

News 'n Views

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Arkansas Workforce Investment Board



GET IN THE GAME — Gov. Mike Beebe talks about the importance of small businesses at the Get in the Game Entrepreneurial Conference & Expo held recently at Alltel Arena in Little Rock. Around 600 people attended the event hosted by the Department of Workforce Services.

Entrepreneurial conference, expo draws 600 attendees

More than 600 people attended the Department of Workforce Services' Get in the Game Entrepreneurial Conference and Expo Nov. 20 at Alltel Arena.

The conference targeted Temporary Assistance for Needy Families clients, dislocated workers and those interested in either starting their own business or expanding an existing one.

"Arkansas' economy would not thrive without small businesses," said DWS Director Artee Williams. "Our goal with this conference was to provide the necessary informational tools to help Arkansans interested in starting their own businesses, which in turn, improves our economy."

Around 50 exhibitors, including the Small Business Administration, educa-

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Leadership class begins third term

Eighteen Department of Workforce Services and Arkansas Workforce Investment Board employees have been selected for the third DWS/AWIB Leadership Development Program.

The 18-month program consists of two-day classes every other month. Participants learn about agency programs and develop leadership skills.

In order to graduate, participants must complete a comprehensive project plan that will benefit the agency. Senior management has implemented many project plans from previous classes, and several graduates have received promotions.

Each member of the class is assigned a mentor from senior management or a previous graduate of the program who provides guidance and assistance as needed.

Two groups have already completed the

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Retirement doesn't mean relaxation

Family, hobbies and other activities keep DWS retirees busy

For many Department of Workforce Services retirees, relaxation isn't part of their vocabulary.

"Most people tell you that they're busier than when they worked," said Mary Clement, who worked in Payroll before retiring 20 years ago. "You often wonder, 'When did I ever have time to work?'"

Between 25 and 30 find time every other month, though, to meet for lunch to catch up and visit.

"I just want to see these folks," said Waymon Betterton, who retired in 1987 as a tax representative for the Fort Smith area. "I've known them forever."

Others, like Al Crumby, who retired as the Labor Market Information division chief earlier this year, echoes that sentiment.

"You like to keep in contact with the friends that you've made over the years," he said.

Since he retired, Crumby said his days are filled with one of three things: Razorbacks, golfing and the grandkids.

For many, family occupies most of their time. Peggy Kirkpatrick, who retired five years ago from Employment Assistance after 31 years, picks up her grandchildren every afternoon.

Besides grandchildren, others, like Fred Trowell, who retired from the Unemployment Insurance unit after 36-and-a-half years, have been busy with home improvement projects. Trowell said he completed several, including the addition of a fishpond at his home.

For Sharon Robinette, who retired

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DWS area, office managers named

Boylee Hamilton

Boylee Hamilton was recently named area operations chief over area five.

As AOC, he manages the DWS field operations for Central Arkansas, which includes Pulaski and Lonoke counties.

Hamilton recently supervised the Little Rock Transitional Employment Assistance and Work Pays office. Before starting with DWS, he worked for the Department of Human Services for 15 years, eight as a county administrator.

Hamilton has an undergraduate degree in social work and a master's in public administration. He completed the Arkansas Governmental Manager Program, is a Certified Public Manager and is a graduate of the DHS Leadership Program.

Hamilton serves as vice-president of the Arkansas Health Care Access Foundation's Board of Directors, is a board member for the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund and owns B. Todd Hamilton Photography.



Boylee Hamilton

Doyce Hill



Doyce Hill

Doyce Hill recently became the area operations chief for area one.

Hill oversees the daily operations of the Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Mena, Harrison, Mountain Home and Rogers offices.

"I look forward to working with the offices in my area as we continue to improve the services and programs that we administer to the citizens of Arkansas," Hill said.

Hill has worked for DWS for 33 years, beginning his career in 1975 as an intermittent interviewer. He also has been a program supervisor, satellite office supervisor and local office manager.

Hill graduated from Arkansas Tech University with a degree in business administration and a minor in economics. He also is a graduate of the Certified

Employment Manager Program.

He is a member of various civic organizations including the Rotary Club, Rogers and Bentonville Chambers of Commerce, and Northwest Arkansas Community College Advisory Board.

Jana Kindall

Jana Kindall was recently named the manager of the Harrison office.

As manager, Kindall manages staff and oversees the day-to-day operations of the Employment Services, Unemployment Insurance, Veterans and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs. She also is responsible for promoting the interests of local employers. The Harrison office provides services to Boone, Carroll, Marion, Newton and Searcy counties.

Kindall has worked for DWS for 28 years. Previously, she worked in Employment Services, Unemployment Insurance, Benefit Payment Control as a fraud investigator, UI Technical and was an Automated Adjudication System supervisor.

Kindall is a Certified Employment Manager and a graduate of the DWS Leadership Development Program.

"Those who know me know that I am big on quotes from my 84-year-old mother," Kindall said. "Treat people the way you would want to be treated, and remember, a smile goes a long way when things are tough."



Jana Kindall

Skeet Morse



Skeet Morse

Skeet Morse recently became the area operations chief for area two.

Morse oversees the Conway, Russellville, Hot Springs, Malvern, Benton and Arkadelphia offices.

He worked for DWS for 38 years before retiring earlier this year. He returned in September as an AOC. Prior to retirement, he served

as a UI program supervisor, co-project lead for the Arkline project, a UI field technician, manager of the Conway office and acting AOC.

Morse graduated from the University of Central Arkansas at Conway with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and is a Certified Employment Manager. He also was recognized as Employee of the Year.

Elizabeth Roberts

Elizabeth Roberts was recently named the manager of the Newport and Walnut Ridge offices.

She began working for DWS in 1975 after receiving a Bachelor of Science in Education. She also completed the Arkansas Governmental Manager Program.

Roberts began working in Employment Services and later transferred to Unemployment Insurance. In 2003, she transferred to the Non-Mon Unit and was promoted to Automated Adjudication System supervisor when the system went live in July 2005.

"I enjoyed working with the AAS staff and came to feel of them as an outstationed family," Roberts said. "I wish to take this feeling of teamwork forward into both the Newport and Walnut Ridge local offices for better service to our clients."



Elizabeth Roberts

Jeanette Williams



Jeanette Williams

Jeanette Williams recently became the area operations chief for area six.

Williams oversees the Searcy, West Memphis, Forrest City, Wynne, Marianna, and Helena-West Helena offices.

Williams has worked for DWS since 1975, starting as a Manpower specialist trainee. She later became a receptionist, interviewer and recently served as manager of the Searcy office.

She also is a Certified Employment Manager.

Leadership

program. The first class graduated in July 2006, and the second class graduated in June.

Those selected for the third class are Norma Gillerson, AWIB; Somer Faulkenberry, Appeal Tribunal; Earnest Sweat, Information Technology; Kasey Sexton, IT; Sam Bryant, Malvern; Charles Danner, Jacksonville; Jason Eason, Hot

Spring; Christy Fuerst, Mountain Home; Yiiko McDaniel, Jacksonville; Walter Zglweski, Hot Springs; Tyler Cain, Financial Management; James Jones, Logistics; Donna Holder, Benton; Kesha Rogers, Contributions; Stephanie Carlo, Employment Assistance; Carla Morris, EA; Rex Platt, EA; and Elroy Willoughby, EA.

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Arkansas Career Readiness Certificates

From Jan. 14 to Dec. 19, a total of **7,236** CRCs have been awarded.

- Gold: 1,801 or 25%
- Silver: 3,962 or 55%
- Bronze: 1,473 or 20%
- **Total: 7,236**

Workforce Investment Board hosts conference



AWIB CONFERENCE — The Little Rock ROTC Unit from Central High School presents the colors at the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board 2008 Conference held recently at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock while Carmen Edwards, the AWIB program director (background, center) sings the national anthem.

The Arkansas Workforce Investment Board hosted a conference October 29 to 30 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock.

More than 300 board members, business owners, Workforce Investment Act professionals and Department of Workforce Services employees attended the conference titled “Charting the Course: Navigating Education, Employment and Economic Development.”

“The conference was a benefit to our Local Workforce Investment Areas in terms of education and training,” said Kenneth Ferguson, the AWIB executive director. “It was a way for the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board to reach out across the state and work with the many workforce professionals who are actually on the battlefield of workforce development.”

Various exhibitors were on-hand to provide information about workforce-related services, and multiple workshops were held over the two-day event.

Several agency partners and businesses also were recognized for their commitment to workforce issues.



[PHOTO - LEFT] Dejanette Smith, the DWS manager at Forrest City (center), accepts an award from AWIB Chair Terrie Baker (left) and AWIB Executive Director Kenneth Ferguson (right) for Extraordinary Workforce Partner for Eastern Arkansas.



[PHOTO - RIGHT] Earl Clevenger, the DWS manager at Malvern (center), accepts an award from Baker (left) and Ferguson (right) for Extraordinary Workforce Partner for West Central Arkansas.

Conference

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tional institutions and successful entrepreneurs, provided information to attendees.

Various workshops providing information about business planning, financing, marketing, investments, taxes, insurance and workers’ compensation also were held throughout the day. In addition to the workshops and exhibitors, the Governor’s Dislocated Worker Task Force’s mobile computer lab was also available.

Because of its success, DWS plans to host the conference again in November 2009. It also will include Workforce Investment Act training and a job fair.

Other conference sponsors include the TANF program, the task force, Coulson Oil Company Inc., Sam’s Club, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas, Central Arkansas Water, AT&T, Waste Management, Coca-Cola, the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center, and North Point Toyota.



GET IN THE GAME — Jim Case, with the Employment Assistance unit, assists an attendee at the Get in the Game conference recently at Alltel Arena. DWS, which hosted the conference, was one of about 50 exhibitors.

NEWS across the state

BATESVILLE – The Batesville office welcomes Stephanie Baker and Teresa Staggs as new Transitional Employment Assistance case managers, Richard Smith as a Local Veterans' Employment Representative, and April Brooks as an interviewer.

CENTRAL OFFICE – Linda Harris, an Interstate interviewer, recently became a new grandmother. Coen James was born Oct. 9 in Little Rock to Harris' daughter Jamilyn Nobel and Nathaniel Nobel. Coen was 7 pounds, 12 ounces and 21.25 inches long.

Financial Management welcomes May Catherine Neal back. Neal, who works in Administrative Disbursements, returned after three years of retirement.

Jessica Moye, the daughter of Lynn Moye and Danny Moye, a systems coordination analyst in the Benefit Accuracy Measurement Unit, was recently named to the 2008 Class 3-A All State Volleyball Team. Jessica is a junior at Lutheran High School and is a three-year starter for the Lady Lions Volleyball team.

The Office of Information Services won the 2008 State Employees Coed Softball Tournament. The league is comprised of teams from state agencies including the Land Commission, Highway Department, University of Arkansas for Medical



GYMNASTICS CAMP – Hailey Maxey, the 9-year-old daughter of Christie Maxey, an Automated Adjudication specialist in Monticello, poses recently with Bela Karolyi, the coach of the U.S. Women's Gymnastic Team. Maxey spent six days at Karolyi's training camp in Huntsville, Texas.

Sciences, Department of Human Services, Arkansas State Hospital and Office of Information Services. DWS players on the OIS team included Sara Williford (Disbursements), first base; Danny Moye (BAM), left field; Elza Albert (Financial Management), right field; and John Krstolic (IT Support), designated hitter.

Rickey Nash, the son of Bonita Nash and Rick Nash in Imaging, was elected treasurer at his middle school, Covenant Keepers Charter School in Little Rock. Rickey is a sixth grader.

John Krstolic, who works in PC Support, recently took a three-week vacation to China. Krstolic and his wife visited Shanghai, Hangzhou and Xi'an.

CONWAY – Justin Phillips, the son of Cindy Phillips, a UI investigator in Conway, recently graduated from his military occupation specialty school. He is permanently stationed at Completon in Oceanside, CA.

FORREST CITY – The Forrest City office moved to a new location in November to better serve clients. The new address is 3105 N. Washington, Suite #2, Forrest City, AR 72335.

The Forrest City office welcomes Derrick Spearmon, an Employment Services interviewer I, and Versie Lee, a TEA case manager for the Marianna office.

MAGNOLIA – Christie Satterwhite, a Trade Adjustment Assistance technician in Magnolia, welcomes Kyler Dewayne Wheeler, who was born May 23 in Texarkana, Texas. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 inches long.

MONTICELLO – Vicki Ross, the Monticello manager, welcomes a new granddaughter. Halle Elizabeth Ross was born Nov. 3 to Zack and Jade Ross. Halle was 5 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches long.

The office welcomes Nancy Trantham, a document examiner for the TEA program.

RUSSELLVILLE – Ginny Kimball, a former DWS employee and the daughter of Glenda Kimball, an Automated Adjudication specialist in Russellville, married Walt Reding Nov. 28 at West Side Church of Christ in Russellville.



WEDDING – Jim Grant, the Maintenance supervisor in the Central Office (left), married Cheryl Grant (right) Oct. 25 at Community Christian Church in Sherwood.

The Arkansas Workforce Center at Russellville hosted a Veterans Appreciation Day for past and present members of the armed forces. All employees wore shirts with a Veterans Day theme. Roy Schultz, the director of the Veterans Employment & Training Services, presented letters of appreciation to Jean Nichols and Nona Vance, Workforce Center staff, for their support of the veterans program.

TEXARKANA – The Texarkana office in cooperation with Arkansas Rehab participated in a bi-state Disability Job Fair in September. Several employers and other supportive agencies participated. Also, the Hope and Texarkana offices teamed up to assist a company with a job fair. More than 800 people attended.

WALNUT RIDGE – The DWS office at Walnut Ridge participated in the Iron Mountain Festival recently in Walnut Ridge. Staff had a booth for children to paint a pumpkin picture. Winners received pumpkins decorated by office staff.

WYNNE – Amanda M. Marrs, an Employment Services interviewer at the Wynne office, and James D. Jefferson welcome Jayden Miles Jefferson, who was born Aug. 12 in Forrest City. He weighed 5 pounds, 7 ounces.

Death

Patricia Anaeki, 54, who worked in the Little Rock TEA and Work Pays office, died Sept. 2. Arrangements were handled by Griffin-Leggett Healey & Roth Funeral Home of Little Rock.

DWS hosts Community Day Events around state

The Department of Workforce Services recently hosted four Community Day Events around the state to provide information to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families clients, dislocated workers and

the general public about the services DWS and its partners offer.

Between 200 and 300 people attended each event held in North Little Rock, Pine Bluff, West Memphis and Bentonville.

Race for the Cure



[TOP PHOTO] DWS employees and family members pose for a photo at the Race for the Cure event held Oct. 11 in Little Rock. Thirty-eight DWS women and family members registered for the event held yearly to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research.



[PHOTO TO RIGHT] DWS senior managers pose for a photo at the race. Eight DWS men registered for the Three Miles of Men in support of the runners.

Retirements

- Jackie Starkey**, Manager I, Harrison, April 14
- Jesse James Jr.**, Interviewer II, Little Rock UI Operations, April 30
- Dorothea Mitchell**, Interviewer II, Searcy, April 30
- Donna Cook**, Systems Coordination Analyst II, Information Technology Administration, June 30
- Jerry Meeker**, Program Operations Manager, Unemployment Insurance, June 30
- Harold Lemons**, Area Operations Chief, June 30
- Hugh Havens**, Assistant Director, Unemployment Insurance, June 30
- Michael Scussel**, Attorney, Board of Review, July 18
- Don Davis**, Accounting Technician II, Employer Accounts, August 1
- John Wigley**, Field Tax Representative I, Collections, August 27
- Charlette Davis**, Management Project Analyst I, Appeal Tribunal, August 30
- Garry Jeffries**, Lead Programmer-Analyst, IT Project Management Office, Sept. 30
- Rosa Thomas**, Accounting Technician II, Administrative Disbursements, Sept. 30
- Sharon Gleason**, Interviewer II, Rogers, Sept. 30
- David Melugin**, Systems Coordination Analyst I, IT Support, Oct. 31
- Sherry Russell**, Manager I, Russellville, Nov. 30
- Margaret Wilson**, Interviewer II, Little Rock UI Operations, Nov. 30

Retirees

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two years ago as the assistant director for Labor Market Information & Analysis, church activities and educational classes are taking up a lot of her time.

Through the LifeQuest program, Robinette has taken classes such as genealogy and the Italian Renaissance.

"I knew I would have plenty to do, and, in fact, there's lots more to do than I thought," she said.

Cecil Malone, who retired as the assistant director of Unemployment Insurance, has found a second "career" as a volunteer. Malone volunteers for AARP Arkansas, operates a respite care program for adults each week and teaches a Sunday School lesson for those who are home-bound.

Although they miss their co-workers, many retirees stay so busy that they wouldn't think of coming back to work.

"No!" LC Qualls, who retired from Employment Assistance after 45-and-a-half years, said when asked if he would ever want to come back to work.

Like several others, Qualls has been busy with grandchildren and recovering from two knee surgeries.

"I'm still trying to figure out what to do with a day," he said.



RETIREES' LUNCHEON — Al Crumby (standing) talks with Bill Robins (left) and Bill Adams (far right) as John Nabors (center) listens. Retirees meet for lunch every other month.

The DWS retirees meet at 11 a.m. the third Wednesday every other month at Grandpa's Catfish on Stagecoach Road in southwest Little Rock. The next meeting

will be held in January. Other groups of retirees meet in other parts of the state.

For more information, contact Malone at (501) 666-7542.