The Little Rock, Pulaski County Special, North Little Rock, and Jacksonville/North Pulaski districts are joining in a cooperative effort to help prepare students for careers and higher education. The initiative is promoted by the Little Rock Regional Chamber to implement the Ford Next Generation Learning model of career academies in the four county districts.

Typically, a career academy combines traditional high school academies with project-based learning and real-world problem solving in different career fields such as medical professions, building trades, or the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Ford Next Generation Learning career academy model, currently operating in cities such as Nashville, TN, and Louisville, KY, has been successful in closing the achievement gap and preparing students for careers and college. Implementation of this ambitious, five-year, phase-in plan is set to start in the 2020-2021 school year.

Arkansas Well Represented in National Skilled Trade Contest

Two AR high school skilled trades teachers, representing Bentonville and Siloam Springs, have recently been named as semifinalists for the 2019 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence. These teachers, chosen from a field of 750 applicants, are competing for a share of $1 million in total cash awards. Click (here) for additional information on these outstanding teachers!

Jonesboro’s Summer Manufacturing Camp
TekStarz for 7th and 8th Grade Students

Since 2014, TekStarz, Jonesboro’s summer manufacturing camp, has exposed students to careers in manufacturing and engaged them in the manufacturing process. The program, facilitated by the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce and ASUN Jonesboro, also provides students with a broad overview of the industrial community in Jonesboro. Hytrol offers workshops and tours to students in the camp. The camp helps to ensure the future success of manufacturing in the region by developing a well-qualified upcoming workforce. Click (here) for additional information on TekStarz!

Division of Career and Technical Education Has a New Website!
The Division of Caïer and Technical Éducation (DCTÉ), in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), recently released their new website. With the recent reorganization of state government, DCTE is now part of the ADE. Click (here) to access Commissioner’s Memo OIT-20-004 and (here) to navigate to the new website.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Reflect…Transform…Lead

If you have an innovative project in your schools you’d like to share for our newsletter, contact Mike Mertens, AAEA Assistant Director, at 501-372-1691 or at m.mertens@theaaea.org or Dr. Joe Rollins, President, at 479-409-7409 or joe@nwacouncil.org.