location of the



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

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education **Director**

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**Focus on
Jack Justus**

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

It doesn't take long after talking to Jack Justus to understand the passion he has as a member of the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities.



Justus

"It is such a rewarding experience," said Justus, who serves as Board Chairman and is one of seven board members appointed by the governor. "I am very interested in the curriculum that is offered in the many programs at the Department of Workforce Education and the Division of Rehabilitation Services and how it affects citizens in such a positive way."

Justus, a native of Boone County, has more than 40 years of service to the farm community through the Arkansas Farm Bureau and the Cooperative Extension Service, serving as Executive Vice President of the Farm Bureau from 1982-1997.

He graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas with a BSA in Agriculture. In 1996, Justus was honored with Progressive Farmer's "Man of the Year Award" in Arkansas Agriculture. In 1997, the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture, Food, and Life Sciences named him Outstanding Alumnus.

That experience has made Justus an important asset to the board, particularly with programs involving agriculture.

"Jack Justus has served as chairman of our FFA Foundation and in doing so helped us secure funding for some of our major projects at Camp Couchdale," said Marion Fletcher, Program Manager for the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Agricultural Science and Technology Programs. "He is interested in our youth because he knows youth is where our leadership for tomorrow is."

The Jack Justus Scholarship was established in 1998 in his honor, and is awarded to an FFA member through the Arkansas FFA Foundation. As a member of the Arkansas FFA Foundation Board, Justus was instrumental in getting capital improvements at Camp Couchdale, located near Hot Springs.

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What You Should Know

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)

Lynn Vigneault, Program Administrator

There is no question that home telecommunications have changed dramatically in recent years. The Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services' Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) keeps up-to-date on those technological changes because they affect the agency's customers and the equipment provided to them.

All of the amplified phones currently distributed are analog units, and up until fairly recently, there was only analog service. Now, more and more TAP customers are subscribing to digital service providers that make DSL and VOIP options available. The advent of digital service options means our customers can no longer just plug their amplified phone into the wall jack.

In order to make some sense of all of this, it helps to know the definitions of the following acronyms:

POTS – This is the traditional telephone service that most people have in their homes. It stands for Plain Old Telephone Service. All of TAP's amplified phones work with POTS with no difficulty.

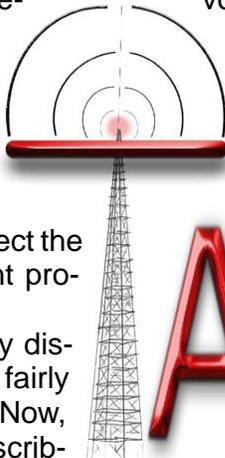
VOIP – Stands for Voice Over Internet Protocol and is a technology that allows the customer to make

voice calls using a broadband internet connection instead of an analog phone line.

DSL – Digital Subscriber Line is a combination of POTS voice service and digital internet service. DSL uses existing copper pair phone line wiring in conjunction with special hardware on the switch and user ends of the line. This special hardware allows for a continuous digital connection over the phone lines.

Customers who are deaf and use a TTY will be unable to directly connect it to a digital phone line unless there is a separate analog line, port or converter available. Not following these guidelines could cause serious damage to the equipment. Customers using a CapTel phone will likewise be unable to use their devices with DSL without an analog filter between the CapTel phone and the DSL connection. Occasionally, more than one filter may have to be used to stop any leakage from the digital side into the analog voice side.

For additional information, contact Lynn Vigneault at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services' Telecommunications Access Program at 800-981-4463 (V/TTY).



TAP



DWE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. recently addressed students, faculty and staff at Arkansas Tech University's Ozark campus. (At left) Director Walker visits with Adult Education students and (2nd fr. left) Arkansas Tech University President **Dr. Robert C. Brown** and (2nd fr. right) Ozark campus Chancellor **Dr. Jo Alice Blondin**.



Greenbrier Agri Instructor honored as NAAE District II Outstanding Teacher

Arkansas has long had a history of excellent educators, now there's undeniable proof.

Greenbrier High School vocational agriculture teacher and FFA advisor **Patrick Breeding** was awarded the **Outstanding Teacher award for District II** by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) in Las Vegas last December, and was able to enjoy the spoils of that honor in February.

NAAE District II region covers Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

As part of its commitment to agricultural education in the US, Toyota Motor Sales USA donated a dozen 2008 Tundra pick-up trucks for each of the NAAE's 12 secondary and post-secondary winners of the award. After being recognized during a presentation

at the state Farm Show in Little Rock by NAAE, Toyota and the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (ADWE), Breeding was given the keys to a forest green Toyota Tundra leased to him for two years at \$1.

Holding back tears during the truck presentation, Breeding was overwhelmed with emotion. He told those gathered at the event – school administrators, friends and family, students, state officials, Toyota executives, NAAE heads, and media types – he was humbled, excited and thankful all at the same time.

The honor is something ADWE Deputy Director of Career and Technical Education John Davidson calls a big deal.

"This (honor) points out the quality of education in Arkansas," Davidson said. "Our teachers do outstanding jobs. It validates something we're all very proud of.

We're proud of what it means to the state."

Breeding received the award for his ability to tailor his teaching methods to each student depending upon their abilities and for encouraging those students to reach beyond what was expected of them.

"Increasing my expectations allows them to achieve on advanced levels such as critical thinking and problem solving skills," Breeding said. "In my 30 years of teaching, students rarely reach beyond what someone expects of them, so I try to make expectations clear and attainable yet challenging."

For all those gathered looking on at one of the nation's best teachers, there was a single shared feeling – pride. Arkansas has its share of top-drawer educators, and Patrick Breeding's one who's getting his just rewards.



Winning Agri Instructor Patrick Breeding (left) with keys to his new Toyota Tundra; (below, l-r): Greenbrier Principal Steve Lucas, FFA students Elizabeth Havens and Caitlin Anyx, DWE Deputy Director for CTE John Davidson, FFA students Sarai Bartolatta and Amber Rowlett, and DWE Associate Director for CTE Rod Duckworth celebrate Breeding's win.

Senior Management Team

SMT Update

by **John Wright**
Associate Director

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's
Division of Rehabilitation Services



The Technical Corner - AASIS Paying Accounts

The mission of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is to provide opportunities for Arkansans with disabilities to work and to lead productive and independent lives.

From the accounting and management perspective, the mission is implemented through the appropriation/fund/cost object structures set up in **AASIS** (Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System).

DRS operates using several appropriations, or fund centers, the largest of which are:

- 128** – General Operational Paying account, and
- 903** – Cash Fund.

The appropriation is the budgetary authority to spend money. It is limited in amount by

line item. These are high-level groupings of general ledger accounts of a similar nature. Line items include salaries, fringe benefits, maintenance and operations, travel (educational/seminars), professional fees, capital outlay, purchase of services, approved grants, etc.

Funds are tied to the appropriations. Funds hold the cash in the Treasury. Appropriation 128 is tied to the PER paying fund and 903 to the NRS cash fund. DRS also has a general revenue fund, EGR. Fund EGR receives general revenue distributions based on the Revenue Stabilization Act from the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration. Federal fund draws are deposited directly in the PER fund. DRS transfers general revenues from EGR to PER to meet

program matching requirements.

Cost centers are the primary accounting object representing the basic accounting hierarchy.

Cost centers are tied directly to a fund and appropriation combination. This is known as a budgetary triple. DRS also uses internal orders to complete the hierarchy. Internal orders have a direct relationship to agency program codes that identify expenditures and cash receipts (but not federal draws) by funding source (e.g., VR 110, Supported Employment, Independent Living). Internal orders, however, are independent of the budgetary triple. For example, the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center must use different cost center sets for appropriation 903 and 128. The internal orders can cut across the budget triple and are the

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Griffith Accepts Post at East Arkansas Community College

Lee Griffith, Associate Director of Workforce Training for the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, has accepted the position of Director of Administrative Services at East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City.

Griffith joined the Department of Workforce Education as an area supervisor for agriculture education in 1985. Before becoming Associate Director of Workforce Training, Griffith served as Program Manager supervising the secondary area centers.

"As Associate Director, Lee Griffith brought a vast amount of experience in agriculture and vocational education that well served our state and our agency," said Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. "I wish to thank him for all his years of service. Although we are sad to see him go, I know that

he will serve East Arkansas Community College well in his new role and they will make new strides with him as a member of their team."

Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson said, "Lee has been a great asset to the agency. His years of experience and solid knowledge of career and technical education have been a guiding principle in the agency and he will truly be missed."

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Education congratulates Associate Director Lee Griffith and wishes him well and much success in the future.



Griffith

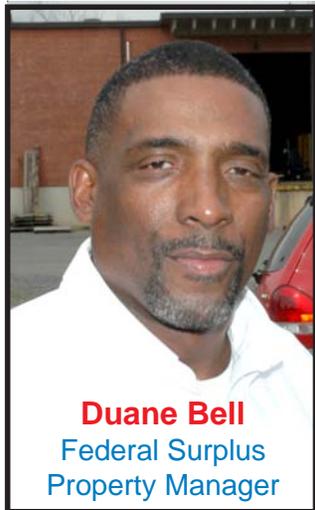
Bell Chosen as Federal Surplus Property Manager

The United States Army used to have a slogan that told the world its enlistees were going to be all that they could be. The new manager of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Federal Surplus Property (FSP) program is doing all that it takes to bring that philosophy with him to his latest post.

Duane Bell retired from the Army in 2004 as a Sergeant First Class with 23 years of service working with logistics, supplies and equipment. Bell says his military experience helped prepare him for the work he's doing now at FSP.

"With the work I've done in the military, the responsibilities in my current position are kind of the same as logistics," Bell said. "I like working with equipment."

Bell will be in charge of the program that donates property that has been declared surplus or excess by the federal government. Public agencies, private, non-profit health and educational institutions and homeless shelters are eligible to receive federal surplus property. Each year FSP receives 150+ tractor



Duane Bell
Federal Surplus
Property Manager

trailers loaded with federal personal property that includes tables, chairs, lateral file cabinets, legal and regular file cabinets, computer tables, medical and kitchen equipment and supplies, etc. Most items are new and still in the original box.

While it appears FSP is running like a well-oiled machine under Bell's leadership, he will be the first to say he's not doing it alone.

"The biggest tool I have is a great staff," Bell said. "When you have a staff that is competent and well trained, you can jump right in and keep the wheels

turning."

Now that Bell has jumped in to his duties with both feet, he says he has a few goals he'd like to see accomplished within the next year.

"I'd like to bring in at least 25 to 30 new donees," he said. "When I'm completely knowledgeable about the whole operation, my goal is to create more business and raise the bar even higher for the agency."

If Bell's first 30 days are any indication, he's well

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Director Visits Rehabilitation Field Offices



DWE Director Bill Walker dropped in to visit with the staff of two field offices in February. Pictured left are Russellville office staffers (l-r) Brenda Chronister, Secretary; Peggy Hunter, Rehab Assistant; Director Walker; Janis King, Counselor; and Barbara Metcalf, Secretary. At right are Conway office staffers (l-r, back row) Katy Morrison, Rehab Assistant; Woody Carlisle, Counselor; Director Walker; (front row) Connie Morrow, Secretary; Jessica Mathis, Secretary; Don Dyer, Placement Specialist; Jayné Barkus, Counselor; Lisa Murphy, Counselor.

FBLA Members Help Make a Wish for Ozark Boy



help make the dreams of little Jarius Hurst of Ozark come true.

The FBLA executive council chose The Make-A-Wish Foundation as its charitable organization in 2005. That same year, Jarius was diagnosed with lymphoblastic lymphoma.

"He was hooked up to every machine you can imagine," said Jarius' mother Jennifer of his time in cancer treatment. "I was afraid to hold him. He looked so fragile."

Now with Jarius' cancer in full remission, FBLA, with the help of Make-A-Wish, was going to send him on the trip of a lifetime, to Walt Disney World in Orlando.

Jennifer said the gift was fitting because of her FBLA connection.

"I was beside myself," she said. "I was in FBLA...a machine

transcriptionist. It just seemed so perfect. I was excited the gift came from FBLA."

Jarius and the rest of his family arrived to a red-carpet reception at the conference. In order to make the presentation a surprise, He was told he was going to speak to FBLA members about Make-A-Wish.

Once on-stage and prepared for his presentation, Jarius noticed

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District 1 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members used their January 30 conference at the Fort Smith Convention Center to give a six-year-old boy something more to be thankful for. After three years of hard work, the group was able to

Who is Emma Rhodes?

- ① Adult education leader
- ② Small business owner
- ③ Ed.D., University of Arkansas
- ④ GED graduate, Arkansas
- ⑤ All of the above



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Metropolitan Career & Technical Center Open House in Little Rock was held February 12. DWE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. and Deputy Director John Davidson were among visitors to the school. (Pictured top left) James Blanchard,



Auto Paint and Body Instructor, Director Walker, school principal Michael W. Peterson, and Davidson watch a demonstration by students sanding a car (bottom left).

PATHWAYS *continued from page 1*

high-tech, high-wage, high-demand fields of the 21st century lie inside Arkansas's career and technical education programs and its two-year colleges.

"When I look into the eyes of career and technical education educators, and when I look into the eyes of your students who are the future, it's exciting," Walker said. "To think of the challenging jobs they'll have and the qualified workforce you're producing – you are the ones who are making a difference. You will help them find their niche. You will help prepare them for high-paying jobs."

Much of the concern for the future was based on the Ed Gordon book *The 2010 Meltdown*. The book describes the immediate need for a large, highly skilled workforce amidst the rapid retirement of the baby boom generation.

Dr. Angela Brenton, co-chair of *The 2010 Meltdown* study group at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, says the publication attracted some much-warranted attention at the university.

"There's a perfect storm bringing a massive labor shortage in the next 10 to 15 years," Brenton said. "By the year 2050, the US will lose 22 to 58 percent of its workforce to retirement."

According to Brenton, the United States needs to experience a cultural shift in order to cope with the impending labor shortfall. She says 42 percent of today's fastest growing jobs don't require four-year degrees and that 70 percent of high school graduates go on to four-year colleges, but only 27 percent of those students graduate from the four-year schools.

"We've developed a culture in the United States where parents want their kids to go to a four-year college," Brenton said. "We may not be doing a good job of counseling some students toward career and technical education where they can be more successful. Students involved in career and technical education tend to develop more of an interest in education on the whole.

"Business and industry holds a vested interest in solving the labor shortage," she added. "We need to pool resources and work together to meet the



DWE Associate Director for Career & Technical Education Rod Duckworth speaks to the assembled crowd

challenges that face the economy."

Collaboration is at the heart of Governor Mike Beebe's Workforce Cabinet, which is made up of the Department of Workforce Education, Department of Workforce Services, Arkansas Workforce Investment Board, Department of Education, Department of Higher Education, Arkansas Science and Technology Authority, Arkansas Economic Development Commission and the Association of Two Year Colleges.

"Governor Mike Beebe has said we can no longer be satisfied with business as usual, we must be innovative and we must challenge the status quo," said Director Walker to conference participants. "He has said until we do this, we will not be able find the solutions that work best for our working families and our business community. It will require a change in philosophy, and that must begin at the very core of our efforts. This governor has made a commitment to business and education and the Workforce Cabinet agency directors have formed a partnership to provide advice and direction."

Director Walker re-iterated the Governor's commitment at the conference, while attendees heard from Workforce Cabinet directors and their plans to implement his vision.

Arkansas Department of Economic Development Deputy Director Ron Zook said that career and technical education is important to the state's economic development and is paramount to the recruitment of industry.

"In Arkansas there are seven agencies working together to prepare students for the global economy," said Zook. "On a given day in our state there are 70,000 people who are unemployed and there are 70,000 openings in the manufacturing industry. The disconnect is in the skills of the workers. The solution to closing the disconnect is in the instructors."

Meanwhile, Department of Education commissioner Dr. Ken James said education on the

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whole is making giant upward strides in Arkansas. According to James, Arkansas now ranks No. 8 in overall quality of education in a survey from *Education Week/Quality Counts*. He added, while that's something to be proud of, there are still improvements to be made.

"Arkansas ranks 49th in the nation in the number of Bachelor's degrees held by its residents," James said. "To attract industry to Arkansas, we have to have an educated workforce. They don't have to have a college degree, but they do have to have a post-secondary education. The majority of kids in Arkansas have not connected the dots to be successful in the workforce. Kids today cannot be successful in tomorrow's workforce with just a high school diploma. They will not be able to earn a livable, competitive wage."

James says that Arkansas's more challenging Smart Core curriculum which places a larger emphasis on math and science will make its students more prepared for post-secondary education.

"Education, not location, determines your standard of living," James said. "Students who complete Algebra II double their chances of college graduation over those who don't. Those who take even higher levels of math have an even better chance of graduating college."

Arkansas is among two states in the nation to have adopted Smart Core. The class of 2010 will be the first to graduate with Smart Core as its default curriculum.

Arkansas Department of Higher Education Director Dr. Jim

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, Department of Correction and Department of Community Correction Collaborate on Project to Refurbish HSRC

Three state agencies are coming together for one goal – to better the lives of those served by the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center.

Representatives from the Arkansas Department of Correction and the Arkansas Department of Community Correction met with administrators from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education and the Division of Rehabilitation Services in March to discuss ways the three agencies can work together to repair and refurbish areas of the 75-year-old main building and other areas on the 21-acre campus.

"This is a chance for us to work in coordination with other state agencies in the spirit of what Governor Mike Beebe has already envisioned all of us to do," Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. said. "This will maximize our cooperative efforts to more effectively and efficiently serve the clients who utilize the services here while helping to restore and refurbish this historic facility."

COLLABORATION continued on page 11

Purcell agreed with James' connection between post-secondary education and success. He added that Arkansas students appear to be getting the message as well.

"Arkansas colleges and universities have seen a 25 percent growth in enrollment since 2001-02," Purcell said.

Education is not the only field on the rise in the state, employers and workers also have a new tool that is likely to lead to more prosperity.

Department of Workforce Services Director Artee Williams explained further about the Career Readiness Certificate – a portable credential based on the ACT WorkKeys assessment program

that measures basic workplace skills. According to Williams, employers will be able to immediately recognize which skills workers possess and hire them accordingly. Workers will likewise be aware of which skills they have that employers are searching for and will also know exactly which skills they need to improve.

All in all, the conference participants learned that the state of Arkansas has made a promise and a commitment to its residents. It is making large strides so that high-skill, high-wage and high-demand jobs will be available and that its workers will be trained and ready to compete in the global economy of the 21st century.

COLLABORATION *continued from page 10*

The plan to meet the needs of Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center includes using work-release prisoners and trustees from the Arkansas Department of Correction and Arkansas Department of Community Correction with proper and appropriate supervision to assist in improving many areas, including painting dorm rooms, repairing doors, landscaping and general maintenance.

“It may take a while to make the improvements we need to get where we want to be at the Center, but we are anxious and look forward to working with our sister agencies to assist us in getting there,” Division of Rehabilitation Services Commissioner



WORKING TOGETHER: DWE Director Bill Walker and Department of Correction Director Larry Norris check out dormitory accommodations.

Robert P. Treviño said. “We have a unique and historic gem here in Hot Springs, but it is very old and takes a lot of financial support and maintenance for its upkeep. Our primary focus is the clients who we serve, and this partnership will benefit them in a positive way.”

Arkansas Department of Correction Director Larry Norris, Arkansas Department of Community Correction Director G. David Guntharp, and David Cruseturner, assistant director of the Construction and Maintenance Division of the Department of Correction joined Director Walker, Commissioner Treviño, Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center Administrator Barbara Lewis, Sarah Agee, agency liaison for Gov. Beebe, Division of Rehabilitation



(l-r): Division of Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Bob Treviño, Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center Administrator Barbara Lewis, agency liaison for Governor Beebe Sarah Agee and Department of Community Correction Director G. David Guntharp discuss proposed improvements to Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center.

Services Chief Financial Officer John Wright, and Department Workforce Education Deputy Director for Communications Reginald L. Jackson on a tour of areas in the facility that are in need of repair.

“I am looking forward to the partnership with the Department of Correction and Department of Community Correction,” Lewis said. “This is a great opportunity to obtain the support that is needed to upgrade and maintain our facility and grounds. The workers will be appropriately supervised while on Center grounds and measures will be taken to ensure that the work projects will be conducted in a manner that will eliminate any opportunity for student contact. With these measures in place, it’s a win-win opportunity.”

Under the agreement, workers will be assigned to the Hot Springs facility as often as possible, receiving prioritized assignments each day.

“The Department of Community Correction will do what we can and I think many of the supervised workers we bring here will take a good approach and realize they are doing something very positive that will benefit many people,” Guntharp said.

Division of Rehabilitation Services Employee Crowned Ms. Wheelchair Arkansas



Jonna Bloodworth

One of the Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services' (DRS) most decorated employees has racked up another honor.

DRS District 1-North front office receptionist Jonna Bloodworth was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Arkansas February 9 at Little Rock's Peabody Hotel.

Jonna says she started preparing for the contest last August by talking to people, seeking financial support for her run and even selecting the clothes she'd wear during the contest.

Even though Jonna should be used to winning some pretty prestigious awards by now (last year alone she was named DRS Statewide Employee of the Month and honored with The Connie Gross Leadership Award), she says this latest honor came as a surprise.

"I was shocked and didn't think I had a chance, but what a great thing," Jonna said. "I can be a voice

for the people now and this year will be the best yet."

Jonna says she'll use her new position to talk about disability awareness.

"I will be going around the state to places like schools and doctors' offices talking to people about the disability world," she said. "Also I'll start a computer gaming rehab. I see more and more people staying home getting hooked on video games, not wanting to do anything but play. If we don't get some help for them they will be lost. It is just like drugs or something like that. Gaming destroys families."

Jonna's winning praise from all over DRS, even at the top.

"I was pleased to receive the news announcing Jonna's title. We are all very proud of her accomplishment," said Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño. "She has been a tremendous asset and inspiration to us during her time with DRS. Last year, her colleagues recognized her spirit and professionalism by resoundingly nominating her for the Connie Gross Award. Words are incomplete when describing the strength she brings to our agency and as a role model for Arkansas."

Next up for Jonna is the Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant scheduled for July in Maryland. Jonna says she's currently seeking backers and funds to finance the trip.

JUSTUS continued from page 3

In addition, The Jack Justus Education Center at Camp Couchdale was dedicated because as chair of the FFA Foundation, he was instrumental in securing funding from the state and in raising approximately \$500,000 in private donations for renovations to the camp.

"All of that is flattering, but what I see that is encouraging is how the young people are doing whatever they can to take a greater interest in leadership skills," Justus said. "That's what it's all about."

While areas of agriculture and youth programs have been a focus for Justus, learning and contributing to the betterment of all the programs and services under the Department of Workforce Education has been a priority.

"Part of our mission as a board is to help educate and train people in many different areas and those who have many different needs," he said. "From GED training, career and technical education and rehabilitation services, this agency is one of the few places they can get it all under one roof."

"I am very proud of the work done by the entire agency and look forward to continuing to work with Director Bill Walker and his staff on doing more and providing more services for the citizens of our state."

"It's about keeping up with the challenges the workforce has in today's world and how we can assist in training that workforce. Being a part of it is very special," Justus concluded.

MAX continued from page 1

use skills they already have, but in a more innovative way.”



Don Eichenberger (shown above), an American history teacher from Springdale High School where the MAX teaching method is already in practice, led a discussion at East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City on February 13 and explained how it had already achieved results at the northwest Arkansas school. Eichenberger explained that MAX made classrooms there more productive, involved all students in lively, dynamic discussions and increased classroom energy levels. He further explained how MAX got students excited to come to class, made class more fun and helped students and teachers cooperate better.

ADWE Career and Technical Education Deputy Director **John Davidson** said the results at Springdale High are hard to deny.

“This is a school that was experiencing increased failure and dropout rates and end-of-course scores were dropping,” Davidson said. “I think Springdale High will be the first to tell you the kids were developing a mindset of failure. Once they implemented MAX teaching, students increased reading levels three to four grade

levels, attendance rates and grades went up and so did end-of-course scores.”

The MAX teaching method, developed by Ohio teacher Dr. Mark A. Forget, Ph.D., uses an innovative, yet simple set of strategies that can be implemented in any classroom and help any student successfully learn. The program gets students more involved and excited about learning. It reduces a teacher’s workload, allowing them to devote more personal time to students. It maximizes the effectiveness of teachers and helps students learn more effectively.

The program improves literacy skills among students. It helps students, especially limited English learners, be more successful academically. It also improves student performance on end-of-course exams. The method further helps kids become better thinkers by moving away from rote learning and into deeper, more complex learning.

“Arkansas students must have advanced knowledge to succeed in the high-tech, high-skill global economy of the 21st century,” said **ADWE Director William L. “Bill” Walker, Jr.** “As the information they’ll need to learn becomes more complex, the teaching methods we use must become more effective. Not only is MAX teaching effective, but it makes learning fun and easy.”

The three regional MAX training seminars held in Forrest City, Little Rock and Texarkana,



LaTrenda Jackson, Public School Program Advisor for DWE’s Career and Technical Education division, speaks at Metropolitan Career-Technical Center in Little Rock

were a direct result of Director Walker’s desire to conduct this MAX training in all four congressional districts following the initial seminar held in Springdale in November 2007.

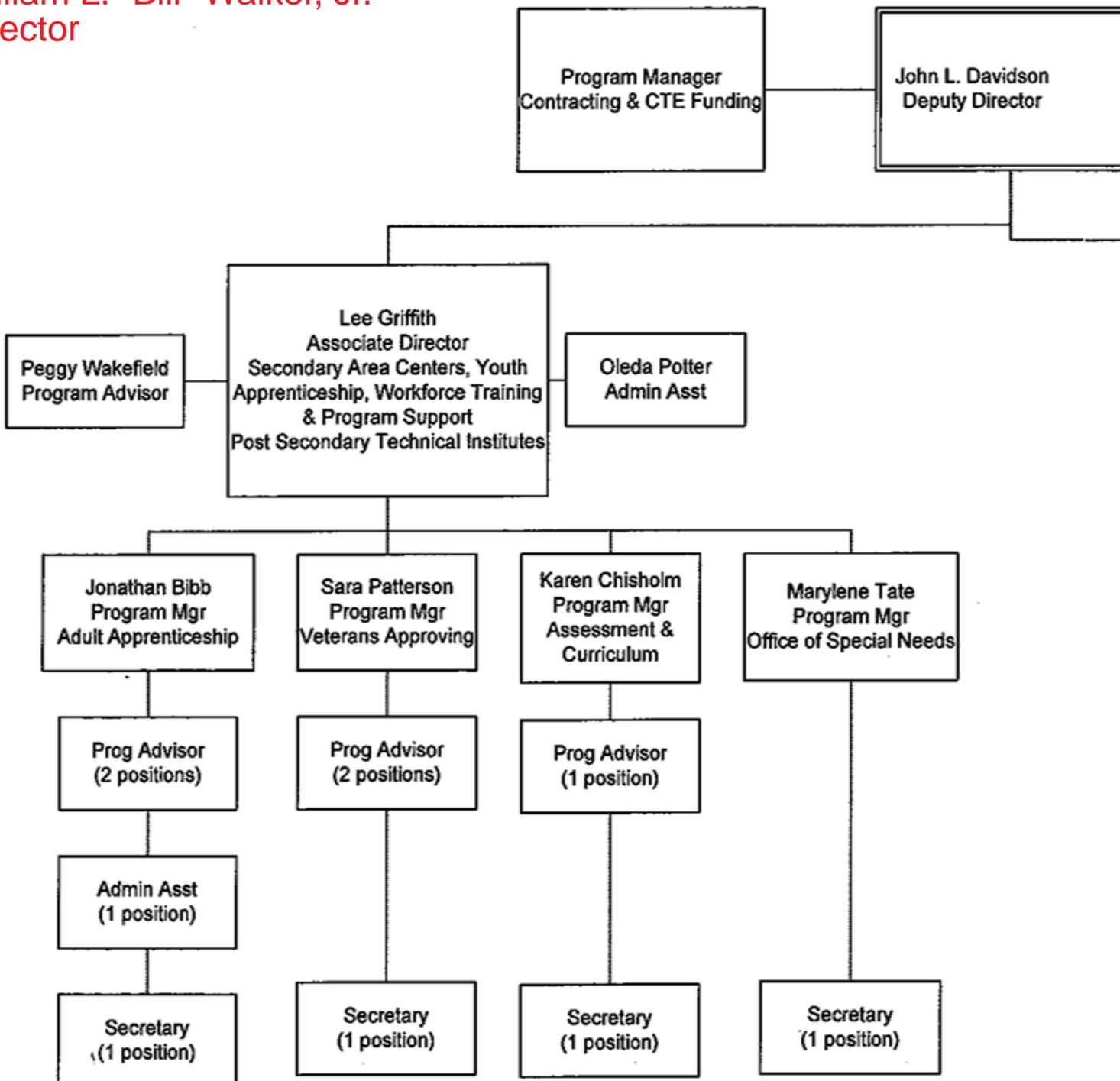
“We have the potential to do so much more to prepare our students, the next generation,” Walker said then. “We need to always raise the bar in how we prepare and educate our students to ensure we raise student literacy skills and literacy rates around the state.”

The Department of Workforce Education’s MAX Training Team made up of staff members Davidson, Duckworth, **Barbara Lensing**, **Marna Farris**, **Karen Chisholm**, **LaTrenda Jackson** and **Marylene Tate**. Davidson said no more sessions are currently planned, but he expects many of the schools represented at these sessions to write in for the **MAX Principal’s Academy** during the spring session of Perkin’s grant applications.



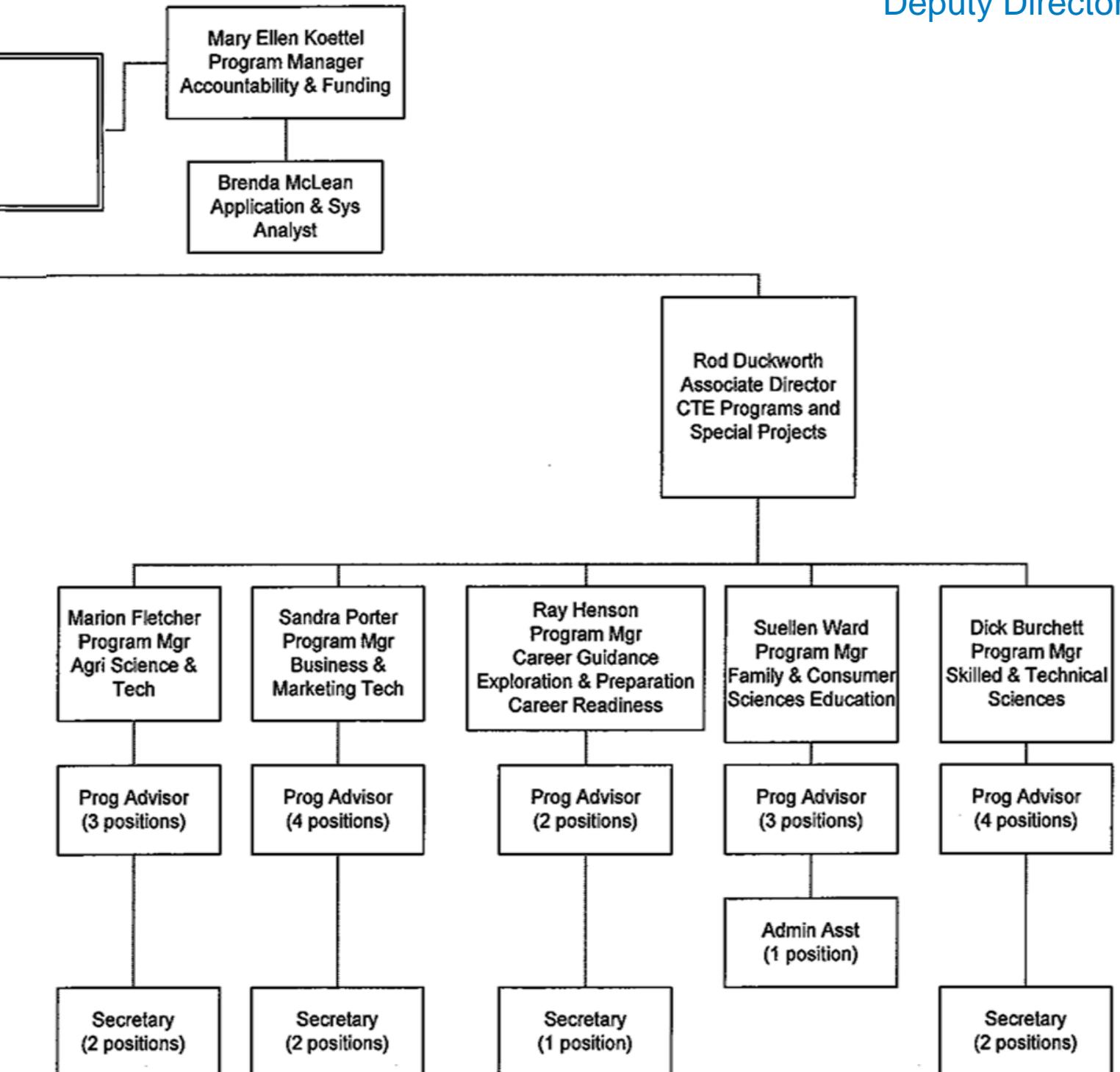
Department of Workforce Education

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Director



Division of Career and Technical Education

John Davidson
Deputy Director



Literacy Councils Collaborate To Develop Emergency Preparedness Pilot Program

A dults with low literacy skills are now able to overcome learning barriers in basic fire safety and emergency preparedness education thanks to the work of a group of Arkansas adult literacy instructors.

Chicot County Literacy Council in Lake Village, Johnson County Adult Education Center in Clarksville, Literacy Council of North Central Arkansas in Leslie, Sharp County Literacy Council in Hardy, and Ozark Literacy Council in Fayetteville partnered with fire safety and emergency management personnel from the six counties served by the participants to develop the pilot program. Safety agency representatives in these counties are supporting the instruction through activities such as class presentations, installation of smoke alarms and provision of information about disasters and emergencies most likely to occur in each area.

In February, community safety and literacy representatives launched projects designed to work with adults who have limited reading skills or are learning to speak and understand English. The project helps adults learn basic fire and emergency information designed to reduce deaths and injuries.

The project is being supported by a state team made up of

Literacy continued on page 24

Rehabilitation Services' Batesville Office Volunteers to Assist Tornado Victims

The response Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services District II Manager Christie Barttelt got from her staff when she proposed the idea of gathering money and goods to assist area victims of a recent tornado didn't come as a surprise.

The severe storms and tornadoes that ripped through north central and northeast Arkansas and killed 13 on February 5 affected District I and District II in a big way.

"The storms hit our coverage area hard," Barttelt said. "People in Izard, Van Buren, Sharp, Fulton, Stone, Randolph, and Sharp counties were really affected and those are all in our area."

Barttelt said she mentioned the idea of doing something to help the victims to her staff at the Batesville field office and the staff took charge.

"We're in a field where we provide assistance to people and everybody jumped in to help," Barttelt said. "I'm very proud and very fortunate to work with a group of people who care so much and want to help others like they do."

"The staff rolled," she said. "Money was raised, clothing, household items, sheets, as well as pots and pans, were gathered and donated to several area victims."

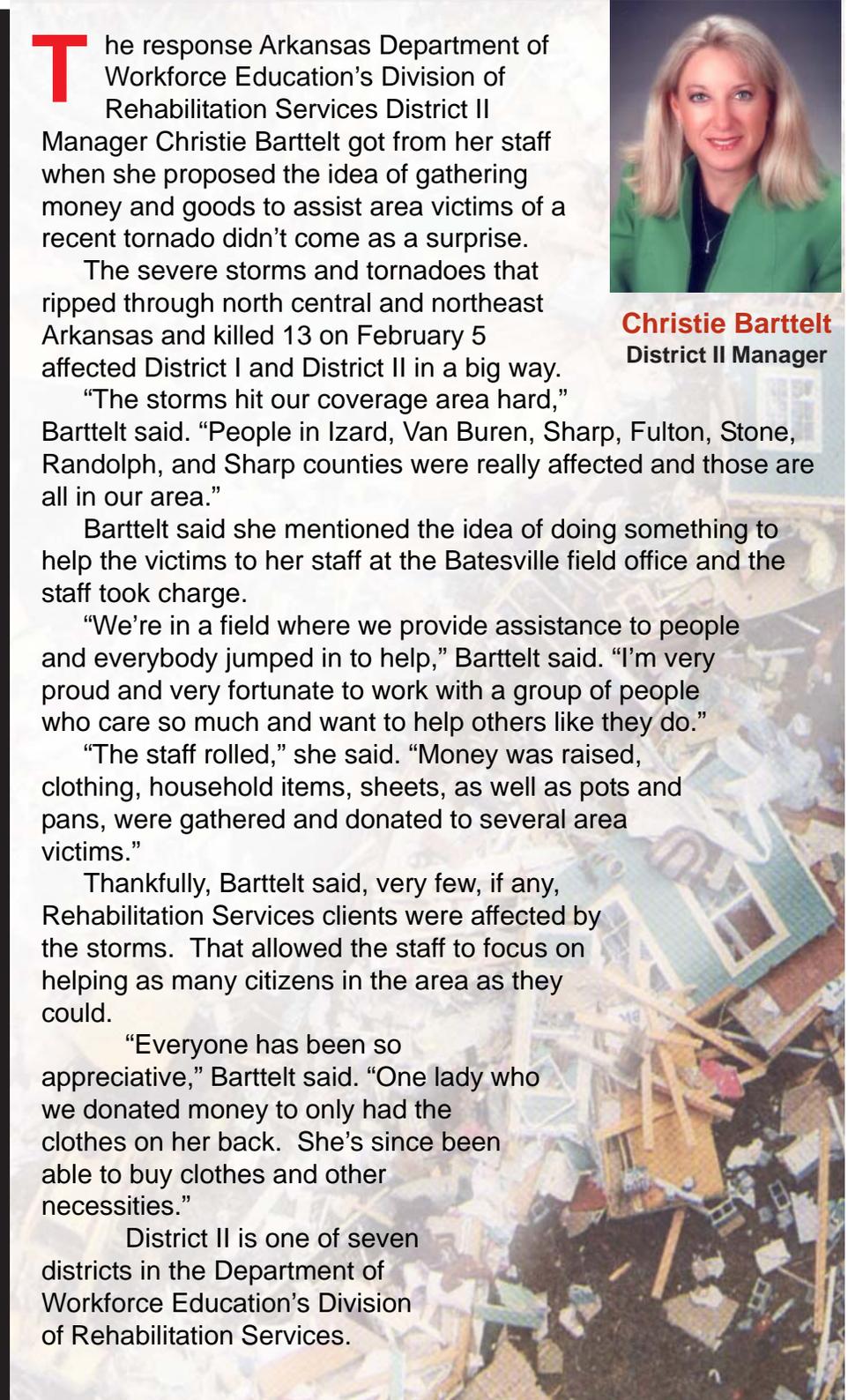
Thankfully, Barttelt said, very few, if any, Rehabilitation Services clients were affected by the storms. That allowed the staff to focus on helping as many citizens in the area as they could.

"Everyone has been so appreciative," Barttelt said. "One lady who we donated money to only had the clothes on her back. She's since been able to buy clothes and other necessities."

District II is one of seven districts in the Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services.



Christie Barttelt
District II Manager



HSRC Happenings

Black History Month presentation educates and informs

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services' Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center celebrated Black History Month on February 26 with their annual Black History Month Program. Cornelious Hollinshed, HSRC Facilities Supervisor, served as the Master of Ceremonies and read inspirational comments from HSRC Administrator Barbara McBeth Lewis in her absence. Opening and closing remarks were provided by Frank Baptist, HSRC's Assistant Administrator.



Ms. Cheryl L. Batts

HSRC staffer Rev. Donald Crossley provided a Black History overview, showcasing the impact of African Americans on the history of America. Students Rhonda Young and Willie Griffin presented poems, Antoinette Nelson and Dominique Phillips lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and Deana Dimond and Sherry Kidd served as ushers.

The keynote speaker was Cheryl L. Batts, founder and CEO of People Helping Others Excel by Example (PHOEBE). PHOEBE is a black history program emphasizing and documenting African American history in Hot Springs and Garland County.

The students and staff were empowered by Ms. Batts motivational comments as she shared with them that Black History is American History.

"Each of us has a heritage, and the heritage of African Americans is a very unique one," Batts commented. "No other minority group was brought to this country as slaves. Other groups came on their own accord, but African peoples came in shackles. African people were educators, queens, kings and great warriors. They could write and speak in different languages like French, Portuguese, and Swahili, but their masters thought it was gibberish."

Batts went on to say, "The only thing that makes all of us different is not our color, but our unique cultures. Our culture is the way we speak, dress, cook, how we think about ourselves and how we look at life. Do you know who you are? If you are here today, considering the number of some of your African ancestors who died after they got on the boat to America or in the fields, then you have a destiny, you have a call. There is something in this world that you have to accomplish. Will you carry the torch of real freedom for this and the next generation?" she asked as she

concluded her presentation.

The HSRC's Black History month committee included Connie Briggs, Jeannette Brewer, Almeda Barnett, Linda Crowell, Clymesa Applewhite, Billy Robinson, Tommy Howard, Don Crossley, Cornelious Hollinshed, Luther Peoples and Troy Gaines.



HSRC Personnel Administrative Assistant Jeannette Brewer (center) with students Rhonda Young and Sherry Kidd

Senior Management Team

SMT Update

(Part two of a two-part series)

John Davidson
Deputy Director
Arkansas Department
of Workforce Education's
Division of
Career and Technical Education



Since coming to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, I have come to believe our greatest success as an agency is the people we employ. They are intelligent, warm and caring people who work for the good of our programs: our teachers and our students.

The Career and Technical Education staff at DWE represent nearly 550 years of educational experience. Our staff has spent an average of 10 years each in the classroom and an average of eight years each with the Department of Workforce Education. They are not only state leaders who have established themselves as master teachers in the classroom, but many are also recognized as national leaders.

Associate Director Roderic Duckworth, our newest staff member, was the previous Career and Technical Education State Director in Washington state. He was a member of the National FFA staff and served on the National Career Cluster Project advisory committee for the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources committee.

Associate Director Lee Griffith has served as the Agriculture Supervisor Representative on the National FFA Alumni Board and also served on the Arkansas FFA Alumni Board.

Program Manager Dick

Burchett presently serves as President of the National Association for Skilled and Technical Sciences (ASTS), and is our representative for the National Center for Construction Education and Research. He has also served as Chairman of the National VICA (SkillsUSA) Board of Directors, President of the Arkansas Technology Education Association, and a board member for the National Association for Trade and Industrial Education.

Program Manager Marion Fletcher has served the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education as President, and the Southern Agricultural Education Conference as Conference President. He has served as the Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Association Co-Superintendent for numerous events. Marion's work with the National FFA Organization includes Board of Directors, Superintendent, National Forestry Career Development Event, National FFA Organization Treasurer, and National FFA Foundation Treasurer. Mr. Fletcher has also served in numerous other leadership activities and task forces throughout the state and national agriculture community.

Program Manager Ray Henson presently serves as President-Elect of Arkansas Career Orientation Teachers' Association and will serve as President in 2008.

He has also served as a Regional Vice President for this group.

Program Manager Sandra Porter presently serves on the Bryant School Board assisting the district in making those very critical decisions to the educational progress of the Bryant community. On the national level, she has served as National Association of Supervisors Business Education Treasurer. In Arkansas, she has served on the ACTE board, and the Arkansas Business Education Association (ABEA) board as President. She also serves FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) as State Chair, Phi Beta Lambda as State Chair, DECA (An Association of Marketing Students) as State Chair, and represents DWE on the CTAG (Closing the Academic Gap) for the Arkansas Department of Education.

Program Manager Karen Chisholm serves on the QuestionMark Advisory Board and the Arkansas Department of Education Supplemental Instruction Grant Committee. She also served as Southern Region Education Board/High Schools That Work Board Member.

Program Manager Suellen Ward has been a member of the ACTE Planning Committee, National Communications Committee and an Arkansas ACTE board member. She has also served the National Association of

CTE continued on page 19

CTE continued from page 18

State Administrators of Family and Consumer Sciences as President. She was previously named Teacher of the Year. On the state level for the Arkansas Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences, Suellen has served in various offices, including president.

Public School Program Advisor Jim Brock has served our state as Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) chair of the Awards Committee and on the national level as a member of ACTE Resolutions Committee. He has also served as a member of the Southern Region DECA Board.

Public School Program Advisor Dr. Dawn Simpson served as President of the North Little Rock Chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). She was appointed by the Governor to serve as a Board Member on the Minority Teacher's Recruitment Advisory Council and is on the Closing the Academic Achievement Gap Commission. She was recently promoted to serve as Director of Vocational Training of the Arkansas Career Training Institute for the Division Rehabilitation Services' Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center.

Public School Program Advisor Dr. Ann Horne has served in many Agriculture leadership activities as a Delegate Coordinator for National FFA and also on the National Task Force for Data Collection.

Public School Program Advisor Barbara Dimon has been elected President-Elect to the Health Supervisors and Teacher Educators Council organization.

Public School Program Advisor Hervey Galloway has served as a board member of the SkillsUSA State Directors' Association and as an Advisory Committee Member for the Four State Regional Technology Conference, the State Career Cluster Advisory Committee, and the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute.

Public School Program Advisor Suzanne Jones served on the Arkansas Jump\$tart Committee, which addresses financial education in Arkansas high schools and is currently serving on the National ACTE committee for Public Information.

Public School Program Advisor Bruce Lazarus from our Agriculture program served as President of the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education. Bruce has also served as NASAE Vice

President and on numerous committees for the National FFA.

Public School Program Advisor Randy Prather was recently selected to serve on the SkillsUSA State Directors Board representing Region 2 and has served for the last 7 years served on the Arkansas Ford AAA Board.

Public School Program Advisor Peggy Wakefield has served as chair of the Arkansas ACTE Public Relations Committee as the Arkansas representative to the Region IV Public Relations Committee, and as the DWE liaison to the ACTE Executive Board.

Ray Winiecki is president-elect of the Arkansas ACTE and serves as policy chair. Ray will lead the state Arkansas Career and Technical Education Association next year as our president.

I have just highlighted a few of our staff, but all are outstanding in their work and their effort. I truly believe this is the best indicator of the quality of our agency programs. This staff is very talented and has proven their leadership on a local, state, and national level.

BELL continued from page 7

on his way to reaching his goals and he'll make FSP be all it can be.

Bell admits, though, he was not prepared for everything when the February 5 tornadoes tore through the state, but he was up to the challenge in his short, one-month tenure on the job. The FSP stock included some Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mobile homes which were requested by some donees for those in need.

Bell says even though the tornadoes highlighted a potentially dangerous situation, they also showed the goodwill Federal Surplus Property can provide.

"With the destruction caused by the tornadoes, FSP was able to assist donees such as schools, police departments and homeless shelters requesting our services during their time of need. That's what the surplus property program is all about," he concluded.

For additional information about the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Federal Surplus Property Program, call 501-835-3111, or drop by the facilities at 8700 Remount Road in North Little Rock.



Students Showcase their Skills at Annual State Conference

Nearly 500 Arkansas DECA members got the opportunity showcase their skills at the organization's **State Career Development Conference February 24 through 25 in Rogers.**

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (ADWE) staffers Paula McGill, Peggy Wakefield, Sandra Porter, Ginger Fisher and Jim Brock, who also serves as DECA state director, were on hand to make sure the event went off without a hitch as the students competed in 33 team and individual events.

"It always makes us really proud to see how hard the students work," Brock said. "The kids put their hearts and souls into these competitions and it's an honor to be associated with them and with DECA."

ADWE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. was among the featured speakers during the event's opening ceremonies. Walker, who was a DECA member during his days at Little Rock's Central High School, told the students they would make a significant impact on both the state and nation, but cautioned them about getting discouraged.

"Sometimes we win even if we don't come in first place," Walker said. Then, quoting legendary Green Bay Packer football coach Vince Lombardi, said, "Build for your team a feeling of oneness, of dependence on one another and

of strength to be derived by unity. Together we win divided we lose."

The following students placed in their respective categories at this year's conference:

Accounting Applications

1st Brandon Dismute, North Pulaski; 2nd Brittany Cary, Harrison; 3rd Haley Kiser, Harrison

Advertising Campaign

1st Alma; 2nd Harrison; 3rd Stuttgart

Apparel & Accessories Marketing

1st Kelvin Parker, LR Fair; 2nd Isela Mercado-Ulloa, Springdale; 3rd Lauren Reaga, Springdale Har-Ber

Automotive Services Marketing

1st Kaylee Six, Alma; 2nd Christa Lynn, Bentonville; 3rd Tyler Cox, Harrison

Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making

1st Harrison; 2nd Stuttgart; 3rd Alma

Business Services Marketing

1st Marcus Hagler, Harrison; 2nd, Jessica Hurley, North Pulaski; 3rd, Mia Williams, LR Central

Buying & Merchandising Management Team Decision Making

1st Alma; 2nd Fayetteville; 3rd Alma

Community Service Chapter Team Event

1st Alma; 2nd Harrison; 3rd Springdale

Creative Marketing Service Event

1st Siloam Springs; 2nd Alma

DECA Quiz Bowl

1st Gravette; 2nd Harrison B; 3rd Bentonville B

Entrepreneurship Participating Event Franchising

1st Grant Roe, Alma

Entrepreneurship Promotion Project

1st Alma

Entrepreneurship Written Event

1st Stuttgart; 2nd Bentonville

Fashion Merchandising Promotion Plan

1st Alma; 2nd Alma; 3rd Alma

Financial Analysis Team Decision Making

1st Bentonville; 2nd Alma; 3rd Rogers

Food Marketing Series

1st Garrett Park, Bentonville; 2nd

Lisa Black, Bentonville; 3rd Shikyra Jones; LR McClellan

Hospitality & Recreation Marketing Research

1st Jessica Chitwood, Alma

Hospitality Services Marketing Team Decision Making

1st Harrison; 2nd Stuttgart; 3rd Springdale

Hotel & Lodging Management

1st Caitlyn Sears, Alma; 2nd Calvin Strickert, Harrison; 3rd Heather Hartley, Stuttgart

Internet Marketing Management Team Decision Making

1st North Pulaski; 2nd Bentonville; 3rd Harrison

International Business Plan

1st Bentonville; 2nd Siloam Springs; 3rd Bentonville

Learn & Earn Project

1st Alma

State DECA Conference held February 24



(above) **Sandra Porter**, Program Manager for the Department of Workforce Education's Division of Business & Marketing, and DWE Director **William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.**, enjoy their time at the conference.

(below) **Quiz Bowl winners** show off their medals and plaques.



DECA team members from El Dorado High win high honors

El Dorado High School DECA team members (pictured at right, l to r) **Ashley Page, Jay Marshall, Keith Britt, Tanisha Roberson and Jessica Neely** pose with their trophies after winning the overall sweepstakes prize at the **SAKE Fx** team competitions hosted by the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) and Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) chapters at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. The team took first place in the **SAKE Current Events Challenge, What Matters Most, Understanding the Global Economy** and placed second in the **Anti-piracy PSA**. A **\$1,000 scholarship** to attend SAU was also awarded and will be given to a deserving El Dorado High School student. Special thanks the El Dorado DECA advisor Jackie Phillips for her hard work.



STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Profound economic-and-technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of tasks required by today's labor force, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is strongly committed to providing excellence in education for all of its citizens and students, so that they will be well-equipped to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world; and

WHEREAS: Career-and-technical education (CTE) provides Arkansans with a school-to-career connection and is the backbone of a strong, well-educated workforce, which fosters productivity in business and industry and contributes to our State's and Nation's leadership role in the international marketplace; and

WHEREAS: CTE courses offer lifelong opportunities to learn new skills, which provide individuals with career choices and the potential for economic success and personal satisfaction; and

WHEREAS: The ever-increasing cooperative efforts of career-and-technical educators, business, and industry stimulate the growth and vitality of Arkansas's economy, and that of the entire Nation, by preparing graduates for career fields that are predicted to grow quickly and extensively over the next decade;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2008, as

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge all of our citizens to support career-and-technical-education programs in their communities and to become familiar with and participate in the services and benefits offered by these programs to learn life-enhancing work skills that will increase the productivity and prosperity of our State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 17th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2008.



Mike Beebe
MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR

Charlie Daniels
CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE

Governor Beebe proclaims February



which fosters productivity in business and the State's and Nation's leadership role in the



Phi Beta Lambda state officers (above): Kristina Setzer, Governor Beebe, Ashley Keymer and Director Walker

Future Business Leaders of America state officers (below): Michael Leonard, Ryan Ohm, Heath Nance, Governor Beebe, Clair Shell, Addie Kortan, Maria McCallie and Director Walker



DECA state officers (top): Cassie Patterson, Chelsey Deal, Lauren Ashby, Governor Beebe, Caitlyn Sears, Samantha Madden, Director Walker and Ryan Foster

FFA state officers (above): Lowin Cate, Samantha Carr, Ryan Haley, Governor Beebe, Zac Coffman, Tasha Daniels, Steven Hutter and Director Walker



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION Month



TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME

Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Board (below): Ray Winiecki, Ben Rutherford, Debbie Anselmi, Governor Beebe, Sue Burris and Director Walker



Health Occupations Students of America state officers (above): Nikki Kissire, Mary Ann Wallace, Jasmine Jackson, Governor Beebe, Alise Altom, Julia Scoggins and Director Walker.



Family, Career & Community Leaders of America state officers (above): Shandon King, Xavier Billingsley, Governor Beebe, Chandra Davis and Director Walker

MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR

SkillsUSA Post-Secondary state officers (below): Michael Leonard, Ryan Ohm, Heath Nance, Governor Beebe, Clair Shell, Addie Kortan, Maria McCallie and Director Walker



DECA continued from page 20

Marketing Management

1st Bryan Rivera, Bentonville; 2nd Ryan Foster, Harrison; 3rd Debbie King, Springdale Har-Ber

Public Relations Project

1st Alma; 2nd Alma; 3rd Arkadelphia

Quick Serve Restaurant Management

1st Joshua Guin, Bentonville; 2nd, Katie Goforth, Bentonville; 3rd Aaron Moore, LR Central

Restaurant & Food

Management 1st Antonio Labot, North Pulaski; 2nd Arnie Lovaas, Harrison; 3rd Devain Main, Gravette

Retail Marketing Research

1st Bentonville; 2nd Siloam Springs

Retail Merchandising

1st Erin Mullins, Alma; 2nd Cassie Peterson, Alma; Ashley Callahan, Gravette

Scrapbook

1st Harrison; 2nd Rogers; 3rd Alma

Sports & Entertainment Marketing

1st Riley Sokora, Fayetteville; 2nd Mark Milburn, Harrison; 3rd Jacob Williams, Arkadelphia

Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making

1st Bentonville; 2nd Springdale Har-Ber; 3rd Stuttgart

Technical Sales

1st Michael Lech, Alma

Travel & Tourism Marketing Management Team Decision Making

1st Stuttgart; 2nd Springdale Har-Ber; 3rd Rogers

Chapter of the Year

Alma

The top two finishers in each competition qualify to attend the DECA International Leadership

LITERACY continued from page 16

representatives from Arkansas Literacy Councils and Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Ozark Literacy Council in Fayetteville, the Fayetteville Fire Department and Johnson County Rural Fire District #1 in Clarksville.

"This is an exciting new way to reach a high risk audience that we have often overlooked in the past," says Arkansas Children's Hospital Burn Center nurse Jimmy Parks. "Many times we have published and passed out safety materials full of great information without a thought to the fact that many people couldn't read the material. We had noble intentions, but a lot of our pamphlets just ended up in the trash. Not because people didn't care, but because the text just wasn't helpful for some people. Now I think we have a plan that will really make a difference in preventing fire-related injuries."

"The challenge of communicating safety messages to people with varying reading levels cannot be overstated," says Home Safety Council President Meri-K Appy. This program will help meet the needs by connecting the fire service and other safety agencies with local literacy providers through a systematic community outreach and education program. Together, these partners will make a powerful team."



Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc.

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Education administers adult education programs in each of Arkansas's 75 counties through 28 literacy councils.

Conference in Atlanta on April 26-29. That conference is expected to be attended by 15,000 DECA competitors from all 50 states and Puerto Rico, Guam, Canada, Mexico, and Germany.

Students weren't the only ones who took home honors from the weekend. Teachers and advisors were also recognized for their work with DECA. Sheryl Dunn of Oak Grove High School and Troy Bedwell from Fort Smith Southside High School were honored as retiring marketing teachers. Linda Clay of Fayetteville High School was named Marketing Teacher of the Year and Outstanding New Marketing Advisor was awarded to

Tracy Reed of Springdale High School.

The conference wasn't all about competition though. During the first day of the conference, the students held a silent auction and fair to raise money for Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Thanks to their work in Rogers, the students raised more than \$9,000 for Children's Hospital and more than \$500 for MDA. This is in addition to other monies raised during the school year by local DECA chapters. Last year, members topped \$15,000. It's expected this year's total could top that amount.

FFA Alumni Convention meets in Paragould



Mike Mitchell (left), of Sheridan, Arkansas FFA Alumni President, accepts an Outstanding Affiliate award for Arkansas' chapter from National FFA Alumni president Ronnie Ansley, of North Carolina.



Agriculture. The support the alumni give to the local chapters across the state is so valuable.”

Jason Davis, a 2004 Greene County Tech graduate spoke before the group and Lowin Cate, a 2007 graduate of Greene County Tech who serves as the FFA Alumni state reporter, was the keynote speaker.

“Looking back on FFA and all the memories I have, most of all I remember the opportunities that were opened up to me,” Cate said. “One thing I know, nothing could be done without all the help. Over the last five years, I’ve had many successes and failures, but I always know someone is there to support me. Everything we do would not be possible without the support that the alumni give.”

Special guest Ronnie Ansley, National FFA Alumni President, made the trip from North Carolina to attend the event.

“Having Ronnie there was special,” Fletcher said.

The convention included a tour of the Paragould City Water and Light Plant where the members got a demonstration of how power is transferred throughout the city.

Mike Mitchell of Sheridan was re-elected as president, Larry Holland of Emerson as vice-president and Janice Farr of Sheridan as secretary.

Sheridan received the award for the outstanding affiliate based on activity and support. Paragould was honored as having the largest delegation at the convention, and Greene County Tech and Stuttgart were recognized for having the largest FFA membership in Arkansas.

Alumni are an important part of Future Farmers of America, and the annual State Alumni Convention in February showed why. More than 100 FFA alumni attended the convention February 15-16 at Greene County Tech High School in Paragould. They re-elected officers and helped raise \$5,000 for FFA scholarships through an auction which featured 265 items.

“It was a very successful event,” said Marion Fletcher, Department of Workforce Education FFA program manager. “The highlight is how they came together with the auction to help fund the 10 scholarships we have to help students attend post-secondary institutions in Arkansas and major in

WISH continued from page 8

something was different. FBLA members started asking him Disney trivia questions. He was confused, but cooperative. As he answered each question correctly, students dressed as Disney characters started bringing Jarius Disney-themed gifts.

“Do you know where you’re going?” The quizmaster finally asked. “No,” Jarius answered.

“Disney World!” replied the crowd of more than 1,100 students sitting in the auditorium with an

overwhelmed six-year-old as the sole center of their focus.

Saucer-eyed, it took Jarius a second or two to process the information, but he knew what to do next.

“Thanks,” he said.

It took three years of hard work, but the members of FBLA District 1 did an amazing job. They raised \$5,000 and made a young boy’s wish come true.

DIRECTOR *continued from page 2*



Governor Mike Beebe and DWE Director Walker in the Governor's Conference Room at the Arkansas State Capitol

entire agency under one roof in the future.

We will increase our involvement with all of our Career and Technical Education student organizations. These are the groups that create many of tomorrow's workforce leaders. The outcome of the agency's increased involvement with all of our CTSOs will result in an expansion of their membership goals and accomplishments, and ultimately more career leaders in Arkansas.

Gov. Beebe has said that education is the hinge on which our future swings. He has made education and economic development the cornerstone of his administration, and the Department of Workforce Education plays a key role in his vision. Our agency is among several others represented in the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. He is keenly aware that economic development, along with an educated and well trained workforce, is crucial to the economic prosperity of our state. We take our participation in the Workforce Cabinet very seriously, and I know

with your help, Arkansas will produce a workforce that is more than capable to compete and succeed in the global marketplace of the 21st century.

A year has passed by swiftly, and it has been a very productive and important beginning, but there are so many more things to achieve. We must work to achieve adequate funding within our agency and its programs to continue to meet the growing expectations and challenges of this governor and the citizens of our state. A significant increase in funding for our agency in the next biennium will be crucial if we are to begin to operate at a sufficient level to make more of an impact on the educational achievements of Arkansas's workforce.

We know that the success of all people begins with education and training. We are working to make the Department of Workforce Education the best resource for continuous learning so that we can better assist Arkansas's citizens to be more competitive in the global

economy and close whatever achievement gaps may exist. By raising the bar and investing more in workforce education, our governor and our state Legislature can help Arkansas's citizens enjoy greater opportunity, greater prosperity, health, wealth and wellness.

That goal is neither easy, nor is it modest, but I am convinced with our legislative support, that the goal is achievable. With adequate funding, we at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, will do more than our part to ensure that all of our students are the best educated, the best equipped, and the best trained so that they will be well prepared to participate and contribute to the global economy as a member of the workforce of the 21st century. The bar has been raised and yes, we can truly say **the best is yet to come.**

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same. DRS currently uses 676 cost center/internal order combinations to complete its accounting structure. The key document for all of this complexity is the DRS Coding Guide. This is available in pdf format on request.

The paying account structure of DRS means that no specific program is tied directly to an appropriation or line item limitation. The limitations apply to the total of all programs operating from the paying account. For federal programs (especially the Vocational Rehabilitation Program) savings in operational or compensation costs may be used to enhance direct client services. This means that a federal program using a paying account structure has greater flexibility regarding its budgetary dynamics than does a general or special revenue appropriation/fund.

Dates to Remember

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Workshop; April 8

Location: Crowne Plaza/Little Rock; For: CTE administrators, superintendents, secondary center directors, Perkins coordinators

"Project Lead the Way (PLTW)" Certification Process; April 11

Location: Lake Point Conference Center, AR Tech University/Russellville; For: PLTW school administrators and instructors

State Career Development Event; April 11

Location: University of Arkansas/Fayetteville; For: Admi students and instructors

Arkansas SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference; April 15-16

Location: Hot Springs Convention Center/Hot Springs; For: SkillsUSA members and General Public

Rehab Summit emphasizes Transition-Centered Education

In an effort to help students with disabilities successfully make the jump beyond secondary education, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) held a two-day transition conference for educators and administrators in February at the Hot Springs Convention Center.

"Transition at this level is a priority for state rehabilitation agencies," said Ken Musteen, DRS Chief of Field Services. "The Second Annual Transition Summit indicates interest in collaborations between rehabilitation and other state service agencies so that young people are provided service options and activities to ensure transition from school to work or from school to post secondary education."

Along with a series of break-out groups led by education specialists, the summit consisted of a series of planning sessions broken up by county so that attendees could break down ways they felt transition practices in the state could be

improved.

The summit focused on transition-centered education, which is meant to make the adult life of a secondary student more successful. This type of education is expected to bring the student an improved quality of life at home, school and in the community. That quality of life will likely manifest itself in independent living, employment, community citizenship and participation, leisure and recreation.

To achieve these goals, instructors and administrators were asked to focus on five major ideas: student-focused planning, family involvement, program structure, student development and interagency collaboration. In their individual groups, participants brainstormed on the best ways to make the transition process as effective as possible.

Division of Rehabilitation Services Transition Program Director Judy Smith said the conference built a sense of camaraderie that would work toward improving the transition process altogether.

"Some of the local teams got to know one another better and got to learn how to work at team building better," Smith said. "Working together is going to help the transition process especially in districts where they're involving more

partners."

Organizers expected to implement some of the recommendations and hoped they would yield positive results for students. Some of the

expected outcomes include: increased student referrals, an increased number of students receiving specific services, and perhaps most importantly, an increased number of students gaining employment.

"We have to make sure these young people receive the services they need to make the transition to work or to post-secondary education as smooth as possible," Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L "Bill" Walker, Jr. said. "These are individuals who will make a valuable contribution to the workforce. With their contributions, our state will be better, and their lives will be even more enriched."

Making a successful transition out of high school isn't as easy as it sounds. Fortunately, the Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services' Transition Program is helping to make that step a little easier. **For additional information, contact Judy Smith, Transition Program Director, at 501-296-1600.**



Judy Smith
Director
Transition
Services



Union County teachers (l-r) Pamala King and Dianne McCombs, and DRS counselor Suzanne Ward work with HSRC Administrator and Summit facilitator Barbara Lewis.



Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

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