



Mike Beebe
Governor

Department of Workforce Education

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Media Advisory

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Department of Workforce Education Awards \$3 Million in Grants to 74 Schools

Little Rock – The Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE) announced it has awarded 74 middle, secondary and post-secondary schools in the state a total of nearly \$3 million dollars in New Program Start-Up Grants. The schools are the recipients of 86 separate grants.

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

"The funding provided through this effort will assist Career and Technical Education programs in helping students achieve the skills they need to be successful in further post-secondary training or in future careers," said DWE Career and Technical Education Division Associate Director Roderic Duckworth.

The agency had two main priorities when filling these grant requests. The first of these included funding new Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates (JAG) programs at alternative learning environments in order to emphasize career and technical components for special populations. JAG is a school-to-career program meant to keep young people in school through graduation and provide work-based learning experiences that will lead to career advancement opportunities or enrollment in a post-secondary institution that leads to a rewarding career. Twenty-nine JAG programs were funded through these New Start-Up Grants.

Second, the agency focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based courses of study. Some of these courses include:

- **Renewable Energy:** The Renewable Energy Technology program is designed for students interested in careers in renewable energy technology. Focusing on the practices, skills and knowledge necessary for employment in the numerous industries associated with the emerging field of renewable energy. Educational experiences will include a basic introduction to renewable energy technology as well as basic courses in

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safety instruction, basic electricity, technical thinking, and a basic mechanics course as well as more advanced courses like biomass and feed stocks, bio-fuels, and process instrumentation.

- **Advanced Manufacturing:** This program area is designed to introduce students to the world of advanced manufacturing and establish a foundation upon which further studies in manufacturing might rest. Students will explore basic manufacturing materials and processes, tools, techniques, and produce some simple products.
- **Aviation Installation and Modification:** Aircraft Manufacturing Technology is designed to teach basic skills in aircraft completion. The program includes instruction in learning to read blueprints that detail the aircraft interior and are used as a guide for installing and finishing the aircraft interior. The main components of the training are cabinetry, sheet metal work, and upholstery. Students also receive fundamental instruction in the basic electrical, water, wiring, hydraulic and pneumatic systems of the aircraft as it relates to completion of the interior.
- **Natural Resource/Environmental Service Systems:** This program area explores natural resources (soil, water, air, forests, energy, minerals and metals, and wildlife) and develops the knowledge and skills to use them wisely. Other issues include outdoor recreation, careers, and the environment.

“Students will find that the careers they train for in the STEM programs of study have a high growth potential and will be in high demand,” said DWE Career and Technical Education Division Deputy Director John Davidson. “We really believe, through STEM training, students will be easily able to find employment in this time of economic difficulty.”

DWE New Start-Up Grants also funded the creation of brand new programs of study including Renewable Energy, Advanced Manufacturing and Teaching and Training. Teaching and Training is designed to provide students with knowledge that will help prepare them as future teachers. Upon completion of this course, a student should have a better understanding of the role of the teacher in the profession, understand developmental characteristics of learners, identify teaching strategies, be creative in lesson delivery, and understand historical and current educational issues, policies, and practices.

“Governor Mike Beebe has been quoted as saying that we live in a world where we compete not only with our neighboring states for the best jobs, but also with countries overseas, and if we want to survive in the global marketplace, we must be fully prepared to fill the jobs of the 21st century,” said DWE Director William L “Bill” Walker, Jr. “The only way for our state to remain competitive is to ensure that more Arkansans have a better education for a better quality of life.”

“We, at the Department of Workforce Education, are very proud to award these various start-up grants each year to help schools throughout Arkansas purchase equipment for the creation of new, and the significant expansion of existing Career and Technical Education programs.”

It is only through education and creating new, vital and necessary courses and programs of study that Arkansas can ensure more students in our state will have access to high-skill, high-demand and high-wage employment. Our citizens can then be competitive among not only other states in the nation, but other countries around the world,” Walker added.

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

School	Program of Study/Course Name	Grant Amount
Argenta Academy (N Little Rock)	Jobs for Arkansas’s Graduates	\$15,491.25

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School	Program of Study/Course Name	Grant Amount
Arkadelphia High School	Banking	\$32,725.00
Arkadelphia High School	Web Design & Production	\$49,193.75
Arkadelphia High School	Teaching & Training	\$26,562.50
Ark. NE College Tech Center	Renewable Energy	\$127,500.00
Ashdown High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Benton High School	Child Care Guidance, Management & Services	\$21,717.50
Bergman High School	Career Communications – Audio & Video Technology	\$35,317.50
Bergman High School	Teaching & Training	\$24,777.50
Bigelow High School	Digital Communications	\$60,243.75
Blytheville Charter School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Booneville High School	Natural Resources/Environmental Science Systems	\$68,000.00
Bryant High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Carlisle High School	Medical Professions Education	\$38,960.60
Cedar Ridge High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Central High School (West Helena)	Banking	\$39,312.50
Clary Academy	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Cross County High School	Career Communications – Audio & Video Technology	\$27,948.00
DeQueen/Mena Tech Ed Ctr	Aviation Installation & Modification	\$53,432.70
Dierks High School	EAST/Workforce Technology	\$12,750.00
Dumas High School	Hospitality	\$26,137.50
East Arkansas Secondary Ctr	Renewable Energy	\$127,500.00
El Dorado High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Elkins High School	Banking	\$32,725.00
Felder Alternative Acad. (LR)	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Fouke High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Gravette High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Hackett High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Hamburg High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Hamilton Learning Acad. (LR)	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Hartford High School	Digital Communications	\$49,193.75
Heber Springs High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Hot Springs High School	EAST/Workforce Technology	\$12,750.00
Izard Co. Cons. High School	Digital Communications	\$49,193.75
Jessieville High School	EAST/Workforce Technology	\$12,750.00
Jessieville High School	Digital Communications	\$49,193.75
Jessieville High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Kirby High School	Digital Communications	\$49,193.75
Lake Hamilton Middle School	Keyboarding	\$39,312.50
Lakeside HS (Chicot Co.)	Hospitality	\$32,725.00
Lakeside HS (Garland Co.)	Child Care Guidance, Management & Services	\$21,717.50
Lakeside HS (Garland Co.)	Teaching & Training	\$24,905.00
Lavaca High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
JD Leftwich HS (Magazine)	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Lincoln High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Malvern High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Mansfield Middle School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Mid-South Comm Coll Tech Center	Machine Tool Technology	\$11,475.00
Mid-South Comm Coll Tech Center	Renewable Energy	\$127,500.00
Mid-South Comm Coll Tech Center	Warehousing & Distribution Center Operations	\$63,750.00
Monticello High School	Management	\$26,137.50
Mulberry High School	Teaching & Training	\$20,655.00
Murfreesboro High School	Digital Communications	\$60,243.75
New Horizons Alt. Learn. Acad (Batesville)	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Nemo Vista High School	Animal Systems	\$12,027.50
Osceola High School	Biological Plant Science	\$48,399.00
Paris High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Paris High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Pea Ridge High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Pea Ridge High School	Teaching & Training	\$20,655.00

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School	Program of Study/Course Name	Grant Amount
Phillips Comm Coll Career/Tech Ctr (DeWitt)	Renewable Energy	\$127,500.00
Phillips Comm Coll Career/Tech Ctr (Helena)	Advanced Manufacturing	\$114,750.00
Phillips Comm Coll Career/Tech Ctr (Stuttgart)	Advanced Manufacturing	\$114,750.00
Piggott High School	Teaching & Training	\$23,247.50
Pottsville High School	Internship	\$13,515.00
Pottsville High School	Teaching & Training	\$15,045.00
Ramay Jr. High (Fayetteville)	Pre-Engineering	\$94,872.75
Rison High School	Banking	\$32,725.00
Rogers Heritage High School	Drafting & Design – Engineering CADD	\$64,090.00
Rose Bud High School	EAST/Workforce Technology	\$17,000.00
Rose Bud High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Russellville High School	Pre-Engineering	\$94,872.75
Shirley High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
St. Joe High School	Digital Communications	\$39,291.25
Star City High School	Animal Systems	\$12,027.50
Strong High School	Construction Technology	\$21,717.50
Success Achievement Academy (Jonesboro)	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Valley Springs High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25
Valley Springs High School	Internship	\$13,515.00
Valley View High School	Consumer Services	\$32,300.00
Van Cove High School	Teaching & Training	\$20,612.50
SEACBEA (Warren)	Computer Engineering	\$44,786.50
White Co. Central High School	Teaching & Training	\$19,677.50
Wonderview High School	Animal Systems	\$12,027.50
Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	Pre-Engineering	\$94,872.75
Yellville-Summit High School	Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates	\$15,491.25