Issue 1 Volume 4 September 2019

Encouraging education based on real-world work experience

The Cutting Edge

Scholarships Still Available for CTE Students

Horatio Alger National CTE Scholarship Program

The Horatio Alger Association will continue to accept student applications for its career and technical scholarships on a rolling basis until all the scholarships are awarded.

The Association will award 1,020 new CTE scholars to pursue their academic programs at community colleges and nonprofit institutions with a maximum award amount of $2,500, depending on the length of program and need of student. Click here for more information.

New Facility for Bentonville's IGNITE Program

Ctr. for Advanced Professional Studies

The IGNITE Professional Studies Program in Bentonville recently celebrated the opening of its new facility. The IGNITE career strands available for area students include construction management, culinary arts, digital design and photography, global business, healthy sciences, computer science and technology, and video production.

Reflect… Transform… Lead

AACTEA Names 2019 Administrator of the Year

Rhonda Fowler, NEAEC CTE Coordinator Honored

Rhonda Fowler has been named the Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators (AACTEA) Administrator of the Year for 2019. The award is presented in appreciation for exemplary leadership in providing outstanding educational opportunities for students and for distinguished service as an educational leader in Arkansas. Rhonda has served as career and technical education coordinator at the Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative in Walnut Ridge since 2009, working with 13 school districts in providing assistance for new programs, management of federal Perkins funding, teacher professional development and maintenance of quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in schools.

Clarksville School District Opens New Career Center

Career and Technology School "CATS"

Clarksville SD starts this school year in a new high school including the Career and Technology School or C.A.T.S. where students will learn skills in industrial fields. Participating in the National Center for Construction Education Research curriculum, students will spend two and a half days a week in the classroom learning skills and work hands-on with the equipment in preparation for jobs in high demand fields such as electrical, air conditioning, refrigeration, and more. The new program is meant to teach students skills that they can take with them into the real world and find jobs paying high wages.

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.

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Marion Robotics Mentor Represents State at National Leadership Program

2019 Air Force/FIRST Robotics Leadership Program

Marion JHS teacher and mentor, Krisma Smith, was the only robotics mentor in Arkansas selected to attend this year's Air Force/FIRST Robotics Leadership Program. Selected mentors were trained exclusively on being effective leaders and teaching STEM/STEAM practices in their classrooms. The mentors were given private guided tours of the Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, including the research labs and the National Air Force Museum. Congratulations to Ms. Smith and the Marion SD!

Bradford School District Expands Robotics Program

Adds a Second Middle Level Team

After its first year VEX Robotics program was a huge success, Bradford is expanding their Robotics program with another team. Last year, both VEX IQ teams went to the state competition at Arkansas Tech University, and the elementary students went all the way to the world competition in Louisville, Kentucky. The teams were started in 2018-19 school year with grant money from the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation.

"Connecting Educators and Industry"

Effort to Narrow the Skills Gap

The City of Russellville recently hosted a "Connecting Educators and Industry" event which involved 40 teachers from Arkansas Tech University and Russellville School District touring ConAgra and Rockline Industries. The event was part of a pilot program for Economics Arkansas. Teachers hear from employers about what they can do to make sure their students are adequately prepared for the demands of the work place.

Kohler Academy Opens at Sheridan High School

Preparing Students for Careers in Engineering and Manufacturing

The 2019-20 school year for high school students in Sheridan opened in a new high school including the new Kohler Academy! The Academy features equipment actually used in Kohler manufacturing facilities and will prepare students for careers in engineering and advanced manufacturing. Other CTE programs available to Sheridan students include agriculture mechanics and entrepreneurship. Thanks to Kohler for investing in the students at Sheridan HS!

SouthArk CC Expanding Technical Offerings

Adding Culinary Arts and Process Technology

SouthArk Community College in El Dorado is adding culinary arts and process technology to their Secondary Technical Center program this year. In addition, the STC program supports dual enrollment in automotive technology, criminal justice, health science, industrial technology and welding. SouthArk has been working with oil refineries, chemical plants, and forest product manufacturers, to determine the school's role in building and sustaining a locally trained workforce. SouthArk serves students in the Union County school districts.