

## Report of Reports August 2017

2016 Economic Security Report, Employment and Earnings Outcomes of Arkansas's Graduates from State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education. Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, 2016. <https://www.dws.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Act-852-Economic-Security-Report.pdf>

This annual report, as required by Act 852 of 2015, uses data available to the DWS and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to provide earnings information for Arkansas degree and certificate programs, average student loan debt by degree or certificate program, and employment rates for graduates in the year after they complete their certificate or degree program. The report provides students, parents, and others with employment, earnings, and other outcome information on graduates of Arkansas's state-supported institutions of higher education. This report is intended to help readers make informed decisions about education and career choices.

2017 Arkansas Economic Overview. Arkansas Economic Development Commission, 2017.

Economic overview of Arkansas including infrastructure, workforce, education, incentives, business finance, and taxation. [Not available via link. See attached report.]

The executive report includes up-to-date statewide data in a quick read with helpful infographics. The report includes an overview of the state's geography, population, cost of living, climate, natural resources, principal industries and more.

### Arkansas Labor Market Information [All reports]

<http://www.discover.arkansas.gov/Publications/PublicationsContainer/category/labor-market-information>

2016 Arkansas Labor Market and Economic Report. Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, September 29, 2016.

<http://www.discover.arkansas.gov/Portals/136/Publications/Economic%20Report%20-%20OCI/Economic%20Report.pdf>

An annual publication providing relevant information about the economy and workforce in Arkansas and the 10 Workforce Development Areas.

Projected Employment Opportunities List for 2017-2018. Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, June 28, 2017.

[http://arlni.mt.gov/Portals/136/Publications/Projected%20Employment%20Opportunities%20List/Projected\\_Employment\\_Opportunities\\_List.pdf](http://arlni.mt.gov/Portals/136/Publications/Projected%20Employment%20Opportunities%20List/Projected_Employment_Opportunities_List.pdf)

The Projected Employment Opportunities List contains information on occupations and training programs. Please Note: An occupation is considered to be in demand in a Local Workforce Development Area if it is on the State list or the local area list. More detail and the methodology are included in the publication.

### Arkansas Workforce Development Board

<https://www.dws.arkansas.gov/workforce-innovation/>

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. Congress passed the Act by a wide bipartisan majority; it is the first legislative reform of the

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public workforce system in more than 15 years. Every year the key programs that form the pillars of WIOA help tens of millions of job seekers and workers nationwide to connect to good jobs and acquire the skills and credentials needed to obtain them.

Arkansas Workforce Innovation Act (WIOA) Plans, Reports and Information

<https://www.dws.arkansas.gov/workforce-innovation/wioa-plans-annual-reports-and-more-information/#toggle-id-1>

Career and Technical Education in High School: Does it Improve Student Outcomes?, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Shaun Dougherty, Ed.D., April 2016.

<https://edexcellence.net/publications/career-and-technical-education-in-high-school-does-it-improve-student-outcomes>

Dr. Dougherty coordinated with the Arkansas Research Center to access and analyze their database, which combines secondary, postsecondary, and labor market information. Overall, this study adds to the growing body of evidence on the impact of high school CTE.

Career and Technical Education in Arkansas's K-12 Schools. Research Report, Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research, July 19, 2016.

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2015/Meeting%20Attachments/410/I14552/Career%20and%20Technical%20Education%20in%20Arkansas's%20K-12%20Schools.pdf>

Arkansas law asserts that “A rigorous career and technical education program of study that links secondary education and postsecondary education and combines academic and technical education in a structured sequence of courses that progresses from broad foundation skills to occupationally specific courses shall be made available” (§ 6-5-1002(b)(1)). To this end, the Bureau of Legislative Research examined career and technical education (CTE) in the state’s public K-12 schools as part of the 2016 adequacy study. The statute identifying what must be examined in the adequacy study (§ 10-3-2102) does not specifically require analysis on career and technical education. However, a report on career and technical education was requested by Education Committee members. The BLR provides this document in fulfillment of that request. This report examines the governance of CTE, the state CTE requirements for students and districts, the courses available through CTE and how CTE is funded and delivered in Arkansas.

The Condition of Participation, Outcomes, Expenditures and Funding of Secondary Career Centers in Arkansas. Shaun Daughtery, Ed.D., March 2017. [To be released in September 2017]

This report summarizes analysis of student-level and budget data for secondary career centers in Arkansas. The purpose of the report is to shed light on what programs students participate in when attending technical centers, and how their participation may relate to high school, postsecondary, and early labor market outcomes. In addition, the report uses original survey data from state directors of CTE from 23 states, to provide additional context for the state of funding secondary career centers (and CTE, in general) in Arkansas. The report also aims to examine the relative expenditures per secondary career center and consider whether funding mechanisms are consistent with established policy, as well as the range of costs associated with similar programs across different locations in the state.

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### Regional Workforce Grants, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Passed into law in 2015, the Workforce Initiative Act Regional Workforce Grant Program seeks to create a statewide, comprehensive structure enabling students in Arkansas universities, community colleges and secondary centers to participate in career and technical education programs developed with input from area employers. The General Assembly found that for Arkansas to compete with an aggressive and effective 21 century economic development strategy, we must start by properly evaluating and addressing the workforce education needs of our state. The proper coordination of secondary and post- secondary education, including career and technical programs, is essential for creating a successful economic climate in Arkansas. Additionally, preparing and encouraging Arkansans to pursue high-demand jobs, including but not limited to, those stemming from industry recognized credentials, career and technical certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees is essential to building a skilled and employment-ready workforce. Programs offering short-term career and technical training, as well as, those producing Certificates of Proficiency, Technical Certificates, Associate of Applied Science, or similar degrees, and Bachelor of Applied Science, or similar degrees, are critical to the success of Arkansas' economic development.

#### Planning Grant Awards

<http://www.adhe.edu/institutions/regional-workforce-grants/regional-workforce-grant-awards/>

#### Implementation Grant Awards

<http://www.adhe.edu/institutions/regional-workforce-grants/regional-workforce-planning-grant-awards/>

### Workforce Training Grants, Office of Skills Development, Arkansas Department of Career Education

<http://arcareereducation.org/about/skills-development/skills-development-grants>

The Office of Skills Development, created by Act 892 of 2015, is responsible for aligning career and technical programs with the skills needed by business and industry. In addition, the Workforce Training Grants support the development of the Arkansas workforce by strategically investing in training programs that are prioritized by employer needs and economic impact. Both businesses and non-profit entities are eligible to apply.

### Workforce Training Initiative, Agency Survey Report. Bureau of Legislative Research, September 2014.

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/bureau/Publications/Workforce%20Training%20Agency%20Report.pdf>

### Workforce Training Initiative, Higher Education Survey Report, 2 Year Colleges. Bureau of Legislative Research, September 2014.

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/bureau/Publications/Workforce%20Training%202%20Year%20Colleges%20Report.pdf>

### Workforce Training Initiative, Higher Education Survey Report, 4 Year Universities. Bureau of Legislative Research, September 2014.

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/bureau/Publications/Workforce%20Training%204%20Year%20Universities%20Report.pdf>