

April - May 2008



the

# Workforce Counselor

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



## Agency's Divisions Work Together to give HSRC's dorms a face lift



ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño assists student Greg Graves with moving a new piece of furniture to the dormitory floor of Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center.

**A** longtime need has become a reality as the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center is in the midst of an extreme dorm makeover.

Within the **Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE)**, the **Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' (ARS)** Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center (HSRC), and **DWE's Federal**

**Surplus Property (FSP)** Division worked together to secure new furnishings for HSRC's dorm rooms. FSP helped secure 10 semi-truck loads of lightly-used dorm room furniture to place in 130 freshly-painted rooms throughout the facility.

"This is a very uplifting, exciting time for us," Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center Administrator Barbara Lewis said. "What has happened has totally surpassed my wildest expectations."

HSRC's dorm furniture - some dating back to the 1930s - is finally being replaced thanks to the hard work of many within the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education.

After an evaluation of the facilities was recently made by DWE Di-

rector William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. and ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño, Director Walker decided to use FSP to replace the outdated furniture. FSP supervisor and screener Michael Harris went on a search for furniture to help serve the needs of HSRC's students.

"He is one of the best screeners in the country, searching for good property, and he found this furniture in Oklahoma City," said Jim Smith, Division of Adult Education Deputy Director of Harris. "He took photos of the furniture, which were forwarded on for agency approval."

The sturdy wood property, *DORMS continued on page 7*



## DWE Awards New Start Up Grants Totaling \$2.37 million

**T**he Arkansas Department of Workforce Education announced on March 25 it will award \$2.37 million dollars in New Program Start-Up Grants to 60 schools in the state for the 2008-09 school year.

The agency awards these grants annually to purchase equipment for the creation of new Career and Technical Education programs of study or courses. Grant applications are competitively graded upon, among other things: program goals, student benefits, school facilities, employment opportunities and

course demand.

"Arkansas's economic future relies on having a well-educated and capable workforce," said Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. "It's incumbent upon us to help our state's schools train our students for the high-skill, high-demand jobs of tomorrow so that we can effectively compete in the global economy of the 21st century. These grants will help us meet that goal."

All grant funding will be made available after July

*NEW START UP continued on page 6*



## Director's Update

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.

Director

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

**L**eadership and excellence, not simply common compliance, is the premise of our drive to invigorate the Division of Rehabilitation Services' Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center. The center is indeed an historic jewel for the state, but it is an aging facility in need of much care and repair. We have begun a renovation plan to turn the facility and programs there into a "Center of Excellence". If we are to be true to our commitment to the people we serve, we must never entertain the notion that we cannot strive for excellence in all we do for HSRC.

I came to this appointment a little over a year ago with the charge from Gov. Mike Beebe to raise the bar and seek out opportunities to advance our capacity to serve vocational rehabilitation clients. Their ambition and potential must be matched and exceeded by our commitment and level of service.

I believe quality learning and outcomes at HSRC include three important components. First, we must strive to achieve national accreditation for all our programs. Our students have a rightful expectation that when they graduate from HSRC's Arkansas Career Training Institute, their certification has a nationally recognized seal of approval that they can take anywhere in the country and receive respect and recognition. Second, our instructors have the right to expect that our agency will support their efforts to realize the respect and accomplishment that national accreditation brings to our faculty. Third, our

students should work, learn, and reside in an environment which inspires them to achieve.

Recently, our DWE and ARS family came together as they had like no other time in the history of the agency to acquire new dorm room furniture for HSRC's residence halls. The Federal Surplus Property division secured tens of thousands of dollars worth of exceptional, quality dorm room furniture for only the cost of transporting it to the center. Dedicated and committed staff members are painting and renovating different areas of the center. Our agency is even collaborating with the Department of Corrections and the Department of Community Punishment with repairs to different areas of HSRC.

HSRC's Arkansas Career Training Institute has been awarded Federal Perkins Grant funding through the guidance of the Division of Career and Technical Education to support the instructional programs and purchase new equipment. Everyday, our agency is seeking ways to raise the bar for those who strive to take their rightful place in our society by acquiring meaningful employment and literacy for the 21st century.

The Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center is not simply a place of restoration and vocational learning - it is a place of excellence. I can see it in the faces and hear it in the voices of the students and the staff. I am confident that together we will continue to raise the bar for those we serve as one unit, one family, with one vision and one voice.



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

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# What You Should Know

## Successful Employment Through Assistive Technology (SEAT)

Barbara Gullett, Program Administrator

**S**uccessful Employment through Assistive Technology (SEAT) is a service available to Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' counselors to assist clients in receiving the maximum benefit from assistive technology. Finding technology solutions is made easier with the help of SEAT staff, who are knowledgeable in all areas of assistive technology.

**What is Assistive Technology?** Assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment or product system whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

When should ARS counselors consider referring clients to SEAT? ARS counselors should consider a SEAT referral when assistive technology services can assist clients in successfully completing a training program, living more independently, and maintaining employment or returning to work. SEAT staff will complete a functional assistive technology

assessment identifying the most appropriate and cost-effective technology as well as provide sources and costs for obtaining the recommended technology. SEAT will also review available client information for possible similar benefits (such as Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, Spinal Cord Commission, Arkansas Waivers) to assist in accessing other available funding sources when possible. Contact with the ARS counselor is maintained throughout the process to ensure services provided are consistent with a client's stated goal.

For additional information about **Successful Employment through Assistive Technology**, mail, fax, or email your inquiry to:

**Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services/SEAT**

#26 Corporate Hill

Little Rock, AR 72205

Phone: (501) 683-3000, or  
(501) 683-3014

Fax: (501) 686-9685

<http://www.arsinfo.org>

Special Programs/SEAT  
[barbara.gullett@arkansas.gov](mailto:barbara.gullett@arkansas.gov)

## SEAT Program welcomes new employee

**Rick Anderson** joined the SEAT staff February 24 as a Rehab Technician. Anderson began his career in disabilities as a teenager working in the preschool department at the School for the Deaf. He went on to the field of durable medical equipment by working for National Medical and Alliance Home Care. Prior to joining the SEAT staff, Anderson worked with Easter Seals Arkansas as a rehab technician.



**Rick Anderson**  
Rehab Technician

# SEAT

Successful Employment  
through Assistive Technology

# Focus on Phil Taylor

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



**Phil Taylor**

a member of the board seriously and is determined to make the best decisions to help the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education serve its constituents most effectively and efficiently.

"I certainly want to be proactive, not reactive," Taylor said.

Taylor, of Jonesboro, is the SBWECO Vice-Chairman. He is Executive Director of Abilities Unlimited of Jonesboro, Inc., where he has worked for nearly 30 years. Taylor holds a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy, a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Specialist in Education degree from Arkansas State University.

He is also certified as a licensed professional

**W**hen it comes to the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO), Phil Taylor is very outspoken. From board meetings to client and staff interaction,

Taylor takes his role as

counselor, a rehabilitation counselor and a vocational evaluation specialist. Taylor is active in many professional associations, including the Arkansas Association of Community Rehabilitation Programs, the United Way Directors Association and the Vocational Evaluation/Work Adjustment Association of Arkansas.

"My personal vision as a member of the board is to keep the present programs functioning and developing and to continue to meet the needs of all the people who we serve," Taylor said. "From our rehabilitation areas to our vocational programs, I want us to keep on top of being a cutting-edge kind of program.

"We have a great director in Bill Walker, great deputy directors and associate directors and a great staff, and I want to support them all the best way that I can."

Recent department re-alignments which helped better utilize resources and better serve the state's citizens were a step in the right direction, Taylor said.

"I think we are on track," he said. "There are a lot of things that are happening and Director Walker has put in place many things that are helping us and the agency take the best of all parts and make the whole department that much better. When you cut out a lot of the duplication and maximize the strengths each of the different divisions has, everyone is brought together in a positive way. The director has done a great job of working through the changes and the board is very supportive.

"It's very exciting to work together to maximize our efforts and to come together."

## SBWECO Board Approves Perkins IV plan

**M**embers of the Arkansas State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the five-year state plan for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 during its board meeting held April 3 at the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Corporate Hill office in Little Rock.

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., advised the board that Gov. Mike Beebe had already reviewed and signed the five-year state plan, which is required by law.

John Davidson, DWE Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education, then made a short presentation during which he recommended that the board approve the state plan for Perkins IV, which was signed by President George W. Bush in August 2006. A one-year transition plan was submitted for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and a five year state plan was due in April to the U.S. Department of Education that will cover a period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2013.

Davidson told the board that the state was required to hold at least two public hearings and to gather



**Ken Musteen**  
*Chief of Field Services/  
 Associate Director*  
 Arkansas Department of  
 Workforce Education's  
 Division of  
 Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

# SMT Update

**K**urt Hahn, the founder of Outward Bound said, "There is more in us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps for the rest of our lives, we will be unwilling to settle for less."

In the preamble of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments that are part of the Workforce Education Act of 1998, Congress noted that, "...millions of Americans have one or more physical or mental disabilities and the number of Americans with disabilities is increasing. Individuals with disabilities constitute one of the most disadvantaged groups in society; disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to:

- (a) live independently;
- (b) enjoy self-determination;
- (c) make choices;
- (d) contribute to society;
- (e) pursue meaningful careers; and
- (f) enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society." (citation)

**The essence of the purpose and mission of public Vocational Rehabilitation is described in the Act as *coordinated activities providing individuals with disabilities the tools necessary to make informed choices, achieve equality of opportunity,***

***full inclusion and integration in society, employment, independent living, and economic and social self-sufficiency.*** These activities are entrusted to, and coordinated under the guidance and case management of the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services maintains a statewide network of 19 field offices with approximately 80 field counselors, who in collaboration with support staff and specialists of various disciplines assure the direct delivery of services as required within the Act. The counselor serves as the catalyst in assisting our customers with the discovery of "what is within" and then coordinates the mixture of ingredients that will maximize one's ability to their highest level of achievement in the six areas noted in Congress' preamble comments.

The counselor addresses five critical areas in the growth and development of the abilities within the customer. First is the **affec-tive domain of psycho-social skills**, where through direct counseling or with the assistance of special therapists, the customer can strengthen their mental and social capacities of integration into society. Secondly, in the **as-sessment domain**, the counselor coordinates various assessment activities related to vocational and educational capacities leading to informed choices by the customer

as to the types of services that may be required in the recipe for successful employment. Third is the **vocational counseling domain** where the counselor partners with the customer in identifying the resources and training services required for their vocational and educational development to attain their selected goal of meaningful employment. The next domain, though time consuming, but absolutely necessary, is the **case management of services**, in which the counselor must maintain a detailed record of services, correspondence, and all activities that comprise the mix of ingredients chosen by the customer in preparation for entering or re-entering the workforce. Finally, the **placement domain** is where the customer is successfully matched within the workforce in the career path they have chosen.

Every day, our field counselors and their infrastructure colleagues are engrossed in making life better for thousands of others. It can best be described in this excerpt from a letter from a satisfied citizen: "Never in a million years would I have expected my life to have to go through all that has happened to me as a person with a disability. It has been incredibly difficult to have to deal with all that has gone wrong, and I was just about out of energy when you came along and gave me hope, one more reason to try."

**NEW START UP** *continued from page 1*

1, 2008.

Below is a list of schools that received grants and the new programs of study or courses to be funded.

**Alma High School**, Keystone, \$8,160.00; **ANC Technical Center**, Advanced Manufacturing Technology, \$114,750.00;

**Bentonville High School**, Medical Professionals Education, \$44,908.90; **Bergman High School**, Multimedia, \$60,243.75; **Blytheville Charter School**, Family & Consumer Sciences Education, \$34,824.50; **Brinkley High School**, Construction Technology, \$12,895.95; **Brookland High School**, Workforce Technology, \$12,750.00; **Bryant High School**, Advertising Design, \$32,028.00; **Butterfield Trail Jr. HS**, Keyboarding, \$39,312.50;

**Clinton High School**, Workforce Technology, \$12,750.00; **Cutter Morning Star HS**, Multimedia, \$49,193.75;

**Delight High School**, Multimedia, \$49,193.75; **Des Arc High School**, Education and Training, \$10,710.00; **Dollarway High School**, Marketing Technology, \$39,312.50; **Drew Central High School**, Banking, \$26,137.50; Education and Training, \$13,047.50;

**Eastark Secondary Career Center**, Advanced Marketing Technology, \$114,750.00;

**Foreman High School**, Plant Systems, \$37,289.50; **Foreman High School**, Workforce Technology, \$12,750.00; **Fouke High School**, Construction Technology, \$28,993.50

**Gentry High School**, Plant Systems, \$47,234.50; **Gosnell High School**, Family & Work Connections, \$27,945.75; **Greenbrier High School**, Agri Business Systems, \$27,625.00; **Gravette High School**, Culinary Arts, \$15,470.00;

**Hamburg High School**, Family & Work Connections, \$33,001.25; **Bill Hamilton Learning Center**, Office Administration, \$26,137.50; **Har-Ber High School**, Animal/Plant Systems, \$9,945.00; Desktop Publishing, \$60,243.75; Education and Training, \$23,247.50; Finance, \$39,312.50; Child Care, Guidance, Mgmt & Services, \$18,147.50; Jobs for Arkansas Graduates, \$14,641.25; **Hazen High School**, Education and Training, \$24,905.00; **Hellstern Middle School**, Keyboarding, \$39,312.50; **Hillcrest High School**, Workforce Technology, \$12,750.00; **Hope High School**, Medical

Professions Education, \$38,960.60; **Horatio High School**, Workforce Technology, \$12,750.00; **Huntsville Middle School**, IT Fundamentals, \$39,312.50;

**Jacksonville Middle School**, Career Orientation, \$7,735.00; **Jacksonville High School**, Internship, \$16,872.50; **Jefferson Area Vocational**, Welding, \$27,374.25;

**Lake Hamilton High School**, Workforce Technology, \$12,750.00; **Lincoln High School**, Physics in Context, \$42,117.50;

**McClellan High School**, Education and Training, \$26,562.50; Family & Consumer Sciences Education, \$48,131.25; **Magnet Cove High School**, Multimedia, \$49,193.75; **Marion High School**, Education and Training, \$23,247.50; **Marmaduke Jr. High School**, Computer Technology: Introduction, \$32,725.00; **Maynard High School**, Finance, \$32,750.00; **Metropolitan Career & Tech**, Aircraft Manufacturing Technology, \$53,432.70; **Mid-South Community College**, Advanced Manufacturing, \$114,750.00; **Mid-South Community College**, Web Design, \$60,243.75; **Mills High School**, Internship, \$16,872.50; **Mineral Springs High School**, Workforce Technology, \$12,750.00; **Mountain View High School**, Internship, \$16,872.50; **Murfreesboro High School**, Child Care, Guidance, Mgmt & Services, \$12,707.50;

**Nevada High School**, Multimedia, \$39,291.25; **Newport High School**, Workforce Technology, \$12,750.00;

**River Valley Tech Center**, Petroleum Technology, \$22,019.50; **Rose Bud High School**, Child Care, Guidance, Mgmt & Services, \$12,027.50

**Saline County Career Center**, Automotive Collision Repair, \$68,514.25; **Sheridan High School**, Physics in Context, \$42,117.50; **South Arkansas Community College**, Industrial Equipment Maintenance, \$31,556.25; **Springdale High School**, Culinary Arts, \$48,535.00; Education and Training, \$23,247.50; **Smackover High School**, Plant Systems, \$37,289.50;

**UAPCC Career/Tech Dewitt**, Criminal Justice, \$32,674.00; **UAPCC Career/Tech Helena**, Criminal Justice, \$37,570.00;

**Wickes High School**, Education and Training, \$23,247.50; Workforce Technology, \$12,750.00; **Woodland Jr. High School**, Fayetteville, Career Communications, \$4,250.00

## Williams named Program Administrator of Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission



**Glenda Williams**

**G**lenda Williams has been named Program Administrator of the Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission by Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño. Williams will be responsible for overall operations of the program. She was previously named interim Program Administrator in January 2008.

"I look forward to the opportunity to serve the citizens of our state," Williams said. "I am excited about this challenge and I want to ensure that our clients receive the services they deserve."

Williams, who started working with the Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission in June 2007, knows the ups and downs of how clients deal with kidney disease and its consequences. She received a kidney transplant in April 2002 at Baylor Hospital in Dallas and was on dialysis for one year.

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which includes beds with drawers, dressers, entertainment centers, desks, chairs, lamps, mattresses and nightstands – all in outstanding condition - was formerly used in U.S. Air Force barracks.

Once the screening of the furniture had been completed, plans were made to transport it to Hot Springs to be delivered and unloaded by a team of HSRC staff, including Commissioner Treviño and Administrator Lewis.

“Through the dedication and generosity of our sister division, Federal Surplus Property, the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center received a valuable shipment of first-rate dorm furniture,” Treviño said. “The furniture complements our ongoing effort to renovate our dorm rooms on campus. Because a well-maintained residential setting supports a more suitable learning environment for our students, we have an obligation to manage our resources for their benefit.

“Under Director Walker’s leadership and with



**OLD**



**NEW**

the help of our FSP colleagues, we have made this goal a reality. This effort is a manifestation of the progressive vision we share for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and HSRC as a Center of Excellence,” he added.

Director Walker said, “We want to make a difference, not only in the educational, career and technical training programs, but also in the facilities themselves. We want to ensure that we have a nice, well-maintained facility so we can provide state-of-the-art educational training for our students. It’s exciting and we’re excited about where we are going and what we are doing to help the learning environment for the students.”

All male dormrooms are set to be remodeled. Any remaining new furniture will be used in the female dorms, which currently have good-quality furniture.

“We have wanted to replace the furniture for a while but have not had the resources to accomplish this,” Lewis said. “But with our renewed working relationship with our parent agency, the Department of Workforce Education, I realize how valuable and available Federal Surplus Property is to us.

“We’ve finished painting and moving in furniture to some rooms and are in the



**Commissioner Treviño and Administrator Lewis (right) inspect newly arrived dorm furniture.**



**HSRC staff unload dorm furniture**

process of painting other rooms. The students and staff are so excited and are really bragging about it. The quality of the furniture and the timeliness of it all is just amazing. I’m really appreciative of the support of Director Walker and Commissioner Treviño in helping make this a reality. I am appreciative of the work of Jim Smith, Mike Smith and everyone at Federal Surplus Property for taking on this project. I also greatly appreciate the efforts of the HSRC staff and students for working diligently on this project,” Lewis concluded.



**Carol Maples, HSRC Environmental System Services Supervisor, and Director Walker review newly installed dorm furniture.**

## Adult Education dealing with state forecasted budget cuts



**DWE Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith (left) and DWE Deputy Director for Finance Charles Brown listen to Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. discuss the adult education budget forecast.**

**T**he Arkansas Department of Workforce Education division of Adult Education placed \$18,000,000 into the funding formula for state funds for the 2008-2009 fiscal year – \$343,604 less than last year. The decrease comes after the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration announced budget cuts that will affect various state agencies for the next fiscal year.

The cuts affect monies in Category B of the state budget with the division of Adult Education receiving the only cuts scheduled for the De-

partment of Workforce Education.

At an April meeting with Adult Education Program Managers and staff, Arkansas Department of Workforce Education administration discussed the effects of the forecasted cuts.

Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Deputy Director for Adult Education Jim Smith and Deputy Director of Finance Charles Brown attended the standing-room-only meeting at Pulaski Technical College where facts were presented, ideas were discussed and ques-

tions were answered.

"We tried to lay out what the facts are. It wasn't just an arbitrary thing that we wanted to do, it was something given to us that none of us wanted," Smith said. "We've tried to handle it the best way we can."

"The funds will be returned to the programs if the budget returns to its original level."

Director Walker said, "Arkansas is feeling the brunt of the unstable economy and the revised forecast impacted funding that had been committed to adult education. We've worked collectively, not only within the department with the resources we have to try to minimize the impact there, but with this administration to minimize and try to hopefully be able to restore it in time."

"We understand that we all have to tighten our belts. We're going to do that and try to keep our initial commitment to the program to help them at least to a point where they were last year and try to go from there. Hopefully, through all of this, we will not only be able to fully restore the budget to the current level, but we will be able to collectively work together to push for adequate funding for Adult Education," Walker concluded.

## Job program for seniors benefiting ARS Field Services offices

**F**ield Services offices of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) are reaping the benefits of a national program that helps senior citizens train to enter the workforce.

**Experience Works**, which serves people age 55 and older, currently has employees working part-time in ARS Field Services Offices in West Memphis and Fayetteville doing various clerical and office jobs. Experience Works pays the hourly wage

each employee earns.

"I currently use and have used in the past **Experience Works** in all three of my field offices for clerical and receptionist assistance," said Christie Bartlett, Manager of District II, which covers Northeast Arkansas. "They have been very good to work with and provide ARS a needed service."

Experience Works helps low-income senior citizens, many with multiple barriers to employment, get

*SENIORS continued on page 9*

## Simpson named ACTI Director of Vocational Training

**D**r. Dawn Tirado Simpson has been named the new Director of Vocational Training for the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center (HSRC). Dr. Simpson moves into the position after serving as public school program advisor in the Department of Workforce Education's (DWE) Division of Career and Technical Education.



Dr. Dawn Simpson

Among her duties, Dr. Simpson will serve as a liaison between ACTI students and counselors, interpret standardized test results to determine student strengths and skills and utilize her in-depth knowledge to personalize career training to specific students and organizations.

"The agency is very pleased to have Dr. Dawn Simpson serving as the Director of ACTI," said Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño. "Dr. Simpson brings a wealth of experience to the position as a former classroom teacher, as well as a strong working knowledge of the Department of Workforce Education and the role the agency will play in achieving national accreditation for our instruction programs and our instructors. Moreover, the strength of her practical teaching experience combined with her appreciation of the vi-

sion we share for the facility as a **Center of Excellence** serves as a foundation cornerstone for an enhanced learning environment for our students. We are fortunate to have someone with Dr. Simpson's caliber and capacity for leadership and achievement on our staff."

Dr. Simpson earned her doctoral degree eight years ago and brings 17 years of classroom teaching experience to ACTI.

She believes that experience will be helpful in her new endeavor.

"I'm going to be able to put my teaching experience to work in my new role," Dr. Simpson said. "Arkansas Career Training Institute is working under the same vision and with the same 'one unit, one family with one voice' that DWE Director Bill Walker implemented, so that makes the transition easier. The friendships I have with people from the DWE office will help me reach my goals at ACTI because I know I can rely on their expertise."

Dr. Simpson brings even more expertise on top of her already impressive credentials. She recently spent 20 weeks training to become a **Career Development Facilitator** to work with students and assist them with vocational and educational planning.

*SIMPSON continued on page 20*

### SENIORS *continued from page 8*

the training they need to find good jobs in their local communities. Originally named **Green Thumb**, and chartered in 1965 as a small, rural demonstration program, Experience Works has grown to be the nation's leading provider of training and employment for seniors.

"Arkansas Rehabilitation Services has been a great partner," said Christy Manning-Owen, Experience Works Employment and Training Coordinator for Northeast Arkansas. "They've been partners for quite a while and I know they have helped really

meet the needs of the employees."

The largest program offered by Experience Works is the **Senior Community Service Employment Program** (SCSEP). The program is funded under Title V of the **Federal Older Americans Act** as well as state and local grants. Through this program, seniors benefit from training, counseling, and community service assignments at faith-based and community organizations in their communities prior to transitioning into the workforce.

In recent years, Experience Works trained and placed nearly 30,000 senior citizens in more than 12,500 nonprofit and public organizations in 38 states and territories, who contributed more than 16 million hours of community service while living productive and independent lives.



**BOARD continued on page 4**

input from many constituent groups prior to the submission of the state plan.

"The board's approval was the final step in a two-year process," Davidson said. "The board, by their vote, sent us on a course of accountability that we've not had with Perkins before. Perkins IV required local accountability and local sanctions. It's very significant."

The board heard updates from Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Robert Treviño on the acquisition of new furniture for the student living quarters at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center and on the National Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities National Conference that the agency held in April. The board also agreed to accept the invitation of Department of Workforce Education's Agriculture Education Program Manager Marion Fletcher and hold the June board meeting at Camp Couchdale during the FFA state conference.

Board members in attendance were Chairman Jack Justus, Vice-Chairman Phil Taylor, Kathy Scarsdale, Richard Smith, Lucy Ralston and Director Walker. Board member Martha Dixon was absent.

## CTE granted NCCER Accreditation

**T**he Career and Technical Education (CTE) Division of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE) has recently been granted a three-year accreditation by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER).

"There is a very high quality to this accreditation," said Dick Burchett, Program Manager for CTE's Office of Skilled and Technical Sciences.

The CTE program was audited last year to see if DWE qualified as being a NCCER sponsor, a process that included going through files and visiting facilities.

"Any school in the state can now be NCCER certified if they have a construction technology program," Burchett said. "A student who gets certified can then take the card they earn anywhere in the world, for any major construction company and get a great job. There is a shortage of construction workers and being certified by NCCER will benefit those who take part in the program," Burchett concluded.



## ACTI Welding Program Earns National Nod

**T**he welding program at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center's Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) is now nationally accredited by the American Welding Society (AWS), Schools Excelling through National Skills Standards Education (SENSE) program.

ACTI started offering AWS Level I training components in January so that students could then advance to AWS Level II training. ACTI welding instructor Dennis Pickering attended a week-long seminar in Dallas to complete AWS requirements to become a Certified Welding Inspector/Educator.

"This is a good example of the Department of Workforce Education and the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services collaborating to improve career and technical education and employment outcomes," ACTI Vocational Training Director Dr. Dawn Simpson said. "Students have the opportunity to achieve a national, industry-level standard certification in one or both areas. ACTI students were already receiving unmatched training that employers immediately recognized as some of the best in the state. Top that training off with AWS certification, and an employer will know immediately that ACTI welding students are ready to go to work from day one."

The Institute has added technology to the classroom via laptop computers for online testing, new equipment and materials to meet AWS training requirements.

SENSE is a set of welding standard guidelines that define three levels of knowledge and skills required in the welding workplace. Individuals trained with the SENSE guidelines are the Entry Welder (Level I), Advanced Welder (Level II) and Expert Welder (Level III).

"This American Welding Society certification is only a part of the ultimate goal we have in mind for Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center becoming a Center of Excellence," said Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. "Ultimately, we want all of the programs offered there to be certified so that an ACTI graduate can go anywhere in the state with their certification, and an employer will know they are hiring a well-qualified, well-trained certified employee."

## Federal Surplus Property Program Celebrates Donees

**F**or the fourth year in a row, the administration and staff of the Department of Workforce Education's Federal Surplus Property (FSP) program took the time to thank those who benefit from its services.

More than 200 donees from Arkansas public agencies, private non-profit health and educational institutions and homeless shelters were on hand at the FSP Remount Road headquarters in North Little Rock for the program's annual Donee Appreciation Day held on May 1. Attendees were feted with homemade barbecue, cake and nearly enough door prizes for virtually everyone at the party to go home with something to remember the day by.

"These are the people who make Federal Surplus Property

in Arkansas possible," Deputy Director for Adult Education James Smith said. "Without their help we wouldn't be able to buy more property and then turn around and make it available to these agencies for only these small handling charges.

"This program's going to be here for a long time. We offer our organizations quality, usable equipment that allows them to provide a better level of service to their clients. We couldn't have done that without the staff we have out here, which is second to none."

In the midst of FSP thanking its donees, the donees took the opportunity to thank FSP. Clinton Mayor Roger Rorie said his city has benefited immeasurably from the services provided by FSP.

"In February we were hit by tornadoes, high winds, snow storms, thunder storms, hailstorms and floods," Mayor Rorie said. "The storms knocked out our electricity and our water system. We were able to come down to FSP and get an emergency generator to get the water flowing again. We got a fork-

lift that wouldn't tear up the roads that could pick up stumps and help out with clean-up. We even got a flat-bottom boat to move the FEMA officials around and over to the water station. In all, we spent \$6,000 or \$7,000 dollars and got \$250,000 worth of equipment. We never could have done everything we needed to do after all of our disasters without FSP."

And FSP couldn't have made it through Donee Appreciation Day without a little help. Culinary students from the Arkansas Career Training Institute at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center were on hand to serve lunch to all of the attendees. Lunch was provided for the fourth straight year by Ricky Lee who smoked and pulled 24 pork shoulders for everyone to enjoy.



**Former state representative and current Clinton Mayor Roger Rorie explained how FSP benefited his community.**



**(left) Duane Bell and FSP Warehouse Supervisor Butch Campbell discuss the meeting agenda during Donee Appreciation Day.**

**(below) Ricky Lee, North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Henry Hays, and State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities member Richard Smith enjoy Donee Appreciation Day activities.**



**Jim Smith, Deputy Director for Adult Education, North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Henry Hays and Duane Bell draw for door prizes during FSP Donee Appreciation Day.**

## Veterans Approving Agency helps Union Pacific improve workforce



**Department of Workforce Education's Veterans Approving Agency Program Manager Sara Patterson discusses the benefits of the G.I. Bill with Union Pacific's Terry Hatcher (left) and Ken Kuwamura.**

**U**nion Pacific is looking to increase its workforce in Arkansas by 500 by the year 2009, and the company is working with the Department of Workforce Education's Veterans Approving Agency (VAA) to do so.

Among her duties, Veterans Approving Agency Program Manager Sara Patterson explains to businesses, such as Union Pacific and active duty military personnel, the benefits of apprenticeship and on-the-job training provided by the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

Ken Kuwamura, Field Recruiting Manager-Human Resources, and Terry Hatcher, Human Resources-Omaha visited with Patterson to better understand how veterans can utilize the G.I. Bill while learning a new job skill at Union Pacific. The G.I. Bill is a benefit that a company can offer a veteran without it costing the company anything except a little time to do paperwork.

"As an employer and business owner/manager, 'what's in it for me,' is a legitimate question to ask," Patterson said. "We all want to help veterans for patriotic and civic reasons, especially those returning from active duty. But, you are charged with running a business that creates jobs and it must generate a profit for the owners and shareholders. There are some benefits to your business and community by allowing employees to use their G.I. Bill while train-

ing for a job in your business or company."

Patterson says veterans hired via the G.I. Bill offer a wide variety of advantages to employers.

Veterans who train via the G.I. Bill offer a company a stable employee who knows how to plan ahead. The benefits for a veteran are available because the service member chose to have \$100 each month deducted from their first year's pay. Today's veteran had the foresight to plan for the future by participating in the G.I. Bill.

Businesses are hiring employees who are a little older and who research shows are more mature, more disciplined and more experienced than non-veterans in the same age group.

By offsetting some of the veteran's cost of accepting an entry level wage when returning to civilian employment, they will be encouraged to stay with a firm long enough to complete training and make a positive contribution back to the employer.

Veterans have been trained in at least one military job. Often, those skills are directly transferable to a civilian job. Basic communication skills and good work habits are directly transferable to all civilian jobs. Most are not only able or qualified, but have also been expected to take charge and see that a "job" is completed.

Finally, there is a significant contribution to the economic life of a community through additional spending by the veterans companies training. A one-year On the Job Training program puts approximately \$8,587.80 into the hands of a veteran and their family. Longer training programs add to that amount for the length of the training. That extra money is largely spent locally on food, shelter, clothing, child-care, transportation and other goods and services provided by local businesses and merchants. This provides a multiplier effect of new dollars on the local economy.

Union Pacific has been approved in the past for veterans' training. Three objectives were approved: car-man, electrical apprentice, and machinist. VAA will be working on approving these programs again. These are three-and four-year apprenticeship programs.



## Federal Surplus Property is a Source of Storm Damage Relief

County and city governments across Arkansas, along with public agencies, private non-profit health and educational institutions and homeless shelters are all eligible to receive some much-needed assistance from recent natural disasters through Federal Surplus Property.

Federal Surplus Property, a division of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, donates property that has been declared surplus or excess by the federal government. Fees are assessed on donated property to cover ex-

penses, but usually run 10 percent or less of the market value of the donated property.

"We're here for the state of Arkansas, that's why we exist," said James Smith, Deputy Director for the Division of Adult Education. "Federal Surplus Property has been in existence since 1947 to not only help on a regular basis, but to also assist the state in times of natural disasters and emergencies."

Each year, Federal Surplus Property receives more than 150 tractor-trailers loaded with donated federal property that includes tables, chairs, lateral file cabinets, legal and regular file cabinets, computer tables, medical and kitchen equipment, water, diapers, supplies, and much more. Many items are new and still in the original box. Large equipment items such as generators, bulldozers, back hoes, track hoes, compactors, planes, boats over 50 foot, train engines and cars, etc, can also be requested.

"After the tornadoes hit the state back in February, the city of



FSP Agents Jim Stafford, William Sanders and Keith Christy

Clinton came and got two very large generators and two forklifts to help with damage clean-up," Smith said. "That is what we are here for. We've assisted communities, cities, counties, and schools that receive public funds. We've even assisted churches that have educational programs on a full-time basis."

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



FSP Supervisor Michael Harris and Accountant Mary Castillow

## School administrators learn about veterans' benefits



Jerry Clark, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, talks about benefits available to all veterans

The Department of Workforce Education's Veteran's Approving Agency (VAA) and the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs united to hold an Annual Seminar for School Cer-

tifying Officials March 25 at East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City.

VAA Program Manager Sara Patterson said 48 representatives from 38 Arkansas colleges and technical schools attended the event to learn about different educational opportunities and benefits available for the nation's uniformed men and women.

According to Patterson, along with sharing information on changes in veterans' benefits, usage of the Web Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS) computer system was discussed as well as where to refer veterans with questions about their educational benefits. The group also held a discussion with Veterans Affairs representative Jerry Clark

on services for veterans returning from deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan and helping returning soldiers, airmen, marines, sailors, and coast guardsmen.

"When these veterans come back from deployment, they're changed," Patterson said. "It's just like anybody who goes away anywhere for a long time. You don't come back the same. For the people who are responsible for dealing with these veterans – be it at school, or wherever – they have to be ready to see a change."

For additional information about the Department of Workforce Education's Veterans Approving Agency, contact Sara Patterson at [sara.patterson@arkansas.gov](mailto:sara.patterson@arkansas.gov) or call 501-682-1500.

## Boyle excited about role with the Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities

**T**he new executive director of the Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities (AGCPD) says he's going to use his position as a bully pulpit.

Leonard Boyle, a former commissioner for AGCPD, became Executive Director in February and said he plans on working toward improvement in policies and the empowerment of people with disabilities in Arkansas.

"It can be an overwhelming job," Boyle said. "I'm going to take a methodical approach in working with organizations and agencies within the disability community to better disseminate information on programs and services. I want to promote a culture of inclusion for those in the disability community, not one of exclusion."

According to Boyle, the key to improving policies and programs for disabled Arkansans lies in communication. Boyle considers himself an advocate, not only for the rights of those with disabilities, but for everyone. He sees himself uniquely positioned through the AGCPD to amplify the voice of a minority he says has been silent for too long.

"As an advocate, I've seen where the breakdowns for people with disabilities occur," Boyle said. "If we see something being done the wrong way and we're not saying something about it, that's where the breakdowns occur. We need to be heard. I plan to be the megaphone for the disability community. We're the ones affected by silence and inaction."

"We're happy to welcome Mr. Boyle to the executive director's position and will work in every way to assist in fulfilling the mission of the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities," said Jim Moreland, Associate Director of Special Programs for the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. "He's an excellent addition with a solid background in disability issues. I know he will work exceptionally hard with and for the commission to fulfill its duties and mission."

The Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities is a program of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. It is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals with disabilities by promoting advocacy, educating, and creating independence and celebrating all of life.

Some of the duties of the AGCPD include advising and assisting Governor Mike Beebe in developing policies designed to meet the needs of Arkansans with disabilities; helping to coordinate state and private providers and activities relating to citizens with disabilities; cooperating with state agencies and private providers to assure that the services, which the Governor and the Arkansas General Assembly have authorized for people with disabilities are, in fact, provided; and serving as a clearinghouse for information related to persons with such disabilities.

Other duties include: consulting and cooperating with universities, colleges, and educational institutions for developing courses of study; assisting state and local governments in eliminating obstacles to dignity and achievement which people with disabilities may face as a result of a government and society unaware of or insensitive to their needs; and promoting positive public awareness relating to people with disabilities.



Leonard Boyle

## Dept. of Workforce Education awards Perkins grants

**T**he Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE) awarded 30 Carl D. Perkins IV Planning Phase grants totaling \$550,350 to 28 separate schools in the state in March. The agency has set aside reserve funding for the development or improvement of high-skill, high-wage and high-demand programs of study.

New Perkins IV legislation requires states, districts and schools to develop programs of study with coherent, rigorous and non-duplicative courses that

lead to an industry-recognized credential or an associate's or bachelor's degree. Such programs are tools for creating a seamless system of career exploration, academic presentation, career and technical studies, industry-specific knowledge, skill development and workforce connections to meet the needs of students and business and industry.

"Arkansas's future economic success lies in having a well-trained and well-educated workforce ca-

*PERKINS continued on page 19*

# HSRC Happenings

## 171st Commencement Ceremonies held March 21



**Guest speaker state Representative Linda Poindexter-Chesterfield**

The Arkansas Career Training Institute at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center held commencement ceremonies for its 171st graduating class March 21st. Twenty-seven students from 15 Arkansas cities received certificates in 11 fields of training.

Commencement speaker, state Representative Linda Poindexter-Chesterfield praised the students for their hard work.

“It would have been easy to aim low,” Rep. Chesterfield said. “These youngsters, their parents and their backers aimed high and took control of what the future of this state will be.”

Each student received a \$50 graduation gift from Hot Springs Rehabilitation Volunteers, Inc., for their accomplishments. Five students who had already gained employment were given an additional \$50 award for their success.

Rep. Chesterfield commented on the strides each of the graduates was making.

“Each of you is making it easier for those who come behind you,” she said. “I want them to have a fair shot at getting a job.”

Rep. Chesterfield further encouraged the grads to be persistent and to trust in their abilities.

“Commencement simply means to begin. If there



**HSRC Administrator Barbara Lewis, ACTI Director Dr. Dawn Simpson, Rep. Poindexter-Chesterfield, DWE Director Walker and ARS Commissioner Treviño participate in graduation ceremonies.**

is no struggle, there is no progress,” she added. “You should stand together as one. You should speak together as one. You should be together as one as this class begins its journey toward greatness.”

During an impromptu address to the packed audience, Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. “Bill” Walker, Jr. supported Rep. Chesterfield and said that this class had a bright future ahead.

“We all have to fight,” Walker said. “You have to be willing to accept that challenge. The best is yet to come. You are poised to move our state forward.”

Here is a list of the most recent graduating class.

- Auto Collision Repair:** Luis Valle/*Fountain Hill*; Emmitt Dansby/*Hot Springs*
- Automotive Maintenance Tech:** Chris Hays/*El Dorado*
- Automotive Technology:** Ryan Jackson/*Pine Bluff*; Jesse Longamore/*Hartford*; Quincy Montgomery/*Star City*; Stephan Smith/*Hot Springs*; Mario Williams/*Tillar*
- Auto Partsman:** Brittany Taylor/*Searcy*
- Business Education:** Marzeah Divsalar/*Hot Springs*; Kimberly Hale/*Little Rock* - Received GED
- Construction Technology:** Chris Middleton/*Hot Springs* -- Employed by Dill Carpenter
- Environmental Systems Services:** Garrick Lawson/*Little Rock* - Received GED
- Food Service:** Wacey Murphy/*West Fork*; Johnny Piersall/*Benton* -- Employed by Wal-Mart; Frank Thurman/*Benton*
- Laundry:** Tiara Griffiths/*Little Rock*; John Reeder/*Camden*
- Non-Traditional/Medical Transcription:** Justin Boehmer/*North Little Rock*
- Non-Traditional/Abilities Unlimited:** Madai Robles/*Little Rock*
- Printing:** Kayla Billington/*Mabelvale* - Employed by Luigi's; Joseph Blackwell/*Viola*; Douglas Rayburn/*Magnolia*; Michael Reed/*Hot Springs* -- Received Employability Wage; Christopher Sanders/*El Dorado*
- Sales & Marketing:** Tracy Neighbors/*Hot Springs*; Chris Reed/*El Dorado*

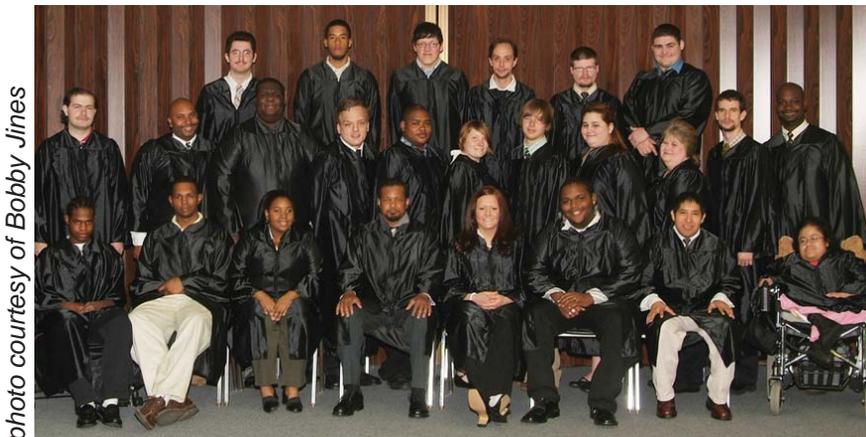


photo courtesy of Bobby Jines

## Walker addresses UAPB Literacy Conference

**A**rkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE) Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., joined civic, educational, non-profit and spiritual leaders in addressing the inaugural University of Arkansas Pine Bluff Literacy Institute Conference March 14.

Following the conference theme "Literacy Today, Tomorrow and Forever: Creating Awareness of the Effects of Illiteracy in Arkansas," Director Walker explained some of the wide-ranging implications of illiteracy on Arkansas.

"Without the ability to read, write and sufficiently solve common problems, the people of Arkansas will be unable to earn an adequate living, capably care for their children, enjoy quality health care or keep up with the rest of civilized society," Walker said. "In short, an illiterate Arkansas is an Arkansas that will be left behind and that will forever remain a bottom dweller. That's not the Arkansas we want to live in."

Despite the fact that nearly 25 percent of Arkansans do not have a high school diploma, a figure that unfortunately increases for residents in the state's Delta region, Walker said that the Department of Workforce Education is striving to improve those statistics and, with the help of the other agencies that make up Governor Mike Beebe's Workforce

Cabinet, advance Arkansas's future economic prospects.

"We're reaching out there, fighting illiteracy tooth and nail. We're doing everything we can," Walker said. "So far we've been very successful with our Adult Education program."

Even *very successful* may be an understatement for Arkansas's Adult Education program. Arkansas has graduated 84 percent of its GED students (2007) compared to 68 percent for the rest of the United States (2006). All things being equal, Arkansas has had a 24 percent better success rate with its students than the nation as a whole. And while Arkansas has one of the highest GED pass rates in the nation, it is one of only a handful of states to offer the test at no cost.

"Higher literacy skills lead to a better quality of life," Walker said. "Those with upper-level literacy skills will earn better salaries and their abilities to get job promotions are greatly improved. Fur-

thermore, as the literacy level of a community increases, crime rates in those areas decrease."

Walker again pointed to the efforts engaged in by DWE. Walker further discussed the agency's Adult Education and Career and Technical Education programs and their work in training both adults and secondary and post-secondary students for several different careers.

"The key to Arkansas's economic future lies in having a well-educated, well-trained workforce," said Walker. "We're preparing workers for the high-demand, high-skill and high-wage global economy of the 21st century. As our workforce becomes more knowledgeable, Arkansas will become a more attractive destination for outside investors. Our governor recognizes that and I think you're beginning to see that business and industry is starting to recognize that. Recently several out-of-state manufacturers have announced they were going to set up shop in Arkansas, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. They're aware of the work we're doing here, and the word's getting around. There's a trend emerging, and Arkansas is definitely the place for business and industry."

But that trend will continue, says Walker, only if the state and its students maintain their commitment to education

*UAPB continued on page 18*



**DWE Director Bill Walker addresses the Literacy Conference at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Seated (l-r) former state representative Dr. Calvin Johnson, UAPB Chancellor Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Jr. and Pine Bluff Mayor Carl Redus.**

UAPB continued from page 17

and literacy. He says Governor Beebe and the Arkansas General Assembly have made their commitment obvious through recent education reforms, innovative early childhood education initiatives, more rigorous curriculum requirements and performance-based post-secondary funding proposals. Students appear to be holding up their end of the bargain as well. Walker cites increased benchmark test scores, steadily improving high school graduation rates and larger college enrollment and retention figures.

Ultimately, Walker says more can be done to increase literacy rates and high school graduation numbers. Because at the end of the day, everyone in Arkansas should be able to read, write and do math proficiently.

“We know there are people in our state committing crimes and who can’t feed their families just because they didn’t get the education they had a right to,” Walker said. “Help is available, and it doesn’t cost a dime. A better life is theirs for the taking. No one has to remain illiterate.

“Arkansas isn’t destined to stay poor. While the state has programs in place to fight illiteracy, it’s a fight we all have to join. We can help prevent illiteracy by helping a young person read. Take them to the library or buy them a book. In short, we can all do our part.”

## Dance Frameworks Committee meets to discuss guidelines

The Dance Frameworks Committee will likely have the guidelines for the course established by this summer with a goal of recruiting more Arkansas schools to start teaching dance soon thereafter.

Committee members Olympia Smith, Mann Magnet Jr. High School; Michael Tidwell, Parkview High School; Traci Presley, Mann Magnet Jr. High School; Pamela Crane, Parkview High School and M’Shay Callicott, Parkview High School, met at the Department of Workforce Education (DWE) on March 18-20 to complete their curriculum frameworks. They are Artists in Residence at their schools for the Little Rock School District (the district does not offer an official teaching license in Dance, so instructors are given this official title). These teachers all have the DWE Dance Permit.

Dance has been a DWE Program of Study (POS) under the Performing Arts Pathway in the



**Dance Framework Committee members (l-r): Olympia Smith, Mann Jr. High; Michael Tidwell, Parkview High School; Traci Presley, Mann Magnet Jr. High**

Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communications Career Cluster since 2004. This cluster is under the Office of Career Guidance, Exploration and Preparation. Ray Henson is Program Manager and Barbara Lensing is the Program Supervisor for dance.

“Dance is currently our only POS under the Performing Arts Pathway, which is something we would like to see change,” Lensing said. “Our goal this year is to increase the number of dance teachers in our program. In addition,

we are in talks with one of our schools for the possibility of beginning a Theater POS in the near future. We will continue to work with all of our performing arts teachers to help make their programs the best they can be for their students, which is most important.”

The dance frameworks have been a work in progress, and because of DWE staff changes over the years affecting dance, the teachers haven’t had the necessary guidance to complete their work. The March frameworks meeting was a major step forward towards this end. In fact, the frameworks are virtually complete and lack only minor additions.

Although there are a few other teachers in Arkansas with the dance permit, teachers from Parkview and Mann have taken the lead in setting the standards and guidelines for teaching the DWE Dance POS. They have been in the program since its inception and have been, and continue to be, leaders in their art.

**PERKINS** *continued from page 15*

pable of competing in the global marketplace of the 21st century,” said Department of Workforce Education Director William L. “Bill” Walker, Jr. “When Arkansas schools use Perkins funds to train Arkansas students for tomorrow’s high-skill, high-demand jobs, we not only position our state to compete economically, we position our state and its residents to excel economically.”

To ensure applicants have ample time and resources to develop or improve programs of study, the Department of Workforce Education has made the Perkins IV grant process a multi-year project. The agency will offer funding in three phases: Planning Phase with a \$20,000 maximum award scheduled for distribution March 29 - August 21, 2008; Implementation Phase with a \$75,000 maximum award scheduled for a September 1 - June 30, 2009 distribution; and Evaluation Phase with a \$25,000 maximum award scheduled for a July 1 - June 30, 2010 distribution.

“Interested applicants will apply annually for each phase of the project,” DWE Deputy Director of Career and Technical Education John Davidson said. “A review committee will determine awards based on, among other things – a description of activities, measurable outcomes, a budget narrative, curriculum and equipment and student certifications. If any of the criteria is not met at any phase, future funding may not be awarded.”

The application period for implementation phase grants is scheduled for July 1 - 31, 2008. Those awards will be announced September 1, 2008. The application period for evaluation phase grants is slated for May 1 - June 1, 2009 with the announcement date scheduled for July 1, 2009.

Below is a list of consortiums/districts receiving Planning Phase grants, the programs of study funded and the grant amounts approved.

**Arch Ford & Mills**, Petroleum Technology, \$20,000; **Bentonville**, Management, \$19,400; **Cabot**, Education & Training, \$8,000; **Crowley’s Ridge – Valley View**, Consumer Science, \$20,000; **Crowley’s Ridge – Valley View**, Horticulture, \$20,000; **Dawson Co-op**– Arkadelphia, Multimedia & Web Design, \$19,092; **De ueen/Mena** – Ouachita River, Food Products & Processing Systems, \$20,000.

**De Queen/Mena** – Van Cove, Education & Training, \$20,000; **Dollarway**, Education & Training, \$20,000; **Fort Smith**, Construction Management, \$20,000; **Harrison**, Management & Entrepreneurship, \$18,000; **Hope**, Construction Technology, \$20,000.

**Hoxie**, Health Informatics, \$17,913; **Little Rock**, Aircraft Manufactur-

ing, \$20,000; **Northeast – Marmaduke**, Childcare Guidance, Mgmt & Services, \$11,865; **Northeast – Piggot**, Childcare Guidance, Mgmt & Services, \$11,865; **Northeast – Twin Rivers**, Health Informatics, \$16,800.

**OUR – Alpena**, Animal Systems, \$20,000; **OUR – Bergman & Valley Springs**, Animal Systems, \$20,000; **OUR – Lead Hill**, Animal Systems, \$20,000; **Paragould**, Health Informatics, \$19,980; **Pocahontas**, Precision Metal Production, \$20,000.

**Southeast – SEACBEC/multiple**, Computer Engineering, \$16,587; **Southwest – Fouke**, Construction Technology, \$19,987; **Springdale**, Food Products & Processing Systems, \$20,000; **Springdale**, Information Support & Services, \$20,000; **Van Buren**, Finance & Investment Planning, \$19,960.

**Western Ark. – Booneville**, Environmental Service Systems, \$20,000; **Western Ark. – Clarksville**, Health Informatics, \$20,000; **Yellville-Summit**, Plant Systems, \$11,000

## CTE Administrators hear information on Perkins IV

Approximately 125 school administrators and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program Managers got more familiar with changes in Perkins IV and discussed ideas on various ways to best utilize those grant funds during a two-day workshop held April 7-8 in North Little Rock.

“The workshop kicked off the grant application for next year,” said John Davidson, Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE). “It was a very productive, informative two days.”

The underlying theme of the workshop was fiscal responsibility and financial management and how monitoring those aspects will better benefit the students who reap the benefits of the Perkins IV money.

“Anytime you talk about finances, people are extremely cautious,” Davidson said. “We accomplished what we wanted. We wanted them to be more aware and be more careful about how they spend the money. It’s really an effort to help schools.”

The first day of the workshop included messages from Department of Workforce Education Director William L. “Bill” Walker, Jr., DWE Deputy Director for Finance Charles Brown, Davidson, DWE Associate Director of CTE Programs Rod Duckworth and Mary Ellen Koettel, DWE Program Manager for Accountability and Funding.

“We all wanted to talk about the new parts of

*WORKSHOPS continued on page 20*

WORKSHOPS *continued from page 19*



Associate Director for Career and Technical Education Rod Duckworth speaks to the assembly

the Perkins application as far as what they need to do, what the new parts are, what the process is, etc.," Davidson said.

The afternoon session was highlighted by a Perkins IV presentation from Attorney Michael Brustein of the Brustein & Manasavit Law Firm in Washington D.C.

"Mr. Brustein is the leading education lawyer in the nation and he came in and really explained some things about Perkins and did a great job," Davidson said.

The second day of the workshop gave those in attendance a chance to brainstorm, discuss and

offer ideas with DWE administration and CTE Program Managers. Each Program Manager gave a presentation on ideas on how to utilize the Perkins IV funds in their specific areas.

"We really had a good idea day the second day of the workshop," Davidson said. "We talked about different ideas and focused on all the different things that were being done. Schools are doing outstanding work in **Motivation, Acquisition and Extension (MAX) Teaching, Learning Styles, Quality Teaching** and other programs. It was a good session to really share ideas."

SIMPSON *continued from page 9*

"We're really honored to have Dr. Simpson here," said HSRC Administrator Barbara Lewis. "Her work as a Career Development Facilitator will be extremely helpful to every single student enrolled. She has so much skill, experience and a sincere desire to help our students. Our facility now has another asset to help our students receive the best training available, and then find a career upon graduation."

Dr. Simpson says she's thrilled with the way things are going professionally and personally.

"I'm honored to be offered a job where I can work with such qualified staff," she said. "It's invigorating to work with people who are so enthusiastic to help reach Director Walker's, Commissioner Treviño's, and Administrator Lewis' goals. It makes me more enthusiastic to achieve those goals."

WILLIAMS *continued from page 6*

"I know first-hand their experience," Williams said. "I have faced the challenges that our clients are facing and I am excited about working with them to help meet their needs."

Williams received a Certificate of Business in 1987 and an Associates Degree in Paralegal Technology in 2007 from Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock. She worked for the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration from 1989 to 1995 and worked for Southwest Airlines from 1995 to 2004.

"I know Mrs. Williams is up to this challenge because she has plenty of experience to draw upon," Commissioner Treviño said. "Our clients will relate to her and that's exciting for our agency."

"I'm excited that Glenda has been selected as new Program Administrator," said Jim Moreland, Associate Director for Special Programs at the division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and former AKDC Program Administrator. "I look forward to working with her and I know she will do a great job in her new role."

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. said, "Mrs. Williams comes to this position with vast experience that will serve our state and our agency well. I have the utmost confidence in her and know that the Kidney Disease Commission will make new strides under her leadership."

The Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission was created in the early 1970's to provide services for people on kidney dialysis or who had received a kidney transplant. The commission provides prescription drugs to clients each month and pre-transplant dental services for those waiting on a kidney transplant. The commission has a governor-appointed board that meets quarterly. The Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission is a special program of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.



## HOSA state conference a success

**S**tudents from 18 high schools, colleges, and technical and career centers from across Arkansas met March 18 - 19 at the Hot Springs Convention Center for the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Convention.

The students competed in more than 60 individual and team written and practical events over the two-day conference themed "HOSA: Where Dreams are Made and Where Futures Begin" for the opportunity to compete in the National HOSA Leadership Conference June 18 - 21 in Dallas.

"It's thrilling to see how committed you are to your craft and to the future of our state and nation," Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. said during the conference's opening ceremonies. "HOSA is the only student organization wholly dedicated to health care and 100 percent com-

mitted to building a pipeline of health care professionals. Shortages of nurses, pharmacists and many other health care professionals already exist, and demand is outpacing supply at a rate predicted to accelerate as the population ages. Because of your dedication and devotion, you are helping to ensure quality healthcare for the future and a better quality of life for all Arkansans. As you grow and move forward, I encourage you to share your passion and your dedication with younger generations so that the quality of life of our citizens can continue to improve for generations to come."

HOSA State Officers included President Jasmine Jackson of



**Director Walker with Health Occupations Students of America state officers.**

Tuckerman High School, Vice-President Nikki Kissire of Cabot High School, Historian Julia Scoggins of River Valley Technical Center-Morrilton High School, Parliamentarian Alise Altom of Quitman High School, Treasurer Megan Iske of Omaha High School and Secretary Mary Ann Wallace of Jonesboro High School.

*See page 25 for a full list of the HOSA competition winners.*

## PBL encourages "Leadership in Action"

**T**he Arkansas Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) held its Spring Leadership Conference themed "Leadership in Action" April 20-22 in Hot Springs.

More than 250 college business students from schools all over the state met at the Hot Springs Convention Center and the Austin Hotel for officer elections, seminars and competition in 65 events.

"This is one of the most competitive conferences we've ever had," said PBL

state advisor Peggy Wakefield. "These students are passionate about their education and their events.

The winners will represent Arkansas well at the National Leadership Conference."

Students who placed first and second in each national event qualified to participate in the PBL National Leadership Conference scheduled for June 21-24 in Atlanta.

*See page 25 for a full list of the PBL competition winners.*



**Phi Beta Lambda state officers**

# SkillsUSA holds historic championships

The chapters of SkillsUSA in Arkansas held an historic Leadership and Skills State Championship at the Hot Springs Civic and Convention Center April 14-16.

Themed "Champions at Work," this year's event was the student organization's largest in Arkansas history. There were 2,390 secondary and post-secondary contestants registered to compete in 71 different events in nine separate career fields.

The Arkansas State Championships also enjoyed unprecedented support from business and industry

partners. The largest contingent of business and industry partners the event ever witnessed were on hand to judge the student competitions. They also showed their support for SkillsUSA and career and technical education in Arkansas by donating more than \$4 million in equipment, prizes and services for use during the championships.

"Business and industry support shows how good these competitors are," said state SkillsUSA advisor Randy Prather. "For the carpentry competition, the sponsors gave students new saws, hammers, tape measures and other things they can take on the job as soon as they graduate. Business and industry in Arkansas see the competition as a good investment. They know every student here will be job-ready the day they leave school."

Event gold medalists earned an opportunity to compete at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference scheduled for June 23 - 27 in Kansas City. Sec-

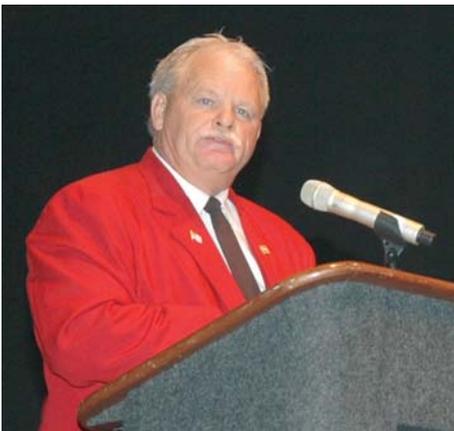


Participants celebrate during closing ceremonies of the state SkillsUSA championships in Hot Springs.

ondary gold medal winners earn more than a trip to Kansas City; they will get a head start on college. High school SkillsUSA State Championship Gold Medalists will be eligible for tuition-free scholarships to one of 20 participating Arkansas two-year colleges. Those who win gold medals at the national level will be eligible for scholarships made possible through SkillsUSA partnerships.

"This year's SkillsUSA Championships were not only the largest in Arkansas history, but the most competitive," said Department of Work-

*SKILLS continued on page 23*



State Director of SkillsUSA Randy Prather addresses convention.

## Ward Returns to SkillsUSA Convention to Give Thanks for a Lift

This year's Arkansas SkillsUSA State Championships and Skills Competition was about more than students testing their mettle against one another, winning medals, vying for scholarships and a trip to the national championship in Kansas City. This year, one student was able to thank members of the organization, Department of Workforce Education staff and Director William L. "Bill" Walker for truly changing her life.

During the 2007 State Championships, a SkillsUSA team from the Texarkana Area Vocational Center produced a video that centered on 17-year-old Arkansas High School student Courtney Ward and her dai-

*WARD continued on page 23*



Director Walker introduces Courtney Ward during SkillsUSA

**SKILLS** *continued from page 22*

force Education Director William L. “Bill” Walker, Jr. “These students show the benefit of what career and technical education can do, and that’s prepare Arkansas students for the high-skill, high-demand, high-wage jobs of the 21st century. The overwhelming participation of the business and industry community bears that out. These are students who are going to both succeed and excel in their futures because of the training they’ve received.”

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. It is national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical, skilled service and health occupations.

*See next month’s issue of the Workforce Counselor for a full list of SkillsUSA competition winners.*

**WARD** *continued from page 22*

ly struggles in a wheelchair. Courtney and her family were shown loading her in and out of their van and hauling her wheelchair around on a utility trailer. Courtney was often forced to miss school on rainy days because she was unable to get back and forth. She also missed out on extracurricular activities because of her transportation issues.

Director Walker watched the video during the event and heard the appeal from Courtney’s fellow students, teachers and other SkillsUSA chapters from around Arkansas seeking to raise funds to “Give Courtney a Lift.” Walker then addressed the crowd to explain how DWE and ARS could assist Courtney’s family with a lift.

“What you’re asking for is exactly what the Department of Workforce Education’s Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services does. Our agency can help this young lady,” Walker explained to the SkillsUSA audience shortly after viewing the video.

Using the resources available at DWE and ARS, Walker was able to ensure Courtney’s family’s vehicle was fitted with a wheelchair lift to guarantee transportation would no longer be an obstacle for her

During the closing ceremonies of the 2008 Arkansas SkillsUSA State Championships, an overwhelmed and obviously grateful Courtney Ward arrived with her family with tears of joy in her eyes and on her cheeks to greet Walker. He then introduced her to the largest group of state SkillsUSA competitors ever assembled. Greeted by nearly deafening applause, Courtney took the opportunity to express her gratitude to Director Walker and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for assisting her and her family with her new equipment.

“I want to thank Mr. Walker and the agency for giving me the tools to change my life,” Courtney said. “It’s amazing to have been given the opportunity to do

the things I never could have done before. My family and I can go places we never could have gone before. I know I can go anywhere now.”

Walker said he was just doing his job.

“Through the Department of Workforce Education and the Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, it’s things like this we did for Courtney that we do for people all over the state every day,” Walker said. “I’d like to thank the Texarkana [SkillsUSA] chapter and everyone involved in the organization for everything you do. If there’s someone who deserves a gold medal for achievement, it’s Courtney Ward. I’d like to encourage everyone to continue your good work, because it’s through giving that we get.”



Courtney is surrounded by DWE and ARS friends and family after receiving a SkillsUSA gold medal. Clockwise from far left: Ken Musteen, ARS Chief of Field Services; Dick Burchett, DWE Program Manager for Skilled and Technical Sciences; Randy Prather, SkillsUSA state director; DWE Director Walker; Morgan and Tanya Ward, parents; and ARS Commissioner Robert Treviño.

## FBLA Holds State Leadership Conference

**M**ore than 2,200 Arkansas Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members representing roughly 200 schools throughout the state met in Little Rock March 28-29 for the organization's 2008 State Leadership Conference.

The conference, themed "Leadership in Action," featured career-oriented seminars led by state and national business leaders, more than 60 competitive events, business and leadership workshops, a talent show, guest speakers, state officer elections and a March of Dimes mini-walk.

"Through their hard work, accomplishments and abilities, these students are helping to elevate the economic and educational success of our great state," said Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director



William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. "It's exciting to know that tomorrow's corporate CEO's, entrepreneurs and business leaders are honing their skills at this conference."

Nearly 250 event finalists from the conference qualified for the FBLA National Leadership Conference scheduled for June 26 - 29 in Atlanta.

"We have some of the best, hardest-working students in the country," said Arkansas FBLA advisor Jim Brock. "I'm really excited about taking this group to Atlanta. I know they're going to make their presence known."

*See page 26 for a full list of the FBLA competitions winners.*

## FCCLA students "Press Play: Take Action"



**Berryville FCCLA students (l-r) Mallory Mann, Ashley Howard, and Andrew Lawrence stand by the display they entered in the Senior High Illustrated Talk Event.**

**M**ore than 1,000 Arkansas Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) members met at Little Rock's Robinson Center April 3-5 for the family and consumer sciences student organization's annual State Leadership Meeting.

Themed "Press Play: Take Action," the 2008 conference included skits, recognitions, a motivational speaker and nearly 40 competitive Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Events.

"With the theme 'Press Play: Take Action,' we wanted the members to take an active role in FCCLA," said state advisor Suelen Ward. "The students were active through their participation in STAR Events and through the FCCLA community service project, Feed the Children. They helped raise more than \$7,000 throughout the year to bring a truck to Arkansas and feed hungry kids in our state."

Competition finalists qualified for the FCCLA national leadership meeting in Orlando July 13 - 18.

*See page 25 for a full list of the FCCLA competitions winners.*



**Arkansas's Top 25 GED scorers for 2007** were honored at a ceremony at the State Capitol April 22. Pictured are: *First row* (L-R) – Jonathan Pittman, Ft. Smith Adult Education Center (No. 2); Joshua Woolery, Ouachita Technical College Adult Education (tie-17); Janet Praught, Ozarka College (No. 1); Shirley Rash, North Arkansas College Adult Education (No. 7). *Back row* (L-R) – Uriah Greer, Northwest Arkansas Community College Adult Education (No. 9); Roxanne Winnett, ASU-Mountain Home (tie-17) Jessica Hartman, Conway Adult Education Center (No. 3)



## Career and Technical Student Organizations State Conference Results

### Health Occupations Students of America

Qualifiers for the national competition are based on performance score and not place finished. The top three finishers in each event are:

**Nutrition** - 1. Briana Collins, Mammoth Spring High School; 2. Miraka Aldridge, Wynne High School; 3. Hannah Turnbough, Conway Senior High School  
**Concepts of Health Care** - Kellie Johnson, Quitman High School; Chris Cowgur, Gravette High School; Spencer Jones, Conway Senior High School  
**Pathophysiology** - 1. David Cole Martinez, Gravette High School; 2. Brandon Williams, Conway Senior High School; 3. Michael Rice, River Valley Technical Center  
**Pharmacology** - 1. Brittney Scott, Gravette High School; 2. Melody Williams, River Valley Technical Center; 3. Colton Moorman, Gravette High School  
**Human Growth and Development** - 1. Ernesto Guerra, Gravette High School; 2. Ashley Edwards, Quitman High School; 3. Tori Brasko, Conway Senior High School  
**Medical Math** - 1. Zach Dailey, Gravette High School; 2. Tsung Yen Chen, Conway Area Career Center; 3. Jordan Rutherford, Conway Senior High School  
**Medical Terminology** - 1. Greeshma Sasi, Conway Area Career Center; 2. Melissa Vanscoy, Cabot High School; 3. Allie Clay, Conway Area Career Center  
**Dental Terminology** - 1. Ashley Ratton, Quitman High School; 2. Nikolas Decker, Cabot High School; 3. Paige Ingram, Quitman High School  
**Public Service Announcement** - 1. Tajhe Turner, Brit-tany Shreve, Sarah Beth Malone, Gravette High School  
**Extemporaneous Writing** - 1. Erick Oyamaja, U of A Community College at Batesville; 2. Kendra Keyes, U of A Community College at Batesville; 3. Abbey Clark, Quitman High School  
**Job Seeking Skills** - 1. Justin Tharpe, Tuckerman High School  
**Extemporaneous Health Poster** - 1. Ashley Greene, Mammoth Spring High School; 2. Kaylen Stevenson, Conway Senior High School; 3. Savannah Garner, Gravette Senior High School  
**Researched Persuasive Speaking** - 1. Jonathan McDougal, Vilonia High School  
**Prepared Speaking** - 1. Miraka Aldridge, Wynne High School; 2. Danielle Wright, Tuckerman High School; 3. Meighan Griner, Conway Senior High School  
**Medical Photography** - 1. Kathlynn Myers, River Valley Technical Center; 2. Jacie Busch, Mammoth Spring High School; 3. Sherie Chamberlain, Gravette High School  
**Career Health Display** - 1. Callie Wagner, Mandy Rowland, Tuckerman High School; 2. Lindsey Winemiller, Paige Welch, Tuckerman High School; 3. Ashley Edwards, Bailee Birdsong, Quitman High School  
**Health Aide** - 1. Audrey Slaughter, Gravette High School; 2. Crystal Murphy, Gravette High School; 3. Emily Root, Gravette High School  
**Dental Assisting** - 1. Kim Pollard, Conway Senior High School; 2. Stephanie Bohall, Gravette High School; 3. Ethan Lewis, Conway Area Career Center  
**Nurse Assisting** - 1. Ashley Boone, Gravette High School; 2. Ivy Lacy, Gravette High School; 3. Kristy Bridges, Gravette High School  
**Medical Assisting-Clinical** - 1. Alma Hernandez, Gravette High School; 2. Daralyn Barnes, Gravette High School; 3. Brittany Walling, Gravette High School  
**Personal Care** - 1. Leslie Smith, Jonesboro Area Technical Center

**Medical Laboratory Assisting** - 1. Alisha Wyllia, River Valley Technical Center  
**Physical Therapy** - 1. LeighAnn Homan, Gravette High School; 2. Nick Melton, Gravette High School; 3. Sarah Russell, Jonesboro Area Technical Center  
**Sports Medicine** - 1. Ali Rye, Conway Senior High School; 2. David Hopkins, Conway Area Career Center; 3. Colby Wilcox, Conway Area Career Center  
**First Aid/Rescue Breathing** - 1. Charles Graham, Gravette High School  
**Dental Spelling** - 1. Kateynn Whisnant, Vilonia High School; 2. Mitch Fortner, Vilonia High School  
**Medical Spelling** - 1. Paige Duncan, Quitman High School; 2. Erica Cash, Vilonia High School; 3. Linda Gault, Cabot High School  
**Veterinary Assisting** - 1. Ashley Gray, Jonesboro Area Technical Center; 2. Rylee Mullins, Mammoth Spring High School; 3. Casey Russell, Gravette High School  
**CPR/First Aid** - 1. Katherine Goode, Megan Ferguson, Conway Senior High School; 2. Tia White, Martin Cejudo, Gravette High School; 3. Darrick Johnson, Courtney Estep, Gravette High School  
**CERT** - 1. Jeff Melton, Margie Hoke, Gravette High School; 2. Makayla Morrison, Chelsea House, Gravette High School; 3. Hunter Daniels, Curt Cooper, Tuckerman High School  
**Medical Reading** - 1. Ryan Jackson, Megan Combs, Briana Collins, Mammoth Springs High School; 2. Calaeb Williams, Catherine Hawkins, Kristina Baird, Conway Area Career Center; 3. Megan Woods, Amie Smith, Sarah Montague, Conway Area Career Center  
**Creative Problem Solving** - 1. Nikki Kissire, Crystal Godsey, Nikolas Decker, Cabot High School; 2. Summer Fortenberry, Tiffany Easter, Ashton Brock, Tuckerman High School; 3. KC Pearson, Adam Christy, Chris Bustillos, Omaha High School  
**HOSA BOWL** - 1. Brittany Scott, David Marting, Zach Dailey, Chris Cowger, Gravette High School; 2. Melody Williams, Heather Spence, Tara Eldridge, River Valley Technical Center; 3. Brandon Williams, Elaine Johnson, Carter Hollingsworth, Kayla Dickey, Conway Senior High School  
**Outstanding HOSA Chapter** - 1. Tuckerman High School, Conway High School, Quitman High School  
**HOSA WEEK** - 1. Tuckerman High School, Quitman High School  
**National Service Project** - 1. Jonesboro ATC, Mammoth Springs, Quitman

### Family, Career & Community Leaders of America

Below is a list of STAR Events winners who will represent Arkansas at the 2008 FCCLA National Leadership Meeting in Orlando July 13-18.  
**Applied Technology - Junior**: Scranton High School, Jaycee Kremer and Sheyan Vanlandingham; **Applied Technology - Senior**: Berryville High School, Jason Howard, Tyler Squires, and Ethan Wood; **Career Investigation - Junior**: Berryville High School, Chris Sparks; **Career Investigation - Senior**: Alpena High School, Maggie Good; **Chapter Service Display - Junior**: Berryville Middle School, Sarah Angeloni and Drew McCall  
**Chapter Service Display - Junior**: Siloam Springs Middle School, Jessica Glass; **Chapter Service Display - Senior**: Ozark High School, Rikkie Cline and Alicia Zolliecoffer; **Chapter Service Manual - Junior**: Monticello Middle School, Annsley Davis and Emily Leonard; **Chapter Service Manual - Senior**: Weiner

High School, Kenzie Bartholomew and Mallory Jordan; **Chapter Showcase Display - Senior**: Elkins High School, Miranda Hankins, Lettie Rico and Elizabeth Snyder  
**Chapter Showcase Manual - Junior**: Nashville High School, Molly Freel and Skylar Richards; **Chapter Showcase Manual - Senior**: White Hall High School, Elizabeth Crosssett and Xavier Richardson; **Early Childhood**: Greenbrier High School, Brittany Bartram; **Entrepreneurship - Junior**: Scranton High School, Ivy Schluterman and Katie Roper; **Entrepreneurship - Senior**: Siloam Springs High School, Kendall Cox and Cassie Despain  
**Financial Planning - Junior**: Berryville High School, Taylor Jones; **Financial Planning - Senior**: Prescott High School, Andrea Martin; **Focus on Children - Junior**: Bentonville High School, Kyla Berry, Meg Morita and McKayley Tanner; **Focus on Children - Senior**: Springdale-Har Ber, Rachel Bender, Zach Christy and Erin McKinney; **Illustrated Talk - Junior**: Scranton High School, Savannah Burkett, Sarah Dunham and Ashley Phillips  
**Illustrated Talk - Senior**: Berryville High School, Ashley Howard, Andrew Lawrence and Mallory Mann; **Job Interview - Senior**: Alpena High School, Dalia Garrison; **National Programs in Action - Junior**: Murrefreesboro High School, Sarah Bean, Vetsy Faulkner and Treyce Fugitt; **National Programs in Action - Senior**: Siloam Springs High School, Katia Bernal and Jenny Violantes; **Parliamentary Procedure - Junior**: Jasper High School, Megan Ricketts, Danielle Pomatto, Labecca Braser, Summer Salazar, Logan Kelly, Elayna Villines and Staci Vaughan  
**Parliamentary Procedure - Senior**: Jasper High School, Morgan Vaughn, Clara Slape, Randi Villines, Paige Slape, Jordan Holt, Shelby Dunlap, Cassidy Brasel and Amelia House; **Recycle and Redesign - Junior**: Annie Camp Jr., Ashlyn Webb; **Applied Technology - Junior**: Anna Goff; **Applied Technology - Senior**: Sandra Elliott; **Career Investigation - Junior**: Susan Green  
**Career Investigation - Senior**: Vernell Berry; **Chapter Service Display - Junior; Manual - Junior and Senior**: Pam Nacke; **Chapter Service Display - Senior**: Wanda McMahan; **Chapter Showcase Display - Junior and Senior; Manual - Junior**: Deborah Knox; **Chapter Showcase Manual - Senior**: , Linda Callaway  
**Early Childhood**: Maynette Stroud; **Entrepreneurship - Junior**: Diana Howard

### Phi Beta Lambda

Below is a list of event finalists and their schools. Students who placed 1st and 2nd in the national events qualify to participate in the PBL National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, June 21 - 24.  
**Associate Sweepstakes** - North Arkansas College; **Collegiate Sweepstakes** - University of the Ozarks; **Arkansas Gold Chapter** - North Arkansas College, South Arkansas Community College, Southern Arkansas University, University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith, University of the Ozarks; **Largest Recruitment of Professional Members** - South Arkansas Community College; **Largest Increase in Local Charter Membership** - Arkansas Baptist College; **Largest Local Chapter Membership-Collegiate** - University of the Ozarks; **Largest Local Chapter Membership-Associate** - Northwest Technical Institute  
**Business Person of the Year** - Erv Siemoneite, Southern Arkansas University; **Arkansas PBL Member of the Year** - Jaquelyn Porter, University of Arkansas Fort Smith; **Who's Who in PBL** - Ashley Keymer, North Arkansas College

### OPEN EVENTS

**Advertising** - 1st Paul Brown, Williams Baptist College; 2nd Christopher Allred, North Arkansas College; **Business Policy & Strategic Management** - 1st Luis Sanchez, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Jennifer Price, U of A-Ft Smith; **Business Principles** - 1st Jennifer Price, U of A-Ft Smith; 2nd Luis Sanchez, University of the Ozarks; **Computer Operating Systems** - 1st Brock McVay, North Arkansas College; 2nd Adam

Choate, South Arkansas Community College; **Ethics & Etiquette** – 1st Shiela Barr, UACC-Morrilton; 2nd, Larenda Green, South Arkansas Community College; Organizational Behavior – 1st Jennifer Price, U of A-Ft Smith; 2nd, Paul Brown, Williams Baptist College

#### STATE EVENTS

**Administrative Services** – 1st Courtney Neikirk, South Arkansas Community College; 2nd Bruce Coke, South Arkansas Community College; **Business English** – 1st Larenda Green, South Arkansas Community College; 2nd Erin Stovall, ATU-Ozark; **Business Math** – 1st Michelle Holmes, Southeast Arkansas College; 2nd Brandon Halliday, North Arkansas College; **Chapter Theme Display: Multimedia** – 1st North Arkansas College; 2nd ASU-Beebe; **Chapter Theme Display: Scrapbook** – 1st South Arkansas Community College Computerized Accounting – 1st Shiela Barr, UACC-Morrilton; 2nd Rachel Fish, South Arkansas Community College; **Machine Transcription** – 1st Larenda Green, South Arkansas Community College; 2nd Vicki Pennington, South Arkansas Community College; **Medical Transcription** – 1st Alexandria Mazibuko, ASU-Beebe; 2nd Kimberly Kincy, ATU-Ozark

#### NATIONAL EVENTS

**Accounting Analysis & Decision Making** – 1st Maria Duarte, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Huy Do, University of the Ozarks; **Accounting for Professionals** – 1st Erin Younger, Harding University; 2nd Joe Sullivan, Hendrix College; **Accounting Principles** – 1st Brandon Barron, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Patrick Lee, University of the Ozarks; **American Enterprise Project** – 1st Southern Arkansas University; 2nd University of the Ozarks; **Business Communication** – 1st Matt Jeffery, Williams Baptist College; 2nd Donna Bone, South Arkansas Community College; **Business Decision Making** – 1st Huy Do, Laura Hoffman, Pablo Rivera (University of the Ozarks); **Business Ethics** – 1st Lauri Ross & Jennifer Williams; North Arkansas College; 2nd Rachel Burchfield, Matt Jeffery & Jessica Sheffield, Williams Baptist College; **Business Law** – 1st Colby Pearce, U of A-Ft Smith; 2nd Victoria Rech, Harding University; **Client Service** – 1st Jennifer Owens, ATU-Ozark; 2nd Chris Kennedy, North Arkansas College; **Community Service Project** – U of A-Ft Smith; 2nd North Arkansas College; **Computer Applications** – 1st Crystal Willis, South Arkansas Community College; 2nd Debhora Cook, U of A-Ft Smith; **Computer Concepts** – 1st Michael Scott Cooley, South Arkansas Community College; 2nd, Matther Mooney, Harding University; **Contemporary Sports Issue** – 1st Jorge Avila, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Christopher Allred, North Arkansas College; **Cyber Security** – 1st Bradley Riley, Harding University; 2nd Evelyn Chin, University of Arkansas; **Database Design & Applications** – 1st Lori Lamb, UACC-Morrilton; 2nd Vitaly Dymna, Williams Baptist College; **Desktop Publishing** – 1st Dexter Lawrence & Courtney Neikirk, South Arkansas Community College; 2nd Bradley Cook & Rachel Fish, South Arkansas Community College; **Economic Analysis & Decision Making** – 1st Seth Nelles, Harding University; 2nd Luis Sanchez; **Emerging Business Issues** – 1st Casey Maxey, Dallas Haas & Jacquelyn Porter, U of A-Ft Smith; 2nd Ana Garcia & Judith Lopez, University of the Ozarks; **Financial Analysis & Decision Making** – 1st Luis Sanchez, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Jennifer Price U of A-Ft Smith; **Financial Concepts** – 1st Koffi Agbemehin, Hendrix College; 2nd Devan Phelps, U of A-Ft Smith; **Financial Services** – 1st Jeremy Moore, U of A Fort Smith; **Future Business Executive** – 1st Kourtney Norton-McIntosh, ASU-Beebe; 2nd Kristina Treadway, Southern Arkansas University; **Future Business Teacher** – 1st Diana Aquirre Espinoza, University of the Ozarks; **Help Desk** – 1st Aaron Bueg and Brock McVay, North Arkansas College; 2nd Scott Cooley, South Arkansas Community College; **Hospitality Management** – 1st Deborah Poyner, North Arkansas College; 2nd Lydia Brown, University of the Ozarks; **Human Resource Management** – 1st Shea Tackett, U

of A Fort Smith; 2nd Karla Aguilar and Pamela Somoza, University of the Ozarks; **Impromptu Speaking** – 1st Michael Crouch, Harding University; 2nd Chris Allred, North Arkansas College; **Information Management** – 1st Deborah Poyner, North Arkansas College; 2nd Marivi Davila, University of the Ozarks; **International Business** – 1st Marcos Melendez, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Rachel Burchfield, Williams Baptist College; **Justice Administration** – 1st Colby Pearce, U of A Fort Smith; **Job Interview** – 1st Siew Moon Eng, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Kristina Setzer, North Arkansas College; **Local Chapter Annual Business Report** – 1st Southern Arkansas University 2nd North Arkansas College; **Macroeconomics** – 1st Marcos Meledex, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Joel Love, Harding University; **Management Concepts** – 1st Marivi Davila, Juan Paz and Geral Vasques, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Claudia Aguero, Rushawn Engleton and Rivas David, University of the Ozarks; **Management Analysis and Decision Making** – 1st Carlos Rodriguez, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Chris Collier, Williams Baptist College; **Marketing Analysis and Decision Making** – 1st Maria Duarte, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Paul Brown, Williams Baptist College; **Marketing Concepts** – 1st Paul Brown, Andy Miller and Kendra Partee, Williams Baptist College; 2nd Ricardo Milla, Samantha Reed and Maria Valdes, University of the Ozarks; **Microeconomics** – 1st Kayla Taylor, U of A Fort Smith; 2nd Brandon Barron, University of the Ozarks; **Network Design** – 1st Aaron Bueg and Brock McVay, North Arkansas College; 2nd Andy Hayden and Reid Rogers, Williams Baptist College; **Networking Concepts** – 1st Dustin Johnston, ASU – Mountain Home; 2nd Adam Choate, South Arkansas Community College; **Parliamentary Procedure** – 1st Daniela Bermudez, Raquel Daboub, Nayr De Leon and Enyinnaya Inyama, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Amanda Crawford, Katie Kidwell, Jami Morgan, Ashton Peters and Blake Presley, U of A-Ft Smith; **Partnership with Business Project** – 1st Southern Arkansas University; 2nd U of A Fort Smith; **Public Speaking** – 1st Derek Glover, Harding University; 2nd Hilary Cleaver, North Arkansas College; **Sales Presentation** – 1st Tyler Jones, Williams Baptist College; 2nd William Greene, U of A-Ft Smith; **Small Business Management Plan** – 1st Zachary Almaguer and Chuck Tefertiller, University of the Ozarks; Sports **Management and Marketing** – 1st Derek Glover, Harding University; 2nd Shane Stolz, Williams Baptist College; **Statistical Analysis** – 1st Devan Phelps, University of the Ozarks; 2nd Joe Murray, North Arkansas College; **Telecommunications** – 1st Adam Choate, South Arkansas Community College; 2nd Sarah Smith, South Arkansas Community College; **Word Processing** – 1st Lindsey Steiger, U of A Fort Smith; 2nd Martha Williams, Southeast Arkansas College

#### Top 5 Scorers on Arkansas Parliamentary Procedure Team Members

Ashton Peters – U of A Fort Smith; Jami Morgan – U of A Fort Smith; Jessica Cone – North Arkansas College; Daniela Bermudez – University of the Ozarks; Enyinnaya Inyama – University of the Ozarks

### Future Business Leaders of America

Below is a list of winners from the 2008 FBLA State Leadership Conference.

**Accounting I** – 1st Jarod Ehrie (Bentonville) 2nd Katie Bruns (Viola) **Accounting II** – 1st Cari Ross (Ft. Smith-Southside) 2nd Jessica Gambill (Conway-West) **American Enterprise Project** – 1st Heath Nance, Lauren Irby (Siloam Springs) 2nd Maria McCallie (Lonoke) **Banking & Financial Systems** – 1st Sean Smith, Brandon Desoto (Ft. Smith-Southside) 2nd Chris Brown, Calli Verkamp, Tyler Davis (Charleston) **Business Calculations** – 1st John Brady (Har-Ber) 2nd Ryan Simpson (Jonesboro-Westside) **Business Communications** – 1st Michelle Johnson (Nettleton) 2nd Brittnee Arnold (Mt. Pleasant) **Business Ethics** – 1st Taylor Call, Daniel Potter (Bentonville) 2nd Allison Park, Megan Glass (Taylor) **Business Financial Plan**

– 1st Megan Davis, Schafer Bourne (Lonoke) **Business Law** – 1st Dolly Remphrey (Atkins) 2nd Levi McCurley (Mt. Pleasant) **Business Math** – 1st Karan Batra (Bentonville) 2nd Caroline Stokes (Bryant) **Business Plan** – 1st April Cox, Allison Gibbs (Lonoke) 2nd Robert Bowman, Jonathan Curlin (Ozark) **Business Presentation** – 1st Alicia Rose, Morgan Richardson (Jonesboro) 2nd Azeneth Tijerina, April Johnson (Rogers) **Business Procedures** – 1st Mia Duff (Bay) 2nd Brent Perkins (Union Christian Academy) **Client Services** – 1st Lavenita Armstrong (Jonesboro) 2nd Jessica Capps (Riverview) **Community Service Project** – 1st Pangburn 2nd White County Central Computer Applications – 1st Dalton Shannon (Nettleton) 2nd Toni Lindsey (Mena) **Computer Problem Solving** – 1st Conor Kirkman (Harding Academy) 2nd Wade VanRousum (Bigelow) **Cyber Security** – 1st Tony Stewart (England) 2nd James Bridges (Arkansas School for Math & Sciences) **Database Design & Applications** – 1st Hayley Carter (Greenwood) 2nd Aaron Carroll (Nettleton) **Desktop Application Programming** – 1st Ross Harmon (Ft. Smith-Southside) 2nd Andrew Tackett (Bentonville) **Desktop Publishing** – 1st Bree Boon, (Omaha) 2nd Rachel Gibson, Allison Smart (Rector) **Digital Video Production** – 1st Dalton Herzig (Brookland) 2nd Shawnee Codianne, Kimberly Ferhenbach (Lonoke) **E-Business** – 1st Sandi Eoff (Lonoke) 2nd Rob Gordon, Merritt Upton, Carly Dodson **Economics** – 1st Andrew Austin (Ft. Smith-Northside) 2nd Hannah Clardy (Arkansas Baptist) **Electronic Career Portfolio** – 1st Tearria Webb (Ft. Smith-Southside) 2nd Marlies Rodgers (Rogers) **Emerging Business Issues** – 1st Dalton Person, Channing Pejic (Ft. Smith-Southside) 2nd Jessica Arnold, Casey Mikula (Union Christian Academy) **Entrepreneurship** – 1st Amanda Dooly, Kevin Podgornik, Taber Hunt (Ft. Smith-Southside) 2nd Alyssa Ford, Michael Clardy, Micah Edwards (Pangburn) **FBLA Principles & Procedures** – 1st Kayla Potts (Charleston) 2nd Taylor Kendrick Dardenelle) **Future Business Leader** – 1st Tyler Hudgens (Hartford) 2nd Jordan Crawford **Global Business** – 1st Patrick Sullivan, Ryan Graham (Bentonville) 2nd Jon Weir, Andrew Todd (Union Christian Academy) **Help Desk** – 1st Jason Kramer (Springdale) 2nd Matt Hackmann (Rogers) **Impromptu Speaking** – 1st Hunter Cabe (Greenwood) 2nd Alysha Langley (Beebe) **Internet Applications Design Programming** – 1st Aaron Miller (Rogers) 2nd Scott Bedwell (Bentonville) **Introduction to Business** – 1st Maggie Good (Alpena) 2nd Denise Cornell (Harrison) **Introduction to Business Communication** – 1st Candi Kykendall (Dierks) 2nd Nicole Paschal (Mammoth Spring) **Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure** – 1st Stacia Baughman (West Fork) 2nd Tori Fancher (Siloam Springs) **Introduction to Technology Concepts** – 1st Evan Ross (Siloam Springs) 2nd Will Brown (Prescott) **Local Chapter Annual Report** – 1st Lonoke 2nd Cotter **Management Decision Making** – 1st Mary Young, Anna Bever, Emily Trollinger (Bentonville) 2nd Bryce Miller, Kyndall Knight (Vilonia) **Marketing** – 1st Michael Leonard (Flippin) 2nd Kevin Hennings (Maynard) **Network Design** – 1st Dang Dung, Josh Pham, Tommy Sayarinh (Ft. Smith-Northside) 2nd Bo McGuire, Alex Tabor (Rogers) **Networking Concepts** – 1st Matt Trostel (Jessieville) 2nd Kirk West (Lamar) **Parliamentary Procedure** – 1st Hunter Petrus, Ashlee Morgan, Kelsey Hon, Chad Easton, Hunter Smith (Nettleton) 2nd Nick Schroeder, Luke Shock, Kristin Gangluff, Brittany Ray (Conway-West) **Personal Finance** – 1st Kensley Jennings (Huntsville) 2nd Darnesha Daniels (Hamburg) **Public Speaking I** – 1st Latasha Moore (Prescott) 2nd Natalie Moore (Manila) **Public Speaking II** – 1st Alyssa Kilgore (Lincoln) 2nd Hayley Hogan (Ozark) **Spreadsheet Applications** – 1st Geneva Stewart (Springdale) 2nd Matthew Thomas (Lincoln) **Talent Show** – 1st Allison Dean (Alma) 2nd Kathleen Trotter (Batesville) **Technology Concepts** – 1st Stephen Wait (Arkansas Baptist) 2nd Jesse Janus (Bruno-Pyatt) **Web Site Development** – 1st Becca Smith, Madalyn Elder, Scott Covert (Ozark) 2nd Kyle Kennedy, Brittany Starkey (Conway-West) **Word Processing I** – 1st Olivia Wetzal (Mt. Pleasant), 2nd (Hanna Norton (SEACBEC)

# Career and Technical Student Organizations Leaders of the Future



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# Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

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