



The Cutting Edge

CTE Day at the Capitol

Showcase High-Quality Programs

Arkansas ACTE and the Divisions of Career & Technical Education is sponsoring a "CTE Day at the Capitol" to showcase high-quality programs and student leadership from across the state. The event is scheduled on Tuesday, February 11, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the State Capitol Rotunda.

Arkansas SkillsUSA 2020 State Conference

April 13-15, Hot Springs Convention Center

The SkillsUSA Conference Championships are competitive events showcasing the best career and technical education students in the state. Contests begin locally and continue through the state and national levels. This year's state conference, with collaboration from business and industry partners, will be held at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The philosophy of this statewide event is to reward students for excellence, to involve industry in directly evaluating student performance, and to keep training relevant to employers' needs.

Centerpoint Academy of Agriculture and Skilled Trades

District Received \$1.25 Million Grant to Implement CAAST

The Centerpoint School District recently received a grant of \$1,250,000 from APSRC to implement the Centerpoint Academy of Agriculture and Skilled Trades (CAAST). The funding will be used to purchase equipment and other related materials for the school's use and to provide PD for agriculture and core teachers. The grant funds will enable the district to implement their full vision for the CAAST sooner than originally planned. Although still opening in August 2020, the school will be able to purchase equipment for students much quicker than school officials thought.

Programs for students include Plant Systems; Power, Structural, & Technical Systems; Food Products and Processing Systems; Animal Systems; and Agribusiness Systems. Each student is required to complete at least two programs of study before graduation.

New Fort Smith CTE Center Receives \$2.1 Million Grant

Grant to Support the Purchase of Advanced Manufacturing Equipment

Fort Smith SD recently announced the receipt of a \$2.1 million grant for their new center for career and technology. The grant, from the Office of Skills Development/ADC will be used to support purchasing advanced manufacturing equipment for the center.

The center is scheduled to open in Fall 2021. Area students will be able to earn concurrent credit, industry-recognized certifications, certificates of proficiency, technical certificates, and associate degrees in one of three pathways: computer-integrated machining, automation/robotics, and industrial maintenance. Work-based learning and apprenticeship opportunities with area business and industry

Springdale Har-Ber Aviation Club has "Taken Off"

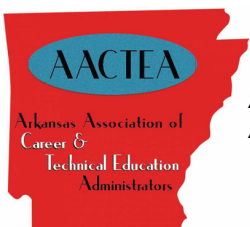
Students Learn How to Build an Airplane

An offshoot of Har-Ber High School CNC and Construction Technology program, students in the school's aviation club are learning how to build a plane. Students are having to read the plans, determine that tools they need, and have a thorough knowledge of the parts they are trying to assemble during this process. Click [here](#) to access a news story on this project.

Marion Magnet School Receives \$25,000 Grant

District Will Use Funds to Purchase State-of-the Art Greenhouse

The Marion Math, Science, and Technology Magnet School was recently rewarded a \$25,000 grant from the American's Farmers Grow Rural Education Program. This program, sponsored by the Bayer Fund, partners with farmers to nominate their local school district to apply for STEM grants through the program. Since 2011, the program has given over \$18 million to more than 1,000 rural, public school districts. Marion SD will be able to use this grant to purchase much needed materials and supplies for the new state of the art greenhouse that is located on the campus of the magnet school.



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Black River Approved as Secondary Technical Center

Partnering with Regional Schools to Provide CTE Training

Black River Technical College recently announced that its three-year pathway pilot program has been approved as a secondary technical center. This extension will allow high school students the opportunity to work on both high school and college credit/technical certificates at the same time. This approval allows Black River Technical College (BRTC) to enhance existing partnerships with local school districts. Students can spend the first half of their day on their high school campus and then attend BRTC, with both locations in both Paragould and Pochontas, to study programs like welding, phlebotomy, and more.

Rogers Students Participate in Robotic Certification Training

FANUC – World Leader in Robotics

Students from the Rogers Public Schools are attending the FANUC Robotic Certification Training this year offered by the NW Arkansas Regional Training Center in Fayetteville. Students completing the required training components will receive the FANUC Robotic Certification, which is recognized industry standard certification. The operation of industrial robotic equipment is an integral part of the manufacturing industry in NW Arkansas.

The "Ultimate Power Trip" to Washington D.C.

Alma's DECA Action Team Attends National Leadership Conference

Members of the Alma DECA Action team recently participated in DECA's Ultimate Power Trip, a leadership conference that was held in Washington, D.C. in November. Students participated in Capitol Hill Visits, numerous learning labs pertaining to college and career preparation, and networked with DECA members from across the nation. The delegation met with Congressman Bruce Westerman, Senator John Boozman, Senator Tom Cotton, Congressman Rick Crawford's education staffer, and Congressman Steve Womack sharing their story about the impact of CTE and the importance of continued Carl Perkins Educational funding for students and schools.

"Simply Delicious" Opens at Jacksonville High Schools

Fully Serviced by Culinary Students

Jacksonville High School opened its new restaurant, "Simply Delicious" in December fully serviced by JHS culinary students. The school restaurant is open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays for breakfast and lunch. Breakfast sandwiches, bakery items, salads, and other sandwiches are on the menu. The program allows students to earn dual credit in collaboration with Pulaski Technical College.

Fayetteville Secondary Schools Receive Industry Standard Screen-Printing Equipment

Fully Serviced by Culinary Students

The Fayetteville Public Education Foundation recently rolled out a program funded through the Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust. The funding from the Sturgis Trust provided industry-standard screen-printing equipment for students at Woodland Junior High, Ramay Junior High, and Fayetteville High School who plan to move directly into vocational and professional training. The equipment will be used in the district's Digital Graphic Design classes.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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.