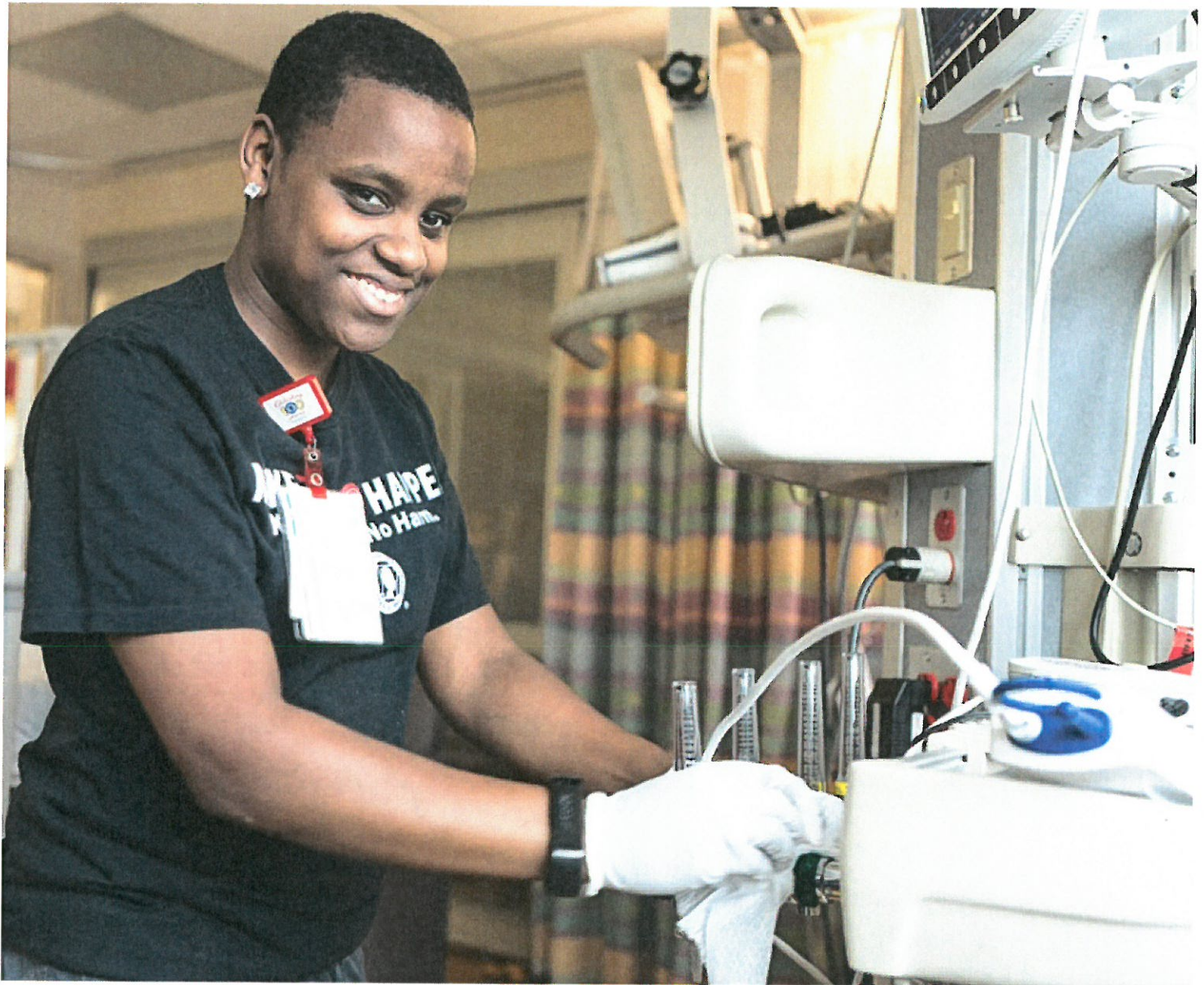


Job Ready **September 2017**

A Publication of the Arkansas Department of Career Education



**Arkansas ranked #1
in disability employment**



On the cover

Sandi Wright, a 2017 Arkansas Children's Hospital Project SEARCH® graduate, is a Patient Care Technician for the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

The ACH Project SEARCH® site was developed in full partnership between ACH, ACCESS Group, Inc. and ARS. It is a nine-month innovative job training program for young adults with disabilities.

More about Arkansas ranking #1 in disability employment on Page 4-5.

Job Ready

September 2017

A public information publication of the Arkansas Department of Career Education.

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Career Education

Adult Education
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
Career & Technical Education
Office of Skills Development

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Upcoming Events

Sept. 4, 2017

Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day, all state offices will be closed.

Sept. 12, 2017

Career Education and Workforce Development Board Meeting

525 W. Capitol Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201
1:30 p.m.

Sept. 21, 2017

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

525 W. Capitol Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201
10:00 a.m.

Sept. 27, 2017

Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission (AKDC Board)

525 W. Capitol Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201
12:00 p.m.

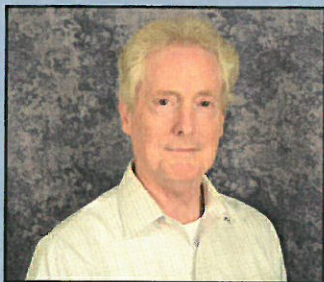
Around the Agency OSD welcomes new Deputy Director

Cody Waits has been selected Deputy Director of the Office of Skills Development. He assumed this role in July.



From the Board: Board Welcomes Newest Memeber

Steve Percival is the newest member of the Career Education & Workforce Development Board. Percival is the Senior Project Manger for the Partnership for a Healthy Arkansas and a Managing Director with Grandslam Performance Associates. Percival replaces Michael Lindsey, whose term expired in June.



Commissioner's Update

I am pleased to be able to say that Arkansas has recently been ranked the number one state for disability employment by *U.S. News & World Report*. Every day the team at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services works diligently to serve our clients. This dedication to the people we serve and to the goal of helping them go to work is evident in our outcomes. I am very proud of all of our accomplishments and to have Arkansas ranked as the top state is a testament to everything we do.

We are fortunate to have many providers and other state agency partners here in the state who are dedicated to helping those Arkansans with disabilities received the necessary training and supports to go to work. This collaborative effort is critical to building upon this success.

Of course, this achievement would not be possible without also having the support of the many Arkansas businesses that see the abilities of our



D. Alan McClain

clients and the contribution they make to the state's workforce.

We don't do this work for accolades, but it is nice to see our efforts are making a difference in the lives of Arkansans.

The ARS Business Engagement Team along with Access & Accommodations Division stands ready to partner with business and industry throughout the state to promote hiring and retention of individuals with disabilities. I encourage anybody needing more information about ARS resources to contact me at 501-296-1616, or email me at alan.mcclain@arkansas.gov.

Program Spotlight: Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

The mission of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) Division is to empower clients to become employed. Earning a living is a basic right and is valuable for both the individual and the community. A person with a disability faces barriers in various life activities that include the opportunities to train for, locate, and/or keep a job.

The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division helps individuals overcome those obsacles by focusing on ABILITY rather than DISABILITY. It is good business for everyone. For every dollar spent in Arkansas on Vocational Rehabilitation, roughly seven dollars is returned to the state's economy.

With 19 offices statewide, ARS has counselors who serve each of the state's 75 counties. Counselors work out of regional offices and travel to specific locations in the counties they serve on a regular schedule to assure better accessibility of our services.

Arkansans with disabilities may also qualify to attend the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), which is one of eight comprehensive vocational rehabilitation centers in the United States. Students are referred to the Hot Springs facility for evaluation and placement by vocational rehabilitation counselors. Once enrolled, students have access to vocational training and medical services.



Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Arkansas ranked #1 in disability employment

US. News & World Report has identified Arkansas as the top state for people with disabilities to become employed.

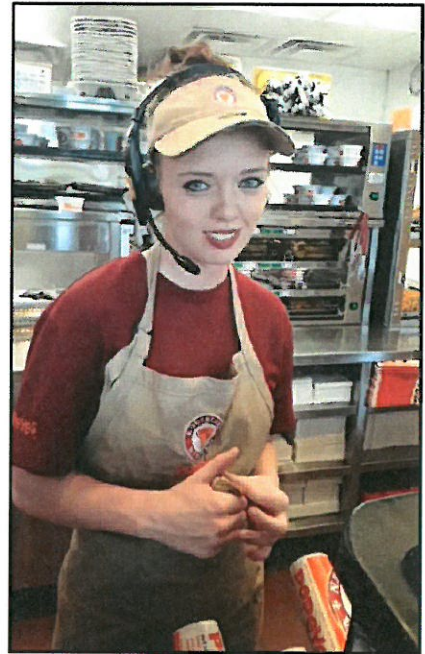
The publication compiled the ranking by calculating the ratio of people in the workforce with a disability over people in the workforce without a disability. The distinction follows the 27th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, created to eliminate discrimination and to foster equal opportunity for people with disabilities in every aspect of life. The law outright prohibits discrimination in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, and transportation.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS), a division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education, is charged with preparing Arkansans with disabilities to work and lead independent lives. With 19 field offices throughout the state, the agency provides Arkansans with disabilities with assessments, career planning, and job placement opportunities so clients can care for themselves and their families. The Arkansas Career Training Institute, located in Hot Springs, is a 24-hour rehabilitation center where students receive vocational training and certification in programs like welding, cosmetology, and culinary arts.

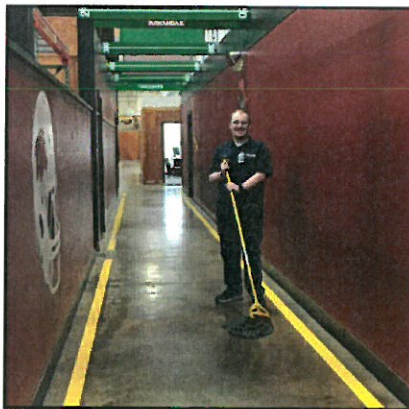
"I am very proud to see Arkansas take the top spot in this report," said Governor Asa Hutchinson. "This is a result of a concentrated effort by the state to employ Arkansans with a broad-

range of abilities, talents, and skills that help strengthen our state's workforce. It is very encouraging to see our state agencies, disability service providers, and employers working together to have such a significant impact," Hutchinson said.

"We are proud of this distinction," said Alan McClain, Commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. "This is a result of the hard work from our entire ARS team, along with dedicated disability service providers throughout the state, who have made it their mission to see that individuals with disabilities find employment. Additionally, this reflects that Arkansas employers recognize the value that individuals of many different abilities bring to a productive and skilled workforce," he added.



Aubrey Wilhite, a 2017 UAMS Project SEARCH® graduate, is employed at Popeyes.



Tony Vittitow, a 2017 UAMS Project SEARCH® graduate, is employed at Dillard's Distribution Center. The UAMS Project SEARCH® site was developed in full partnership between UAMS, ACCESS Group, Inc., and ARS, a division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education. It is a nine-month innovative job training program for young adults with disabilities.



Will Lowry, a graduate of ACTI's Culinary Arts program, is now an Executive Chef for Little Red Restaurant in Fairfield Bay. Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) provides vocational training and employment opportunities to adult clients with disabilities.



Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Arkansas ranked #1 in disability employment



Former ARS Client Brent Dvorak is an Utility Clerk for Sedexo at CHI St. Vincent Nutritional Services.



Caitlynn Simpson, a 2017 UAMS Project SEARCH® graduate, is employed at ACCESS School.



William Stevens, a 2017 UAMS Project SEARCH® graduate, is employed at the Arkansas Department of Career Education.



Matthew Prickett, a 2017 UAMS Project SEARCH® graduate, works at Edward's Food Giant. The UAMS Project SEARCH® site was developed in full partnership between UAMS, ACCESS Group, Inc., and ARS, a division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education. It is a nine-month innovative job training program for young adults with disabilities.



Former ARS Client Iris Moore is employed at the Salvation Army.





AR CAREER ED AROUND THE STATE

Little Rock



Career Education and Workforce Development Board Member Keith Vire receives the first ever Service Recognition Award from the Arkansas Waiver Association (AWA). The Service Recognition Award is an award created to honor Dr. Vire for his many years of service fighting for the rights of people with disabilities. The AWA is an association of advocates, persons with developmental disabilities, their families and the professionals who work in the field. Their mission is to promote quality, integrated supports.

Greenwood



Greenwood High School is offering drone classes for the first time. There are many career options for drone operators and due to the skill necessary to build a drone there is a heightened interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs. To read more: <http://www.greenwooddemocrat.com/news/20170809/ghs-to-offer-drone-classes>

Little Rock



Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Alan McClain was on KARN News Radio to answer questions regarding the agency and to announce how Arkansas ranked number one by *U.S. News & World Reports* for people with disabilities to become employed.

Little Rock



ARCareerEd Assistant Communications Director Chip McAfee was on Power 92 Jams with Broadway Joe talking about the Career Expo sponsored by the agency.

Hot Springs



CVS Health partnered with the Arkansas Career Training Institute and seven other Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Centers to develop and provide retail training and establish a talent pipeline for their pharmacies. This program has three primary components: one week of comprehensive retail sales and corporate culture training, two weeks of hands-on learning at a mock store (located on the ACTI campus and furnished by CVS Health), followed by a 6-week externship with CVS at one of their locations in the state. Initial classes will have six students per class, but there are plans to expand this in the future. Training will begin in early September.



Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Business Engagement through collaboration

To foster increased collaboration between the ARS' Business Engagement (BE) team and Field Services, Business Engagement Manager Rodney Chandler and Chief of Field Services Carl Daughtery planned a joint meeting.

Chandler and Daughtery invited a group of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselors to the Business Engagement monthly staff meeting to share ideas, provide feedback and discuss ways to expand use of Labor Market Information (LMI) to increase client outcomes along with meeting the needs of businesses.

LMI is data that represents the current job market and projected skills needed for in-demand jobs. The collaborative approach between VR counselors and BE representatives relies on LMI to help VR clients plan a career pathway based on employer demand in his/her geographical area.

Though the O*Net is the typical LMI tool in use now, a new LMI resource called the Career Plus Index (www.thecareerindex.com) is a VR counselor-driven tool designed to provide detailed information on various occupations. The CPI was discussed as a more detailed resource for informing the client, developing a stronger IEP, choosing training, and securing employment.

Paula Pottenger, University of Arkansas Organizational Development Specialist, introduced the Career Plus Index as the only major national job aggregator that allows searches by O*Net code. The CPI has advanced features to support counselor casework and synthesizes "real time job listings" from state job banks, all major job boards, regional and local job boards, and corporate web sites.

"The CIP is a good tool for business engagement and VR counselors to align around the client," Pottenger said. "It gives us a more realistic view of what to expect from a chosen occupation, breaking it down into percentages and detail."

The joint Business Engagement staff meeting promoted open dialogue between ARS' VR counselors and Business Engagement staff. "We are looking forward to increased collaboration and the sharing of labor market information to influence the future of job training and meeting employer needs," Chandler said.



Jeanne Miller of UA Currents: "We want to do what makes good business sense."



Paula Pottenger discusses the Career Plus Index as a tool for BE and VR to align around the client.



VR counselor Lisa Wilson (Conway) cites the need to measure employer engagement of CRPs.



BER Stephanie Bennet (Hot Springs) suggests a CPI tab for interpreter services.



VR Counselor Keondra Hampton and BER Clara Taylor share clients in the NLR/Lonoke office.



Career & Technical Education

Lt. Gov. Griffin touts STEM

As seen in *The Hot Springs Sentinel-Record* written by Jay Bell.

Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin endorsed the principles of career and technical education Tuesday to state educators and promoted the Million Women Mentors effort to encourage more female students to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Arkansas Association for Career and Technical Education held its 87th annual Summer Conference Sunday through Tuesday [July 30-August 1] at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The event was sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Career Education, as well as Edmentum and the Innovative Strategies Group.

Meetings began on Sunday and sessions were held throughout the day on Monday. Another round of meetings was held Tuesday morning before the closing session in Horner Hall.

Griffin was invited to the conference as the keynote speaker for the closing session. He was elected in 2014 after serving for four years in the U.S. House of Representatives for Arkansas' 2nd Congressional District.

"Thank you for what you do," Griffin said. "You are so critical to what is going on in this state right now."

Griffin said career and technical educators have always been important, but their role is even more crucial now as the state works to attract companies to Arkansas and provide jobs for

the state's workers. He stressed the positive benefits of starting students on career paths in middle school or high school instead of waiting until after they graduate.

Workforce capabilities is a factor companies consider when they decide where to locate. Griffin said the state works with companies to fill their employer needs as they weigh other factors, such as regulations and tax policies.

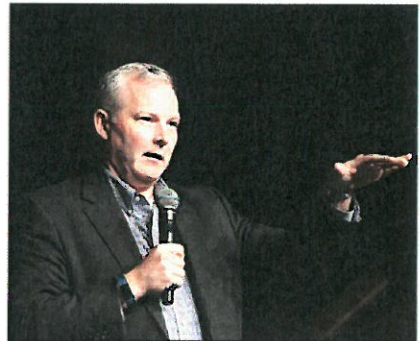
Griffin said he focuses more on the areas of STEM education instead of the levels of attainment. He said workers can find high-paying careers in STEM fields with a variety of certifications and diplomas.

"I am all for education, but we have got to recognize -- and we are doing a better job, I think, of this -- that it's not one-size-fits-all for education," Griffin said. "Some people want to go to a four-year college, some people need to go to a four-year college and some people don't."

About 45 percent of male high school graduates indicate they have interest in STEM careers. Less than 15 percent of female graduates indicate interests in STEM.

Griffin said the matter is a national issue and not limited to Arkansas. He said an emphasis must be placed on attracting young female students to STEM fields.

"It is a much easier lift if you start early and you hit young people who are driving their own passion, instead of you trying to convince somebody my age to get interested in STEM," Griffin said.



The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen
STEPS FOR STEM: Arkansas Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin discussed the importance of STEM education and the Million Women Mentors movement Tuesday in Horner Hall as the keynote speaker for the closing session of the Arkansas Association for Career and Technical Education 87th annual Summer Conference at the Hot Springs Convention Center.

Griffin spoke almost a year ago at National Park College for the local launch of the Million Women Mentors, an initiative of STEMconnector in collaboration with more than 60 partners, 45 corporate sponsors and 35 state leadership teams. Organizers are working to reach more than 30 million girls and women to increase the percentage of young women who pursue STEM education, programs and careers.

Wal-Mart previously pledged to work with 5,000 mentees in Arkansas by 2018. One million male and female mentors are being sought to connect with female students.

A 52-week curriculum was developed to prepare mentors. Registration is available online at <https://www.millionwomenmentors.com/>.



Career & Technical Education

Arkansas ACTE takes over Hot Springs

Career and Technical Education teachers and professionals from all across the state descended on Hot Springs for the 87th Annual ACTE Conference. This year's theme was "All Systems Go: Real Partners, Real Plans, Real Progress." Conference participants celebrated the growing role that CTE is playing in preparing students for opportunities with business and industry leaders.

"ARCCareerEd is proud to have outstanding educators to be recognized by ACTE," Deputy Director of Career and Technical Education Kathi Turner said. "Congratulations to winners and good luck as you move to the next round of competition!"

Below are the honorees who were recognized for their contributions to expanding and improving CTE. Not pictured are Jim Hendren, Policy Maker of the Year; Uvalde Lindsey, Policy Maker of the Year; and Justin Neel, New Teacher of the Year.



Arkansas State Senator Jane English (District 34-North Little Rock) is presented with the Policy Maker of the Year Award by Arkansas ACTE President Starlinda Sanders.



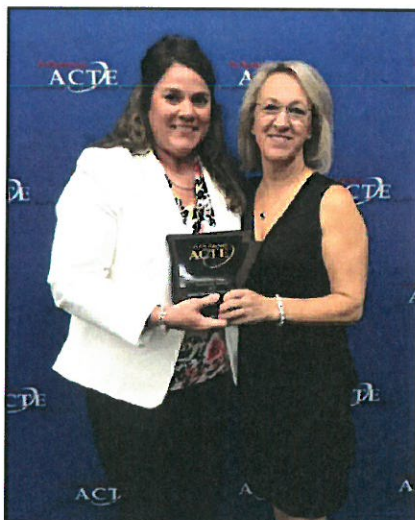
Arkansas State Representative Dan Douglas (District 91-Bentonville) is presented with the Policy Maker of the Year Award by Arkansas ACTE President Starlinda Sanders.



Micelle Camp is presented with the Teacher Educator of the Year Award by Arkansas ACTE President Starlinda Sanders.



Carolyn McNeely is presented with the Career Guidance Award by Arkansas ACTE President Starlinda Sanders.



Sherry Siler is presented with the Carl Perkins Community Service Award by Arkansas ACTE President Starlinda Sanders.



Linda Bean is presented with the Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year Award by Arkansas ACTE President Starlinda Sanders.



Starlinda Sanders is presented with the Administrator of the Year Award by Ross White, former Arkansas ACTE President.



Job seekers connect with companies at Career Expo

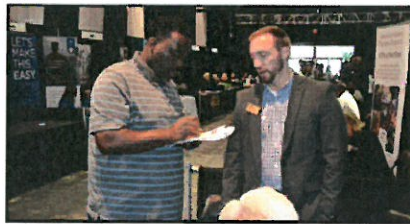
The Arkansas Department of Career Education held a Career Expo at the Metroplex on August 15. More than thirty companies were on hand to talk to job seekers about career opportunities. The agency also showcased the various services that are available for people with disabilities, adults in need of a GED, and job interview and career readiness tips.



Administrative Specialist Laura Thomas (left) and North Little Rock Field Counselor Marsha Hays (right) were happy to answer questions regarding the assistance that the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services offers to people with disabilities looking for a job.



Be Pro Be Proud brought their Workforce Workshop to the Career Expo. The Workforce Workshop is an interactive, informational mobile workshop.



Associate Commissioner for Access and Accommodations Nathan Winter (right) provided information about Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Stay At Work/Return To Work program.



Project Specialist Kimberly Freeman (right) conducted one of the several workshops that ARCareerEd provided about job-readiness.



Carlton Lawyer (right) represented the State Approving Agency for Veterans Training at the Career Expo.



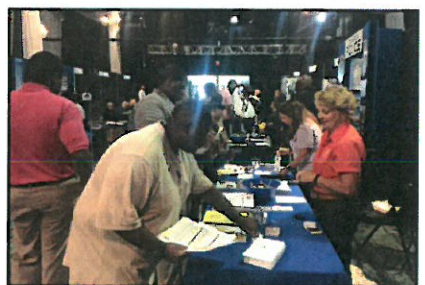
North Little Rock Field Counselor Lynda Olden (left) provided information to expo-goers.



DeCarlia Smith, ARS Human Resources Administrator, (right) sat with Career Expo goers and provided tips on their resume.



Local businesses were looking to recruit new employees.



Attendees filled out applications and spoke with hiring businesses.



Career Expo goers met with local businesses that are hiring.





Arkansas Department of
Career Education

Senior Management Team

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Lorna Claudio, Chief Financial Officer
Otis Dixon, Chief Information Officer
Chip McAfee, Assistant Director of Communications
DeCarla Smith, Human Resources Administrator
Richard Coleman, Personnel Manager
Don Bellock, Internal Auditor

Office of Skills Development

Cody Waits, Deputy Director
Stephanie Isaacs, Associate Director

Career & Technical Education

Kathi Turner, Deputy Director
Cheryl Wiedmaier, Ph.D., Associate Director
Sonja Wright-McMurray, Associate Director for Special Programs

Adult Education

Trenia Miles, Ed.D., Deputy Director
Bridget Bullard Criner, Associate Director

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

D. Alan McClain, Commissioner
Joseph Baxter, Deputy Commissioner
Carl Daughtery, Chief of Field Services/ Associate Commissioner
Jonathan Bibb, Administrator/Associate Commissioner, Arkansas Career Training Institute
James McCune, Chief Financial Officer
Nathan Winter, Associate Commissioner for Access & Accommodations
Robert Treviño, Associate Commissioner, Program, Planning Development & Evaluation

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Keith Vire, Fayetteville
Burton Wels, Fort Smith

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Paul Beran, Ph.D., Chancellor, UA Fort Smith
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ADULT EDUCATION

501-683-2341

GED®

501-682-1980

ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES

Arkansas Career Training Institute

501-624-4411

Field Services Offices

Batesville

870-793-4153

Benton

501-317-1390

Booneville

479-675-3835

Conway

501-730-9725

El Dorado

870-862-5451

Fayetteville

479-582-1286

Fort Smith

479-755-3300

Harrison

870-741-7153

Helena

870-338-2753

Hot Springs

501-623-4479

Jonesboro

870-972-0025

Little Rock

501-686-2800

Lonoke

501-676-4490

Monticello

870-367-9669

North Little Rock

501-833-1490

Pine Bluff

870-534-2404

Russellville

479-890-5751

Searcy

501-268-4542

Texarkana

870-773-2807

West Memphis

870-735-4725

Alternative Finance Program

501-296-1663

Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities

501-682-5317

Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission (AKDC)

501-686-2807

Assistive Technology at Work (AT@Work)

501-683-3009

Business Engagement

501-296-1659

Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN)

501-666-8868

Small Business Program

501-683-3582

Stay At Work/ Return To Work

501-683-6052

Services for the

Deaf & Hard of Hearing (SDHH)

501-686-2800

TAP (Telecommunications Access Program)

800-981-4463

Transition Services

501-682-5634

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

501-682-1040

Occupational Programs

Agricultural Science and Technology

501-682-2561

Business/Marketing Technology

501-682-1768

Family & Consumer Sciences Education

501-682-1115

Office of School Improvement

501-682-1616

Skilled and Technical Sciences

501-682-1271

State Approving Agency for Veterans Training and Education

501-324-9473

OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

501-683-1152

Apprenticeship

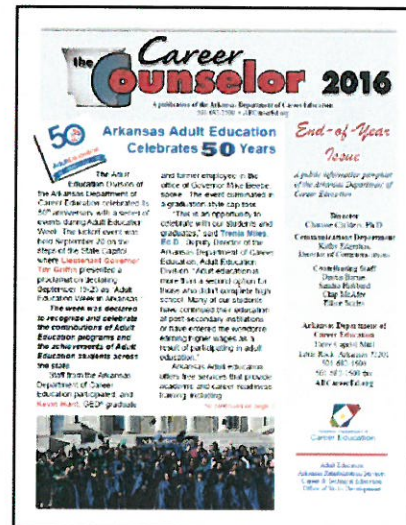
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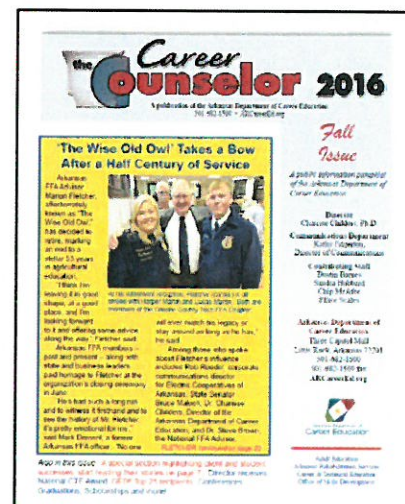
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Last Issue: August 2017



End-of-the-Year 2016



Fall 2016

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