Arkansas Joins Cyber-Security Partnership
Girls Go CyberStart Initiative

Last month, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced Arkansas’ participation in an innovative cyber-security training partnership with the SANS Institute, the largest provider of cyber-security training and certification in government and commercial institutions worldwide. "Girls Go CyberStart" is a free, online game open to all female students in grades 9-12. Playing alone or on teams, participants solve challenges to gain points and advance through levels, earning prizes along the way. To learn more about the “Girls Go CyberStart” program, please visit www.girlsgocyberstart.org.

The Arkansas Department of Career Education – Career and Technical Education – Office of Special Programs would like to invite interested individuals to submit proposals for an Arkansas Career Coach Program Grant.

The College and Career Coach program is designed to motivate and support Arkansas middle and high school students achieve their goals as it relates to college and career planning. Students in the 7th – 12th grades may be served by Career Coaches. The Arkansas College and Career Coach program provides assistance and information for resources in the areas of academic tutoring, career counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other supports necessary for postsecondary education/training access, retention, and success.

Individuals who hold a least a bachelor’s degree and Facilitating Career Development (FCD) credential may be employed as a Career Coach. If the desired individual does not hold a FCD credential, they may be employed under condition of obtaining certification within a year of employment. The funding period is up to 12 months (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020).

The institution of higher education, education cooperative, or a non-profit organization should submit one grant request to include all desired school districts to be served. The applicant will be considered the host site and responsible for local management (administrative and financial), in partnership with the school district administration, of the Career Coach program.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 5, 2019 by 4:00pm.

All application materials are available here.

Applications must be submitted here.
Summer Immersion Program Coming to Arkansas! “Girls Who Code”

The Summer Immersion Program is a free 7-week summer program for 10th–11th grade girls (rising juniors and seniors) to learn the computer science skills needed to make an impact in their communities while preparing for a career in technology. Hosted by Wal-Mart, the program is coming to Arkansas for the first time. Program dates are June 10-July 26, 2019. Stipends of up to $1400 to cover transportation and living costs are available to those who qualify. For additional details, click (here).

Addressing the Auto Technician Shortage
NEACTC Instructor Reaches Out to Local Businesses

After visiting auto body shops and promoting positions for his current students, Jeff Smith’s proactive efforts are paying off, both for the students and local businesses. Jeff, NEACTC Auto Collision Repair Instructor, has made it possible for students to gain experience in local shops prior to graduation which can lead them to earn more competitive wages when they enter the workforce. This experience enables them to pursue their passion for auto body repair while, at the same time, addressing a job shortage area. For additional information on this initiative, click here.

Fort Smith Accepts Gift for Career and Technical Center
Donated Building and Grounds to Accelerate Project

The Fort Smith School District recently accepted a generous donation of a 182,000 sq ft. building and acreage to house their new Career and Technology Center. The donation will trim $3 million from the cost of the project and accelerate efforts to provide education and training to local youth in areas such as information technology, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing.

OWL Program Changes Lives at Crossett HS
Job Training for Students with Disabilities

The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services’ “Opportunities for Work-Based Learning (OWL) Program” gives students with disabilities job training skills. The students learn to perform a variety of jobs from custodial to culinary both in their school and in their community. Students can receive a minimum wage which is solely funded by the ARS. This work program helps students gain independence and allows them to focus on their strengths rather than deficits. Click (here) for more information on this great program!

Highland High School, A “Cool School”
Rebel Bank Teaches Essential Life Skills

Learning how to manage your finances is an essential life skill, and Highland School District gives its students a unique opportunity to put it into practice early on with their Rebel Bank. Explore how this banking simulation helps teenagers build practical skills and provides potential career training (here).