The DESE Office of Computer Science recently announced the continuation of the Computer Science Innovation Grant opportunity for public K-12 schools. This opportunity includes up to $250,000 in total reimbursement funding that has been allocated for the purchase of curriculum, software licenses, non-fundamental equipment, professional development, student incentives, and other approved expenses. DESE expects to award approximately three $25,000 grants, five $20,000 grants, and ten $7,500 grants. For additional information, go to COM-20-046.

**Computer Science Grant Opportunity for Schools**
Supporting Instruction of the K-12 Computer Science Standards

**6th Annual Arkansas STEM Festival**
This Year’s Festival Theme is “Future Earth”

The 6th Annual Arkansas STEM Festival will be held on Friday, March 13, 2020, at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds. Schools from across the state bring their students to present and view the 100+ demonstrations on display, hear from distinguished STEM speakers, and participate by judging the entries. This year's theme of “Future Earth” explores how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) can help us sustain our planet for future generations. Click [here](#) for additional information.

**Schools Working with Industry to Train the New Generation of Workers**
“Rockline Initiative” at ATCC in Ozark

Industries across the state are aggressively working with community colleges and CTE centers in providing training and skills that new employees need for workplace success. The approach is evident at the AR Tech Career Center in Ozark where high school students are training to work on manufacturing lines at Rockline Industries. Every Friday, Rockline employees travel to area schools to direct specific training that will prepare students to be successful in this work environment. The program exposes students to other areas in addition to manufacturing such as accounting, human resources, quality control, and engineering.

**Event**

**2019-2020 AACTEA Regional Tour - NEA**
“How Important is Career & Technical Education?”

The AACTEA 2019-2020 regional tours of CTE centers continue with a visit to the NEA Career & Technical Center in Jonesboro on Tuesday, November 12. The event will include information on the importance of student certifications, the impact of Skills USA, and a tour of the facility. Click [here](#) for additional information on the day's activities. The event is scheduled from 10:00 - 1:30 and lunch is provided. There is no registration fee for the day's events but we need a count to give NEA CTC for logistics.

**Location:**
NEA Career & Technical Center, 1727 South Main Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401

**CLICK [HERE](#)** TO REGISTER.
Russellville High School was recently selected by Project Lead the Way to demonstrate its learning process and show what the PLTW curriculum looks like in a district to other schools from across the state. Representatives from each grade will present and interact with visitors from other districts and the Russellville community on their projects. The PLTW began at RSD to incorporate a curriculum focused on science, technology, engineering, and math using hands-on collaborative projects.

**Digital Media Production Tools Grant Opportunity**

Creating Innovative Classroom Projects

Arkansas Online Media Initiatives, in partnership with the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, is pleased to offer a grant opportunity to increase the capacity of students and educators to utilize and create digital media content for the enhancement of student-focused education in Arkansas. Potential uses of grant funds include the purchase of audio/visual equipment, recording software, and professional development opportunities. For additional information, go to [Commissioner's Memo RT-20-006](#).

**Fayetteville High School’s Bulldog Co.**

Enterprise Ran by Small Business Operations Class

Bulldog Co., the student-operated store at Fayetteville High School, is in operation again this year. Students in the Small Business Operations class operate the store which is located adjacent to the FHS cafeteria and is open during all lunches. The real-world experience of a student-led and student-run store can help educate students about business in general, looks good on a resume, and it can also help them realize what business aspects they excel in and enjoy.

**Walnut Ridge High School Adds Criminal Justice Course**

Additional Elective in Public Service

Several years ago, the Lawrence County School District, in collaboration with the Walnut Ridge Fire Department and Black River Technical College, added a firefighter training program. That program has been so successful they decided to add criminal justice this school year as a way to expose students to more career options. The new class is just another way the school is trying to help prepare their students for a career in the skilled labor market.