



the

Career Counselor

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



ACE Staff Gathers for 4th Annual Joint Staff Meeting

Department of Career Education (ACE) employees from all three divisions gathered Dec. 9 at the Clear Channel Metroplex in Little Rock for the agency's annual joint staff meeting, which included a morning full of informational presentations, recognitions and a little holiday fun.

"We like to be able to bring together our employees from all over the state for a time of fellowship and a time to update everyone on various aspects of the agency," ACE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., said. "It's always an enjoyable event."

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division (ARS) Associate Director of

Special Programs Jim Moreland and Arkansas Works Associate Director Sonja Wright-McMurray served as emcees for the event. Director Walker welcomed special guests, including members of the State Board of Career Education and the State Rehabilitation Council; Morrill Harriman, Gov. Mike Beebe's chief of staff; Sarah Agee, Gov. Beebe's liaison to ACE; Artee Williams, director of the Department of Workforce Services; and Susan Harriman, director of policy for the Department of Education.

ARS Chief of Field Services Carl Daughtery presented several special awards, including the year's top three districts. The top-producing district was District IX, Marva Dansby, manager. The second-highest producing district was District V-South, Robert Sanders, manager; and third went to District I, Carol Etheridge, manager.

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The SMT Singers regaled the crowd with "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."



178th ACTI Graduation Among the Center's Largest Classes

The 178th graduating class of the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) included 116 students from 66 cities who specialized in 14 career fields. The class, which held its commencement ceremony Dec. 15 at the Hot Springs Convention Center, will be remembered as one of ACTI's largest and most successful.

Twenty-nine students graduated

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178th Commencement
Arkansas Career Training Institute

-- photo courtesy of Bobby Jines



Director's Update

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

Since the day I became director of the Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE), I constantly urged everyone within the agency to "raise the bar." I wanted to see better services, better programs and better delivery systems for the people who benefit from our agency. As I reflect on 2010, I can safely say that we have raised the bar in all areas and done a good job. As we begin 2011, I am confident that we are poised to take this agency "from good to great," to paraphrase Jim Collins' popular book *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap... and Others Don't*.

Morril Harriman, chief of staff to Gov. Mike Beebe, addressed our annual joint staff meeting in December, telling us that we are a "priority agency" and one that touches every level of education. It is indeed true that we touch every level of education—our future workers who are now enrolled in our state's schools, our current workers who need to upgrade their skills, our adults who want to earn the GED credential, our citizens with disabilities who seek meaningful employment.

With 2011 now underway, it is time for us to look ahead at what we want to accomplish in this new year. During the month of January, each division of the agency—Career and Technical Education, Adult Education and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services—will review goals set last fall to ensure that those goals continue to be relevant to the mission

of the agency and to the needs of the people of Arkansas.

One of our most exciting initiatives, begun in October of last year, will continue into 2011. In October, we held our first-ever community forum in North Little Rock. The forum gave citizens an opportunity to see firsthand and in one place the variety of services we offer—services ranging from adaptive equipment for people living with disabilities, to apprenticeship training, to General Educational Development (GED®) classes for adults lacking a high school diploma. The North Little Rock forum was such a resounding success that we are planning forums for Helena-West Helena, Texarkana, Monticello and Fayetteville.

Another initiative that we will focus on in 2011 is the development of the "Science Futures" model curriculum designed to encourage high school students to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Along with 12 other states, we are participating in a Southern Region Education Board (SREB) initiative through which each state will develop a complete curriculum for a career-focused program of study linked to the economic and employment needs of the state. Through this SREB initiative, we will share our "Science Futures" curriculum with the other states, and in turn, will receive the 12 model programs of study developed by the other

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Arkansas Department
ACE
of Career Education



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

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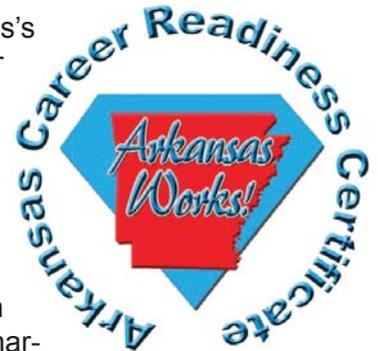
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Arkansas Career Readiness Certificates Reach 25,000 Milestone

One of Arkansas's newest career training tools is a valuable tool for the state's employers and job seekers, and it's also helping career and technical education students get a head start on preparing for the job market.



Gov. Mike Beebe and the Governor's Workforce Cabinet launched the **Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) Program** in January 2008. *Since then more than 25,280 certificates have been issued, and more than 2,500 employers have hired job seekers who have the credentials.*

"Employers in Arkansas are facing formidable challenges in today's economic climate, but the Arkansas Career Readiness Certificate has proven to be invaluable to the economic and professional development of our state's employers and job seekers," said Joe Franklin, assistant director for career readiness for the Department of Workforce Services.

At the high school level, the Department of Career Education (ACE) began piloting the KeyTrain curriculum in workplace readiness courses in 2008-09, with 38 schools completing initial training. The KeyTrain curriculum is based on ACT's WorkKeys® assessment system, and students who complete the KeyTrain curriculum can test for the CRC. Seventeen high schools now test students on campus, along with Arkansas's community colleges.

During the fall semester 1,663 students enrolled in workplace readiness classes completed 3,866 pretests and 2,437 lessons in KeyTrain. Eighty-one percent of these students earned a CRC silver certificate or higher, making them eligible for at least 65 percent of all entry-level jobs.

To date, ACE has had 5,054 students log 35,372 hours with the online curriculum and complete 11,161 lessons. Some of these students worked on their own time outside of the classroom because of the edge that CRC certification can give them in competing for jobs against older, more experienced applicants.



What You Should Know

Rehabilitation Initial Diagnosis and Assessment for Clients (RIDAC)

Nicholaus Paal, Ph.D., *Psychologist*

R IDAC is a diagnostic screening and assessment program available to persons who have made application for services to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, often as part of the process for establishing eligibility.

Evaluation through RIDAC is initiated by the counselor, who may wish to obtain more information regarding an applicant's eligibility; intellectual, educational, mental health or physical limitations; vocational interest patterns; the feasibility of the desired educational/training program; or the possible need for more in-depth evaluation. Although referrals from counselors often come prior to the establishment of eligibility, counselor referrals can be made at any time the counselor has any question about an existing client's abilities, limitations or vocational goals. The obtaining of mental health records or school records on cases will often result in more precise diagnoses data than from a screening evaluation only and may provide enough diagnostic information so that the screening evaluation may not be necessary.

Applicants are initially evaluated in a group setting (usually 8 to 12, depending on the physical limita-

tions) for the basic screening evaluation lasting 1½ to 2 hours. Further individualized evaluations, including vocational interest inventories, are conducted by staff as requested. All applicants undergo an individual interview after completion of testing, which may include a mental health assessment. A medical screening evaluation or review of available medical records is conducted by one of the RIDAC physicians.

The majority of the evaluations consist of the above procedures only. However, some applicants present a more complex picture, and a recommendation may be made to the counselor for more in-depth evaluation by RIDAC or the Learning Evaluation Center (LEC). **Special arrangements may be required for applicants who have more serious medical, intellectual or sensory problems, and counselors and RIDAC staff provide these.**

Reports of the results of the evaluations are provided to counselors typically in less than 10 days after the evaluation date. These reports will generally describe strengths and weaknesses (areas of ability and functional limitations)

and vocational limitations, as well as applicable mental health, educational and medical diagnoses. In cases where more comprehensive evaluations have been done, the reports are likely to cover more areas of ability and limitation.

RIDAC is staffed by nine psychological examiners, two physicians, one psychologist, one program manager/psychologist and one administrative assistant.

These staff members are housed in six locations in central and northwest Arkansas and travel to 28 field locations throughout the state to conduct evaluations on a regular basis and occasionally by special request. A number of staff also conduct record reviews for locations where it is not feasible to travel in order to help counselors determine eligibility and most appropriate programming.

Nicholaus Paal, Ph.D., is the program manager and Sharon Hill is the administrative assistant.

RIDAC can be contacted by mail at 26 Corporate Hill Drive in Little Rock; by phone at 501-686-2812; or by e-mail at nicholaus.paal@arkansas.gov or sharon.hill@arkansas.gov.



John Davidson
Deputy Director
for Career and
Technical Education

Senior Management Team

SMT Update

The Department of Career Education's **Career and Technical Education Division (CTE)** began reorganization in 2002-2003 of instructional delivery and student experiences based on the U. S. Department of Education's Office of Adult and Vocational Education (OVAE) career clusters.

Arkansas CTE instruction was organized into 16 broad categories that encompass virtually all occupations from entry through professional levels. These groupings of occupations are used as an organizing tool for curriculum design, a model for guidance and instruction and a mechanism for

seamless transition from secondary education to college and/or careers. Career clusters link what students learn in school with the knowledge and skills they need for success in their future. This connection to future goals has motivated Arkansas students to work harder and enroll in more rigorous courses.

Through the Arkansas career cluster model, our students have accomplished tremendous success. Seventy-six percent of all Arkansas students are enrolled annually in a CTE class. Since 2002, we have seen a 128-percent increase in the number of students completing programs of study and a 155-percent

increase in the number of those completers going on to college.

The academic achievement of our completers has also made great improvement. During this same time period, our CTE students increased their literacy proficiency level by 13.22 percent and their math proficiency level by 34.97 percent. Most important, however, is the fact that the gap between the proficiency level of all Arkansas students and our Arkansas CTE completers has decreased by 2 percent in literacy and by 4.5 percent in math. In the area of math, our completers are less than one-half percent behind all students. Over the past year our career-center students have also made great progress by earning over 31,000 hours of concurrent college credit. These hours represent a savings of over \$2.5 million to those students and their families.

But the most exciting outcome of our career cluster efforts is the development and implementation in our schools of new and innovative programs that have not traditionally been considered career-related. The Arts, Audio-Video (AV) Technology and Communications cluster is a great example of this type of innovation. This cluster is introduced by a semester course in which all pathways within the Arts, AV Technology and Communications cluster are introduced. This class reviews all pathways of the cluster, which



The Har-Ber High School television program currently has a three-year run of having three or more student films featured at the Little Rock Film Festival and is looking to continue its success. (l to r): Chad Woodard, Mark Matthews, Chris Cox, Trevor Sites, Alicia Thomas, Matt Joseph, Tyler Tesaro, Ashlynn Skaggs, Bo Hudson, Eddie Vega, Claudia Jakobsen, Mr. Wade Struebing, Jessie Gomez, Jordan Peters, William Rorie, Ian Traeger, Jon Blake, Allie Sprenger, Goodwin Hidalgo, Allisa Sexton.

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Booneville FBLA Raises Funds for March of Dimes



Pictured front row: Kendall Robertson, Kinsey Cobb, Lauren Westwood, Katie Schlinker, Jacque Patino, Angela Thomas, Haley Ronney. Row 2: Mrs. Thresa Brown, Adviser, Rebekah Tanner, Alice Landrum, Chasity Pennebaker, Breeanna Borum, Emalee Austin, Lilly Dobbs, Steven Lear, Tyler Rogers, T. J. McCollough, Tierra Rambo, Jackie Hall. Row 3: Daniel Wagoner, T. J. Branham, Chase Turner, Levi Logan, Cody Tabler, Isaac Brown. Not pictured Mrs. Diana Branham, Adviser.

The Booneville High School Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) recently completed its annual Change Wars for March of Dimes.

“The classes competed against each other for the opportunity to win 10 ‘reading points’ to be added to their total for the nine-weeks grading period,” said FBLA State Advisor Peggy Wakefield. “The BHS FBLA has made a tradition of having t-shirts made to wear on the last day of the Change War to really bring attention to March of Dimes. This year the t-shirts were pink or blue and said ‘BHS FBLA and March of Dimes Helping Babies Shake It!’” The chapter plans to continue this fundraising activity this year.

Arkansas Phi Beta Lambda Collects Diapers for Families in Need

MAGNOLIA – More than 8,700 diapers were collected by Arkansas Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) members in support of the “Every Little Bottom” diaper drive at the PBL State Fall Leadership Conference at Southern Arkansas University (SAU) in Magnolia.

According to Michelle Hernandez of Kimberly-Clark, one in three American families struggles to pay for diapers—in Arkansas, there is a need for some 1.2 million diapers. To address this need, Arkansas PBL partnered with the Arkansas Rice Depot, sponsoring the “Every Little Bottom” diaper drive. The drive brought in 8,766 diapers collected by 11 PBL chapters. Southern Arkansas University collected the most, with 4,225 diapers, followed by SAU Tech in Camden with 1,155 and Arkansas State University-Mountain Home with 579.

“Arkansas Phi Beta Lambda’s 8,000-plus diapers is a great start,” said Aaron Carroll, Arkansas PBL state president, “but we are still a long way from helping all those families. As the Diaper Depot says, ‘We got you covered!’ This is something that I feel PBL lived by at our State Fall Leadership Conference when making these donations.”

Arkansas PBL is the first non-profit student organization in the state to hold an organized diaper drive. “I think Arkansas Phi Beta Lambda is a beacon to other organizations about the ‘Every Little Bottom’ campaign,” says Carroll.



Aaron Carroll (above), from ASU-Jonesboro, 2010-11 state PBL president and 2010-11 PBL Southern Region vice president, is shown at the Rice Depot during the press conference to announce the Every Little Bottom campaign.

ACTI Happenings

Students Graduate in Wide-Ranging Fields of Study



Keynote speaker Lamar Davis addresses graduates and guests.

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with honors, and an overwhelming number had already found employment thanks to their training. In fact, roughly 20 percent of the graduates were unable to attend the ceremony because they were working.

Arkansas Department of Career Education Director William L. “Bill” Walker, Jr., was amazed at the growth of the class and remarked on how the venue – which was full to capacity – will likely have to change to accommodate students, friends and family in the future. He also offered his advice to the graduates.

“Your graduation is just one step in your success,” said Walker. “You’ve taken a step in the right direction. Keep doing what you’re doing and remember to advise others to carry on with their education just like you’ve done.”

Keynote speaker Lamar Davis, deputy chief of staff to Gov. Mike Beebe, told everyone in attendance that Gov. Beebe’s administration considered ACTI “a priority,” even during difficult financial times.

“You’re saving lives. You’re changing lives. You’re making better outcomes for our state. ACTI is in the business of restoring lives and providing hope,” Davis said. “While we can’t always give [ACTI] what you want, we can give you what you need. In the future, when things turn around, we will find some more resources so you can continue to do the things that you need to do.”

ACTI Interim Administrator Tony Hoenig summed up the occasion while looking at the past and the future.

“One of the biggest things in my life that determines my job satisfaction is seeing you [the students] succeed,” Hoenig said. “Your success is my reward, and I know I’m going to be very satisfied.”

Auto Collision Repair. Instructors: Don Crossley and David Tunnicliff

▶▶ Devin Johnson, *Ozark*; ▶ Joshua Tolliver, *Hamburg*; Reshawn Young, *Mariion*; Joey Dixon, *Nashville*.

Automotive Service Technology. Instructors: Phil Crume and Wayne Thomas

Michael Barre, *Van Buren*; ▶ Billy Clemmons, *Higdon*; ▶ Cory French, *Mt. Pine*; ▶▶ Larry Morse, *Dardanella*; ▶▶▶ William Ottinger, *Siloam Springs*; ▶ Jeff Wheeler, *Mayflower*; ▶ Jeremy Wheeler, *Mayflower*; ▶ Alex Young, *Benton*.

Business & Marketing Technology. Instructor: Sandra Dunn

Donna Bowden, *Hot Springs*; Patricia Carter, *Pine Bluff*; Brian Clowers, *Hot Springs*; Larry Crawford, *Hot Springs*; Brittany Dixon, *Benton*; ▶▶ Debbie Frenzel, *Hot Springs*; Karen Goodman, *Hot Springs*; ▶ Brittany Rose, *Hot Springs*; ▶▶ Sabrina Roston, *McGhee*; Grace Settle, *Fort Smith*.

Certified Nursing Assistant. Instructor:

Sharyn Spiva

▶ Lora Archa, *Lead Hill*; ▶ Heather Bentley, *Westfork*; ▶ Rose Brunt, *Hot Springs*; Joshua Cline, *Rogers*; Bianca Dickerson, *North Little Rock*; Dianca Dickerson, *North Little Rock*; Krystal Hart, *England*; Jimmie Kay More, *Hackett*; Kathy Lawrence, *Wynn*; Brandy Lininger, *Hot Springs*; ▶ Dylan Mitchell, *Bauxite*; Zachary Morris, *Little Rock*; Taylor Rankin, *Benton*; Donica Taylor, *Fort Smith*; Ashley Webb, *Maumelle*; Freda Whitfield, *Augusta*; ▶ Becky Wilkins, *Booneville*.

Construction Technology. Instructors: Nick Avery and David Morrow

▶ Kersey Hayes, *Hot Springs*; ▶ Christian D. Maranto, *Hope*; ▶ Lawrence Stringer, *Blytheville*; Cameron Whitworth, *Bigelow*.

Cosmetology. Instructor: Susan Gordon

Chrystal Nelson, *Hot Springs*.

Dietetics. Instructor: Curtis Faulkner

Jonathan Cook, *Hot Springs*; Michael Crow, *Foreman*; Hunter Cruce, *Springdale*; Jimmy Gardner, *Fort Smith*; Leron Foreman, *Little Rock*; John Howell, *Bald Knob*; ▶ Darius Hostetler, *Berryville*; Richard Jackson, *Hot Springs*; ▶ Reagan Johnson, *Hot Springs*; Jonathan McKnight, *Conway*; Joey Moody, *Pine Bluff*; Cody Mullin, *Hot Springs*; Edward Reed, *Little Rock*; Kimberlee Sarten, *Ozark*; Deanna Speers, *Jessieville*; April Walker, *El Dorado*; Sean Ware, *Conway*.

Graphic Communications. Instructors: Ralph Forbes, Tom Kennedy and Larry Ward

Derek Bohannon, *El Dorado*; Jarari Felton, *Marion*; Kaila Hurlock, *Louann*; Kace Leavell, *Whitman*; Josh Lewis, *Selmer, TN*; ▶ Jose Merlos, *Fayetteville*; Gordon Michaelis, *Bryant*; Alyssa Pickering, *Texarkana*; Katelin Powell, *Roland*; ▶ Eric Whaley, *Jonesboro*; Jermaine Whitmore, *Diaz*.

Health Informatics. Instructor: Sequoia Ferguson-Tucker

▶▶ Anna Chase, *Hot Springs*; ▶▶ Ada Davis, *Gurdon*; ▶ Rebecca Henderson, *Hot*

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JAG Students at ACTI Help Make for a Happy Thanksgiving in Hot Springs

Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates (JAG) students from the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) in Hot Springs made Thanksgiving a little happier for some families in need.

The students collected canned goods and other nonperishable food items as a part of a community service project for Jackson House, an interfaith community crisis center that provides short-term emergency assistance for those in need.

"The JAG students' donation of food to the Jackson House in Hot Springs is one of the various ways that students are taught to be good community stewards," said ACTI Interim Administrator Tony Hoenic. "Being a contributing adult means more than just earning a paycheck for themselves. It's important for individuals to support those in greater need than themselves."

ACTI welding students built and donated a fire pit that was raffled to those who donated to the food drive.



ACTI JAG members: (kneeling left) Luccas McMahon, vice president of fundraising activities; (back row, l-r) Tammie Outwater, vice president of social activities; David Peck, vice president of career development; Randy Rose, vice president of leadership development; Neigel Moss, president; and (seated) Markell Scott, vice president of community service. Moss and Rose, ACTI welding students, participated in building the donated firepit.

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Springs; ▶ Brittany Moody, *Little Rock*; ▶ ▶ Alex Seward, *Little Rock*; Charles Steiner, *Griffithville*; ▶ Amber Thornton, *Bismarck*.

Lodging & Guest Services. Instructors: Janice McMahon and Joetta Phillips

Aerionna Blair, *Smackover*; Valecia Clayton, *Hot Springs*; Bobby Farmer, *North Little Rock*; Troy Foote, *Jacksonville*; ▶ Samuel George, *Hot Springs*; Shandalyn Henderson, *Little Rock*; Porcha Ogbulankwo, *Elaine*; ▶ ▶ Tammie Outwater, *Hot Springs*; Kassey Overton, *Summer*; Andrew Railey, *Hot Springs Village*; ▶ Kayla Treece, *Hot Springs*; ▶ Luke Udouj, *Fort Smith*; Allison Voyles, *Benton*; Joshua Hughes, *Jacksonville*.

Non-Traditional. Abilities Unlimited

Whitney Brewer, *Coy*; Allison Butcher, *Little Rock*.

Power Equipment Technology. Instructor: Gary Johnston

▶ Justin Good, *Magnolia*; ▶ ▶ William Harding, *Farmington*; ▶ James Huie, *Clinton*; ▶ ▶ James Carl Jones, *Arkadelphia*; ▶ April Lee, *Enola*; Roy Patterson, *Dequeen*; Aaron Peebles, *Pine Bluff*; ▶ Aaron Penn, *Benton*; ▶ ▶ Brandi Sheets, *Royal*.

Sales & Marketing. Instructor: Jacob Bryant

Tim Baker, *Yellville*; Dorothy Barnett, *Hot Springs*; ▶ Matthew Cason, *Valley Springs*; Norman Clifton, *North Little Rock*; ▶ ▶ Robert Poe, *Hot Springs*.

Welding. Instructor: Dennis Pickering

▶ Justin Drysdale, *Alexander*; ▶ Charles Dunn, *Cabot*; ▶ ▶ Justin Kerr, *Huntsville*; ▶ Landon Murry, *Little Rock*; Nathan Price, *Fort Smith*; ▶ Ricky Stewart, *Marianna*; ▶ Chris Taylor, *Sherwood*.

Student Distinctions

- ▶ **Gold Sash:** Honor Graduate
- ▶ **White Sash:** Skills USA Graduate
- ▶ **Medal:** JAG Graduate
- ▶ **CRC Graduate**



Graduates enjoy a celebratory "cap toss."

CORNER

"Assistive Technology 4 Life"

AT

GoTalk Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices

submitted by

Eddie Schmeckenbecher, Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN) Program Coordinator

The **GoTalk Pocket**, **GoTalk 9+** and the **GoTalk 20+** are inexpensive/low-tech devices to keep your loved ones connected in conversation. The GoTalks offer great short phrases like "Yes" or "No" or "Nice to meet you." The GoTalks provide fantastic sound with volume control, easy personal recording, built-in overlay storage, record lock and level lock.

"Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) is communication for those with impairments or restrictions on the production or comprehension of spoken or written language. AAC is any method that supplements or replaces speech and writing when these are temporarily or permanently impaired and inadequate to meet all or some of a person's communication needs. Use of AAC involves selecting messages or codes from a set of possibilities. The user can use these elements alone or in combination in order to communicate a variety of messages. AAC may be unaided, involving high and low technology" (Wikipedia).

GoTalk 20+ is lightweight and rugged and has a 100-message capacity with 20 keys, each one-inch square, and five recording levels. It has five "core messages" that stay the same on each level so essential messages do not have to be re-recorded for each level. On each of the five levels, a different sentence or phrase can be recorded on each key. Level examples would be going to eat, work, school or in the home or dorm. (ID # 17182)

GoTalk 9+ is durable and strong and has a 45-message capacity (nine keys that are 3/4" x 2 1/4" and five recording levels). Like the GoTalk 20+, there are

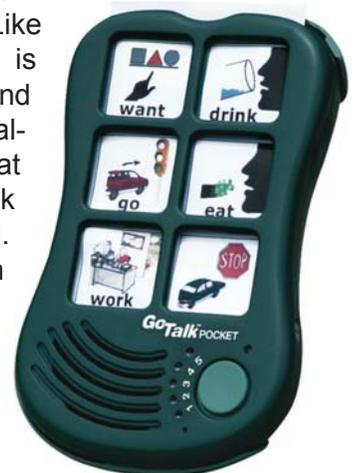
three "core messages" which stay the same on each level to eliminate the need for re-recording for each level. This capability is excellent for essential messages like "Hello" or "All done" or "My name is Bob." (ID# 62535)

The dimensions of the GoTalk 9+ and 20+ are 9" x 12" x 1-1/8" and the weight is 23 ounces.

The devices are powered by two AA batteries.

The GoTalk Pocket is lightweight, contoured and small enough for a hand, pocket or purse. A lanyard can be attached so that the device is wearable. It has six message keys with five levels. Overlays slide in and are stored in a removable compartment on the back. Like all GoTalks, the Pocket is rugged and easy to use and has excellent sound quality. Phrases such as "What is your name?" or "Thank you" can be recorded. The device weighs seven ounces and has a recording time of five minutes. It is smaller than the other GoTalks at 3.5" x 5.5" x 1" and uses three AAA batteries. (ID# 39871)

To see all of the GoTalk line of communication devices, check out the Webpage at www.ar-ican.org or call us at 501-666-8868.



Arkansas Painters Local 424 Readies New Training Facility

The Arkansas Painters Local 424 has a new apprenticeship training facility on Chicot Road in southwest Little Rock. The new site has more than 3,000 square feet of indoor training and office space and over 5,000 square feet of covered outdoor training space.

The Arkansas Painters Local 424 relocated its training facility because its previous training center was heavily damaged by fire in the fall of 2009. Since that time, much of the certification training has been conducted with the help of area contractors.

"The new facility has ample space to accommodate the previous training modules along with new training that will increase the capacity of Arkansas's painting professionals and apprentices to meet stringent requirements," said Arkansas Department of Career Education Apprenticeship Education and Instruction Manager Jonathan Bibb. "The facility is an approved training location by the Society of Protective Coatings (SSPC). This allows the program to conduct required certification training."

Although the new home of the Arkansas Painters apprenticeship training has not been completely finished, it has already been put into service. A train-the-trainer session was conducted by James McAlister in November as a prerequisite for trainers to become certified by the Society of Protective Coatings (SSPC) and the Environmental Protective Agency.

As a founding member of the Arkansas Ap-



prenticeship Coalition, the Arkansas Painters Apprenticeship Training Program will provide this training to ensure the work conducted by painting apprentices in the state is consistent with one of the core values of the coalition, which is accountability for protecting the environment and conserving resources.

In addition to the SSPC certification training, the facility will also provide standard Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety training, as well as training on scaffolding safety. The facility is also approved as an American Heart Association CPR training provider, allowing all of the apprentices to receive certification in CPR and first aid.

To make the new building a reality, apprentices have donated time and their skills to help refurbish the

buildings. In addition, the air compressors, a fork lift, computers for the training lab, and much of the office furniture were purchased from Federal Surplus Property and the Arkansas Marketing and Redistribution programs. Grant funding for some equipment was made possible through the Arkansas Department of Career Education's Construction Industry Craft Training Program.

"The new training facility could not have come at a better time," said Bibb. "Because of increased investment in critical infrastructure – bridges, dams, and schools – the past year has been very busy for most painting contractors. This is a trend that is expected to continue for several years, and the training will provide an essential resource to Arkansas's contractors to fill this need."



(Above, left) The Arkansas Painters Local 424's sign is now in place at its new location. (Right, top and bottom) Construction on the building's renovated rooms.

Panel Begins Development of Science Futures Curriculum

The development of Arkansas's new "**Science Futures**" curriculum kicked off in December with a work session attended by more than 30 individuals representing organizations interested in developing a model curriculum to encourage Arkansas students to consider careers in **science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields**.

Arkansas is one of 13 states developing a model curriculum project through the **Southern Region Education Board (SREB)**, said Dr. Dick Blais of the SREB, who was in Arkansas to work with the panel during its first meeting.

As part of the SREB initiative, participating states will develop career-focused programs of study that join a "ready" academic core with a sequence of career and tech he development of Arkansas's new "**Science Futures**" curriculum kicked off in December with a work session attended by more than 30 individuals representing organizations interested in developing a model curriculum to encourage Arkansas students to consider careers in **science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields**.

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As part of the SREB initiative, participating states will develop career-focused programs of study that join a "ready" academic core with a sequence of career and technical education (CTE) courses embedded with academic content in math, science and language arts.

Each state in the project will develop at least one career-focused program of study — linked to the economic and employment needs of the state — with course syllabi and related instructional materials. Each program of study will include four courses—foundational courses for grades 9 and 10 and advanced courses for grades 11 and 12. Participating states will have access to the course syllabi and curricular materials developed by other states in the project.



(r to l) Dr. Dick Blais of the Southern Region Education Board briefs the panel on the day's work. Looking on are Rod Duckworth, associate director for career and technical education, and Bruce Lazarus, education and instruction manager for school improvement.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us in Arkansas as we move more from the traditional approach in CTE to a clusters approach," said John Davidson, deputy director for career and technical education for the Department of Career Education.

Arkansas elected last spring to participate in the SREB project. The Workforce Cabinet discussed several possible curricula appropriate for Arkansas's needs and recommended

its top choices to Gov. Mike Beebe, who made the final selection of Science Futures. Arkansas's curriculum will be unique in that it will allow students to gain foundational skills for advanced education and training in fields such as nanotechnology, green jobs or nuclear energy.

Because a high percentage of Arkansas's CTE students go on to college, Science Futures is expected to open doors to high-skill, high-wage, high-demand fields that many students might not otherwise be exposed to during high school. Davidson pointed out that 65 percent go to college immediately after high school and that 85 percent enter college within six years. Two-thirds go to four-year institutions and one-third to two-year institutions.

The Science Futures curriculum will be project-based with an emphasis on team projects. During the December two-day work session, the panel began brainstorming possible projects that would support college-preparatory courses such as algebra, geometry, reading and physical science in the 9th- and 10th-grade foundational courses and Algebra II, trigonometry, statistics, physics and chemistry in the 11th- and 12th-grade advanced courses. As the panel continues its work, it will finalize projects, syllabi, and assessments for each of the four courses in the curriculum.

Arkansas's panel is comprised of individuals representing a variety of perspectives, including secondary math, science and language arts; two- and four-year college math, science and language arts; industry; and experts in STEM-related fields.

SCIENCE continued on page 17

The Arkansas Adult Education Website, www.aalrc.org, was selected from more than 3,000 entries as the winner of a 2010 **W3 Award for outstanding work in the education website category from the International Academy of Visual Arts (IAVA)**.

The site was launched in March and was designed to encourage action among prospective students by utilizing motion, sight and sound to speak to the needs of its audience. The site allows students and teachers to

learn more about Arkansas's adult education centers with information presented in both English and Spanish. The information includes details on adult education programs such as the General Educational Development (GED®) program, English as a Second Language and job skills training.

Visitors to the site can also see video testimonials featuring students and former students talking about their experiences.

In addition to information for prospective stu-

dents and the general public, the site also contains a section specifically for administrators and teachers.

"Winning an international award speaks volumes about Arkansas adult education and where we will be in the near future," said Department of Career Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. "We are proud to receive recognition for our website, and more so because of what we have provided to our students – and what they in turn can contribute to the state upon completing their education."

The site was created by Little Rock's Advantage Communications, Inc.

IAVA Executive Director Linda Day said the site was pitted against some stiff competition, making the award an even greater achievement. "We were once again amazed by the high standard of excellence represented throughout the entries we received this year," said Day.

Arkansas Adult Education Website Wins International Award

DIRECTOR *continued from page 2*

participating states.

Gov. Mike Beebe and the Workforce Cabinet endorsed the "Science Futures" curriculum project and are lending support to the development. We are particularly excited that the "Science Futures" program of study is unique among all those being developed because it will provide the foundation for students to learn about and prepare for careers in a variety of high-tech, high-demand, high-wage fields such as nanotechnology.

In adult education, we continue to look at how we might partner with other agencies and organizations to reduce the remediation rate for college students. Adult education and community colleges are collaborating in the development of a pilot project to raise the achievement level of students before they enter college in order to increase their ability to benefit from college. The objective of this project is to raise students' functioning level in 3 "Rs" to at least the 10.5 grade level. We are hopeful that we can implement this pilot project sometime in mid-2011.

It is notable that Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

is not only meeting but surpassing its goals in many areas and will begin 2011 poised to meet the needs of more and more Arkansans living with disabilities. We made a decision last fall to redraw the districts so that there are now 10 districts rather than five. We believe that we can better serve our clients through these new districts that more accurately reflect current population clusters. Last year, the field program exceeded its goal of increasing the number of clients served by 8 percent over the previous year, and we expect to continue meeting the needs of more and more Arkansans in 2011.

The initiatives I have mentioned are just a few of those that are on the horizon for this year. There are many others, and we will always continue looking for ways that we can better meet the needs of those that we serve. Our agency staff, our teachers in the field every day, our adult educators, our vocational rehabilitation counselors—all these individuals and many more are the reason for our success. I thank you for a job well-done and know that we all will continue our quest to move "from good to great."

Arkansas Adult Education Launches Statewide Bus Tour to Promote Services



Arkansas adult education recently conducted a statewide, seven-week bus tour in partnership with 103.7, "The Buzz" to promote free adult education classes. A 23-foot mini-bus

promoting adult education made 20 stops throughout the state, beginning with the kickoff stop in Pine Bluff in October.

Arkansas Department of Career Education Deputy Director of Adult Education Jim Smith says, "We're doing this to raise awareness of adult education. Adult education improves math, reading, literacy, and English as a Second Language. And it's free. Seventy-two percent of Arkansans don't know it's free."

Visitors at the tour stops received one-on-one counseling to help them with their educational needs. They were able to



Super Bowl package winner Donna Bowman of Crossett celebrates with a leap into the arms of the Buzz's Justin Acri as Tommy Smith (left) of the Buzz and other contestants look on.

Above, top: The Buzz's David Bazzel (second from left) and Ralph Shuster (second from right) greet a visitor at the Little Rock stop. Dubs Byers of the Arkansas Correctional School (far left) and Jolla Robinson of the Pulaski County Adult Education Center (far right) were on hand to answer questions. Bottom: Patsy Strode (seated) of the adult education program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff provides information to visitors during the Pine Bluff stop.

register to win a "Super Sunday in Big D" Super Bowl prize package, valued at \$10,000.

"We're targeting African-Americans and residents who need English as a Second Language classes," says Smith. "The bus is a rolling billboard. We set up in highly visible, high-traffic areas. We want everyone who needs our services to learn more about these free classes."

To help increase traffic and visibility the Adult Education Division teamed up with Little Rock radio station 103.7, The Buzz, to offer the "Super Sunday in Big D" prize package which includes two tickets to the Super Bowl at Cowboys Stadium in Dallas, Texas, on Feb. 6, 2011, three nights at the

Renaissance Dallas Hotel, private motor coach transfers to and from the hotel and the Super Bowl game, two official Stadium Club hospitality tickets and \$150 cash.

"We were in contact with more than 3,500 people, and that's an exponential number because they'll contact friends and family; so we don't know how big the impact's going to be," said Smith. "We always waited for someone else to talk about the good things adult education does, now we're going out to do it ourselves."

Arkansas Students Get Jump on Careers with Mentors



ACTI students Hunter Cruce and Darius Hostetler experience Olive Garden employment during Mentoring Day at the restaurant's Little Rock location.



GCPD Executive Director Leonard Boyle (*far left*) with ACTI students Leron Foreman (*center, left*) and John Howell (*center, right*) with North Little Rock Olive Garden staff on Mentoring Day.

Arkansas students with disabilities had the opportunity to see what their future careers might look like by participating in this year's **Disability Mentoring Day (DMD)**.

"Disability Mentoring Day is a large-scale national effort to promote career development for students and job seekers with disabilities through hands-on career exploration, onsite job shadowing and ongoing mentoring leading to internship and employment opportunities," said Arkansas Governor's Commission for People with Disabilities (GCPD) Executive Director Leonard Boyle. "Local DMD activities are coordinated by a national grassroots network of DMD coordinators who connect local organizations, employers, supporters and advocates across the country. **The Arkansas Governor's Commission partners with Pulaski Technical College's Disability Services Offices to conduct this project each year.**"

Four Pulaski Tech students in different degree programs were able to put education and training to work in real-world settings. Accounting major Nathan Johnson worked at the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration. Sherry Murphy, who is seeking an associate of arts in teaching, worked with first-graders at Pikeview Elementary, and two early childhood education students, Janay Brise-Graham and Stephanie Pruss, helped teach at Adventureland Academy.

Thanks to the cooperation of the Olive Garden Restaurant chain, Arkansas Career Training Institute culinary arts students worked in Olive Garden kitchens in Little Rock, North Little Rock and Hot Springs – Reagan Johnson and April Walker at the Hot Springs location, John Howell and Leron Foreman at the North Little Rock location and Hunter Cruce and Darius Hostetler at the Little Rock location.

CERTIFICATES *continued from page 3*

ACE has trained teachers and updated or purchased computers to accommodate the audio/video KeyTrain software using Carl Perkins funding and state start-up grants. Internship and JAG instructors recognized the value of KeyTrain and began integrating the software in their programs to help students earn the CRC.

Integrating the KeyTrain curriculum and ACT WorkKeys assessments into the career readiness classes is

"a win-win situation for our schools and our students," said Ray Henson, ACE education and instruction manager for career guidance, exploration and preparation. "We are now promoting the KeyTrain curriculum as an integrated applied learning program across all career and technical education programs of study in the career centers. By the time these students complete their CTE program of study, they will have completed the curriculum to earn the CRC as well as their business and industry certification."

SMT continued from page 5

includes (1) Audio and Video Technology and Film, (2) Journalism and Broadcasting, (3) Performing Arts, (4) Printing Technology, (5) Telecommunications and (6) Visual Arts. This cluster is the fastest-growing new CTE program area in our state, with nine new programs last year and 14 new programs this year. Existing programs include four in journalism, six in radio, 18 in television, four in technical dance, four in performing arts theatre, six in printing technology, six in photography and 17 in advertising and graphic design. I can assure you that when one of these teacher groups such as our dance instructors comes to our building to develop frameworks, the excitement is contagious. We are proud to have these outstanding professionals as our arts cluster and career tech instructors.

Here are some of our accomplishments:

- ▶ Har-Ber High School in Springdale, with instructor **Trent Jones**, is an example of the great achievements of our arts and AV programs. A few of the many awards this program has won include eight films featured at the Little Rock Film Festival and four films achieving finalist status at the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Mid-America EMMY Awards, with one film winning a Pillar Award. The program was honored in Washington, DC, for the film "Why math is fun." This film won second in the nation for the National Math and Science Institute.
- ▶ In Jonesboro, the class of instructor **William Drake** has been commissioned by the city of Jonesboro to create business cards, flyers and brochures for the city.
- ▶ Fayetteville instructor **Steven Teague** has had three of his photography students named Arkansas High School Photojournalist of the Year by the Arkansas Scholastic Press Association.
- ▶ Students of **Lindsey Johnson**, instructor at Cave City, have recently started filming a documentary at the Warrior Family Support Center in San Antonio, Texas. The project features local amputee and retired Marine Garry Farmer.
- ▶ **Donna Chadick**, Stuttgart instructor, has students job shadowing with Ballet Arkansas and with Little Rock modeling agencies.



Har-Ber High School television broadcasting students interview Natalie Gulbis at the LPGA P&G Beauty Classic held in Rogers Sept. 9-11. Madison Heim is conducting the interview; Zach Nordin is the photographer. Ms. Gulbis is ranked as the #7 LPGA golfer in the world.



Har-Ber High School television broadcasting students interview Michelle Wie at the LPGA P&G Beauty Classic held in Rogers Sept. 9-11. Madison Heim is conducting the interview; Zach Nordin is the photographer. Ms. Wie is ranked as the #2 LPGA golfer in the world.

- ▶ Instructor **Jerry Beard** of Springdale has compiled a record of seven years of competition victories at SkillsUSA.
- ▶ **Mila Floro**, instructor from Eureka Springs, has been named teacher of the year and has won numerous state and local recognition awards.

Through professional development offered by our agency, teachers continue to earn many instructor certifications; for example, Kristin Austin of Cross County School District has earned certifications such as Final Cut 6 and 7 and Final Cut Train the Trainer. These achievements would not be possible without the great leadership of the Office of Career Guidance and Exploration. Manager Ray Henson and supervisors Dave Fisher and Barbara Lensing are exceptional in their vision for the Arts, AV Technology and Communications cluster and provide the leadership and flexibility to our instructors for this accomplishment to occur. To them, I say "Thank You, A Great Job!"

STAFF *continued from page 1*

A very special award, the inaugural *Ken Musteen Counselor of the Year Award*, went to Freddie Smith of the Texarkana field office. The award was named in honor of the late Ken Musteen and recognizes leadership, teamwork and commitment to service, as well as number of closures. Smith ended the year with 95 successful closures.

Daughtery said Smith deserved the honor because he possesses the values that Musteen held dear.

Har-Ber Broadcasting Students Bring Home Five Awards from Competition

Har-Ber High School in Springdale is one of Arkansas's newest secondary schools, but its television program has fast become one of the nation's best. While competing against more than 260 broadcast students, students from Har-Ber won five regional awards at Vidcon 2010 at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri.

Below are the results for the Har-Ber team:

- 1st place:** 72-hour Film Festival: Madison Heim and Jimi Paige Thomas, "A Perfect Playlist"
- 1st place:** Onsite Editing: Robert Crisp
- 2nd place:** 72-hour Broadcast Challenge: Chase Stepp and Graham Jordin
- 2nd place:** News Story: Bryn Martens and Graham Jordin, "Mickayla Patterson Story"
- 3rd place:** News Package; Madison Heim (pictured on the job on preceding page), "LPGA and the Community"

"We've worked very hard on all of our projects, and we're pleased at the outcome," said sophomore Robert Crisp. "All of us really love what we do and can see making a career out of broadcasting and video production. We're thrilled to have this kind of opportunity available to us at Har-Ber and in Arkansas."

All of this award-winning programming is available on Channel 14 in northwest Arkansas and on Facebook and will soon be online at www.hbwn.org.

"Ken spent his entire life devoted to public service," said Daughtery. "He was a friend, a mentor, and most importantly, he represented those who weren't able to represent themselves."

Daughtery then received an award from ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño and Director Walker for his work as one-time District V-South manager and current chief of field services.

Following recognition of employees who had worked for the agency for 5 to 35 years, each of ACE's three division heads took a turn offering year-end updates to everyone at the meeting.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Deputy Director John Davidson played a video of CTE staffers reflecting on their jobs and the impact CTE has on the people they serve.

"I think the thing that makes a difference in the job that we do is the people that we do that job with," Davidson said. "I thought it was fitting that we took a look at our staff to see how they feel about their jobs and what they do in their own words."

Adult Education Deputy Director Jim Smith said an ACE community forum at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB)-North Little Rock campus last October helped him really see the impact ACE has statewide.

"We offered 275 people a chance to improve their lives, and you know they went out and told 10 more people about it – so that's 10 times that many," Smith said. "What we do is not just about adult education or career tech or rehab—it's about all of those areas. We have to spread the word about everything we do. It really opened my eyes."

Commissioner Treviño called 2010 a significant year for ARS.

"About a year and a half ago we were challenged

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Counselor Freddie Smith (center) receives the first annual Ken Musteen Award for Counselor of the Year from (l-r) Chief of Field Services Carl Daughtery, ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño, Zania Musteen and ACE Director Bill Walker.

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by our director to be the best that we could be, not only for the next couple of years, but for generations to come.” Treviño said. “I’m proud to report that we’ve not only met that goal, but we’ve exceeded it. We’re really changing lives for thousands and thousands of people.”

Treviño mentioned that the division is closing cases at a rate much higher than the regional and national average. He also remarked on the \$6.1 million in funding to make significant renovations to the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) to make it a “good, healthy, enhanced place to work.”

Treviño went on to say ACTI continues to work toward national certifications for programs and instructors and ended his presentation with a

new video highlighting ACTI.

Director Walker congratulated the staff for all of its hard work and passed out the first-ever ACE annual report.

“I spend my time with the governor, legislators and others bragging about all you do. We get the credit, but you do the work,” Walker said. “Over the years I’ve asked you again and again to raise the bar, and I think we’ve done that. Now, we’re good, but we’re not going to settle for good. We’re going to push ahead and make this agency great. We’re going from good to great by keeping our clients and our students first.”

Director Walker then introduced Gov. Beebe’s Chief of Staff Morril Harriman as the meeting’s guest speaker. Harriman said the Department of Career Education is “a pri-



Guest speaker Morril Harriman

ority agency” because of its remarkable reach.

“When you think about the work that you do, your agency touches every level,” Harriman said. “You touch those children that are in high school with technical programs, as well as Arkansans living with disabilities whom you help in so many ways. You have adult education training people who didn’t think they quite had the skills that they needed; maybe they didn’t complete that high school degree. You’ve even got those that are on that two-year campus. You talk about the education system; you are the only people who are everywhere. There’s not a broader spectrum of people in this state served by any agency.”

In the end that’s what the joint staff meeting was all about – celebrating our accomplishments and setting our sights on the new year.

Promotions at ACTI Hospital Announced at December SBCE Meeting



Dr. Alan Phillips (left) and Dr. Michael Brinson, both of the Arkansas Career Training Institute, were introduced to the State Board of Career Education at the joint staff meeting. Dr. Phillips was recently named medical services supervisor, and Dr. Brinson was named medical director.

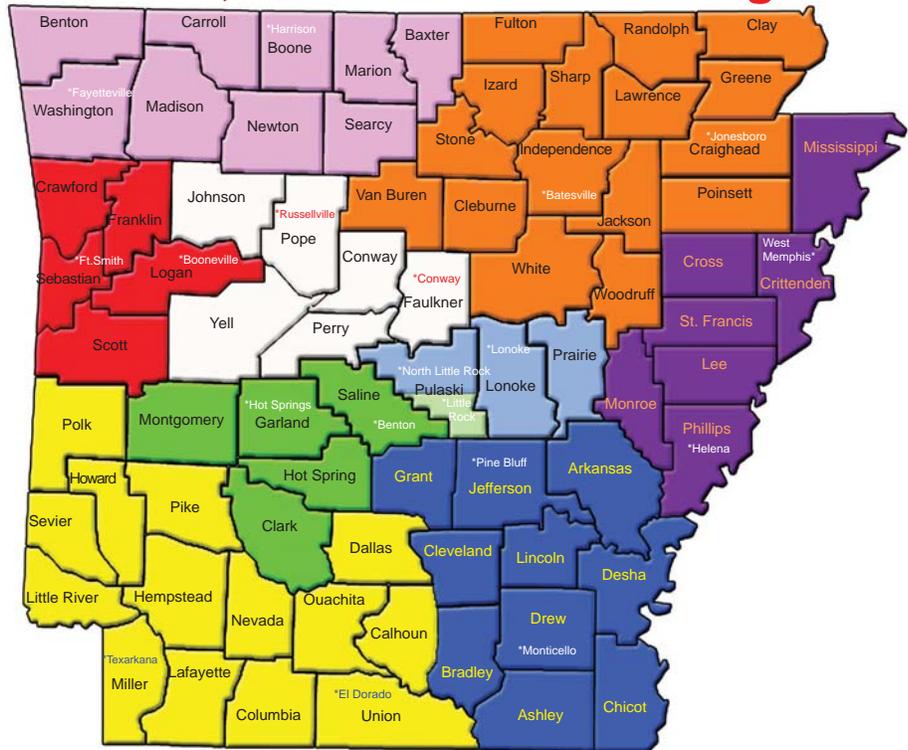
SCIENCE continued from page 11

Panel members include the following: Dennis Jones, *J.A. Fair High School*; Dr. Cathy Wheeler, Michael Daughtery and Vinson Carter, *University of Arkansas at Fayetteville*; Allison Nichols, *Axiom*; Daniel Moix, *Ouachita Technical College*; Derek Goodson, *University of Arkansas at Fort Smith*; Dr. Carol Ann Duke, *Texarkana Area Career Center*; Dr. Gail McClure, *the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)*; retired NASA engineer George Williams; Lajeane Burnett, *Mid-America Science Museum*; Mike Abbiatti, *Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON)*; Dr. Suzanne Mitchell, *STEM Coalition, Department of Higher Education*; Vic Drier, *Ramay Junior High School*; Alex Floyd, *Russellville High School*; Matt Dozier, *Environmental And Spatial Technologies (EAST) Initiative*; Mary Smith, *Audubon Arkansas*; Linda Powell, *Cabot High School*; Dr. Marvin Galloway and Dr. Regina Thomason, *Northwest Community College*; Dr. Charisse Childers, *Accelerate Arkansas*; Dr. Mary Goode and Vernard Henley, *University of Arkansas at Little Rock*; Bruce Schulte, *Pulaski Technical College*; Genevia Kelsey and Dr. Charles Cohen, *University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff*; Claire Small, *Springdale High School*; ; Dr. Forrest Payne, *SFC Fluidics*; Dr. Angela Kremers, *Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation*; and Tommy Coy, Catherine Mackey and Dana Breitweiser, *Department of Education*.

ARS Reorganizes Districts, Adds Two New Managers

The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division's five districts recently became 10, a decision made this fall to better serve the state's individuals with disabilities and to more accurately adjust for population clusters. Sherry Muck-Hollingshead is the new District IV manager (Fort Smith and Booneville offices), and David McDonald has been named manager of District VII (Little Rock/Corporate Hill).

See the adjacent map and listings, below, for the new distribution of service coverage for the state.



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p> District I
Carol Ethridge, District Manager
Fayetteville: 479-582-1286
Harrison: 870-741-7153</p> <p> District II
Christie Barttel, District Manager
Jonesboro: 870-972-0025
Batesville: 870-793-4153</p> <p> District III
Everett Adamson, District Manager
West Memphis: 870-735-4725
Helena: 870-338-2753</p> <p> District IV
Sherry Hollingshead, District Manager
Fort Smith: 479-452-7131
Booneville: 479-675-3835</p> <p> District V
Linda Rose, District Manager
Russellville: 479-890-5751
Conway: 501-730-9725</p> | <p> District VI
; District Manager
Hot Springs: 501-623-4479
Benton: 501-317-1390</p> <p> District VII
David McDonald, District Manager
Little Rock: 501-686-2800</p> <p> District VIII
Lisa Murphy, District Manager
North Little Rock: 501-833-1490
Lonoke: 501-676-4490</p> <p> District IX
Marva Dansby, District Manager
Texarkana: 870-773-2807
El Dorado: 870-862-5451</p> <p> District X
Sterling Hughes, District Manager
Pine Bluff: 870-534-2404
Monticello: 870-367-9669</p> |
|--|--|

Counties Served by Field Offices

- Batesville:** Independence, Cleburne, Van Buren, Stone, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, White, Fulton
- Benton:** Saline
- Booneville:** Logan, Franklin, Polk, Scott
- Conway:** Faulkner
- El Dorado:** Ouachita, Calhoun, Dallas, Union, Columbia
- Fayetteville:** Benton, Washington, Madison
- Fort Smith:** Crawford, Sebastian
- Harrison:** Baxter, Boone, Marion, Newton, Searcy, Carroll
- Helena:** Lee, Phillips, Monroe
- Hot Springs:** Clark, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Garland

- Jonesboro:** Woodruff, Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Poinsett, Randolph
- Little Rock:** Pulaski [south]
- Lonoke:** Lonoke, Prairie
- Monticello:** Ashley, Desha, Bradley, Lincoln, Chicot, Drew
- North Little Rock:** Pulaski [north]
- Pine Bluff:** Jefferson, Cleveland, Grant, Arkansas
- Russellville:** Johnson, Yell, Conway, Perry, Pope
- Texarkana:** Howard, Lafayette, Nevada, Hempstead, Miller, Sevier, Little River, Polk, Pike
- West Memphis:** St. Francis, Crittenden, Cross, Mississippi

Recognizing Our ACE Staff



Fort Smith Staffers Give Surroundings a Face-Lift



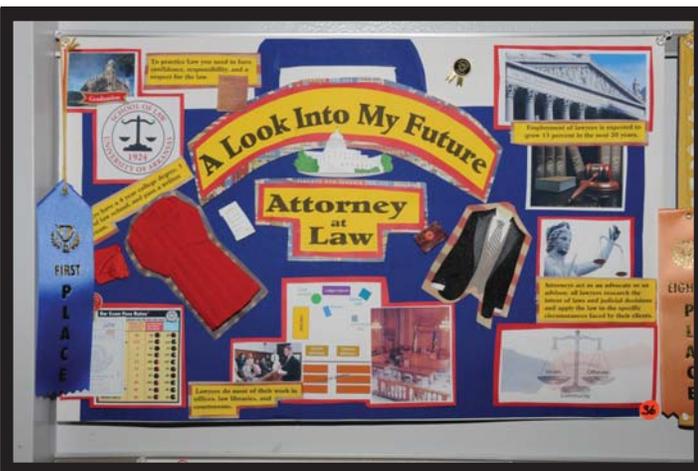
ARS District IV Manager Sherry Muck-Hollingshead joined her Fort Smith field office in a project to renovate work space while helping to keep the costs low. "Our painting project started as part of a larger effort to improve our work environment and to help our lobby feel less clinical and more comfortable for our clients," she said. "We collected paint swatches and made a collective decision about the colors for the break room and the lobby, and everyone pitched in to make the improvements in one way or another. Now we all feel like we have some ownership of our environment, and the project has created a team spirit in the Fort Smith office."



Odom and Charley Montenegro.

The Fort Smith Painting Team included (top row, l-r): District IV Manager Sherry Muck-Hollingshead, Counselor Judy Newton, Business Relations Representative Ricky Harvey, Counselor Erica Olsen, and Administrative Specialists Carolyn

Bottom row: Staffers enjoy lunch in their newly painted break room.



Middle Schoolers Display Career Plans in Poster Contest

More than 50 seventh- and eighth-grade career orientation students from across Arkansas were participants in a statewide poster contest themed "A Look into My Future" sponsored by the Department of Career Education (ACE) and the Arkansas Career Orientation Teachers Association. Once simply a competition open to only career orientation students, it has now been expanded to also include students from workplace readiness, workforce technology, internship, keystone and senior seminar.

Five (ACE) judges rated the entries based on five criteria: following guidelines, neatness, creativity, spelling and grammar, and depiction of career.

The top three posters were: 1st place: Blake Morrow of Cabot Junior High School, whose poster illustrated his future as an attorney-at-law (shown above); 2nd place: Erin Harrington, Sheridan Middle School, who depicted her future career as an occupational therapist; and 3rd place: Paige Kervin, also from Sheridan Middle School, who is planning a career in optometry.



Arkansas Department
ACE
of Career Education

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Little Rock, AR 72201-1083

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Arkansas Department of Career Education

State Board of Career Education

Phil Taylor, *Chairman, Jonesboro*; **John Riggs, IV**, *Vice Chairman, Little Rock*; **Richard Smith**, *Tillar*; **Lucy Ralston**, *Fayetteville*; **Martha Dixon**, *Arkadelphia*; **Dr. Thomas Flowers**, *Center Ridge*.

Administration

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., *Director*; **Robert P. Treviño**, *Commissioner for 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*; **Deborah Germany**, *Deputy Director for Communications*; **Carl Daughtery**, *Chief of Field Services, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Judy Smith**, *Director of Transition Services, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Tony Hoeing**, *Interim Administrator, Arkansas Career Training Institute, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Roderic Duckworth**, *Associate Director for Career and Technical Education*; **Sandra Porter**, *Associate Director for Workforce Training*; **Sonja Wright-McMurray**, *Associate Director for Arkansas Works*; **John Wright**, *Chief Financial Officer/Associate Director, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Jim Moreland**, *Associate Director for Special Programs, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Randy Parker**, *Associate Director, Program, Planning Development & Evaluation, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services*; **Pamela D. Harris**, *Human Resources Administrator*.

Arkansas Department of Career Education

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