



# the Workforce Counselor



A publication of Arkansas Department of Workforce Education  
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## Governor Beebe Addresses State Boards during Annual Meeting



**M**embers of the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO), the State Board of Education and the State Higher Education Coordinating Board met at the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock on December 10 to discuss ways to improve Arkansas's economy and the educational level of its citizens.

Gov. Mike Beebe addressed each of the boards' members and said the state's economy must be built on a solid educational system that leads to a more intelligent and higher-skilled workforce.

"You are all married to each other, all dependent on one another.

It is appropriate that you meet together and manifest the ideas that I've been talking about," the Governor said. "Economic development is interrelated with education. Our top priority is education."

"Everywhere we turn," Gov. Beebe continued, "we will be guided by the principle that the key to the future of this state and where we go as a people, will rest in our educational institutions' ability to provide the greatest trained workforce on the planet."

Following the governor's comments, all three boards had a lengthy roundtable discussion. Board members agreed that

*GOVERNOR continued on page 13*



(l-r) Dr. Steve Floyd, Interim Director of the Department of Higher Education, Dr. Ken James, Commissioner of the Department of Education, and William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Director of the Department of Workforce Education, answer questions during a briefing to the state's education boards at their annual meeting.

## State FCCLA members to gather in Little Rock in April to *Press Play: Take Action*

**W**hen the Arkansas chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) convenes for its state meeting at Little Rock's Robinson Center Auditorium April 3 through April 5, 2008, members will be encouraged to take a more active role in the organization so they can take a more active role in their future.

The theme of the meeting is ***Press Play: Take Action***. Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Family and Consumer Sciences Program Manager and FCCLA state advisor Suellen Ward says the organization's executive council picked the theme for a specific reason.



Arkansas FCCLA executive committee members pose with DWE Director Bill Walker and FCCLA state program advisor Suellen Ward (center): (l-r) Chandra Davis, Shandon King, Ward, Walker, Hope Freel, Xavier Billingsley, and Jasmine Pickens, after setting a theme for the group's April state meeting -- ***Press Play: Take Action***

*FCCLA continued on page 12*



## Director's Update

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

**A**s 2007 comes to a close and I reflect back on how swiftly the months have passed since I came to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, it's amazing how much our agency has accomplished in a short period of time. The senior management team and I have set many goals and continue to look for ways to make our agency as effective and efficient as it can be for the citizens of the great state of Arkansas.

Now is a great time to take stock of where we are. Change is never an easy process, but change is an ever present constant. We've made great progress in aligning our family's vision, mission, organization and overall operation. We've gradually shifted from being an agency with separate divisions operating independently, to an agency more streamlined, operating as a family. We've eliminated duplication in many areas and are continuously focusing our attention inward—re-aligning and restructuring our divisions, preparing an agency succession plan and conducting a feasibility study to co-locate our offices. Governor Mike Beebe has stated that education and economic development go hand in hand, and this agency will do its part to ensure his vision is fulfilled. He and I both agree that while traditional educational paths are vitally important, workforce education is equally as important to the economic development of our state. Throughout 2008, the Arkansas Department of

Workforce Education will be charged with preparing the citizens of our state for the competitive, knowledge-based and global economy of the future. We are prepared for that challenge and soon will make Arkansas's workforce the envy of the nation and the world. We will continue to change and move forward to make our agency the best it can be for the people of Arkansas.

I wish to thank the staff of each of the divisions of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education. You can be justly proud of the job you are doing in raising the bar for the workforce of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I thank each and every one of you for your commitment, your dedication and your service to the people across this great state who need us the most.

Now that the holidays are upon us, most members our Department of Workforce Education staff will take at least some time off to be with their loved ones. Families will gather with neighbors and friends to rekindle honored traditions, revive old friendships, and renew the hope and love that is a part of this season.

From our family to you and your loved ones, may the joyous spirit of this beautiful time of year remain with you throughout 2008 and beyond. My warmest wishes to you for a year of happiness and prosperity. Happy Holidays!!!!

**We Wish you Great Happiness  
this Holiday Season and  
throughout 2008.**

*Seasons Greetings!!*



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

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# What You Should Know

## Ticket to Work

Jess Wilson, Administrator

**T**he Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services is charged with the responsibility of administering and coordinating the **Ticket to Work Program** for the benefit of **Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries** who apply for rehabilitation services because they wish to return to work.

The Ticket to Work (TTW) Program is a Social Security Administration (SSA) initiative for eligible individuals who are Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Disability Beneficiaries between the ages of 18 and 64. It is an opportunity for beneficiaries to receive services and support that can enable them to return to work. The goal of TTW is to increase opportunities and choices for those individuals to find employment, vocational rehabilitation and other support services through a pool of providers known as Employment Networks (ENs), including State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies.

In Arkansas, it is estimated that there are approximately 156,174, or 5.8% of the state population who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) who might be eligible to participate in the TTW Program.

There are 27 providers (ENs) in addition to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Department of Human Services Division of Services for the Blind, who offer some type of support services for Ticket Holders in Arkansas. However, the Division of Rehabilitation Services is the primary and dominant agency in the Arkansas TTW Employment Network. Through Ticket to Work legislation, all state and territorial vocational rehabilitation agencies are mandatory participants in the program. Because of the wide range of services available through trained professional staff and because of the stability of the Public Vocational Rehabilitation program, more than 90% of all Ticket Holders receive their primary services through State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies.

Through a federal partnership between the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Social Security Administration, SSDI and SSI beneficiaries are "presumed eligible", as mandated by federal regulations, for VR services based upon the disability findings of the SSA.

In Arkansas, the Division of Rehabilitation Services/Ticket to Work program is operated through the Ticket to Work Center, located in the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center. Jess Wilson, Rehabilitation Services TTW Administrator, is the

primary state contact for all TTW issues for the agency.

A Ticket to Work case should be managed the same as any other case, with only a few exceptions. When a Ticket Holder applies for VR services, the counselor or rehabilitation assistant should contact Maximus, the TTW contract entity for SSA, to verify whether the individual has an "Assignable" Ticket. The Rehabilitation Services TTW Verification Form should be completed and placed in the consumer's case file and the information should be entered into the ARTIC Database.

Since the Ticket to Work Program was initiated in 2004, the Division of Rehabilitation Services has had 1,840 Tickets assigned to the agency.

What are the benefits of Ticket assignment?

### For SSA Beneficiaries:

- ☐ Access to Protection and Advocacy agencies
- ☐ Referral to Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Projects (A-WIN)
- ☐ Deferral of Medical Disability Reviews by SSA
- ☐ Opportunity to receive services that may result in successful return to employment

### For Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division

TICKET continued on page 4

**TICKET** *continued from page 3*

**of Rehabilitation Services:**

- ☐ TTW Holders are presumed eligible for VR services, saving time and money
- ☐ Potential for reimbursement for services provided, when consumer meets employment requirements SSA

When a Division of Rehabilitation Services consumer, with an assignable TTW, completes their IPE development and a service initiation date and projected completion date are determined, the FORM SSA 1365 should be completed, signed and dated by the VR Counselor and the Ticket Holder, then faxed to the Division of Rehabilitation Services TTW Center at (501) 622-6623. This will initiate the process for TTW Assignment Confirmation. It is very important that all data requested on the SSA 1365 be provided since it is required by Maximus to issue the TTW Confirmation of Assignment.

The Division of Rehabilitation Services TTW Center has developed and maintains a TTW Database in which all Ticket confirmation, tracking and related data is kept. Upon receipt at the TTW Center, each Form SSA 1365 is carefully reviewed for correctness, completeness and clarity. When necessary, the TTW Coordinator will contact the counselor or rehabilitation assistant for additional information or clarification. Since correspondence with Maximus is primarily through fax transmissions, it is important that all information, dates and signatures on each form are clear and legible or Maximus will return them to the TTW Center for correction.

The TTW Administrator works very closely with the Maximus Call Center Supervisor for State VR Agencies, as well as several other agencies and ENs to assist Division of Rehabilitation Services consumers in receiving all the information, support and benefits available for the Ticket to Work program to run smoothly.

Numerous Ticket Holders call the TTW Center requesting information and assistance. They are provided support in understanding their options under TTW and are referred to the VR Counselor in their area if they are interested in going to work. We have other referring partners (ENs) who regularly make referrals to the Division of Rehabilitation Services by providing Ticket Holders with contact information. They routinely contact the TTW Center and when appropriate, are referred on to the VR Counselor in their local area for possible VR services.

In view of the fact that the Social Security Administration requires that a Ticket to Work be issued

before any reimbursement can be issued for Division of Rehabilitation Services provided, it is important that all Division of Rehabilitation Services consumers who are either SSDI or SSI beneficiaries be processed and confirmed as Ticket Holders. They need to have their Tickets assigned to the Division of Rehabilitation Services as early as possible in the individual's rehabilitation program.

Older SSDI/SSI cases, closed as successfully employed that have not had Ticket Assignment confirmed, should be processed as soon as possible, as this is potentially a valuable revenue resource for Division of Rehabilitation Services.

The Division of Rehabilitation Services TTW Center exists as a support unit for all types of issues related to Ticket to Work. If help is needed in the TTW process, please feel free to contact the Division of Rehabilitation Services' TTW Administrator for assistance.

For additional information or assistance with TTW, please contact: Jess Wilson, Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services TTW Administrator, 105 Reserve Ave., P.O. Box 1358, Hot Springs, AR 71902, phone: 501-624-4411 Ext. 415, 501-626-1420, Fax: 501-622-6623

**Texas State Legislator visits DWE**



(l-r) Arkansas Department of Human Services **Deputy Director Steve Jones**, DWE **Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.**, and Texas state **Senator Rodney Ellis** (Dist. 13, Houston) met at the Department of Workforce Education Director's office on December 12. Senator Ellis was in town attending the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Conference at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock.

## 2007 Arkansas Farm Family of the Year Announced



Governor Mike Beebe with Farm Family of the Year (l-r) Brian, Kathryn, John Brian and Nan Kirksey

**B**rian and Nan Kirksey of Alpine (Clark County) were named the **2007 Arkansas Farm Family of the Year**.

The Kirkseys operate Spring Creek Nursery, in addition to raising beef cattle, hay and timber on more than 300 acres. The nursery includes 70,000 square feet of greenhouse space, which they use to produce potted plants, shrubs and annuals. Additionally, the Kirkseys own a greenhouse construction company that services the needs of many of their wholesale customers.

By being named Arkansas's Farm Family of the Year, the Kirkseys will serve as Arkansas's representative in next year's 10-state Southeastern Farmer of the Year program, which is held in conjunction with the Southeast Ag Expo in Moultrie, Georgia.

The Kirkseys' nursery operation places a priority on efficient use of water resources. Irrigation for the greenhouses is provided by large holding ponds that have been expanded to meet the growing needs of the operation. The nursery was designed to capture 85 percent of the irrigation runoff, returning it to

the holding ponds for reuse. New computerized irrigation timers are expected to boost that efficiency rate even further.

"The Arkansas Farm Family of the Year program is the longest-running farm family recognition program of its type in the United States," says Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. "Farm families are the foundation of our economy and culture."

The Farm Family of the Year program, now in its 61st year, begins with selection of a top farm family in each county, followed by the selection of eight district Farm Families of the Year. The process concludes with a banquet honoring each county winner, and the selection of a state Farm Family of the Year.

"For more than six decades, the Farm Family of the Year program has showcased outstanding agriculture," said Marion Fletcher, Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Agricultural Science and Technology Program Manager. "We congratulate the Kirkseys and each of the county Farm Families of the Year."

Farm Families of the Year are judged on production, efficiency and management of their farm operations, family life and rural/community leadership and values.

Other 2007 district Farm Family of the Year winners included:

- 🏆 **Rick and Debbie Crunkleton** of Everton (Boone County), Northwest District;
- 🏆 **Michael and Terri Jo Cureton** of Cash (Craighead County), Northeast District;

- 🏆 **Frank and Arvenia Davis** of Harrell (Calhoun County), Southwest District;

- 🏆 **David and Dana Fowler** of Wheatley (St. Francis County), East Central District;

- 🏆 **Michael and Amy Gardner** of Charlotte (Independence County), North Central District;

- 🏆 **Kenneth and Kotton Guest** of Marvell (Phillips County), Southeast District;

- 🏆 **Paul and Karen McNeal** of Perryville (Perry County), Western District.

Arkansas Farm Bureau, the Arkansas Press Association, Entergy and the three Farm Credit agencies that operate in Arkansas – AgHeritage FCS, Farm Credit of Western Arkansas and Farm Credit MidSouth – are primary sponsors of the annual recognition program. Additional program support is provided by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education; the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Service; the USDA's Farm Service Agency, and Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development.



DWE Director Walker speaks with Governor Beebe during Farm Family luncheon

## Career Readiness Certificate to Boost Skills of Potential Employees

**C**ome January 14, 2008, Arkansas will have one more tool to use in training workers and attracting new industry. On that day, Governor Mike Beebe will kick off the Arkansas **Career Readiness Certificate (CRC)** assessment program at Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock.

Through the program, Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE) Adult Education instructors will begin the KeyTrain curriculum aimed at helping students prepare for the ACT WorkKeys assessment exam.

WorkKeys is designed to upgrade the skills of new and existing workers by analyzing nine skill sets in three key areas: reading, applied mathematics and locating information. Clients will be trained using the assessment program's KeyTrain curriculum to master designated skills as defined by WorkKeys. KeyTrain provides a course of study based on the WorkKeys targets for instruction.

A Career Readiness Certificate credential based on WorkKeys assessments will be issued to clients upon completion of the program. The CRC demonstrates to potential employers that an individual possesses the workplace skills required for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. Getting a CRC will allow an individual to show prospective employers that he or she possesses the basic skills sought by employers. Even if one already has a high school diploma, GED or post-secondary degree, the CRC further verifies that he or she can handle tasks common in today's workplaces.

According to Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director Bill Walker, the WorkKeys pro-



Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., greets new Arkansas Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Ken Ferguson following his swearing-in ceremony November 27.

gram will benefit job seekers by building their confidence that their workplace skills meet the needs of local employers.

"Arkansas will have better-skilled, better-trained employees who will stay employed longer," Walker says. "Through the Career Readiness Certificate program, workers will see huge benefits. The program will pay off not only by boosting the skills of potential employees, but also by giving them a portable skills credential that enhances employability."

"A professionally-developed workforce is what industry wants when looking at Arkansas," Walker went on to say. "They want to know if we have the employees to fill jobs. We may have missed out on recruiting an industry before the Career Readiness Certificate. We can now not only show we have a capable workforce, but one that is looking for meaningful employment."

Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (ADWS) Director Artee Williams says the program will give Arkansas a leg-up in recruiting industry it hasn't had before.

"When businesses want to locate in Arkansas and ask, 'what kind of assessment tool do you have for workers?' We can say, 'We have one,'" says Williams.

Employers will benefit through reduced turnover, overtime and waste while boosting worker morale. An employer's bottom line will also be improved because its training dollars will be made more effective and hiring will be streamlined by including preferred certificate levels in job postings. **There is no cost for employers**

**WORKKEYS continued on page 8**



Arkansas Department of Workforce Services Director Artee Williams discusses the Career Readiness Certificate program with the Russellville Adult Education WAGE™/LEAC Board and others at the Board's November meeting.

## Adult Education Deputy Director Addresses Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™) Group

To hear Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Division of Adult Education Deputy Director James Smith tell it, the winds of change will be kicking up a lot of dust in the next few years, and that means good things for those enrolled in Arkansas's Adult Education and Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™) programs.

"By the year 2020, employers will be more interested in someone with a certificate of accomplishment that shows they have the skills to give an industry what it needs," Smith told a gathering at the November Russellville Adult Education/WAGE™ meeting. "Adult Education gives people marketable skills that can earn them the kind of living they can be proud of."

According to Smith, the industry will lose 15-20 million skilled trades workers by 2020 because of baby boomers preparing to retire by that time. That's where Adult Education and WAGE™ will play a huge role.

Through WAGE™, Arkansas businesses explain to the Division of Adult Education what is necessary to have a labor-ready workforce that can help eliminate high-turnover and low-quality issues specific to that business. Participating employers allow adult educators to perform literacy task analysis on positions that rely on foundation skills for maximized employee



performance. Adult educators use literacy task analyses to customize competencies within the context of local employers. Adult Education, in turn, provides clients with

certificates of achievement in exchange for added hiring consideration from participating companies when the time comes to replace employees or expand the workforce.

WAGE™ accepts students who assess at less than a 12.9 grade-level (12<sup>th</sup> grade, 9<sup>th</sup> month) equivalency on the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) and who



Smith shares issues affecting the Arkansas WAGE™ program with Russellville state Senator Sharon Trusty.

have a goal of obtaining a job, retaining a job, improving their skill level to gain improved employment or entering next-level workplace training.

Now, Smith says, Arkansas will be able to withstand everything the winds of change blow its way.

"When industries see that Arkansas has a trained workforce, we'll be able to recruit them here left and right," Smith says. "WAGE™ is there to improve the workforce, make an impact on industry and help those who want to better their math, reading and communications skills so they can get a good job. That's what WAGE™ did. That's what WAGE™ does. That's what it's going to do."



Jim Smith explains how Adult Education services and the WAGE™ program can help workers and employers cope with change and the loss of as many as 20 million employees from the trades in the coming years.

## Adult Education Centers receive special projects funding

**Adult Education centers in Arkansas will have a little something extra in their stockings this year.**

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Adult Education is granting each of the state's 51 centers up to \$5,000 in special projects funding. Division of Adult Education Deputy Director James Smith says the one-time funds have very few restrictions, but that local administrators who will have discretion over the money should be careful.

"The centers can use the funds for pretty much anything they want – teaching supplies, computers and software, testing, repairs – whatever they need," Smith says. "They cannot use it for planning or personnel purposes beyond this year because the funds may not re-occur. We're real cautious about putting that money into salary...because if it's removed after this year, they could be in trouble."

The funds come from the \$1.8 million Adult Education special projects budget. According to Smith, after each of the centers receives its \$5,000, that budget will be left with approximately \$650,000, which will be used to bolster the base funding for projects which did not see an increase in base funding. The distribution of the remaining money depends on the approval of Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.

Smith says Adult Education has seen no real funding increases since 1991, that the additional money will be appreciated, and will ultimately

pay huge dividends.

"When these centers don't have the money they need, it reduces their efficiency and their effectiveness in going out and meeting the needs of the community," Smith commented. "Without the proper funding, centers have to cut back on part-time staff and then get to the point where they can't adequately provide the services they need to provide. This money will help us provide better services for our Adult Education clients."

Director Walker agrees. "Our Adult Education clients deserve the



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best possible services we can offer," he said. "These students are giving us their best and we owe them nothing less than the best. When they've completed the program, our clients will be expertly trained, ready to compete and work in the global economy. They'll not only be giving back to society in terms of their skills, but also by growing our economy and by offering a better future to their families."

To be eligible for these funds, local administrators must submit the required paperwork post-marked no later than January 15, 2008. All funds not requested by this date will be redistributed to other programs with the greatest demonstrated need. Programs requiring additional funding are asked to submit a budget narrative and Initial Budget page indicating where the funds will be expended. For additional information, contact the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Adult Education at 501-682-1500.

**WORKKEYS continued from page 6 to participate in the Career Readiness Certificate.**

Likewise, employers will increase their workforces and may decrease tax liability via the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC). The WOTC provides a tax break to employers who hire new workers from the following target groups: veterans, ex-felons, at-risk youth and summer youth. The tax credit for hiring from the target groups, with the exception of summer youth, can be as much as \$2,400 for each new hire.

Walker says, for all of its potential rewards, the CRC has one goal that makes everything else possible.

"This program exists to help workers," Walker says. "Many employers tell you they're hiring, but it doesn't always work out for some workers. Some don't have the skills they need. This will help."

**More information on the Career Readiness Certificate program is available at [Arkansasatwork.org](http://Arkansasatwork.org). Those interested in the program may also contact (866) 757-2999, (501) 683-4708 or [crc@arkansas.gov](mailto:crc@arkansas.gov).**

## Rehabilitation Services Employee Bids Agency Farewell

All good things must come to an end. Sue Gaskin's retirement from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services marks the end of an event-filled career that has been full of change for the better. From 1969 until December 14, 2007, Gaskin played a part in writing the history of disability, especially in the area of adaptive technology and special programs.

Some of her personal memories of coming to work right after graduation from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville are mind-boggling. In 1969, armed with a Bachelor of Arts degree in art, Sue was hired as a personal adjustment training instructor for the Rehabilitation Unit at the Girl's Training School in Alexander.

"We couldn't wear slacks to work, but mini-skirts were okay," Gaskin said. "Boy, how the times have changed."

"That era's rehabilitation was based around a single service," Gaskin commented. "The main focus was the medical model, often meaning surgery was the outcome to achieve a case closure. Today, things are focused on multiple options with training, usually vocational, combined with employment as the main model for client services."

Another thing that has evolved over Gaskin's career is the stigma of having a disability.

"I think that people today are more open to seeking assistance, especially youths with disabilities who have been mainstreamed into society," she says. "They are more sophisticated and advocate for themselves,"

Throughout her career, Gaskin has seen the world of adaptive technology grow from a fledgling glimmer to a bright glow and she says the possibilities seem endless as to where technology can take it in the future.

Gaskin was part of the Able Data program at a time when Arkansas was one of its pilot states. The program helped provide a resource for people to discover available adaptive technology, what that technology did, where it could be attained, and how it worked.

In 1990, Gaskin was named to head the Division of



**Sue Gaskin** reflected on her 38-year career during the DWE Joint Staff meeting at Clear Channel MetroPlex December 13.

Rehabilitation Services' Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN). In that capacity, she helped secure over \$7.6 million dollars in grants for assistive technology. She and her staff educated the people of Arkansas about the kinds of specialized tools available to people with disabilities and how those tools could help the disability community achieve more independence.

In 2000, Gaskin was named the Division of Rehabilitation Services' Chief of Special Programs and Support Services, which encompasses the Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN), Successful Employment through Assistive

Technology (SEAT) program, Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission (AKDC) and all programs under Rehabilitation Services' Special Programs umbrella.

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services' Commissioner Robert Trevino commented, "Sue's retirement, while well earned, represents a significant loss of institutional knowledge to our agency. Her commitment to serving people with disabilities, both in her professional and personal life, exemplifies her deeply held passion that every person has an inherent special value. We wish her well and will miss her camaraderie, knowledge, wisdom and contributions."

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., sung Gaskin's praises. "Sue's passion, commitment, and knowledge now culminate into a wonderfully written story of a professional life well spent. We will miss her wisdom and work ethic, but we are comfortable in the knowledge that she continues to reside in our collective heart. On behalf of Governor Mike Beebe, Commissioner Trevino and I wish to convey our profound appreciation to Sue, for we are all better because she served."

Sue's husband of 39 ½ years, Bill, died in May 2007. Bill was an architect who's most famous project, arguably, is the remodeling of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion and design and construction of the Grand Hall.

Now that retirement is a reality, she plans on traveling, doing volunteer work, playing with her four grandchildren and taking care of her 90 year-old mother.

## Smith Tapped as Deputy Director of Workforce Education's Division of Adult Education

**A**rkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., announced that James Smith has been named Deputy Director for the agency's Division of Adult Education. Smith had been serving as the division's interim director since August 9.

"James Smith comes to this position with vast experience that will

serve our state and our agency well," said Director Walker. "He understands that the economic well-being of Arkansas lies largely in a well-trained and educated workforce. That's what Adult Education provides. I have the utmost confidence in Jim and know that the Division of Adult Education will make new strides under his leadership."

Smith is a North Little Rock native and graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts and a minor in Special Education 1970. He went on to earn an MSE in 1975, and an Educational Specialist Degree in 1990 from the University of Arkansas.

Smith joined the Arkansas



Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. appoints James Smith as Deputy Director for Adult Education on December 17.

Department of Workforce Education in 1983 as a Public School Program Manager for Trade and Industrial Education and was the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) Director. From 1993 – 1999, he was the Adult Education Section Public School Program Manager; from 1997-1999, he was the Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™) Director.

From 1999 – 2007, Smith was Manager of the agency's Federal Surplus Property program. Between 1987 and 2007, the Department of Workforce Education's Federal Surplus Property program donated \$221 million in acquisition value of federal personal property considered to be federal financial assistance to the citizens of Arkansas. From 1999

to 2007, while Smith was manager of the Federal Surplus Property division, \$99.7 million of that \$221 million total was donated. Smith gave credit and lauded the dedicated Federal Surplus Property staff for all their hard work and dedication on a job well done during his tenure.

Regarding his promotion Smith said, "I'd like to thank Director

Walker for the opportunity to grow with the agency and appreciate his confidence in me for this assignment. As Deputy Director of the division of Adult Education, I am committed to 'raising the bar,' because economic development and education are tied together. Governor Beebe has stressed that point.

"We know we need to improve adult education services at the local level and meet the needs of the workforce, especially in the basics of reading, math and language skills. For Adult Education, we'll use all the tools at our disposal to improve students' abilities — doing whatever it takes to improve the workforce and Arkansas's economic future," Smith added.

## Quinn Takes Over Post of Rehabilitation Services District I-South Manager



**James Quinn**

**T**he Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services' newest District I-South manager is ready to use his coaching background to tackle his latest position. James Quinn takes over the post supervising the Fort Smith and Booneville offices.

Quinn spent the past four years as a counselor in the Fayetteville office, and says his training and job experience have prepared him for this post. Much of his Fayetteville caseload dealt with transition clients. He wants to assist counselors in the district to meet client needs as the national trends have rehabilitation getting involved with transitional clients at a younger age.

Quinn's undergraduate work record was based around vocational positions in a machine shop and auto body repair, and he's always had a love of coaching and working with young people.

"My background in coaching and teaching will help me, help our counselors, and help our clients," Quinn said. "You use many of the same skills and techniques in working with counselors as you do working with anyone who needs direction. Using goal-setting and finding solutions to problems is much of what we do."

In 2003, he received his Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and received his Certified Rehabilitation Counselor's (CRC) designation. He's also a licensed mental health counselor and is working towards a doctorate in Counseling Education. He hopes to complete his degree in May 2008.

"We are very pleased to have James come aboard among our District Manager team," said Ken Musteen, Chief of Field Services for the Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services. "He has an interesting career history, has channeled his talents into the field of rehabilitation and is a most welcome asset to our management team."



(l-r) **Phil Jacobs**, Vice President of Governmental Relations, Arkansas Tech University, DWE Director **Bill Walker**, and **District 84 state Representative John Paul Wells** of Paris during their visit November 27 at the DWE Building.

### Available Upon Request

If you would like additional copies of **The Workforce Counselor** or if you have comments concerning this publication, please contact **Reginald L. Jackson, Director of Communications** at 501-682-1500, or [reginald.jackson@arkansas.gov](mailto:reginald.jackson@arkansas.gov)



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“They don’t want FCCLA members to only be members,” Ward said. “They want them to take action so they can be leaders in their community.”

The three-day meeting will include skits, recognitions and a motivational speaker. Ward says council members are still trying to finalize details on who will address the group on the first night of the meeting.

According to Ward, FCCLA members will get an opportunity to show off some of their skills during Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) event competitions. Some of these include: job interviews, parliamentary procedure, focus on children and illustrated talk. One winner from each of the competitions will be eligible to compete at the national FCCLA conference in Orlando, Florida, July 13 through 17, 2008.

Ward commented that several Arkansas FCCLA members recently traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, November 9 and 10 for a cluster meeting that focused largely on leadership skills, national programs and community service projects. Nearly 150 members from 20 chapters across the state were among 5,000 students from around the region who learned about such topics as ways to stop violence, end domestic abuse and feed the hungry.

“The members will be involved in a large-scale community service project aimed at assisting hungry children,” Ward said. “Our FCCLA members will be collecting \$7,200 for the Feed the Children project. That money goes toward bringing a truck to Arkansas for children who,



**DWE Director Bill Walker (standing, left), Associate Director of CTE Rod Duckworth (seated, rear) and FCCLA program advisor Suellen Ward (standing, right) discuss the upcoming FCCLA state meeting with members of the group’s executive committee**

for one reason or another, need a nutritious meal.”

Ward went on to say the message about leadership is ringing home in Arkansas. State FCCLA executive committee members Xavier Billingsly of Blytheville and Shandra Davis of Heber Springs are gearing up to run for national FCCLA office during elections in January.

“It’s really inspiring to see these youngsters at work,” says Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William L. “Bill” Walker, Jr., who attended the Atlanta cluster meeting. “They’re really excited to be involved and to learn everything that FCCLA has to teach them. These young people are the future. They’re tomorrow’s leaders. It’s a special thing to see the potential they possess and know that they will have an appreciable impact on the world. Seeing these kids re-enforces my belief that our future is in capable hands.”

The cluster meeting in Atlanta was among several across the nation held to give FCCLA members an idea about how the organization

operates on a larger scale.

“The cluster meetings usually last a day and a half,” Ward explained. “Our national meetings are held during the summer and last a week. Some of our members can’t get away for a week during the summer. These cluster meetings give the members a taste of what a national meeting is like,” she concluded.

The mission of FCCLA is to promote personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer sciences education. Any student who is taking or has taken a course in Family and Consumer Sciences and/ or related occupations through grade 12 is eligible for membership in an organized chapter within their school. Focusing on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner and community leader, members develop skills for life through character development; creative and critical thinking; interpersonal communications; practical knowledge and career preparation.

## Duckworth named Associate Director for Career and Technical Education

**R**oderic Duckworth, new Associate Director for Career and Technical Education (CTE) at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, joined the agency on November 5.

Duckworth earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Education from Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia in 1987 and began his career as an agriculture instructor in Hope. In 1994, he moved to Alexandria, Virginia, to manage the National Agriculture program and the Agriculture Teacher International Travel Experience program for the National FFA Organization. In 1997, he became an area supervisor and FFA Executive Secretary with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education.

Duckworth later moved on to serve as the program supervisor for Agriculture Education with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction in Olympia, Washington. In June 2004, he was promoted to State Director of Career and Technical Education, a position that he held until he returned to Arkansas in 2007.

Duckworth says Career and Technical Education programs in Arkansas are strong, but they can get even stronger. He will be working with five career and technical areas including: agriculture, business, career guidance and skilled and technical sciences. He'll also be devoting his time to special projects and conferences that will include regional literacy conferences and conferences aimed at developing programs of study.

Duckworth says he has high hopes for career and technical education in Arkansas.

"One of the top goals would be to provide as many career and technical opportunities for as many students as possible across the state," he said. "That's a huge

goal, but I think it's a goal that's attainable – to let students know what career and technical opportunities are available to them."

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Division of Career and Technical Education Deputy Director John Davidson says Duckworth is just the man to do it.

"We feel we've found exactly who we need in Rod," Davidson says. "We knew we needed another person to handle several projects we had planned and with the experience he brings to the table, Rod's already jumping in and doing them."

Arkansas Department Workforce Education Director William Walker, Jr. agrees.

"Rod is the person Career and Technical Education needed to achieve its goals," Walker said. "He has the experience and the skills to help Arkansas's young people become the skilled workers of tomorrow."

Duckworth says he has a lot to work with. "The state of career and technical education in Arkansas is strong right now, but I would say there's still work we all need to do," he commented. "It's a never-ending journey to help students be successful. They can be more successful if they come through a career and technical education program."



**Roderic Duckworth**



**Jack Justus**

**GOVERNOR** *continued from page 1*

preparing Arkansas's workforce for higher paying, knowledge-based jobs will require parents motivating their kids to learn.

"We have to start where the kids start, and that's at home," said State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities chairman Jack Justus. "They've got to want to get these higher achieved levels and then the system's got to be quick to provide," he added.

"I think that's where we're lacking in so many of our young people, is the desire," said SBWECO member Kathy Scarsdale. "Parents need to send their kids to school knowing they are there to train for future employment," she added.



by **Barbara McBeth Lewis, CRC**  
Associate Director/Administrator  
Arkansas Department  
of Workforce Education's  
Division of Rehabilitation Services'  
Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center

## Senior Management Team

# SMT Update

**“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much will be asked.”**

This biblical quote is both a test and a trust regarding responsibility and accountability.

The staff at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services' Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center/Arkansas Career Training Institute (HSRC/ACTI) values their responsibility to serve persons with disabilities and their accountability to our stakeholders: field counselors, students, employers and ultimately, the taxpayers and the federal government.

The staff of the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center/Arkansas Career Training Institute has been entrusted with a huge responsibility to provide comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services to the citizens of Arkansas with the most significant disabilities. At HSRC, we have been blessed with the privilege to serve others and the demand is great. Since the doors of the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center opened in April 1960, comprehensive services have been provided to over 30,000 persons with disabilities.

The services have allowed the recipients to lead independent, productive lives through employment, service to their communities and their families.

Because we have served well, we are required to do more, do it better and raise the bar. This is a charge that the staff takes seriously and with love and compassion. The services provided at HSRC/ACTI require staff commitment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I am fortunate to witness the dedication of the staff at HSRC/ACTI and the contributions they make on a daily basis to the people we serve.

HSRC/ACTI stands prepared to serve the Division of Rehabilitation Services' field counselors from around the state, who entrust their clients to us to provide a wide array of services to reach their employment goals.

In order to achieve the highest possible results, we continue to strive to improve the quality of our programs and to offer the best options for those individuals who so desperately need our services. The services include counseling, case management, vocational evaluation, psychological services, vocational training, employment readiness, recreation, medical services, student living, behavioral enhancement and job placement.

The social exposure and opportunity to experience training opportunities in a setting similar to a college campus would be an opportunity lost if HSRC/ACTI did not exist. Many of our students transition from high school (ages 17-21). Federal laws currently emphasizing the need for com-

prehensive transition services and the “No Child Left Behind” initiative supports the need for a comprehensive vocational center to provide services. The increased number of children diagnosed with Autism, Asperger's syndrome and other developmental disabilities places the center's services in further demand.

Based on the population we currently serve, HSRC/ACTI will place greater emphasis on the attainment of basic academic skills through expansion of our Adult Education program. Greater emphasis will be placed on employability skills development to increase the probability for success in the vocational programs.

In 2008, we will seek the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's program certification for all vocational programs. Through our enhanced relationship with our parent agency, HSRC/ACTI received Perkins funds for technology-based upgrades to several programs including Auto Technology, Building Trades, Welding, Printing and Business Education. The Building Trades, Welding and Auto Technology programs will offer opportunities for student to receive national certifications.

We will continue to create as many opportunities as possible for our students as we strive toward the Center of Excellence that our agency

## National Conferences with Emphasis on People with Disabilities coming to Arkansas

**T**wo national conferences whose focus is on people with disabilities are scheduled to be held in Arkansas next April and May.

The **National Association of Governor's Committees on People with Disabilities (NAGC)** will run April 28 through April 30, 2008, and the **National Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)** meeting will follow, running April 30 through May 2, 2008. Both events will take place at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas.

"We are quite pleased that both of these organizations chose Little Rock to host their national conferences," said Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director William Walker, Jr. "The conferences of the National Governor's Committees on People with Disabilities and the National Youth Leadership Forum are significant events. They provide us with a chance to learn what other states are doing to increase opportunities for education, employment, community service, leadership, and prosperity for people living with disabilities," Walker added.

**NAGC**

"The Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services is very pleased to support the Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities as we welcome the National Governor's Committees on People with Disabilities and the National Youth Leadership Forum to Little Rock," said Division of Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Bob Treviño. "Both groups contribute immensely to state policy-making and the public's awareness of disability issues. Their respective leadership and guidance has influenced disability service delivery and helped pave the way for important opportunities for our state's citizens."

**YLF**

"These conferences allow us an important opportunity to join in the national dialogue concerning issues that impact the disability community. I join with Director Walker in welcoming our colleagues and the chance to celebrate the achievements and contributions brought about through collaborative advocacy on behalf of people living with disabilities," Treviño concluded.

*SMT continued from page 14*

Director, William Walker envisions. The opportunity for accreditation through the Council on Occupational Education is a long-term goal that we will seek to accomplish.

In addition to program certification, we have many challenges ahead of us including the upcoming Rehabilitation Services Administration Evaluation Study of all comprehensive rehabilitation centers, capital improvement needs, staff training needs and ongoing marketing and grant writing initiatives.

However, the mission of HSRC/ACTI remains the same: to provide comprehensive rehabilitation and technical career education that leads to employment for our clients.

I am excited about the increased opportunities and collaboration with various agencies and programs that will allow us to continue to achieve our mission and provide more opportunities for our clients.



Representatives from the US Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program and the country of Chile met with AR Department of Workforce Education Deputy Director **John Davidson** on a recent visit to Little Rock. Pictured (l-r) are Davidson; **Mireya del Carmen Canavati**, Advisor and Professional Staff Member for the Senate committee on Constitution, Legislation and Justice in Chile; **Hernando Soto**, US Department of State; and **Tommy Priakos**, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

# HSRC Happenings

## Transition Director addresses 170<sup>th</sup> class of Arkansas Career Training Institute

It was one of the largest graduating classes ever to come out of the **Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI)** at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services' Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center (HSRC).

The December 2007 class, 170<sup>th</sup> to graduate from the program and the third graduation ceremony of the year, was made up of 58 students from 35 different cities across Arkansas. Graduates specialized in 15 separate disciplines ranging from auto collision to welding. As of graduation day, 21 of the students had already found employment, thanks to the training they received at the center.

During her keynote address to



**Judy Smith**  
Transition Director

the class, Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services Transition Director Judy Smith said new graduates will face a future that is both "thrilling" and "scary."

"Don't worry," Smith said. "Everything in life has one guarantee – change. The Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center has provided you with a beginning for the rest of your life. Be proud of yourselves. This institute taught you how to do a job and how to do it yourself. Through hard work, you will be the best at your job that you can be."

Smith told students the

knowledge and skills gained through their studies equipped them for success and a bright future, but advised them not to be selfish.

"Give back to somebody what has been given to you," Smith explained. "Happiness is not a house or another person. It's not a car, a different place or another job. Happiness is about what's in you. It's about helping others.

"The key element for success is preparedness. You are prepared. Take the skills you've learned here and make your mark on the world. You do that by doing your best," she added.

HSRC Student Council president and new business education graduate Nora McKinzie expanded on Smith's sentiment.

"Get on the road to success," said McKinzie. "Set a goal and reach for it with power and might. It's your duty to put 100 percent into your vocation. Don't stop here. Take advantage of the training you received and make the world your own," she added.

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director Bill Walker said Arkansas Career Training Institute graduates will have little difficulty following McKinzie's advice.

"These students are uniquely prepared to take control of their futures,"

*ACTI continued on page 17*



**Barbara McBeth Lewis**  
HSRC Administrator



- photo courtesy of Bobby James

## 170th Commencement Class of the Arkansas Career Training Institute Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center

*ACTI continued from page 17*

Walker said. "The Arkansas Career Training Institute gives its students the skills and knowledge they need to be a success in the workplace. The intensive training students receive there not only gives them the ability to do a job, but it gives them the ability to do a job at the highest level.

"From this class, 21 students already have jobs at graduation. That's the ultimate testament to the institute, the instructors, the administrators and the students themselves. The Arkansas Career Training Institute and the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center are something everyone in our state can take pride in. And the students, they're obviously a huge point of pride. They'll continue to make us proud for many years to come," Walker concluded.

The graduates and their field of study were:

**Auto Collision Repair:** Roberto Pineda, Fayetteville; Claude Turner, Little Rock

**Automotive Maintenance**

**Technology:** Arvella Taylor, Fort Smith

**Building Trades:** Michael Bolton, Huttig; Jeremiah Upchurch, Hot Springs

**Business Education:** Annette Allen, Pine Bluff; Henry Bellis, Hot Springs; Mary Campbell, Arkadelphia; Crystal Jones, Dumas; Elnora McKinzie, Dumas; Tracy Rabb, Centerton

**Certified Nursing Assistant:** Milika Evans, Hot Springs; Willie Griffin, West Memphis; Heath Hughes, Prescott; Candace Lyell, Stamps; Tabrehia Reed, Pine Bluff; Gina Shelton, El Dorado; Erin Smith, Hot Springs

**Cosmetology:** Linda Ragen, Malvern; Melissa Reynolds, Strong; Veronica Shelton, Royal

**Environmental Systems**

**Services:** Kyanta Coleman, Marianna; Shyvicki Mack, Hope; Lateesia Marshall, Fordyce; Anthony Poe, Sheriden; Shuneka Simmons, Dumas; Jessica Thomas, Huttig

**Food Service:** Kyle Bowman, Jonesboro; Tommy Sivage, Fort Smith

**Groundskeeping:** Dennis Nesbitt, Haynes

**Laundry:** William Boothe, Monticello; Anastasia Ford, Pine Bluff; Antonio Malone, Wilmar; Ricardo Moreno, Pine Bluff; LaQuan Ridgell, El Dorado

**Non-Traditional:** Christopher Murrell, Malvern; Larry Smith, Sparkman; Jay Warner, Clinton; Ashliegh Wingate, Booneville

**Printing:** Steven Burris, Hot Springs; Cleophis Frazier, North Little Rock; Seth Kreves, Tumbling Shoals; Josh Marshall, Searcy; Shelby Mefford, Springdale; Will Newman, Hot Springs; Kendric Rice, North Little Rock; Doug White, Norphlet; Avery Williams, Little Rock

**Sales & Marketing:** Adam Deffendall, Hot Springs; Brian Petty, Fort Smith; Jeff Pitts, Greenbrier; Dipak Rath, Fayetteville

**Small Engines:** Ricky Bowden, Benton; Kevin Cooper, North Little Rock; David Ward, Jonesboro

**Welding:** Darren Aringe, Hot Springs; Duane Gentry, Center Ridge; Terrence Morrison, Crosssett

## Adult Education Classes

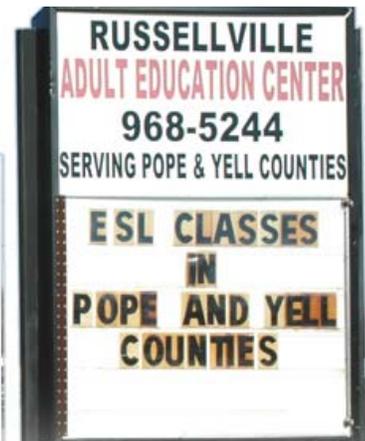
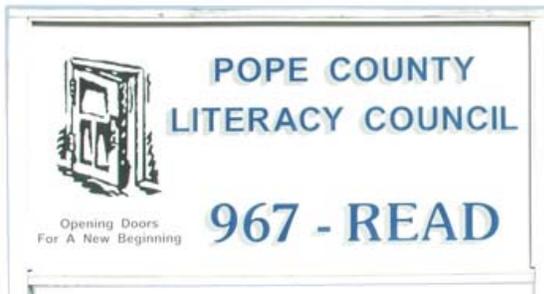
offer River Valley residents a Second Chance at Success

**A** **adult Education in the Arkansas River Valley is alive and well.** So are General Educational Development (GED), English as a Second Language (ESL) and Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™) programs.

Area residents can find all of these Arkansas Department of Workforce Education offerings at the Russellville Adult Education Center (RAEC). However, the services don't stop inside the walls of the one-time junior high school at 100 South Arkansas Avenue.

The mountain often comes to Mohammed via year-round program offerings at satellite locations in Pope and Yell counties. Included are: the WAGE™ Training Center at the Arkansas Workforce Center in Russellville, the Dardanelle Housing Authority and the Danville Adult Learning Center. GED classes and WAGE™ training are also offered to residents of the Pope County Detention Center (PCDC).

Each program year, all of the state's 53 Adult Education Centers



submit projected benchmark numbers to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Division of Adult Education. That data, known as the National Reporting System (NRS), is collected throughout the year by each center.

If looking at the 2006 - 2007 program year data is any indication, River Valley clients are being well served.

The RAEC had 372 full-time students enrolled and 142 of those advanced one or more educational functioning levels. Of the 200 full-time students at the Pope County Detention Center, 106 advanced one or more educational functioning levels. Half of Danville's six full-timers showed grade level

advancement and 198 GED's were issued for those centers.

At the Arkansas Workforce Center WAGE™ office, 38 of 103 full-time students advanced one or more educational functioning levels. Students at the Russellville WAGE™ center and the PCDC WAGE™ center earned a total of 69 certificates during the 2005 -2006 program year.

Meanwhile, English as a Second Language classes are offered at the Russellville Adult Education Center, Dardanelle and Danville. At the RAEC, 38 of 85 students progressed one or more educational functioning levels. At Dardanelle, 49 of 118 full-time students advanced one or more educational functioning level.

Additional information regarding class offerings is available by calling the Russellville Adult Education Center at (479) 968-5244, the WAGE™ Center at (479) 890-0118, the Danville Adult Learning Center at (479) 495-5244. For information regarding ESL programs at Dardanelle contact (479) 968-5244. For additional information about the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Division of Adult Education, call 501-682-1500.



(left) Jim Smith, DWE Adult Education division director, visits with Russellville WAGE™ center employee Teresa Gunn (center) and WAGE™ coordinator Jackie Smith. (right) Jim Smith views a "Quilt of Many Nations" made by English and Second Language students at the Russellville Adult Education Center.

## January 2008 Dates to Remember

- DECA State Executive Council Meeting:** January 13-14, Rogers, AR
- FCCLA District 5 Leadership Conference:** January 16, Junction City High School
- Advanced Leadership Development/open to all Agriculture Education Students:** January 25-26, Camp Couchdale - Hot Springs, AR
- Agriculture Education New Teacher In-Service:** January 25-26, Camp Couchdale - Hot Springs, AR
- FBLA District Senior High Spring Conferences:**
- District V:** January 29, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR
  - District I:** January 30, Ft. Smith Convention Center
  - District IV:** January 30, Hot Springs Convention Center
  - District III:** January 30, Pine Bluff Convention Center
  - District II:** January 31, Jonesboro, AR
- Melior Today's Class/Automotive Service Technology Workshop & pre-SkillsUSA Conference:** January 31, Metropolitan Career and Technical Center, Little Rock, AR

## Former ADWE Director accepts post in Alabama

**F**ormer Arkansas Department of Workforce Education Director Dr. Steve Franks is headed back to Alabama. Franks, who was chancellor at Southern Arkansas Tech in Camden, was named the new president of Central Alabama Community College (CACC) in Alexander City.



Dr. Steve Franks

Prior to his appointment as SAU - Camden's chancellor, Dr. Franks served almost nine years as Director of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, a cabinet-level position responsible for the statewide administration and delivery of career, technical, education and vocational rehabilitation services throughout the state. Prior to coming to Arkansas in October 1996, Dr. Franks served for eight years as State Director of Vocational Education in Alabama.

## Reed to coordinate New DWE Federal Surplus Property Program



Marilyn Reed

**T**here's a familiar face heading up two federal programs that allow Arkansas's fire and police departments to purchase new and used government equipment at drastically reduced prices.

Arkansas Department of Workforce Education staff member Marilyn Reed is now in charge of coordinating the **1122 and 1033 programs** that are housed at the agency's Federal Surplus Property (FSP) division in North Little Rock.

According to Reed, the **1122 program** provides law enforcement agencies an opportunity to purchase property from the federal government following drug eradication efforts. She says the federal government buys many law enforcement tools in bulk, including patrol cars, weapons and ammunition. Any excess items are available for purchase by local law enforcement agencies through the 1122 program at the same cost afforded to the federal government.

The **1033 program** gives local police and fire department agencies the chance to request specific surplus items from the federal government for a small handling fee. The items for purchase include helicopters, uniforms and ammunitions.

"The local agency must provide proof of a need for the requested equipment before it can be purchased," Reed said.

Reed went on to say that many agencies across Arkansas have demonstrated a need for several items to make their jobs easier.

"I went to training earlier this year specifically to learn how to successfully run this program," Reed added. "I'm looking forward to working with the state's fire and police departments providing them with the things they're looking for at the lowest cost available."

For additional information about the 1122 and 1033 programs, contact Marilyn Reed with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education's Federal Surplus Property division, at 501-835-3111.



## Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

### State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities

**Jack Justus**, *Chairman, Little Rock, AR*; **Phil Taylor**, *Vice Chairman, Jonesboro, AR*; **Richard Smith**, *Tillar, AR*; **Kathy Scarsdale**, *Harrison, AR*; **Bob McClanahan**, *Pine Bluff, AR*; **Lucy Ralston**, *Fayetteville, AR*; **Martha Dixon**, *Arkadelphia, AR*

### Administration

**William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.**, *Director*; **John L. Davidson**, *Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education*; **Roderic Duckworth**, *Associate Director of Career and Technical Education*; **Charles Brown**, *Deputy Director of Finance*; **Lee F. Griffith**, *Associate Director of Workforce Training*; **Robert P. Treviño**, *Commissioner for Division of Rehabilitation Services*; **Ken Musteen**, *Chief of Field Services for Division of Rehabilitation Services*; **John Wright**, *Chief Financial Officer for Division of Rehabilitation Services*; **Barbara Lewis**, *Administrator of Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center*; **Reginald L. Jackson**, *Director of Communications*; **James Smith**, *Deputy Director for Adult Education*.

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**Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center**  
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