

**DAY TWO**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015**

**8:30 a.m. Welcome**

Daryl Bassett, Director  
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

**8:45 a.m. Remarks from the U.S. Department of Labor**

Nicholas Lalpui, Regional Administrator  
United States Department of Labor  
Region IV Dallas Office

**9:30 a.m. What Do Employers Need from the Workforce Development System?**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act recognizes the need for the workforce development system to improve employer engagement by securing and sustaining strategic, long-term, and intensive partnerships with employers. Through this panel, hear directly from employers representing five different high demand industries about their expectations of the workforce development system in regard to skill needs of workers, job training, and finding the right workers for their businesses.

**Presenter/Facilitator:**

Gary Sams, Manager of Training and Governmental Affairs  
Green Bay Packaging - Arkansas Kraft Division  
Vice-Chair of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board

**Panelists:**

Gina Radke, President/CEO  
Galley Support Innovations  
Member of the Arkansas Career Education and  
Workforce Development Board

Curtis McFarland, Safety & Training Specialist  
J.R. Simplot Company

Learaya Cole, Human Resources Analyst  
FedEx Freight

Keith Clark, Manager  
Hibbett Sports

**10:45 a.m. Break**

**11:00 a.m. Partnership Opportunities with Registered Apprenticeship**

This session will cover some basic first steps in forming partnerships with Registered Apprenticeship programs located within your service area. Detailed information regarding pre-apprenticeship, connection with adult apprenticeship, and next steps will be discussed.

Karen Breashears, President  
National Apprenticeship Training Foundation  
Vice-President for the Arkansas Apprenticeship Coalition  
Member of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board

**11:50 a.m. Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

Daryl Bassett, Director  
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services



# INNOVATE

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



IMPLEMENTING WIOA IN ARKANSAS  
**PARTNERS' MEETING**

September 17-18, 2015

ASU Mid-South  
West Memphis, AR

[www.dws.arkansas.gov/wioa.htm](http://www.dws.arkansas.gov/wioa.htm)

# DAY ONE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

**8:30 a.m. Welcome**  
Cindy Varner, Assistant Director  
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Dave Brady, Executive Director  
Workforce Development Board of Eastern Arkansas

Dr. Debra West, Chancellor  
Arkansas State University Mid-South

**9:00 a.m. Status Update on Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in Arkansas**  
Cindy Varner, Assistant Director  
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Jonathan Bibb, Administrator  
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services--Arkansas Career Training Institute

Katy Morris, Director  
Department of Human Services--Division of Services for the Blind

**9:30 a.m. National Employment Team for Vocational Rehabilitation**  
The national network of the 80 public Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) programs supports a united approach to working with business customers through the National Employment Team or The NET. The NET supports a dual customer base, meeting the employment needs of business through qualified applicants and support services provided by the public VR system. Ms. West Evans will focus on The NET and establishing effective relationships with national business and industry partners.

Kathy West Evans, Director of Business Relations  
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m. Empowering Persons with Disabilities**

This session will focus on services and supports available in our State to empower Arkansans with disabilities to work and lead productive and independent lives. Representatives from the two vocational rehabilitation agencies will summarize services and focus on supports available through assistive technology.

Katy Morris, Director  
DHS-Division of Services for the Blind

Jonathan Bibb, Administrator  
ARS-Arkansas Career Training Institute

Elizabeth Whitaker, State Rehabilitation Technologist  
DHS-Division of Services for the Blind

Nathan Winters, Occupational Therapist  
Access and Accommodation  
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Gustavo Manzanales, Technology Specialist  
DHS-Division of Services for the Blind

**11:30 a.m. Partnerships to Career Pathways**  
This session will provide meeting participants with information on the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative framework, educational pathways, and the importance of partnerships.

Mark Lane, Program Specialist  
Career Pathways Initiative  
Arkansas Department of Higher Education

**12:00 p.m. Luncheon and Presentation**  
Senator Keith Ingram  
District 24 - West Memphis, Arkansas

**Workforce Education and Economic Development - The Inextricable Link!  
Coordinating Workforce Development, Education, and Economic Development Strategies**

Dr. Glen Fenter, President  
Greater Memphis Alliance for a Competitive Workforce

Prior to being selected to steer the Memphis & Shelby County Regional Economic Development Plan's lead initiative, Dr. Glen Fenter served as president of Mid-South Community College (now ASU Mid-South) since its inception in 1992. Dr. Fenter's vision of higher education is that it drives economic development--and he's been a highly successful catalyst for connecting education to employer skill requirements. Dr. Fenter has spearheaded numerous innovative training and regional economic development efforts resulting in national recognition. In 2013, Dr. Fenter earned recognition from Southern Business & Development magazine as one of "Ten People Who Made a Difference in the South." Dr. Fenter now heads up the Greater Memphis Alliance for a Competitive Workforce (GMACW) with intent to align training and education programs with employers' skill requirements.

**1:30 p.m. Coordinating Employer Engagement in Arkansas--Where Are We and Where Are We Going?**

Engaging business and industry is critical to helping connect all of our customers to quality training and job opportunities. This panel will provide information on the many facets of employer engagement that is already taking place in Arkansas and will be a catalyst for later discussion--both at the state and local level--about the opportunities for coordination of these activities.

Jay Bassett, Division Chief  
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Janie Wheeler, WIOA Administrator  
Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board

Rodney Chandler, Director  
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services  
Corporate Business Relations

Brian Rogers, Deputy Director  
Office of Skills Advancement  
Arkansas Department of Career Education

Runar Jensen, Area Manager  
DHS-Division of Services for the Blind

**2:45 p.m. Break**

**3:00 p.m. The Hidden Rules of Class at Work**

People from families who have lived in poverty for two or more generations often feel trapped in the daily struggle for survival and have never experienced the social and professional experiences generally associated with the middle class. The absence of this experience is often perceived as a lack of soft skills and can prevent talented and hard-working individuals from obtaining good paying jobs or from receiving promotions that help them move up the economic ladder. This workshop will review concepts presented in two books--*Bridges Out of Poverty* and *Understanding the Hidden Rules of Class at Work*--that will assist college career coaches or job placement staff in preparing students and adults for the world of work.

Monieca West, Program Manager  
Arkansas Department of Higher Education

**3:45 p.m. Tour of the Arkansas Workforce Center on the ASU Mid-South Campus**