



Arkansas' Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™)

OVERVIEW:

WAGE™ is a job readiness program for unemployed and underemployed adults within the Division of Workforce Services, Adult Education Section. The program is administered at adult education centers across the state. WAGE™ is unique from other career readiness programs in that it focuses on improving the academic basic skills of participants while providing workforce preparation and workforce training activities. With the needs of business and industry at its core, WAGE™ addresses the requirement for a competent workforce among entry level jobs in environments ranging from manufacturing to health care to hospitality and tourism. Participants can earn a Level I and Level II WAGE™ Certificate by completing the requirements of each module.

WAGE™ LEVEL I CERTIFICATE:

The Level I WAGE™ Certificate is designed to prepare adult learners with the essential soft skills needed in today's workforce. A **Career Coach** works with participants to explore interests through a career assessment, apply employability skills that address competencies in the areas of applied knowledge, effective relationships, and workplace skills, and help with the transition into post-secondary education or training programs or the workforce. **Adult Education teachers** provide academic instruction as well as integrate financial literacy and digital literacy into the classroom. Completing the WAGE™ Level I Certificate gives participants the skills needed to attain and retain employment.

WAGE™ LEVEL II CERTIFICATE:

The Level II WAGE™ Certificate is designed to support adult learners in choosing a career path within the 16 career clusters. The Adult Education Section's first phase of career clusters, which are based on high demand industries in Arkansas, include *Business Management and Administration, Education and Training, Health Science, Hospitality and Tourism, Information Technology, and Manufacturing*. **Adult Education teachers** provide contextualized learning that enables participants to improve academic skills while learning about a specific career path related to their interest. Learners have an opportunity to earn job industry certifications in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid, Guest Service Gold®, IC3 Digital Literacy Certification, Forklift, National Career Readiness Certificate (DWS), OSHA-10, and ServSafe related to a specific career cluster. **Career Coaches** assist participants in finding employment and/or enrolling in postsecondary education or training programs.

