

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 832

5 By: Senator L. Chesterfield  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE A CENTER FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION  
9 AND STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
10 PARTNERSHIPS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

12 TO CREATE A CENTER FOR WORKFORCE  
13 INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PUBLIC  
14 AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, is amended to add an  
22 additional subchapter to read as follows:

23 Subchapter 10 – Arkansas Center for Workforce Innovation and Strategic  
24 Economic Public-Private Partnership

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26 6-60-1001. Findings.

27 The General Assembly finds that the Arkansas workforce education  
28 programs should:

29 (1) Include a focus on creating a statewide culture of  
30 innovation, entrepreneurial activity, and economic growth;

31 (2) Prepare traditional and nontraditional Arkansas students to  
32 fill occupations in existing and emerging industries by strategically  
33 aligning business training and academic preparation to respond directly to  
34 the needs of employers in this state;

35 (3) Facilitate an accelerated approach to training and a job  
36 placement model that significantly increases the chances of graduates moving



1 immediately into the job market; and

2 (4) Respond directly to the needs of employers in this state.

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4 6-60-1002. Workforce Innovation and Strategic Economic Public-Private  
5 Partnership.

6 (a)(1) The Workforce Innovation and Strategic Economic Public-Private  
7 Partnership is created.

8 (2) The program shall be designed and administered by the  
9 Department of Higher Education.

10 (b) The program shall provide grants to an institution of higher  
11 education in this state to create and maintain a workforce innovation program  
12 that:

13 (1) Identifies and partners with a team of current and former  
14 business advisors who are knowledgeable concerning existing and emerging job  
15 markets;

16 (2) Focuses on economic growth through the fields of technology,  
17 science, healthcare, telecommunications, engineering, clean energy, and  
18 financial needs in the community;

19 (3) Provides traditional and nontraditional classes for workers,  
20 veterans, single mothers, under-employed citizens, and minorities, as well as  
21 individuals from economically depressed areas throughout the state; and

22 (4) Creates a combination of eight-to-twelve-week certificate  
23 programs, two-year degree programs, and four-year degree programs to meet the  
24 workforce innovation goals of this subchapter.

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26 6-60-1003. Workforce Innovation and Strategic Economic Public Private  
27 Partnership program requirements.

28 (a) A program under this subchapter shall:

29 (1) Establish certificate and degree programs to meet the  
30 workforce innovation goals of this subchapter;

31 (2) Employ an accelerated training approach; and

32 (3) Create and maintain public-private partnerships with  
33 government and business as a component of each program.

34 (b) A certificate program under this subchapter shall include without  
35 limitation training for a career as a:

36 (1) Customer service representative;

- 1           (2) Financial institution teller;
- 2           (3) Medical assistant;
- 3           (4) Nursing Assistant;
- 4           (5) Occupational Therapist; and
- 5           (6) Technical Service Representative.

6           (c) A two-year degree program under this subchapter shall include  
 7 without limitation training for a career as a:

- 8           (1) Customer service representative;
- 9           (2) Medical Assistant;
- 10          (3) Nursing Assistant;
- 11          (4) Occupational Therapy;
- 12          (5) Pharmacy Technician;
- 13          (6) Physical Therapist; and
- 14          (7) Technical Service Representative.

15          (d) A four-year degree program under this subchapter shall include  
 16 without limitation training for a career in:

- 17          (1) Accounting;
- 18          (2) Banking;
- 19          (3) Computer science;
- 20          (4) Laboratory science;
- 21          (5) Network analysis;
- 22          (6) Network engineering;
- 23          (7) Nursing;
- 24          (8) Systems software; and
- 25          (9) Software engineering.

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 27          6-60-1004. Department of Higher Education – Grants.

28          (a) The Department of Higher Education shall adopt rules to implement  
 29 the grant program created in this subchapter.

30          (b) Rules adopted under this subchapter shall require that an  
 31 application for a grant award under this subchapter shall include without  
 32 limitation:

- 33          (1) Research-based analyses of the workforce demand gap  
 34 priorities for this states; and
- 35          (2) Methods for creating:  
 36                (A) Public and private support for the educational and

1 training needs of this state;

2 (B) Opportunities for traditional and nontraditional  
3 students to be matched with state employment needs;

4 (C) Training that is directly linked to improving the  
5 existing workforce; and

6 (D) Linkage between private industry and higher education  
7 in a workable partnership that benefits the economy of this state.

8 (c) The department shall award grants under this section.

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