

Workforce Readiness in Arkansas

Career Readiness Certification

**Arkansas Career Readiness
Certificates Awarded to Date:
13,851**

Bronze: 2,603

Silver: 7,436

Gold: 3,812

Percentage for Each Certificate Level

Bronze: 19% Silver: 54% Gold: 27%

What is an Arkansas Career Readiness Certificate?

An Arkansas CRC is a portable credential based upon the WorkKeys® assessments that demonstrates to employers that an individual possesses the basic workplace skills required for 21st century jobs.

Getting a CRC will allow an individual to show prospective employers that he or she possesses the basic skills they are looking for.

Even if a job seeker has a GED, high school diploma or post secondary degree, the Arkansas CRC further verifies that he can handle tasks such as finding information, reading instructions and directions, and working with numbers - that are common in today's workplaces.

<http://www.dws.arkansas.gov/Programs/CRC/index.htm>

President Obama Launches "Educate to Innovate" Campaign for Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (Stem) Education

Nationwide effort includes over \$260 million in public-private investments

to move American students to the top of the pack in science and math achievement over the next decade

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/president-obama-launches-educate-innovate-campaign-excellence-science-technology-en>

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Hytrol Workforce Readiness Grant

The Workforce Training Consortium encourages innovative educational projects in Northeast Arkansas by awarding grants from the [Hytrol Workforce Readiness Fund](#).

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THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ENCOURAGE EDUCATORS IN NORTHEAST ARKANSAS TO INSTILL HIGHER WORKFORCE READINESS SKILLS IN THEIR STUDENTS.

GRANT APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED AND AWARDED ANNUALLY.

APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING OF THE ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF THEIR APPLICATION.

Deadline is **March 31, 2010**

The 2010/2011 Workforce Readiness Grant will be \$5,324.00

[Grant Application Form. pdf](#)

[Grant Letter.pdf](#)

For more information...

http://www.iwtc-near.org/hytrol_workforce_readiness_award.htm

Workforce Readiness Activities across the State



WAHRA NEWS...

We had the first session for Southside High School on April 14th. We present to the juniors and also attached the following booklet that we gave all of the juniors. They have about 500 juniors at Southside High School. Margy Kincy with Southside gave us some excellent feedback stating that the students as well as the teachers were very pleased that we were able to help them clear up some information regarding working.

On May 6th WAHRA was able to participate in the District 1 Middle-Level Future Business Leaders of America Conference. We were judges in the Public Speaking as well as the Job Interview portion of the conference. Eric Garvin, Teresa Nichols, Georgette Ferus, and Katherine Williams represented WAHRA at the conference. In the Public Speaking category the individuals were judged on time limits, how they presented their topic, how their topic flowed, as well as how relevant their topic was to the FBLA principals. In the Job Interview portion they were critiqued and judged on all aspects of a job interview from how they presented themselves to actual interview questions. Angie Hutson who handles this District has asked that we begin participating each year and wants WAHRA to actually be assisting other areas of the conference next year.

On May 19th WAHRA visited Northside High School to conduct a workshop for seniors who are about to enter the workforce. There were around 500 students that we spoke to over a 2 hour time period. We discussed with these seniors everything they needed to prepare them for finding a job whether they are looking for summer work, internship type of work, full time or part time employment. Northside was very appreciative that we conducted this workshop. All the seniors were very appreciative and had lots of questions and very eager to learn more. We gave them examples of resumes along with job board information to help with their search. We have spoken to Northside and they want to make this a yearly event to assist seniors each year to make them more prepared for the workforce.

---Katherine Williams, Workforce Readiness Chair



NEASHRM NEWS...

In the spring we did presentations to over 800 8th graders on Arkansas Scholars.

In the summer we had a booth setup at a local job fair to assist candidates with their job search.

In Nov 09 we will do presentations for about 800 10th graders on Workforce Readiness.

---Dewayne Douglas, Workforce Readiness Chair



WCASHRM NEWS...

- Members served as judges for the FBLA (Phi Beta Lambda) state leadership conference.
- Members helped to judge Senior Exhibitions for a local high school (Fall & Spring).
- Members conducted mock interviews at a local high school to help prepare graduates to join the workforce (Fall & Spring).
- Two members served on the Career Investigation Center advisory board.
- Participated in a job fair at National Park Community College.

---Neal Harrington, Workforce Readiness Chair

Mark your calendar for the 2009 Workforce Readiness Core Leadership area Conference Calls and Webcast.

12/9 – Conference Call

Please go to:

<http://moss07.shrm.org/Communities/VolunteerResources/WebcastArcHivesforVolunteerLeaders/Pages/default.aspx>

BLS reports 511 mass layoff events in third quarter

According to preliminary figures released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employers initiated 1,776 mass layoff events in the third quarter of 2009 that resulted in the separation of 277,924 workers from their jobs for at least 31 days. The national unemployment rate averaged 9.6 percent, not seasonally adjusted, in the third quarter of 2009, up from 6.0 percent a year earlier.

Manufacturing firms were responsible for 29 percent of private nonfarm extended layoff events and related separations. They also reported 511 extended mass layoff events involving 80,135 separations in third quarter 2009.

Business demand factors, one of the seven categories of economic reasons for extended mass layoffs, accounted for 48 percent of events and 44 percent of separations during the third quarter of 2009. Separations due to business demand reasons increased by 27 percent from the same period a year ago.

About 33 percent of employers reporting an extended layoff in the third quarter of 2009 indicated they anticipated some type of recall, up from 29 percent a year earlier. Of those employers expecting to recall workers, about one-third indicated that the offer would be extended to all displaced employees.

The West and the Midwest census regions recorded the highest numbers of separations due to extended mass layoff events in the third quarter of 2009. California recorded the largest number of worker separations, followed by Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, and New Jersey.

Posted November 13, 2009

http://www.jjkeller.com/news/newsinfo/H_news1433.htm?action_code=27133&spMailingID=34427839&spUserID=MzcyMjAzNTEyMAS2&spJobID=61200929&spReportId=NjEyMDA5MjkS1

The Joseph Project 2.0

Brought to you by WorkMatters, *The Joseph Project* was initially launched in February, 2009. After six months of weekly meetings at two different locations in Northwest Arkansas, we are excited to announce the launch of *The Joseph Project 2.0*.

We meet Wednesdays each week at the John Brown University-Rogers campus from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

VISION OUR VISION IS TO ALTER THE JOURNEY OF BUSINESS PEOPLE BETWEEN JOBS.

MISSION OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE TIMELY AND RELEVANT JOB RESOURCES, NETWORKING, AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO BUSINESS PEOPLE BETWEEN JOBS.

The Joseph Project 2.0 meeting format will now include:

- One location to serve all of Northwest Arkansas
- Weekly meetings
- Job search training
- Led by local marketplace professionals
- Guest speakers
- Networking
- Breakout sessions
- Encouragement/Support groups

If you are between jobs or know someone who is, we invite you to attend our weekly meetings. There is no charge for this meeting. For more information, contact Butch Scruggs at 479-466-5255 or bscruggs@workmatters.org.



NOARK NEWS...

Hosted the Fall “Resume CPR” Class in conjunction with the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Fall Job Fair on Monday, October 12, 2009. The workshop was a tremendous success, with over 180 job seekers participating in the event. Thirty-five volunteers from NOARK and the recently formed Northwest Arkansas Recruiting Staffing Professionals (NWARSP) worked at the event which ran very smoothly. Most participating job seekers only had to wait 5-10 minutes before visiting with an HR professional. Sadly, we did have to turn away approx. 60 job seekers that had not pre-registered for the event. 2009 Pinnacle Award Finalist—Congrats!!!

---Gretchen Laffoon, Workforce Readiness Chair

Christian Women's Job Corp. of NW Arkansas

The services offered by CWJC of NW Arkansas are for women in need who find themselves in distress because they do not have the skills to improve their employment situation.

This volunteer-run organization helps women to help themselves. Our classroom sessions run 10 to 12 weeks in length and offer classes in life and job skills.

For more information: <http://cwjc-nw-arkansas.com/>



CAHRA NEWS...

The CAHRA Workforce Readiness team led courses three to four times per month for the residents of Our House in Little Rock during 2009. Our House is a shelter for the working homeless. The courses covered career planning, resume fundamentals, job search strategy, interviewing best practices and advanced planning to retain a job. Team members participating in class sessions included Beth McCandless, Bettye Bennett, Brenda Winston, Charles Frost, Daryl Davis, Jim Watson, Kelly Carney, Kelly DeStefano, Kevin Wallace, Melanie McClure, Tanner Chapman and Tim McKenna.

The Job Ready Training Program, offered at LifeSource Intl in Fayetteville,

is about to graduate the first class to come through the 4-semester program. These soon-to-be graduates are encountering success on many different levels. One student has been working part-time as a receptionist for a local high profile business, 2 students are currently enrolled at NWACC, and another student is currently the Vice President of the local chapter of the National Federation of the Blind. A level 2 student has recruited other students to join the program because she, as well as the others, wants to help each other succeed.

They all had minimal, if any, computer experience when beginning the program. Another quality they all have in common is determination and perseverance to overcome a plethora of obstacles. They all diligently attend class and apply themselves to succeeding. Something else they have in common; they couldn't afford to pay for this training. These evening computer business education classes are offered free of charge at Lifesource Intl. and taught by volunteers that work in the local business industry.

The program currently offers 4 classes:

Semester 1- Computer 101: an introduction to Computers
 Semester 2- Computer Business Application Level 1: Beginning Word, Excel and PowerPoint
 Semester 3- Computer Business Application Level 2: Intermediate Word and Excel, Business Math
 Semester 4- Computer Business Application Level 3: Advanced Excel, Business Math, Business Presentations
 Woven through all classes is resume writing, e-mail etiquette, interview preparation and budgeting.

If you're interested in learning more about how to participate in the life change happening through the Job Ready program, call Audrey Seiter at 479-387-7817.

From the Editor...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Workforce Readiness Chairs across the state for all of the hard work that they have done this year. Thank you for making this a great year!!!

Cathleen
 AR Workforce Readiness Director
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