



the

# Career Counselor

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



## Governor Beebe Attends ACTI's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Groundbreaking Ceremonies

**W**ith the flick of a switch, Governor Mike Beebe, Department of Career Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño and Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) Administrator Cissy Rucker moved ACTI into the future while at the same time honoring the center's 50 years of service.

The June 23 event, titled "**Honoring the Past, Building for the Future**," was part of a celebration of the 50th anniversary of ACTI and a symbolic groundbreaking for infrastructure improvements being funded by state and federal stimulus funds.

Renovations to the facility began with \$500,000 in state general improvement funds released by Governor Beebe. An additional \$3.6 million from Arkansas's State Fiscal Stabilization Fund was released by the governor and will fund repairs and upgrades to water systems, roofs, electrical systems and safety and security systems. Federal funds came from the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**, which provided fiscal stabilization funds to the states as part of the federal economic stimulus package.

"There are two guiding principles we constructed this plan from, one being we had to attack something



After flipping the switch to light up the ACTI sign in a symbolic groundbreaking for the ACTI renovation project and 50th anniversary celebration, Governor Beebe shakes hands with Director Walker. Joining in the celebration are (l-r) ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño; State Board of Career Education Chairman Phil Taylor; Director Walker and Governor Mike Beebe; ACTI Administrator Cissy Rucker; Contractor Carson Harris of Carson and Associates, Inc.; and Sarah Agee, ACE's liaison from the governor's office.

we feel we have total control over, which is gaining and maintaining jobs. That's what it's all about," said Governor Beebe. "And two, it had to be something that gave the taxpayers something back or something they can benefit from. Nothing is more important than the people."

ACTI (formerly the Hot Spring Rehabilitation Center) is located in Hot Springs and is a residential facility that provides career and technical education programs and support services to assist teens and adults with disabilities in becoming employed. Twelve career pathways and more than 20 vocational programs provide students from across the state the skills to enter the workforce and become tax-paying citizens. In addition to the training program, ACTI offers various medical services, including occupational and physical therapy,

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**Governor Beebe, speaking here with Placement Specialist Mike McCowan, toured displays assembled by students and staff depicting the facility's 50 years of innovation and progress.**



## Director's Update

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.

Director

Arkansas Department of Career Education

It's time to start another new school year, and the Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) is heading into it with a full head of steam.

With the 2011 legislative session on the horizon, the State Board of Career Education has approved a budget that we will take to the Legislature that, if approved, will allow us to provide relevant education and training to the citizens of Arkansas. Here is a summary of our budget request:

**Career and Technical Education (CTE):** We are requesting three new positions for CTE: a public school program coordinator, a public school program advisor for construction trades and a public school program advisor for advanced manufacturing.

To address the most critical areas of need for secondary area career centers, we are requesting \$750,000 each year for the establishment of three new secondary centers in the first year of the biennium and four new centers in the second year.

In each of the past three years, ACE has received nearly 200 applications for new programs from high schools and secondary area technical centers but because of a capped appropriation, we have been able to fund fewer than 60 percent of the applications each year. We are requesting an increase of \$355,500 (15 percent) so that we can fund the majority of new applications.

Instructional equipment for CTE programs falls into a state of

critical disrepair if there is no funding for critical repairs or updated safety features. We are requesting \$4,000,000 each year of the biennium, an amount that would provide approximately \$8,000 per program on a five-year rotational basis.

To meet the increasing demand for traditional (adult) apprenticeship programs, we are requesting an additional \$1,000,000, a request that is strongly supported by the adult apprenticeship committees, multiple contractors and labor organizations.

We are requesting funding of \$4,000,000 each year of the biennium to resume the Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program, suspended in January 2009. This program is a "win-win" for the state as well as for students, because students must graduate and work in Arkansas before any money is spent on reimbursement of their student loans.

**Adult Education** Budget Request: Adult education provides adult Arkansans with educational opportunities to improve their academic and employability skills so that they can participate effectively as productive workers, family members, and citizens. By providing individuals this "second chance," adult education also contributes to the state's economic health and quality of life. We are requesting an increase of \$5,411,384 each year to increase the number of Arkansans served in adult education programs.

We are also requesting two po-

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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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## ARS Case Management System Nearing Completion



**T**he new case management system that will better align Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) with today's technology is getting closer to becoming reality.

**ARS Chief of Field Services Carl Daughtery** said his department is in the midst of the first phase of a two-phase initiation process with an October 22 target implementation date.

"Right now we are in the middle of a dual implementation," Daughtery said. "Our staff is continuing to access the old system but is also starting to use the new system by programming client demographics.

"I'm overall very pleased with the way things are going. I'm excited about the training that has taken place and the fact that our staff has been very patient through this process so far. They have taken on the challenges of a new system, have a team perspective and are excited about moving into the 21st century."

The new system is aimed to simplify the steps necessary to serve clients. It is being developed by Libera, Inc., of Jamestown, N.Y., a government contractor and software development company. Representatives have conducted a number of training sessions to familiarize field services staff with the system. That staff is then on hand at each field office to assist the rest of the office personnel with the system.

"There has been a learning curve, but once they get past the anxiety of learning this system, they have been very comfortable with it," Daughtery said. "A lot of them have extensive computer experience, which is helping them to become familiar with this system."

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### **This Issue's Guest Writer**

In this issue, you will note several stories written by **Donnie Scott**, who worked this summer as a intern for the Communications Office.

Donnie is a student at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, majoring in English and journalism. The Communications staff appreciates the hard work Donnie did all summer and wishes him well as he returns to school.



# What You Should Know

## Alternative Financing Program (AFP)

**Michael Vickers**, Rehabilitation Program Manager

**ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM**  
**AFP**

A Special Program of the  
Arkansas Department of Career Education's  
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division

Arkansas Department  
**ACE**  
of Career Education

**ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES**

**T**he Alternative Financing Program/Assistive Technology Revolving Loan Fund (AFP) provides loans to Arkansans with disabilities of all ages for assistive technology devices or services and tele-work-related purposes. An eligible applicant is any resident of Arkansas who has a disability or who has a family member with a disability. An individual with a disability is a person who self-identifies a limitation of a major life function such as walking, seeing, hearing or speaking.

AFP offers low-interest loans to

assist eligible applicants in acquiring various types of special equipment. The interest rate is normally well below market rates, and loans are available with no down payment and longer terms that reduce monthly payments. These loans are made directly through our revolving direct loan program. While not every eligible applicant will be able to get a loan, we do our best to review each case and assess the applicant's credit worthiness.

**For more information**, go to our website at [www.arsinfo.org/specialprograms](http://www.arsinfo.org/specialprograms) or call 501-296-1663.

## GED Message Taking to National Airwaves

**A**nationwide effort to raise awareness about the General Educational Development (GED®) program is underway, thanks to the support of the **Dollar General Literacy Foundation** and the **Ad Council**.

Dollar General and the Ad Council have partnered on a national public service advertising (PSA) campaign that aims to help high-school dropouts get started on the road to their GED. The multi-media campaign was launched July 12 in English and Spanish with television and radio spots,

print and billboard ads, Web banners, frequently asked questions (FAQs) at <http://psacentral.adcouncil.org/psacentral> and a YouTube channel.

"These young adults know they need to get their GED diploma but need to be reminded they can do it," said Arkansas GED Administrator Janice Hanlon. "The GED Achievement campaign's target is high school dropouts, ages 25-35. While all high school dropouts would find the website helpful for information on getting their GED diploma, research shows that adults in their mid- to late-20s

are most likely to take the next step to get GED-certified because they are beginning to realize the effects of life without a diploma."

All PSAs will feature a toll-free number, **877-38-YOURGED**, and a new website, **www.yourged.org**, where people can find free referrals to local GED programs and information on the GED testing process. The program referrals come from a new comprehensive database developed in collaboration with the National Center for Family Literacy and Pro-Literacy.

# State Board of Career Education Holds Quarterly Meeting at ACTI

**S**tate Board of Career Education (SBCE) members were the special guests of the **Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI)** in Hot Springs for the board's quarterly meeting August 5. The board approved budgets of the Department of Career Education (ACE) and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) and heard program updates from various staff, including



including (left, top row, l-r) ARS Associate Director for Program Planning, Development and Evaluation **Randy Parker**; ARS Training Project Manager **Rodney Chandler** with vocational rehabilitation business relations specialists **Laura Kimbrell** and **Stephanie Bennett**; (bottom row, l-r) Alternative Finance Program Manager **Michael Vickers**; ACE Apprenticeship Program Manager **Jonathan Bibb** and ACE Law Enforcement Support Office Program Manager **Tim Hicks**. The board was also treated to a special meal prepared by ACTI staff and students.

## Announcing Arkansas AgrAbility

**A**grAbility is a national grant project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that began in 1991 to provide assistance to farmers, ranchers and other agricultural workers and farm family members who have been impacted by a disability. At the present time, the USDA has 24 states with an AgrAbility project. Arkansas has recently become a grant recipient.

Arkansas AgrAbility is a partnership between the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department, Arthritis Foundation's Arkansas Chapter and Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN), a special program of the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS).

(Pictured right) **Dr. LaVona Traywick**, assistant professor at University of Arkansas's Cooperative Extension Service and Arkansas AgrAbility project director, described the upcoming launch of the program during the ICAN Advisory Board Meeting August 10.



## Career & Technical Student Organizations Hold National Conferences

### Arkansas FBLA Receives National Recognition

by Donnie Scott

**A**rkansas Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members capitalized on their impressive second-place finish in last year's nationwide March of Dimes fundraiser by placing first at the 2010 FBLA National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tenn., July 14-17. The chapter raised \$46,000.

The students and advisers spent four days attending the general session, recognition sessions and informative workshops and taking part in competitive events.

While last year's results left students very enthusiastic and eager about the upcoming events, it was clear that Arkansas was no stranger to competition. Arkansas had two first-place finishes in business-oriented events: Brittany Tavernaro of Bentonville High School, who won the Accounting I competition, and Hannah Norton of the Southeast Arkansas Community Based Education Center at Warren, who won in Computer Applications. Coty Bell, Shelby Watts and Haylee Myers of Pangburn High School placed second in Community Service Project.



Hannah Norton (right), a student at the Southeast Arkansas Community Based Education Center at Warren, won first place in Computer Applications. Her adviser is Judy Shipp (left).

The Arkansas contingent competed with 7,656 FBLA students from across the United States. Arkansas FBLA State Adviser Peggy Wakefield says the state's students performed admirably.

"Our students did a great job," said Wakefield. "We had 167 students competing in 56 separate events, and more than 300 Arkansans in Nashville to support and advise our participants. We received 13 awards and recognitions, and that says a lot about the skills and abilities of Arkansas FBLA students. Also – raising \$46,000 for the March of Dimes – that shows how big their hearts are and how much they care."

Jenny Van of Fort Smith Northside High School finished fourth in the Help Desk event. Fifth place in the Computer Game and Simulation Programming event went to Hunter Bobel from Fort Smith Southside High School. Nicole Nokes of Siloam Springs High School placed sixth in the American Enterprise Project. Arkansas had two 10th-place finishes: Corbin Dean, Tony Yates, and Chris Turnage of Fort Smith Southside in the Network Design Project and Jedidiah Nohre and Alex Prince of Mountain View High School in the Desktop Publishing Project.

Two Arkansas high schools, Nettleton and Brookland, were also awarded second and fifth place for monies raised in the March of Dimes Fundraiser.

### PBL National Conference

**127** Arkansas Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) members travelled to Nashville, Tenn., July 9-12 for the National PBL Conference. A total of 92 Arkansas members participated in competitive events and received 52 awards and recognitions. Of the 52 awards given, 13 were for top 5 placements.



Magnolia High School student Tori Orsak (left) with adviser Jill Callcott.

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In state chapter events, Arkansas placed first in the “State with Most Career and Membership Achievement Program” event, second in the Largest State Chapter, second again in the Largest State Chapter Membership--Professional Division, and fourth in Top Fund-raising State for the March of Dimes.

In individual events, there were two first-place awardees—Andrew Todd of Arkansas State University in the Contemporary Sports Issue competition and Abigail Nietert of the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith in the Employee Training and Development event.

“I am very proud of our PBL members and the state of Arkansas,” said Peggy Wakefield, state PBL adviser. “They all did a magnificent job and represented the state very well.”

**National PBL conference participants included (back row) Nina Huddleston, Andrew Lane and Nick Rice; Front row: Sara Skoot, Megean Wilcoxson and Bethany Crawford.**



## Arkansas HOSA Members Medal at National Event

by Donnie Scott

**S**ixty-five students from five schools represented Arkansas at the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) National Conference at Walt Disney World’s Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Fla., June 23-26 and were well rewarded for their efforts.

Chris Cowgur of Gravette High School earned a gold medal in the Concepts for Health Care event. Two more Gravette students brought home bronze medals from the CPR challenge – Makayla Morrison and Tajhe Turner. Angela Scott, who also travelled to Coronado Springs and serves as Gravette’s advisor, was named Arkansas Local

Advisor of the Year.

Three other Arkansas students placed in the top 10 at the compe-



**Pictured, left to right: Makayla Morrison and Tajhe Turner from Gravette High School won bronze in CPR at the HOSA National Conference. Chris Cowgur from Gravette High School won gold for Concepts of Health Care. His advisor, Angela Scott, was named Arkansas Local Advisor of the Year.**

tion. Quitman High School’s Holly Moore was the sixth-place finisher in the Dental Spelling event, and Gravette’s Cody Bullock placed sixth in Medical Math. Rounding out Arkansas’s attendees, Maddy Shipp from the Conway Career Center finished in seventh place in the Physical Therapy competition.

The HOSA National Leadership Conference included general sessions, educational and social learning activities, leadership academies, tours to healthcare facilities, the National Competitive Events Program, the annual business of the national student organization of HOSA by the national voting delegates and an educational symposium.

# FFA News Around the State



## Two Students Honored Nationally

**T**wo Arkansas FFA students have been honored nationally as part of the **Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Program**.

**Caleb Dickerson** of Lamar High School and **Wanda Miller** of Mulberry High School were two of the program's 10 National Winners selected from across the country. Each will receive \$1,000 and a plaque to be presented at the FFA National Convention in October. In addition, the national winners will be featured at the convention's career show with a booth showcasing their agri-enterprises. Up to \$500 will also be awarded to each national winner's local FFA chapter.

"To have two national winners is a great, great honor," FFA State Advisor Marion Fletcher said. "It is wonderful that Arkansas and our FFA program have the kind of students who are so involved in entrepreneurship."

The Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Program is designed to increase the amount of entrepreneurship being taught in local agriculture programs across the country. With this information, students will be better prepared to become entrepreneurs and will begin to perceive entrepreneurship as a viable career choice. The Agri-Entrepreneurship Awards honor FFA members who have recognized a market opportunity that was overlooked by others and conceived a plan to pursue that opportunity.

In addition to the two national

winners, Justin Craig of Springdale Har-Ber and Whitney Lynn Rook of Hope High School were named Silver Winners.

The Agri-Entrepreneurship Program is sponsored by U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

## FFA members attend Washington D.C. conference

**T**hirty-three Arkansas FFA members from 18 schools attended the 2010 FFA Washington Leadership Conference June 22-28 in Washington, D.C.

"Their focus was to take their leadership skills to the highest level by learning to know their purpose, value people, take action and serve others," said Chris Bacchus, ACE agricultural science and technology education and instruction coordinator. "The conference was a five-day



**U.S. Senator Mark Pryor speaks to the group.**

event that trains FFA members to make a positive impact in their school, local community, state and country."

Throughout the week, the students participated in workshops put on by National FFA staff and met with U.S. Senators Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor and U.S. Congressman Mike Ross on the steps of the Capitol. The students also had the opportunity to take night tours of the national monuments.

The capstone event of the Washington Leadership Conference was a civic engagement activity that exemplified leadership and service learning, Bacchus said. National FFA partnered with the Living Classroom of the National Capitol, the Alice Ferguson Foundation and the Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Networks for the conference.



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## National Leadership Conference Held at Camp Couchdale



State FFA officers from Arkansas, Michigan and Tennessee participated in the *National Leadership Conference for State Officers* June 21-25 at Camp Couchdale. National FFA officers Bethany Bohnenblust and Randa Braune conducted classes covering, among other topics, improving techniques and team performance, building relationships and learning to discussing issues facing the National FFA Organization.

## State FFA Members Lend a Hand at Leadership Camp

by Donnie Scott

All roads led to Camp Couchdale near Hot Springs with the FFA National Day of Service and Leadership Camp. Close to 250 participants were on hand this year for the July 7 event.

Participants exercised their volunteerism at nine different sites, performing several types of service work. One group travelled to a nearby humane society to trim hedges on decorative bushes that outlined the building and perform other landscaping work. FFA also sponsored a talent show for senior citizens at a local nursing home. The participants concluded the day's work by reading books to children at the Boys and Girls Club.



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sitions in the Adult Education Division that are currently authorized but not budgeted for FY11. We anticipate that over the next biennium, staff will be asked to provide increased technical assistance and guidance to local programs in at least two areas: (1) implementation of the new performance-based funding formula and (2) expansion of programs and services to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population.

**Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) Budget Request:** The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division will continue towards its mission of providing people with disabilities career training, access to education and opportunities to live independently. We are requesting \$1,000,000 for vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors to provide services to individuals on a state-wide basis.

The General Field Program is also seeking an additional \$100,000 per year for home modifications for 20 individuals. These funds will go to update bathrooms, kitchens and access ramps so that more Arkansans may live more independently.

Further, ARS is requesting \$250,000 for ACTI for

heavy shop equipment, welding and metal working machines, industrial auto repair equipment and wood working equipment. ACTI will continue to utilize Governor Beebe's allotment of more than \$3.6 million for major repairs and renovations.

**Student Successes:** The true measure of our success is the success of our students. Our students have proven that they can compete with the best that the nation has to offer. Over the summer, our students captured numerous "top 5" finishes in national career and technical student organization competitions. You can read about many of these conferences and our Arkansas winners in this issue. As we look forward to the National FFA Conference in October, we are proud of Arkansas's national officer candidate Haley Hogan of Ozark, and we wish her well.

Our Job's for Arkansas's Graduate's program continues to be a model for the rest of the nation with a 94 percent graduation rate.

The Arkansas Department of Career Education has so many things to be proud of, and the 2010-11 school year is going to provide many more accomplishments.

# CORNER

## *“Assistive Technology 4 Life”*

**AT**

### Goldtouch Keyboard

**D**esign and longevity make the standard Goldtouch Adjustable Keyboard a leading recommendation among risk managers, certified professional ergonomists, physical therapists and occupational therapists. Because a Goldtouch keyboard is designed to fit the range of body types, not just an average, the standard Goldtouch Adjustable Keyboard can properly straighten the wrists and arms while aligning with the shoulders so that the user can achieve a neutral typing posture. Check the

Goldtouch Keyboard on our webpage at [www.ar-ican.org](http://www.ar-ican.org), Item # 26365.



## Eudora Native Named ARS Deputy Chief of Field Services

by Donnie Scott

**A**drienne Robinson is the newly appointed deputy chief of field services for the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division (ARS).

Prior to becoming deputy chief of field services, Robinson spent five years as field coordinator for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) rehabilitation counseling program.

Robinson said her goal in her new position is to help ensure “a successful outcome for clients” who are seeking to return to the workforce.

“She’s done a phenomenal job thus far,” said Carl Daughtery, ARS’s chief of field services. “Her efforts and dedication to the agency are truly appreciated and needed to ensure everything is run smoothly.”

Robinson is a Eudora native and attended the now-merged Lake Village High School, where she



**Adrienne Robinson**

was president of the National Honor Society, a member of the cheerleading squad and a member of Beta Club. As a high school student, Robinson felt that it was imperative to be as active throughout her school, preparing herself to further her education.

After graduating at the top of her high school class, Robinson enrolled at the University of Central Arkansas. Upon completion of her first three years, she transferred to UALR, where she received a bachelor’s degree in psychology. She

also holds a master’s degree in counseling and a doctorate in higher education administration.

Robinson plans to use her experiences teaching in higher education and her knowledge of technology to develop different techniques for providing training to vocational rehabilitation counselors.



## Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Awards Scholarships

**T**he Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities (GCPD) awarded scholarships to 27 students during its annual scholarship banquet at the Governor's Mansion July 8.

Twenty-two recipients received \$1,000 scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year. Recipients were chosen from nearly 100 applicants based on academic achievement, community involvement, and goals and challenges they face. In addition to the scholarships, five stu-

dents were randomly selected from the pool of applicants to receive \$200 book scholarships donated by Off-Campus Bookstores.

This year's theme, "Recognizing Achievement, Promoting Successful Futures," was summed up by keynote speaker Lamar Davis, deputy chief of staff for Governor Mike Beebe. Davis recounted how he overcame a visual impairment and a speech impediment to excel in college and law school and offered the students a few words of

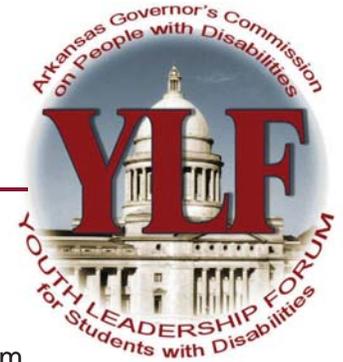
encouragement and advice.

"Don't let anyone tell you that you're incapable of accomplishing anything because you have a disability," said Davis. "You've already demonstrated how capable and how determined you are. We're also fortunate in Arkansas to have a governor who understands how important it is to make opportunities available to people with disabilities. You are each going to help make a better and brighter future for our state."

The following students received \$1,000 scholarships.

Name	Hometown	School
Bethany Baldwin	Maumelle	Henderson State University
Megan Biller	Russellville	University of Central Arkansas
Timothy Brickell	North Little Rock	Remington College
Mallory Burke	Little Rock	Pulaski Technical College
Natalee Clark	Barling	UA-Fort Smith
Katelyn Haynes	Charleston	UA-Fort Smith
Bradley Hollis	Hope	UA-Fayetteville
Ashley Holt	Beaden	Southern Arkansas University
Kyler Kelton	Delight	Harding University
Kevin Leon	Siloam Springs	John Brown University
Jonathan Marks	Centerton	John Brown University
Michael Melcher	Elkins	University of the Ozarks
Rachel Parsons	Conway	UA-Fayetteville
Adam Slayton	Paragould	Arkansas State University
Laney Staggs	Mena	Rich Mountain Community College
Brandon Tabor	Russellville	Arkansas Tech University
Ashley Tennis	Greenbrier	Central Baptist College
Candra Troby	Rogers	UA-Fayetteville
Lindsey Upshaw	Sheridan	Ouachita Baptist University
Ryan Wright	Alma	Arkansas Tech University
Ashley Williams	Little Rock	Pulaski Technical College
Megan Williams	DeQueen	Southern Arkansas University

# Youth Leadership Forum Celebrates 12th Successful Year



Organizers of the 12th Annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) say participants enjoyed another successful year. The University of Central Arkansas once again provided housing and meeting venues for July's weeklong event for young adults with disabilities. YLF is cosponsored by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) and the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities (GCPD).

"Nine students made up this summer's YLF, along with two peer counselors," said YLF Coordinator Carl Enna. "Everyone came away from YLF feeling better informed about being a person with a disability than when the program started on Monday."

The highlight of the conference was a visit to Little Rock. During a tour of the Capitol, the students met Governor Mike Beebe and had photos taken with the governor.

Following the visit to the Capitol, YLF attendees joined leaders from

the Arkansas disability community at the annual mentor's luncheon, which featured guest speakers Vincent Insalaco III and Tim Ballany. The two discussed their lifelong friendship which was chronicled in "War Eagle, Arkansas," an independent film that tells their story of growing up together and how they dealt with their lives and disabilities after high school graduation.

The day concluded with a tour of the Clinton Presidential Library led by ARS retiree Jessie Gatewood.

One of the workshops presented during at YLF was "The 7 Habits of Successful Teens," a program adapted from the Steven Covey "7 Habits" series. The workshop was presented by Brenda Stinebuck and Amy Tweedle of Spa Area Independent Living Services (S.A.I.L.S.) in Hot Springs. One of the lighter sessions was a one-hour personal management segment conducted by Jean Ellen White and Courtney Abron from S.A.I.L.S.

Carrie Tuttle, a transition consultant from the Conway Special Education Assistance Center, spoke with the students about the differences they will experience seeking accommodations in college. For instance, students will have to be active in pursuing necessary accommodations rather than expect the

school to take the lead.

Pam Harris, human resources administrator for the Department of Career Education, spent a productive hour with the students teaching them the ins and outs of searching, applying and interviewing for a job. Cornelious Hollinshed, admissions supervisor at the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), spoke to the students about the different career fields for which ACTI offers education and training. Jane Campbell, ACTI's dietary services director, presented a session on the importance of nutrition.

Not everything was work, work, work. The students attended an Arkansas Travelers/Frisco Roughriders game at North Little Rock's Dickey Stephens Park. One evening was set aside for the forum's annual dance.

The attendees for the 12th Annual Youth Leadership Forum were Heather Shepherd, Siloam Springs; Craig Hudson, Holiday Island; Antonio Del Real, Alco; Michael Melcher, Elkins; Sean Kirkendall of Smackover; and FeGerra Stewart, Naomas Sepelveda and Christine Woods of Little Rock. Willie Morris of Little Rock and Andrew Watson of Paragould were invited back as peer counselors.

**Anyone interested in volunteering as staff for YLF-13 in July 2011** can contact Carl Enna at [carl.enna@arkansas.gov](mailto:carl.enna@arkansas.gov) or (501) 683-6962 for more information.



Governor Beebe shares a light-hearted moment with the students.



Students and staff met Governor Beebe and toured the Capitol

**Youth Leadership Forum**  
*for Students with Disabilities*  
**July 12 - 16, 2010**



FeGerra Stewart  
Little Rock



Sean Kirkendall  
Smackover



LaShunna Thompson  
Little Rock



Heather Shepherd  
Siloam Springs



Naomas Sepelveda  
Little Rock



Michael Melcher  
Elkins



Craig Hudson  
Holiday Island



PEER COUNSELOR  
Willie Morris/Little Rock



PEER COUNSELOR  
Andrew Watson/Paragould



Christine Woods  
Little Rock



Antonio Del Real  
Alco

# ACTE 80th Annual Professional Development Conference: INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE



**A**pproximately 600 educators from around the state gathered in Hot Springs August 1-3 for the annual Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Summer Conference, sponsored by Arkansas ACTE and the Department of Career Education (ACE).

“The summer conference was outstanding,” said Ray Winiecki, ACE education and instruction manager for skilled and technical sciences and ACTE past-president. “We had CTE educators from around the state attend and receive professional development training in a variety of areas.”

The opening session featured the Crossett High School Naval Junior ROTC, the National Anthem performed by the Hot Springs Lakeside choir and a keynote address from motivational speaker Andy Masters. Each CTE section held its annual divisional meeting before an afternoon of breakout sessions.

The conference concluded with

the awards luncheon, which included a presentation from the Susan G. Koman Arkansas Race for the Cure®, which ACTE has chosen as its 2010-11 community service project, and special messages from SkillsUSA



Director Walker speaks to the assembled ACTE members.

students Juan Zermano from Springdale High School and Pablo Calderon from Rogers High School, who spoke about the importance of CTE programs to them. The highlight of the luncheon was a humorous presentation from National ACTE President Gary Moore, who spoke about the importance of getting the word out to students about CTE programs.

Jeff Shaw, business education teacher from Rogers High School, was named ACTE teacher of the year, David Hughes, director of the National Park Technology Center in Hot Springs was honored as Outstanding Career and Technical Educator. Andrea Loggins of Brookland Junior High School received the Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher award, and Kathi Turner of Crowley’s Ridge Educational Service Cooperative in Harrisburg received the

ACTE continued on page 15

### ACTE J. Marion Adams Scholarships

- Lauren Bogle**, Blytheville - Agriculture
- Laney Ward**, Smackover - Business Ed
- Leslie Hester**, Blytheville - FACS
- Marisa Shaw**, Rogers Heritage - Marketing
- Lyndsey Bradberry**, Bald Knob - Special Populations
- Whitney Bell**, Cave City - Trade and Industry
- Gage Rice**, NorthArk Technical Center - Administration
- Grant Roe**, UA-Fayetteville - Marketing



ACTI continued from page 1

to students in need in a licensed hospital setting. ACTI is one of only eight comprehensive rehabilitation centers in the United States, and with 900 students served annually, ACTI is the third largest vocational rehabilitation center in the nation.

“The infrastructure improvements will allow ACTI to take a huge step toward becoming the ‘center of excellence’ that this agency has long envisioned,” Director Walker said. “The funding is going to mean improved services and surroundings for everyone at the center and for everyone involved with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. In the end, it’s going to mean a better economic future for our state.”

Along with celebrating the kickoff of the infrastructure renovations made possible by state and ARRA funding, the ceremony celebrated the 50th anniversary of ACTI, which became a state property in 1960 and opened as a vocational rehabilitation center the following year.

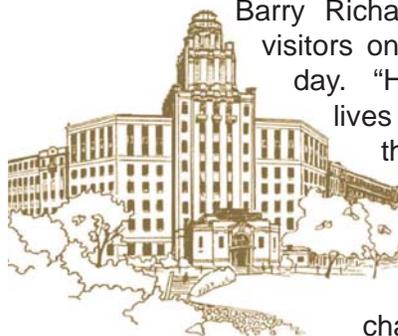


ACTI is receiving funding for renovations and repairs in part through the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**, recognized in the event’s signage and banners, above.

*The facility began life as the nation’s first joint Army-Navy hospital* with a \$100,000 Congressional appropriation in 1882 and opened its doors in 1887. Following several renovations and upgrades, the hospital campus grew to 59 buildings and served hundreds of thousands of patients who served in the Civil and Spanish American wars through World War II and the Korean conflict. In 1960, the facility passed from the United States government to the state of Arkansas to serve as a vocational rehabilitation center for Arkansans living with disabilities. Since being turned over to the state, more than 30,000 Arkansans have received vocational training or medical services at ACTI. ACTI is one of the largest employers in Garland County.

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

“There aren’t enough words I can say to express how much history is in this building,” said ACTI’s Barry Richardson, who escorted visitors on tours throughout the day. “Hundreds of veteran lives have been saved in this very building. It’s a wonderful feeling knowing that we are still giving people a second chance at life.”



ACTE continued from page 14

**Jean McEntire Outstanding Service Award. State Senator Jimmy Jeffress and State Representative Eddie Cheatham were recognized as Policy-maker Award Winners.**

“I believe the conference better prepared the attendees for the upcoming school year,” Winiecki said. “With dozens of instructional sessions and over 25 vendors displaying their wares, conference attendees were treated to an abundance of professional development opportunities.”



*Pictured left:* Arkansas ACTE President Sammy Cox (left) presents Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Award to David Hughes, director of the National Park Trechnology Center in Hot Springs. *Pictured right:* Jeff Shaw, business education teacher from Rogers High School, accepts the Teacher of the Year honor.

GCPD continued from page 11

The following students received \$200 book scholarships.

Name	Hometown	School
Phyllis Everett	Morrilton	UA-Pine Bluff
Steven Johns	Keiser	Arkansas Northeastern College
Mark Dodson	Bauxite	Pulaski Technical College
Shannon Cummings	Rison	UA-Pine Bluff
Casey Rinaldi	Jonesboro	Arkansas State University

“This year’s selection process was very competitive,” GCPD Executive Director Leonard A. Boyle said. “The scholarship committee worked diligently for more than three months to grade the applications. All of the applicants worked very hard, and it was difficult to narrow things down. These honorees are an exciting example of the future of our state, and I know Governor Beebe is just as proud of them as I am.”

The scholarships, as well as the GCPD, are funded from handicap parking violations – 27 percent of the fines collected from persons illegally parking in handicap spots goes to the GCPD. The Arkansas Governor’s Commission on People with Disabilities is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of Arkansans with disabilities by promoting advocacy and education, creating independence and celebrating life.



**Left, top:** Keynote speaker Lamar Davis, deputy chief of staff for Governor Mike Beebe.

**Left, bottom:** Leonard Boyle, executive director, Governor’s Commission on People with Disabilities.

**Above:** Scholarship recipients included (*bottom row, l-r*) **Bradley Hollis**, Hope; **Ashley Williams**, Little Rock; (*second row, l-r*) **Laney Staggs**, Mena; **Lindsey Upshaw**, Sheridan; **Megan Williams**, De Queen; **Natalee Clark**, Barling; **Kevin Leon**, Siloam Springs; **Meagan Biller**, Russellville; **Mallory Burke**, Little Rock; (*back row, l-r*) **Michael Melcher**, Elkins; **Brandon Tabor**, Russellville; **Adam Slayton**, Paragould; **Phyllis Everett**, Morrilton; **Kyler Kelton**, Delight; **Ryan Wight**, Alma, and **Timothy Brickell**, North Little Rock.

# Recognizing Our ACE Staff



## Davidson Leads Session at National Institute



**John Davidson**

Arkansas Department of Career Education Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson shared Arkansas's success with career academies with a national audience during the 8th Annual National Career Clusters Institute held June 14-16 in Denver.

Davidson led a three-hour session entitled "How Career Clusters Support the Linkage between Career Academies and Career and Technical Education," featuring nationally recognized programs in Mountain Home and Springdale as examples.

"It was almost like Career Academies 101," Davidson said. "We compared the national standards of programs of study to national standards of career and technical education and discussed the assessment process of how to become nationally certified."

"I felt extremely pleased to be

## Wooten Receives National Award

Deborah Wooten, counselor in the Searcy field office, was the recipient of the annual 2010 Voyle C. Scurlock Award at the Southwest Region National Rehabilitation Association Conference held June 27 - 29 in Corpus Christi, TX.

Criteria for the award called for nominees to have made an outstanding contribution to rehabilitation, displayed outstanding leadership in rehabilitation, exhibited dedicated efforts to further the causes of programs for persons with disabilities or have been active with any special activity of recognized importance in the field of rehabilitation.

Wooten has been affiliated with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) for 19 years. She was first employed as a job placement specialist working for the Association of Rehabilitation Industry and Business (ARIB), a partner of ARS. She was later



Pictured, l-r: Scurlock award recipient **Deborah Wooten**, NRA President **Bonnie Hawley**, and SW Regional President **Sandra Hansman**

hired as a rehabilitation counselor for ARS.

Wooten is a long-time active member of the Arkansas Rehabilitation Association and was appointed in October 2009 by Governor Beebe to serve a three-year term on the State Rehabilitation Council.

As an individual with a disability herself, Wooten believes she is able to provide a personal insight and direction to her job and to her clients in their journey to independence and productivity.

asked to speak on this subject," Davidson said. "We have model programs here in Arkansas, and it was nice to be able to share what made them successful. Career academies are so important because they allow both academic and CTE teachers to work together so the students can see the relevance in what they are doing."

Davidson also partnered with Dr. Joseph Coffee, executive director of the National Partnership for Careers in Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security, on a session focusing on the "Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security" and "Government and Public Administration" clusters.

## Arkansas Career Guidance Educators Hold Annual Conference



Focusing on the theme “**Career Guidance – The Cornerstone of Your Future,**” approximately 300 teachers, counselors and administrators from schools across the state met in Hot Springs July 15-16 for the annual Arkansas Career Guidance Conference.

Educators spent two days listening to speakers, participating in breakout sessions and having roundtable discussions with their peers.

“Everything went great, from the general session focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), to the sessions about Key Train® and workforce readiness, to the roundtable discus-

sions, it was a good conference,” said Ray Henson, ACE education and instruction manager for career guidance, exploration and preparation.

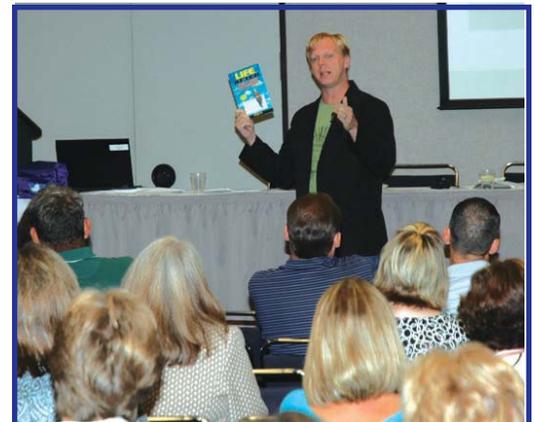
The opening ceremony included presentations from Henson; Steve Lease, representing the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges; Tara Smith, coordinator of financial aid for the Arkansas Department of Higher Education; and motivational speaker Andy Masters.

The second day of the conference was subject-specific and was aimed at career orientation teachers.

“The teachers were able to discuss and hear about lessons that they can take back to the classroom and use,” Hen-

son said. “And during the roundtable discussion we tried to cover the 16 career clusters.”

ACE staff members Barbara Dimon and Tim Hicks were two of the presenters during the roundtable sessions.



**Guest Speaker Andy Masters motivates the crowd.**

## Three Arkansas High Schools Bring Home National Awards



**T**hree Arkansas schools came away big winners at the 2010 High Schools That Work Summer Conference in Louisville, Ky., July 14. **Siloam Springs High School** was named a **HSTW Pacesetter School** for 2010-2012. Siloam Springs was among 30 schools from 16 states honored with the Pacesetter award. The award is given to schools that meet a number of stringent criteria relating to school performance and student achievement.

**Mountain Pine High School** was among 12 schools from nine states to earn the **HSTW Gold Improvement Award**, which recognizes schools for significant improvements in reading, math, and science scores.

Lastly, the **Technical Centers That Work Gold Readiness Award** was presented to **National Park Technology Center** in Hot Springs. NPTC was one of only four technical centers from three states to earn the award.

“Arkansas really has a lot to be proud of,” said Bruce Lazarus, education and instruction manager for school improvement for the Department of Career Education. “These three programs are a good representation of the kind of education available to students in our state. Students at all three schools worked hard. Teachers and administrators worked hard. They are all to be congratulated for everything they’ve done to earn these much-deserved awards.”



## ARKANSASWORKS Summer ACT Program Striving to Lower Remediation

**T**he Arkansas Works college and career coaches are wrapping up a five-week summer program aimed at helping students in targeted counties across the state improve their ACT scores.

Rising juniors, rising seniors and high school graduates who scored below a 19 on the ACT in the areas of English, reading, math and/or science or those who have not taken the ACT exam and present a comparative score of less than a 19 on the Compass, ASSET, PLAN, Explore or PSAT were selected to participate in the program.

The Summer ACT Program was held in 17 of the 21 counties targeted for Arkansas Works. Local two-year colleges worked with their assigned high schools to provide ACT preparation and remediation to 586 high school students. Teachers in the program included certified secondary education teachers and college developmental instructors who have been trained in the Sylvan ACT instructional method to provide course instruction.

“Overall we intend to reduce the remediation rates for these students,” said Arkansas Works Associate Director Sonja Wright-McMurray. “We also want to improve the effectiveness of postsecondary and career information given to high school students and their families and provide high school students with information about career opportunities in Arkansas.”

Wright-McMurray says she’s seen a great deal of success in the schools and counties where ACT training ended June 30. She cites the ACT location at the University of Arkansas Community College-Hope (UACCH), which had six students who will enter postsecondary education in the fall with increased ACT scores and reduced remediation. She also said the Arkansas State University-Newport (ASUN) site and its 12 postsecondary-bound students posted encouraging results.

“Four of the ASUN students increased their composites, with one scoring high enough to qualify for a full tuition scholarship at ASUN,” Wright-McMurray said. “Two students tested out of remedial reading, and two others increased their reading scores but will still need to enroll in a remedial course. Three increased their English scores and eliminated all remediation for English.”

## JAG Earns Highest National Award

**J**obs for Arkansas’s Graduates (JAG) has earned the “5 of 5” Award, presented by the National Jobs for America’s Graduates to the nation’s top JAG programs. The “5 of 5” Award is the highest national performance award the National JAG Board bestows upon a state program.

The “5 OF 5” Award is presented to states or sites that achieve or surpass the “5 of 5” performance outcomes, which include the following:

- ▶ **Graduation Rate—90 percent**
- ▶ **Positive Outcomes Rate—80 percent**
- ▶ **Employment Rate—60 percent**
- ▶ **Full-Time Jobs Rate—60 percent**
- ▶ **Full-Time Placement Rate—80 percent**

In a congratulatory letter to Governor Mike Beebe, Maine Governor John Baldacci, who serves as chair of the National JAG Board of Directors, said that accomplishment of the “5 of 5” measures is “extraordinary.” Governor Baldacci also thanked Governor Beebe for his work as National JAG Board vice chair and his “personal support of the JAG program in Arkansas and that of [Governor Beebe’s] leadership team.”

Department of Career Education (ACE) Director William L. “Bill” Walker expressed his appreciation to Arkansas’s JAG coordinators across the state and to Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson, Associate Director for Workforce Training Sandra Porter and JAG Program Manager Marylene Tate. “Arkansas has achieved an extraordinary success with the JAG program, thanks to the dedication and hard work of all these individuals,” said Director Walker.



*LIBRA continued from page 3*

The new system will transform paper files on clients into electronic files that can be viewed, printed and transferred throughout the agency.

Daughtery said additional training sessions will be held in early October followed by on-site trainings in the field to prepare staff for the October 22 full implementation.

“We are following up with staff by testing them on the things they are learning,” Daughtery said. “So we do have a follow-up procedure to make sure the trainers are training and the staff is learning.”



Arkansas Department  
**ACE**  
of Career Education

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